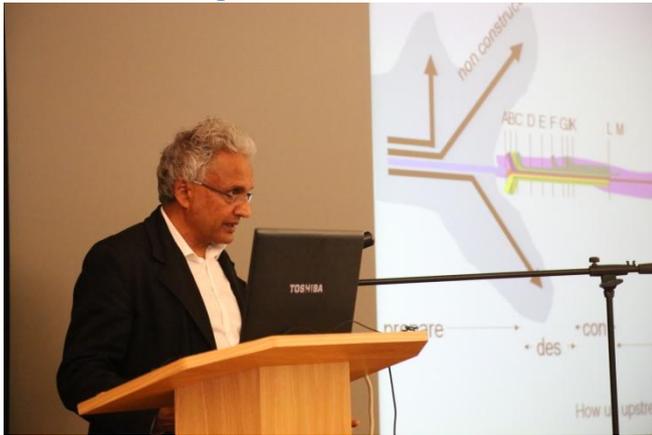




The IDBE@20 Big Discussion



On 20th September 2014 the IDBE celebrated its 20th anniversary, at Wolfson and Newnham Colleges, Cambridge. Set up by the Arup Foundation in 1994 to foster interdisciplinary working, our panel discussion focused on whether we *have* become more interdisciplinary over the last 20 years, and where we should go from here. Our panellists were: representing the professions, Sunand Prasad, past President of the RIBA; representing the industry, Sophie Le Bourva, Arup Associate and alumna from the second IDBE cohort; and representing academia and training, Professor Peter Guthrie, Professor of Sustainable Development at Cambridge. The discussion and questions were excellently chaired by Pam Alexander, Chair of CABE at the Design Council; a Geography graduate from Cambridge with a portfolio of high-ranking posts in the civil service and industry, Pam added to the multi-disciplinary perspectives.

Welcome Cohort 21: September Course Week

Cohort 21, pictured at their matriculation ceremony at Wolfson College in September, were welcomed into the global IDBE family at the IDBE@20 event.



Arriving from Grenada, Pakistan, Qatar, Malta, the United States and Egypt (and the UK) they were able to add their own global experiences to the interdisciplinary team-work during the first studio project. They were tasked with designing a new bridge in Cambridge to connect pedestrians and cyclists to the new railway station being developed in North Cambridge. Although this was a real project with some existing proposals, the students were asked to bring creativity and innovation to the project, breaking with existing proposals if appropriate. The overarching aim of the project was to learn about how to communicate and work better together to develop a built environment project. At the end of the week the teams presented their concepts, justified their decisions and convinced a panel, helped by some fine model bridges!



Team Cutter Ferry's model bridge by Ahmad Chouman, Nigel Marcussen and Lara Mifsud

A bientôt to cohort 19

Cohort 19 had their final course week in Cambridge on a hot and sunny week in July the focus of which was 'Design for survival – the challenge of 2050 is now'. The culmination of the course is the submission of the thesis. These are currently under examination. Chris Seeley submitted early so he could go straight into his PhD, for which he is researching embodied energy in commercial buildings, under the supervision of Alice Moncaster.

... and farewell to IDBE 18

The hottest day of the year may not be the best day for formal attire, a heavy gown and a parade through Cambridge to the Senate House, but that didn't seem to spoil the enjoyment of our graduands, some of whom are featured at the top of the newsletter sporting Jason Barisano's legendary sunglasses (Jason is the only person not wearing them in the photos above).

Well done to all!

IDBE Babies

Congratulations to Natalie Webster, Keith Goh and Georgina Smit who welcomed their first babies alongside the other big delivery in their lives - their thesis (Georgina with only 4 days between the deliveries - quite an achievement!). Photos below are of Natalie and Keith with the next generation of IDBE students...?



IDBE team news

The IDBE team are hugely grateful to Kayla Friedman for all the work she has put in as Deputy Director since March. Kayla's post covered Sebastian's sabbatical leave, and as he returns in January Kayla will be moving on to pastures new ... all the way across Trumpington Street, where she is taking up the role of Programme Manager for the Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leadership. We hope that Kayla will still support the course as a Director of Studies, tutor and lecturer, and we wish her the very best in her new post.

Alumni news

Michael Parrett (cohort 17), a leading UK expert on the investigation of dampness and failures in buildings is receiving key industry recognition and honours for over 40 years of work in this area. Founder of the non-commercially affiliated Damp Diagnosis Consultancy (part of Michael Parrett Associates), Mike has been awarded Fellowship of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors ([RICS](#)), in recognition of his considerable knowledge and experience in the spheres of land, property and construction. This honour was marked at a reception hosted by the RICS president at the institution's central London headquarters.

"Michael Parrett is an outstanding professional and we are delighted that the RICS is recognising the integrity and breadth of knowledge that he has brought to the surveying profession," say RICS fellows Mike Taylor and Martin Wade. The IDBE Masters Degree is accredited by the RICS under their project management pathway.



On 9 October, Mike also became the Junior Warden of the [Worshipful Company of Constructors](#), and is pictured (left) at the ceremony.

George Katsibokis and Weng Kong (cohort 17) have teamed up to found a new consultancy, *Project360 Ltd-Singapore*, dealing with project management and consulting services in the Singaporean built environment sector. They have already secured their first contract with a local contractor, acting as their consultants in organising their company structure and making their project management more effective. They also plan to act as BIM consultants, guiding local companies on how to adopt and embody BIM in their system, since the government has set a target for the industry to be BIM compliant by the end of 2015. In this framework Brian Lopez (also cohort 17) will offer his expertise in an informal way, as a friend and colleague. As a result George is relocating to Singapore with his wife.

Pictured below at George's recent marriage in Athens are (left to right) Brian, George, Mike Parrett, Kayla (IDBE Deputy Director) and Kong.



Peer mentoring scheme

As Cohort 20 embark on their theses, they do so with a peer mentor on hand to offer support and a listening ear as they climb this academic mountain. The peer mentor scheme is a new initiative for this year. Members of cohort 20 have been paired with volunteers from cohorts 17 and 18 who can hopefully still remember the challenge of completing this piece of work alongside full time employment and can offer nuggets of wisdom on how to survive it. This support is in addition to the academic thesis supervisor each student is assigned. So far the feedback has been very positive.

Alumni bursary fund

Prompted by generous offers from three recent alumni, and by our aims to provide education for students from all disciplines, nations and financial backgrounds, we are setting up an alumni bursary fund to support students who are struggling to fund the course. If you would like to donate you can do so on-line: <http://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/giving/idbe> or by sending a cheque made out to the University of Cambridge to the Alumni Fund, IDBE office. We will put up details of donors on our website, unless you ask to remain anonymous.