

## SMARTGEOMETRY 2010 CONFERENCE



'SmartGeometry 2010', an interesting global event organised by Bentley

last month in the city of Barcelona, Spain, focused on innovative designs and technology tools for the building industry. The stress was also on methodologies that allow and encourage new forms of architectural and structural expression—forms that are radically changing the built environment.

The meet attended by architects, engineers, trade professionals, students and technology experts from across the world, unfolded in two tiers. The first was the 2010 SmartGeometry workshop organised around 'working prototypes'. The participants comprising a mixed lot of experts, professional practitioners and students were broken up in clusters. They took up the challenging task to design, assemble and test working prototypes. These clusters acted as professional hubs for healthy exchange of ideas, discussions on design development, interaction on technologies, processes and techniques. The topics for the clusters which were led by at least two tutors (pioneers in their fields) were innovation driven—like Design to Destruction, High tech Design-low tech Construction, Inflatable Fabric Envelopes, etc. All the developed prototypes were on display on the final day of this engaging event.

The second component was the two day SmartGeometry conference broken up in two parts—Shop Talk Day and the Symposium Day. The first was introduced by Adam Davis from Bentley Systems with a talk on the merits of SmartGeometry in

the present context of architecture plunging into a newer dimension and in addressing pressing global concerns of sustainability and saving the natural environment. The day was crowded with a series of pertinent topics being debated by panellists having delivered in their respective fields. It was also an opportunity for entrepreneurs to share their experiences in realising their professional dreams.

The symposium had an equally diverse approach to explore and generate newer ideas and solutions to the evolving urban complexities. The proceedings were set on track by Hugh Whitehead of SmartGeometry and Huw Roberts, Bentley Systems. The day was an exciting mix of thoughts and futuristic expressions discussed for a positive integration of design and technology tools. The presentations by Hanif Kara (Adams Kara Taylor), Xavier de Kesteller (Foster + Partners), Shane Burger (Grimshaw Architects) and others were pointers towards digital solutions playing their appropriate role and not over shadowing the inherent creative skills of an individual. The presenters dwelt upon environmental design strategies and understanding and carrying forward further nature's design principles. One of the highlights of the day was the presentation of how digital technology was being utilised to carry forward the intricate design and construction of the famous Sagrada Famillia as conceived by noted architect Antoni Gaudi.

In fact, this informative get-together of design professionals from across continents was well capped off first by a lavish interactive dinner/cocktail and then by a visit to the Sagrada Famillia. +

