

News



Urban Islands

Sunday, 13 August 2006

Organised by Olivia Hyde, Tom Heneghan, Tom Rivard and Joanne Jakovich (my Ph.D student), **Urban Islands** was running for the past week as an extended architecture studio in the Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney. The **Urban Islands** project is concerned with regeneration and designing for Cockatoo Island in Sydney Harbour. The visions expressed ranged from the digital and artistic through to ecological, urban and architectural. Major International Guests included:

Craig Scott, IS.Ar, Berkeley
Jaime Rouillon of JRA, San Jose, Costa Rica
Jin Hidaka, Responsive Environment, Tokyo
Lisa Iwamoto, IS.Ar, Berkeley
Satoru Yamashiro, Responsive Environment, Tokyo

... details <http://www.altogetherelsewhere.org> ...

Following are some shots from their Eastern Avenue presentation last Thursday night. Personally, I was particularly stoked by the social responsive installations of Hidaka and Yamashiro's group because they extend far beyond conventional notions of architecture to the transformative impact digital media, sensing and innovative display can have on transitional and social spaces, and for re-thinking our environments catapulted by technology and reflective implementation. At the same time, the beautiful 3D rendering and animated models of Iwamoto and Scott propelled their ideas into public planes of thinking through numerous award-winning competition and exhibition entries creatively addressing the integration of site and construct. Cost Rican Rouillon's enthusiasm and fiery inspiration seared through his gritty industrial meshing of smooth, mellow woods and rough concrete and metal textures, transforming internal and external private and public, surfaces, light and reflection playing significant roles in the impact of his passionate structures. Urbanologist, Mathias Echanove, also gave a presentation on the recent Urban Typhoon project in Shimokitazawa, Tokyo.

