

Designs on your future

Bentley's worldwide 2012 Student Design Competition, run by the Be Careers programme, is looking for nominations, writes David Chadwick

I hope I am not being overly dramatic when I say that architects, nowadays, go through two major cultural events before they become active in their profession. The first is obviously their arrival, at birth, in a particular cultural environment, where they learn the language, the mores and the artistic accomplishments of their forebears, and where they may be given the opportunity to follow the profession of their choice. At which point, as they stare at a blank piece of paper on a drawing board with a sharpened pencil in their hand, they are on equal footing with the most celebrated architects in the land - Sir Christopher Wren and Inigo Jones, to name but two - lacking merely their imagination to surpass them.

The second cultural event is now their choice of professional education, and the computer based architectural systems they are introduced to, for that will become their living and working environment for the most productive part of their

lives - where they will be surrounded by the possibilities inherent in their chosen system, colleagues who speak the same language of experiment and design and, hopefully, a support system that nurtures and guides their aspirations.

Making the right choice is important. Software developers are well aware of the importance of introducing students to their products at an early stage in their education, with the hope that they will carry their experiences through to the architectural practice they will eventually join. To this end, the most forward looking of them have developed specific student oriented programmes and awards - with scholarships as prizes - to motivate students intent on succeeding in their chosen profession.

With this particular aim in mind, Bentley Systems has further advantages for students, as its range of software applications covers the entire gamut of infrastructure construction and management - architectural, civil engineering,

structural engineering, terrain and water management and geophysical. If it has to be surveyed, moved, drained, built, analysed, planned and even visualised, then Bentley has the software to do it.

STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

So, whatever your interest in infrastructure, and if you are a student on a course where Bentley software is in practice, you can respond to the call for nominations for the 2012 Student Design Competition. University, college and academy students are all invited to submit projects designed using Bentley software, along with a short essay describing their work. As most of you reading this are probably already in practice or working in a design studio, I am willing to bet a fair portion of you know family and friends whose offspring are keen to follow in your footsteps.

Project submissions will be judged by an independent panel of distinguished educational leaders and industry professionals from around the world, and they will focus on creativity and skill in applying design and engineering principles. The





Bucharest Concert Hall - designed by Teleche Ovidiu of Ion Mincu University of Architecture, in Hungary

competition, which is sponsored by Bentley's Be Careers Network, welcomes individual and team efforts comprising no more than three members, and all submissions must be received by March 6, 2012. Bentley will award a \$2,000 scholarship (or the UK equivalent) to the winning individual or team in each of the categories at the college/university level, and a \$1,500 scholarship to the winning individual or team at school/academy level.

The importance of pursuing such great opportunities cannot be overstressed. "Design and engineering firms have made it clear that, when assessing job candidates from the pool of promising young engineers and architects, they look for those who have sharpened their skills in the use of advanced information modelling software and other technology needed to design, build, and operate better-performing, more sustainable infrastructure," said Scott Lofgren, who is the global director of Bentley's Be (Bentley Empowered) Careers Network - the type of support organisation for students that I suggested students look out for.

"Our Be Careers Network uses programs such as the student design competition, coupled with affordable access to Bentley software at the secondary school, academy, college, and university levels, to create a foundation for inspiring and preparing students to enter and sustain the engineering and architectural professions."

Students can submit projects in one of five categories: "Architectural Design," "Road or Bridge Design,"

"Rendering/Animation Using MicroStation," "Engineering" and "Solving a Problem With GIS Technology." Secondary school and academy students can participate in the "Design a Public Transport Centre" category. Submissions in each category must make clear the project's problem, intent and solution, and support the design models with architectural or engineering drawings using any of the applications in Bentley's comprehensive portfolio of software for sustaining infrastructure.

Speaking to Scott, he stressed that the winning student (or student team) will earn the scholarships by first of all correctly identifying a problem and then being able to show how they resolved it using Bentley technology. Scott also stated that through experience of running the Design Competition for a number of years, adding relevance to the challenge was well received and enhanced the quality of entries.

Students, along with their winning projects, will be recognised at their respective schools, with each winner or winning team receiving a handcrafted award for display at school. Winners and winning teams will also be able to choose 10 seats of Bentley software - from the more than 50 products available through the academic subscription - for use by their schools.

For more information about the submission process or to fill out a submission form, visit www.bentley.com/studentdesign. There are also ways for universities, colleges and

school students to enter even if they are not yet Bentley users, as Scott stated that for education establishments not in the programme, they have a free download for students and lecturers - Microstation PowerDraft V8i, including the manual - that provides professional level 2D/3D drafting capabilities which students can use to promote their ideas. You can also get a list of all of the Bentley software applications from the academic sub-section of Bentley's Be Careers website listed below.

Mechanical design and manufacturing may be heading east at a fast rate of knots, but the west - including the UK - is still providing the most highly acclaimed architectural designs, and running the most advanced construction projects around the World. That said, having seen the entries for Bentley's 2011 Be Inspired awards, there are some outstanding projects in the Antipodes and beyond. Be bold, raise your game, enter the Design Competition, and keep us in the forefront of infrastructure design and construction!

BE CAREERS NETWORK

Be Careers Network is dedicated to helping students graduate with the technology skills needed to start careers as infrastructure professionals in the architecture, engineering, geospatial, and construction fields. It does this by providing programs for students and schools, including affordable software licenses, training, curriculum counselling, and scholarships.

www.bentley.com/studentdesign