



exploring the hybrid condition

Norwegian and Swedish Jury Report

The Concrete Design Competition has run during the 2007-2008 academic year in nine European countries under the theme of Implicit Performance.

Students in Sweden and Norway have participated in the competition with a common jury assessment. The last day for submitting entries was 20 May 2008.

A total of 18 entries were received from 4 different colleges. A total of 22 students participated.

The jury consisted of

- 1) Architect Hans Bruun Nissen, Aalborg Portland, Aalborg (Chairman of the Jury)
- 2) Professor, Interior Architect Jonas Bohlin, Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts and Design, Stockholm
- 3) Architect, Associate Professor Torben Dahl, Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture, Copenhagen
- 4) Architect Geir Johnsen, N1 Arkitekter DA, Oslo
- 5) Professor, Architect Bente Kleven, LPO Arkitektur & Design AS, Oslo
- 6) Professor Johan Silfwerbrand, Swedish Cement and Concrete Research Institute, Stockholm

Secretary: Anita Stenler, Cements AB, Stockholm

The jury members received the entries submitted for the competition in digital form a couple of days before the jury session, which took place on 28-29 May 2008.

The first day was devoted to a joint study of the entries, with a lively exchange of comments and viewpoints. From a rough evaluation a small number of favourites emerged. The next day these selected favourites were discussed again, including motivations and more formal argumentation. Two winners of the first prize were named, and after a certain amount of discussion a third prize recipient and a recipient of a special mention were also named.

General comments about the entries to the competition:

A number of the entries exhibit good potential for continued development and serve to inspire further studies of, among other things, applicability and manufacturing of the products.

Without exception, the presentations of the entries were elegant.

However, the presentations often lacked an explanation of how the entrant had envisioned to produce the proposed items. The jury would have wanted more details than illustrations.

The jury had expected that the theme, involving possibilities for connections between concrete and other materials, would function as a gateway for releasing creative forces. But the interpretation of the hybrid theme seemed in many cases to rather have put a lid on the creativity. A number of the students submitting

entries seemed to have backed themselves into a corner by combining materials but not developing form or application.

The jury did not find a high degree of novelty in the entries at large.

In its evaluations, the jury took into consideration novelty, form and expression along with the application of the product/material – in use or development – and the ability of the entry to take advantage of the properties of the concrete material. The jury looked favourably upon entries that showed manufacturing methods.

The jury decided to award one first prize that was divided between two entries of equal merit and a third prize. Another entry was given a special mention.

Winners:

Shared first prize and EUR 1,500 for Motto SZ595

The entry entitled Urgent performance depicts concepts involving concrete structures that are assembled from form-mats, intended for use as emergency dwellings or refugee camps anywhere around the globe. The jury is highly sceptical of the concept of emergency dwellings of this type, however it does wish to recognise the entry's spatial and experimental value. The entry shows a great deal of experimental, material and production interest, plus it serves as inspiration for possibilities of continued development and research.

It provides interesting possibilities for fashioning a dwelling individually, and makes for exciting buildings without right angles. The idea of filling the form with sand and cement in advance would make the "mats" far too heavy to handle, plus problems would arise with the mixing. It would be more realistic to fill the flexible form in situ with self-compacting concrete.

Further work is encouraged on testing out the form material, the supporting structures during the pouring stage and the handling.

Shared first prize and EUR 1,500 for Motto SO321

The entry entitled How did it come to be and how will it change in the future shows interesting possibilities for creating reliefs and nuances in concrete surfaces and concepts involving variability. Even though the jury has seen similar solutions before, this entry shows imaginative possibilities to use concrete differently in public spaces, and to achieve changes – intentional or unintentional – over time. The jury wishes to call particular attention to the importance of considering the environmental aspects when objects, of for example plastic, are embedded and possibly burnt away.

Third prize and EUR 1000 for Motto TV531

The entry entitled Concrete Tex distinguishes itself in a visionary way by showing a great potential for using concrete aesthetically by using hybrid form material. It shows possibilities that are still greater than what appears directly in the material submitted with the entry. The jury wishes to draw attention to the following as possibilities for further work with the concept:

- Using the textile material solely as a disposable form with the possibility of providing individualised and powerful expressions. The textile material should in fact be removed after the concrete has dried, so that the natural surfaces of the concrete will be exposed.
- There is a great potential in working with a construction component such as a "hybrid form". A combination of a remaining thin concrete form, which may be mass produced like a building block, and a flexible disposable textile at the front of the building block, in order to provide possibilities for individuality and creativity.
- A substantial amount of development work remains in order to find the right type of textile that is able to accommodate the desires for creative expression as well as being able to withstand the pressure from the concrete when it is liquid. Full-scale testing is absolutely necessary.

Special mention for Motto MS225

The entry entitled Möbius Stage stands out with a striking form, which the jury would like to see developed in its design. Its connection to the theme of the competition is thought to be weak, however. The jury rates the ambition to work at full scale highly, but the presentation lacks an explanation of how the mould is produced and how the sculpture is casted.

The entrants with these four entries will be invited to participate in an international Master Class, which will take place in Belgium in August.

Stockholm, 4 June 2008

Hans Bruun Nissen

Chairman of the Jury for the Concrete Design Competition on Implicit Performance in Norway and Sweden