Education, Design and Practice – Understanding skills in a Complex World

• Paper / Proposal Title:
archEatable, a journey through architecture and Haute Pâtisserie

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• Abstract (300 words):

Architecture shows more than ever diffuse borders in academia and industry. Today, is a profession constantly and rapidly reinventing itself and connecting with other disciplines to expands its borders. The speed of the incorporation of new technologies, like digital design and fabrication, means an uncertain but stimulating field of experimentation in teaching, research and practice.

Academia cannot ignore such substantial changes and must incorporate adaptive strategies in the curriculum that allows not only to be in line with the industry but to train future thinkers capable of transforming both architecture and other tangential disciplines.

Students must be trained to respond with creativity in continually changing scenarios and to propose new models of thought and business opportunities. It is the academic period an opportune moment for them to explore these interdisciplinary relationships, address collaborative projects and take risks.

The paper will present the academic process and results obtained in the course archEatable, A journey through architecture and Haute pâtisserie, an innovative teaching experience created by the author at the American University in Dubai,
focused on a crossed relationship between Architecture and the world of Gourmet Pastry. It will present edible works of art designed by students, the collaborative experience with pastry chefs and a unique and non-conventional academic approach in the teaching of Digital Design and Fabrication techniques.

archEatable configures itself a new discipline that questions some of the standards on how to educate future architects today.

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

Prof. José is an Associate Professor of Architecture at the American University in Dubai. He is a practicing architect and building engineer with combined international experience and an Authorized Rhinoceros Trainer.

As an academic, José has pioneered new approaches to innovation in teaching by incorporating trans and inter-disciplinarity at both professional and university level. In the undergraduate studios, lectures and labs he has run design and research projects dealing with architectural engineering, sustainability and cutting-edge technologies in Digital Design and Fabrication.

José has permanently sought to expand university relationships and to expose students to international learning experiences. He has been the manager of International Workshops related to Sustainability and Architectural Design in Italy and Spain.

As a researcher, José maintains a permanent work within two main areas. The first one is related to skyscrapers and urbanism with the main topic “Dynamic Cities”; the second one is the continuous professional development in Digital Design and Fabrication establishing crossed relationships with other disciplines. His research incorporates student work and aims to explore the borders of teaching in architecture through non-conventional methodologies.