

Preface

New Technologies as Opportunity for an Idealistic Profession

The reunification of Germany offered a tremendous opportunity for the colleges and universities found in what was once East Germany. It allowed the establishment of new university programs that meet the current needs of the market. Because of the scale and the speed of this new market oriented approach, a very radical development had to take place. Eleven years after their initiation, many programs in the new states of the Federal Republic of Germany are receiving high acclaim. With this recent experience and success, we at Anhalt University are taking yet another step by establishing, along side the classic German academic degree, "Diplom-Ingenieur", the internationally recognized "Bachelor" and "Master" degrees.

With more than 500 students enrolled in our undergraduate and graduate programs, we are one of the largest schools of landscape architecture world-wide. This success in numbers is also reflected in the success we have in educating our students in using the latest computer technologies right from the start of their studies. We are likely to be criticized by colleagues in landscape architecture that we have too many computers in comparison to other resources. However, our international students are highly motivated by using our new computer facilities. Intensive use of computers in our Master program in Landscape Architecture helps us to draw the best students world wide.

We are succeeding in preparing our landscape architecture students for the challenge of office practice today. However, the task for the graduate level education must go beyond this, we must prepare our students for the needs of the future. Today we manage digital landscape architecture in two and three dimensions. Tomorrow we will be adding the components of time and interaction. Tomorrow we also will be moving within virtual landscapes.

We are very thankful to all who have contributed to the proceedings of the 2001 and 2002 conferences on new technologies in Landscape Architecture at Anhalt University of Applied Sciences. May the reader enjoy the information presented here on new technologies just arising to be incorporated by planners and designers.

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