ONLINE EDUCATION: TEACHING IN A TIME OF CHANGE

• Paper / Proposal Title:
  Screen and pencil, an intertwined combination:
  First conclusions on the implementation of an online teaching tool with
  specialised video-tutorials (Sketch Atlas) on the topic of freehand architectural
  drawing.

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• Abstract (300 words):
  The skill of freehand drawing is essential for architects. The pencil is a basic tool
to rapidly observe, to express first ideas and to communicate design problems. The
interaction with the freehand drawing or sketch is – besides the computer -
still a part of the daily practice of an architect. The haptic and direct quality of
the sketch can be used in every phase of a project: with a client, in the office
and on the construction site.
  Teaching this skill to students in architectural education programs is challenging.
It requires a lot of guidance, a persistent methodology and a lot of practice. In
contemporary programs of architecture the omnipresent computer consumes a
lot of space and time. The investment in a one-on-one educational environment
for hand drawing is often neglected or simply impossible due to the large groups
of students. We developed a tool, Sketch Atlas, where the learning trajectory of
freehand drawing is presented in a new way. By introducing high level video
tutorials with step-by-step instructions, the whole trajectory from line to space is
covered. The student can work at his or her own pace.
  The starting point of this project was that the very precise movement of a pencil
in a hand is hard to communicate in a textbook. However, the project is not a
replacement for the classroom or the textbook. The interlocking quality of the two
teaching systems (the classic demonstration of a teacher on a black board and the video-tutorial platform) introduces a new and refreshing combination of learning methods. We will demonstrate that this blended system can structure and enrich the learning path of freehand drawing on different levels. The first version of the platform was used intensively during the lockdown period of 2020 at our Faculty. We will reflect on this ‘forced’ experiment. At the moment, a version 2.0 is ready for dissemination in an international context (in faculties of architecture and in architectural offices).

• Authors Biography:

Saidja Heynickx studied architecture at Hasselt University. He obtained a master in architecture and interior architecture. At the moment he is an assistant Professor at Hasselt University, Faculty of Architecture and arts. He teaches a research seminar 'Tactics' on the tactical use of the architectural sketch, drawing and model. With his team he developed an online platform with video tutorials for freehand architectural sketching, named Schetsatlas. He is part of the research group TRACE (https://sites.google.com/uhasselt.be/trace). Besides the teaching and research, he has an own practice where the sketch is an important instrument ( www.saidjaheynickx.be ).

Iwert Bernakiewicz, is educated as an architect and blends his photography skills with two decades of experience in architectural design and education. He actively uses photography, model building and paper sculptures as a research and documenting tool in his work with students at Hasselt University, in scenography and as an independent artist, reflecting visually on human interactions, architecture, our natural environment and self. His artistic work challenges our observation. The overall theme ‘FRAG’, serves as an acronym and working theme: ‘for real, augmented gazing’. At the same time it is the German word for ‘ASK’, the constant questioning of our (human) actions and surroundings. His experience in architectural design allows him to question three dimensional space, transforming ‘reality’ into two dimensional representations and fold-out two and a half dimensional sculptures showing condensed parallel realities.

Arnoud Derycker graduated as an architect in 2017 at Hasselt University. During his student years and in his master thesis-project he intervenened in the relation between architecture and drawing. With this huge passion for drawing he got involved at the very beginning of the sketch atlas project. Besides developing the technical and content aspect of the sketch atlas he also teaches freehand drawing. Besides his academic career Aarnoud is also pursuing a path as an artist/designer. Through various online resources he tutored himself in drawing topics beyond his architectural teaching and training. He has already gained
recognition through various exhibitions and is active as an illustrator specialised in architectural drawings. More recently Aarnoud started with digital drawing and painting to pursue concept-design for movies and games.

**Lieve Weytjens** obtained a master in architecture (2007) and a Ph.D. in architecture (2013) at Hasselt University. She conducted her Ph.D. research entitled “Energy efficiency and summer comfort of dwellings in early design phases: a framework for a design tool adapted to the architects practice in Flanders” in the domain of sustainability of the research group ArcK of the Faculty of Architecture and arts. Currently, Lieve works as business developer at the Faculty of Architecture and arts, where she supports researchers in translating research results into practice and in initiating collaborations with other parties. Her work is driven by the impact and relevance of research results in society. She is closely involved in the pathway of utilization of the Sketch Atlas.