

Acoustics, Light & Contrast Conference
26th September 2016, 10:00 am - 4:30 pm
Saint-Gobain Innovation Centre

Speaker Biographies & Abstracts

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<p data-bbox="204 750 448 788">Andrea Harmon</p> 	<p data-bbox="472 750 619 788"><u>Biography</u></p> <p data-bbox="472 835 1214 871">Title: Noise versus Sound; the Impact of design on acoustics</p> <p data-bbox="472 916 1374 1323">Andrea Harman is Concept Developer for Healthcare for Saint-Gobain Ecophon, manufacturers and developers of acoustic solutions that contribute to improving interior environments. She has worked in the field of room acoustics for more than twenty years and is active in developing the link between noise and well-being and investigating how the acoustic feel of a space can affect performance, interaction, social inclusion and patient recovery. Her aim is to use this information to help create less stressful and more enabling spaces and experiences for everyone.</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="472 1373 592 1411"><u>Abstract</u></p> <p data-bbox="472 1456 1374 1738">When designing spaces architects often concentrate on the visual aspects of a building, this can sometimes be to the detriment of many users who would benefit from a multi-sensory approach. In this presentation we concentrate on acoustic design and how by linking the needs of the users, the physical space and the activities taking place there you will achieve a more user friendly space that is still visually stimulating.</p>

Everywhere for Everyone

The Centre for Accessible Environments (CAE) is a trading name of Habinteg Housing Association Limited, a charitable registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, registered number 19341R.



**Elettra
Bordonaro**



Biography

Elettra Bordonaro is founder and creative director at Light Follows Behaviour, a lighting design studio with the aim to design with people and for people. Awarded a PhD in 2006 at the University of Architecture in Turin, her thesis analysed Technology and Innovation for Architecture and Industrial Design with a focus on urban lighting. She has worked as an external and public realm lighting designer and as a consultant on masterplans. Elettra is also co-founder of the Social Light Movement (SLM) with the aim to bring lighting to less affluent communities. She is a visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics Sociology Department, developing the project Urban Lightscapes/Social Nightscapes, a project integrating social research and lighting design.

Abstract

Title: Lighting in the Urban Environment
Dialogical design: research before accessibility

The French phenomenological philosopher Merleau-Ponty suggested that our construction of reality is based on our bodily perception of the world: the so-called reality we attach our life to is ontologically – as Berger and Luckmann theorised – a social and cultural construction. Still, no man's an island: through personal engagement, empathy and fine-grained social research we can have a glimpse of somebody else 'reality' and engage in a productive dialogue. This provides a starting point to rethink our design practice. For whom are we designing? Could our built environment become more inclusive for anybody? How can our design practice respond to the challenges of complexity and diversity?

Hans Haenlein



Biography

Professor Hans Haenlein MBE Dip Arch RIBA FRSA is a leading expert in the planning of education and community facilities and able to draw on over 40 years' experience both as an academic and as a practicing architect. The practice specialises in the design of energy efficient and accessible buildings and is involved with the University of Reading in research into barrier free design, briefing and the construction process.

Abstract

Title: Adjusting the disability design focus

Quite apart from those of us who are blind, deaf or use a wheelchair, over 70% of us are disabled and disadvantaged by the physical environment at some stage of our lives. Seen in this light, the way we design today is surprisingly out of focus. What if we looked again at the design needs of the 21st Century?

To do this we have to reassess the interconnectedness of the human senses and the opportunities offered through the totality of our potential experience. A better understanding of the development of our senses from early childhood to adulthood, and how this understanding can be encouraged or hindered through education, may help us to recognise that the accepted design norms are no longer adequate. In our sight-dominated age this can mean that building designers need to rebalance their skills to give particularly the acoustic realm its due weight.

Shane Cryer



Biography

Shane Cryer manages the Education sector in the UK and Ireland for Swedish acoustic experts, Ecophon. Following a career in the construction industry and studies in building and property surveying, he now concentrates on building acoustics. Working closely with organisations such as The Institute of Acoustics (IOA) and RIBA, Shane has recently been promoting the updated standard, BB93: Acoustic Design of Schools. He does this via CPD seminars, conferences and articles in the trade press. Shane also manages several acoustic research projects around the UK.

Abstract

Title: “Sound solutions for poor acoustics”

Architects tend to be ocular and focus, understandably, on form, light, colour and textures. Sound has none of these elements, yet plays a vital role in the successful function of buildings. It is not unknown for a beautifully designed building to fail because the acoustics have not been sufficiently addressed. Acoustics are so essential to the success of many buildings that specific standards have been developed. In the case of education, the newly revised Building Bulletin 93 applies as part of the Building Regulations. Simple, cost effective design principles and solutions to create better sound environments will be explored.

Gary Rubin



Biography

Prof. Rubin received his Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of Minnesota in 1983. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship in low vision in 1985, and then joined the faculty of the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins. He has been based in London since 1999, where he was appointed the Helen Keller Professor of Visual Rehabilitation at the Institute of Ophthalmology. Areas of Prof Rubin's research include performance-based and patient-reported outcome measures for clinical trials, reading and face recognition in patients with low vision, and clinical tests of visual function including contrast sensitivity and microperimetry.

Abstract

Title: The role of contrast in detecting and recognising objects

Lighting engineers, designers, even eye-care professionals, underestimate the importance of contrast in determining the legibility of text and the visibility of objects. This is probably because people with normal vision are quite tolerant of reduced contrast. A 50% reduction in text contrast reduces reading speed by only 10%. But people with impaired vision are far more sensitive to reduced contrast. That same 50% reduction in contrast may render the text totally illegible to a person with advanced cataracts or macular degeneration. Recently we completed a study looking at the role of contrast in object identification. 105 volunteers with various types and levels of vision impairment participated in the study. Data analysis is in progress. Early results suggest that level of vision loss but not type (diagnosis) has a significant impact on recognition distance. The results of this study will be used to develop new contrast guidelines for people with impaired vision