



Architecture Club - 3D's Design Drawing Digital An evening of practice and debate

KPF Gallery 28th April 2014

The Club's April event explored the dynamic between 'drawing' and 'CAD'.

The evening consisted of an exhibition of concept sketches, three practitioners creating images using different media and an informal debate. The gallery was arranged in a series of enclaves in order to accommodate the different activities. The illustrations show the three art works produced during the evening in charcoal, paint and digitally. Around 50 people enjoyed wine and food and a lively debate about the importance of drawing and the influence upon it by more and more sophisticated computer programmes.

The discussion was filled with passion. It was primed by a panel of Robert Adam, Will Alsop, Ken Shuttleworth, John Bushell and chaired by Richard Coleman. Some said that we are maybe at a turning point where the computer becomes the best tool for setting down the ideas which generate the ultimate design. Others could not accept anything other than the hand drawn or hand painted first thoughts which allow ideas to flow onto the page, then develop and enrich through the actual process of 'image by hand'. All agreed that using the computer well, at the early and late part of the design process required skills only available to the practiced artist. Indeed the work of the digital contributor on the night, was complemented by his hand drawings displayed on the wall and his sketch book, by his side, clearly essential for him to achieve his output.

There was a near consensus that drawing is and should always be the first skill of the architect and that with the continually increasing pressure of speed demanded from the industry, brought about by the accepted advantages of the computer age, its survival needed increasingly decisive support.

There are many initiatives which support drawing through competitions and events but these do not penetrate the profession as a whole. Art is still a vulnerable subject in schools and students in architecture should be given more credit when they excel in the medium.

Martin Tang digitally illustrated the KPF building and its Pineapple history; Will Alsop part painted a fascinating imaginative canvass and; George Samaurez Smith and Francis Terry enlarged an image of a Corinthian capital in charcoal. Their images will be auctioned at the Club's Winter Party early in 2015. The funds raised will be given to charities agreed with the three. We are also expecting a sketched panorama of the event courtesy of Ben guest and practice partner.

Richard Coleman

Club Deputy Chairman

21.5.14