CRITICAL PRACTICE IN AN AGE OF COMPLEXITY - AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CRITIQUE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

• Paper / Proposal Title:
  [learning Through Prototyping

• Format:
  Written paper

• Author(s) Name:
  Mahsan Mohsenin

• University or Company Affiliation:
  Florida A&M University

• Abstract (300 words):
  This paper explores the methods used in architecture teaching to prepare students for the future and their own lifetime of learning. Students are currently reliant upon technology, which is a quickly changing medium. The experience of teaching studio and technological courses provides an overview of the need to teach students to be adaptable for their future needs. To study adaptability with a futuristic approach, design teaching methods are reviewed and observation research method is used. Stanford’s school categorizes design thinking as Empathise, Define, Ideate, Prototype, and Test. This paper focuses on the design thinking, providing end results through prototyping and testing.

  Critical practice is the method used to make students ready for a complex future to better design. This paper reviews assignments in a fabrication course for graduate students, emphasizing on the fact that technological media can change during time, while the critical thinking is the timeless quality to take from their assignments. The main part of this work is focused on Full-scale prototyping as a critical thinking method in design pedagogy. The conclusion reiterates lessons learned from focusing on the
process and prototyping in a classroom, to prepare students as future decision makers in design.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

I am currently working as an Assistant Professor at Florida A&M University School of Architecture. I received my PhD in Design from North Carolina State University, where I contributed as Research Assistant at the Building Systems Integration Lab. I have a Bachelor’s and Master’s in Architecture and a MS in Architecture Studies-Urbanism from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2011. My research is focused on Integration of Building Energy Modeling in Education and Net-Zero Buildings. In my spare time, I enjoy hiking and spending time with family and friends.