

Ataman, Osman, and Sachin Anshuman. "Responsiveness and Social Expression." Smart Architecture: Integration of Digital and Building Technologies. [Champaign, IL]: Association for Computer-Aided Design in Architecture, 2005. 12-22. Print.

Summary: This paper tries to demonstrate the differences in facade designs using various digital mediums. An analysis of social and psychological implications are performed using different case studies of double skinned media facades.

While the ACADIA compilation was an interesting one, I found little value in some of the examples and case studies. I was looking for digital medias that had incorporated some form of natural processes to inform the design or forms. I plan on doing more research into parametrics and finding ways to use natural patterns in the design of buildings.

Bahamón, Alejandro, and Patricia Pérez. Inspired by Nature: Animals : the Building/biology Connection. New York: W.W. Norton, 2009. Print.

Summary: This book does a really good job at providing case studies in which nature has inspired forms in architecture. In particular, this book has strong examples on how animals in nature have helped designers manipulate forms using a plethora of species ranging from a kangaroo to a snail. It also focuses on contrasting and comparing the techniques and materials used in animal construction with real life architectural examples. Moreover, the examples gathered have really taken the forms from nature and implemented them for either aesthetic purposes or to resolve some structural efficiency problem associated with building systems. In that light, I felt the book does not do a great job at using natural processes to inspire architectural design. It seems as though form and structure was the main focus while processes and evolution of natural processes fell on the wayside. To end , I realized that it is of utmost importance to utilize both the structural and the processes inherent in nature so that we as designers may optimize the gift given to us by nature.

Cascadia. "Toward Net Zero Water: Advancing District Scale Water Systems." Ecodistricts Summit. Oregon, Portland. 27 Oct. 2011. Lecture.

Summary: In this presentation, ways to minimize or eliminate outsourced water was discussed. Through an elaborate process of nutrient extraction, one may begin to re purpose "waste water" as a resource that is rich in nutrients and that can be used for a variety of uses. "Resource" water is processed via different cleansing and sanitary methods so that certain nutrients like phosphate (found in urine) may be extracted and used for fertilizing plants and vegetation on the site. The water is then treated and brought up to potable standards so that it may be used as drinking water or for washing dishes, flushing the toilet, or showering in. The goal of using brown, gray, and yellow water is to have a net zero water usage from existing water grids. Harnessing water using water catchment systems may also help to satisfy the water needs of a district and eliminate our dependency from the existing water grid. In retrospect, I think the idea was very bold and courageous in trying to resolve the water scarcity problem. I think as designers it is invaluable to have systems like these implemented so that our depletion of drinkable water is minimized and to also utilize this cleansing process to solve other environmental issues in the process.

Corix Utilities, Ken. "District Energy Implementation – Business Models and Partnership Structures." Ecodistricts Summit. Oregon, Portland. 27 Oct. 2011. Lecture.

Summary: I was fairly disappointed with this presentation and some of the energy companies lack of off the grid energy strategies. Most of the presentations revolved around current systems optimization and improvements. The visions of future energy systems were very measured and pessimistic , I felt, and didn't offer more bold and ambitious strategies. However, I was able to establish a contact with Ken Morrison of Corix Utilities which is charged with an energy system proposal for the Lloyd