

Accelerating Change in Built Environment Education (ACBEE)

CASE STUDIES OF EXCELLENCE – IN BRIEF

Cambridge University / Arup

“An excellent and stimulating built environment is of fundamental importance to the wealth and well-being of all of our society. The Ove Arup Foundation strongly encourages initiatives that help attract and develop students with a much better understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of design and management in forming that built environment” says Richard Haryott, Chairman of The Ove Arup Foundation, and a Vice President of the Institution of Civil Engineers. *“The IDBE course at Cambridge takes bright young people with ambition and changes the way they think, unlocking potential for both themselves, their companies and society”*. He strongly supports the Foundation's continuing involvement with the course, which he has observed brings vision to problem solving, teamworking skills and the insights which cut through complexity and promote effective strategic thinking and management processes. *“They would not find this in a traditional single discipline course”* he says.

“The IDBE course is a fantastic experience and I have profited from it immensely. I think (other) Americans would find it beneficial to their practices and careers,” says former student Burr Hughes from Tennessee, who is currently developing an eco-resort on his property holding.

“Experiencing what other disciplines experience is key to knowing how to make the best use of them. The IDBE course was a wonderful opportunity to meet with like-minded professionals and exchange notes about our experiences; recognising that some problems really are cross-discipline, cross-industry and indeed, cross-continent,” says engineer Tanya Ross from Buro Happold.

The ‘Constructionarium’ – Imperial College of Science and Technology

This course is designed to generate an atmosphere as close as possible to the experience of working on the design of a real engineering project where students, with the help of John Doyle Construction, are able to work on the a challenging engineering design for a real site, using their own initiative and the engineering tools they have learned during the first three years of their MEng course. Emphasis is on creativity, design and understanding, teamwork and communication skills, as well as engineering judgement and problem solving.

According to Peter Goring, Technical Director of John Doyle Construction, the Constructionarium has resulted in some positive coverage for the John Doyle Group. “It gives a practical view to students of the worthwhile nature of the industry and highlights our company name so students may consider working for or with John Doyle at a later date,” he says.

“Overall the (*Constructionarium*) projects were a good chance for the students to apply what they had learnt to a real engineering project, says “ 21-year old Imperial College student,

Richard Roberts. "Everybody that participated really enjoyed the challenge and satisfaction gained from them."

CICE – Loughborough University

The Centre for Innovative Construction Engineering (CICE) is dedicated to the research, innovation and training needs of the construction industry – providing participants with an engineering doctorate part-funded by a sponsoring company with whom they work throughout the four-year course. The four year multidisciplinary course helps to deliver new ways of working, new applications and marketable ideas for the companies.

The research engineers are expected to spend 70-80% of their time at the company. It is a process that works effectively for both the engineers and sponsors.

"I qualified as a chartered surveyor," says 30-year old Simon Beatham who was sponsored by AMEC, "but I wanted to move into management. The whole process has expanded my management understanding considerably."

Skanska-sponsored Lee Bibby saw CICE as a means to advance his career. *"I wanted to research new processes to help advance construction project management, in particular the design process. The Loughborough course has given me that opportunity,"*he says.

Styles & Wood Academy / Manchester Business School.

The Styles & Wood Academy is a private sector initiative developed in conjunction with Manchester Business School. Designed to raise standards of professionalism and service across all areas of the business, the Academy is open to all Styles & Wood staff, preferred suppliers and key business partners. The course complements traditional manufacturing and construction-based skills with management training and a service-led culture.

As the UK market leader in the provision of space-planning, design implementation, fit-out and facilities management services for the retail sector, Styles & Wood believes it has a significant role to play in developing potential managers of the future from within the business as well as helping to increase broader multi-disciplinary understanding and teamwork.

"Employers have to take the lead in providing training and development opportunities for key personnel if we are to raise standards of professional performance," says Styles & Wood Chief Executive, Neil Davies. "As a company we are fully committed to the Academy and would like it not only to provide a structured career path for all our employees, but to develop as a model for the industry."

Further details and other case studies may be available to the media on request.

Contact Eddie Coulter – Tel: 01243 543072. e-mail: eddie@eddiecoulter.com