John Elliott

Web Bio

Information

Biography

Biographical Statement

I have three areas of expertise in teaching, involving three types of design literacies. These are visual literacy in design (DEA 1101), conceptual literacy in design (DEA 6100) and ecological literacy in design (DEA 4220). My research interests are related to the idea of "Nature inside" both in a theoretical sense and in a practical sense. In the theoretical domain, I am interested in those aspects of material culture of the built environment that express a society's set of values as they pertain to the natural world, especially regarding environmental ethics and aesthetics. I am currently investigating topics relating to rusticity and sustainability, particularly in studio furniture and scupture. In the practical sense, I am interested in "pulling" technology through the design project situated in a real world context. I use the prototype as a stimulant for design discourse, a conductor for technological developments, and an exemplar for commercial enterprise. These prototypes range in scale from the artifact to the edifice; from a pair of benches installed on the National Mall in Washington to a bamboo space frame annex to an AIDS clinic in the Dominican Republic. I am also interested in material science research and have been working on reducing the carbon footprint of concrete.

Department Website Summary

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Teaching

Teaching and Advising Statement

Through my time at Cornell, I have found that the best way for students to learn is through active participation in the educational experience. This is as true for the classroom as it is for the studio. It is important that they invest in what and how they learn, whenever possible. I try to help them achieve their goals but to standards that I establish, including the social and environmental dimensions, along with the aesthetic and conceptual ones.

Advisement is an important process in assiting the student to reach their individual academic goals. This requires a close listening to the student's ideas, as well as a broad awareness of the course offerings both inside and outside of the College. It requires knowledge of the various

off-campus learning options and opportunities, for this often is the most memorable part of a student's time at Cornell.

Professional

Current Professional Activities

Member, U.S. Green Building Council, LEED accredited professional

Reviewer, Journal of Green Building, ISBN 1552-6100

Research

Current Research Activities

Professor Elliott is researching the idea of "Nature inside" both in a theoretical sense and in a practical sense. In the theoretical domain, he is interested in those aspects of material culture of the built environment that express a society's set of values as they pertain to the natural world, especially regarding environmental ethics and aesthetics. He is currently working on a book "Opus Natura: A global history of thought about nature and the built environment". In the practical domain, Professor Elliott uses the design project to "pull" technology in a real world context to produce meaningful works. The project prototype is used as a stimulant for design discourse, a conductor for technological developments, and an exemplar for commercial enterprise. More specifically, he is producing a collection of studio furniture works designed to heighten awareness of various environmental issues associated with their manufacture. Most recently, he has returned to sculpture as a medium for expression of these ideas. His "Arbortecture" works are exploring the intimate relations between people, trees, and buildings. They have been exhibited at the Johnson Museum and on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Concurrently, in a more technical vein, Professor Elliott is developing a new wood-based structural system called "Triakonta", designed for disassembly and carbon-sequestration. A quarter-scale version had been prototyped for furniture production. Most recently, a bamboo-based version is under development for field testing in Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. Finally, Professor Elliott is conducting materiral science research into the effects of carbon sequestration on the structural properties of concrete.

Extension

Current Extension Activities

In the fall of 2014, DEA 4220 students worked on the design of a proposal for a new Education Center and 4H Park in the Town of Mount Hope, NY working with Lucy Joyce, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Orange County.

Education

Education

- M.E.Des. 1993 - University of Calgary
  Architecture
- M.E.Des. - 1991 - University of Calgary
  Industrial Design
- B.Sc. 1978 - University of Alberta
  Physics

Courses

Courses Taught

1. DEA 1101 - Interior Design Studio I (requisite for DEA undergrads)
2. DEA 2030 - Digital Communications (requisite for DEA undergrads)
3. DEA 4010 - Special Topics in Sustainable Design
4. DEA 4080 - Interior Design Studio VIII
5. DEA 4402 - Interior Design Studio VIII (Green Group)
6. DEA 4220 - Ecological Literacy and Design (co-requisite for DEA undergrads)
7. DEA 4221 - Philosophies of Nature and Design in the European Context
8. DEA 4223 - Field Studies in Eco-design
9. DEA 6010 - Directed Graduate Readings
10. DEA 6100 - Introduction to Design Theory (requistie for DEA grads)
11. DEA 6422 - Ecophilosophy and Design
12. VISST 1101 - Design Studio I (cross-listed with DEA 1101)
13. ARCH 4610 - Ecological Literacy and Design (cross-listed with DEA 4220)

Websites

Related Websites

DEA 1101 Course Website
http://courses.cit.cornell.edu/courses/dea1101
DEA 2030 Course Website
http://courses.cit.cornell.edu/courses/dea2030
DEA 4220 Course Website
http://courses.cit.cornell.edu/courses/dea4220

Personal Portfolio
http://jackelliott.human.cornell.edu/

Administration

Administrative Responsibilities

Director of the Arborworks research space and activities in the High Volt Lab, 909 Mitchell Street, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Co-chair of 2014 DEA faculty search, two positions.

Chair of Ad Hoc Tenure Review Committee for AAP.

Publications

Selected Publications

Elliott, J. 2013. "REDD+ Talks - Jack Elliott, Cornell University", http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lz5CLwfeWn4, Published May 9, 2013 by Wildlife Works, Sausalito, CA.

Elliott, J. 2013. ""Jack Elliott speaks about Samothracae", Memorial Art Gallery Audio Files, iTunes podcast:
https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/memorial-art-gallery-audio/id2835129
University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.

Elliott, J. 2010. "The Triakonta Structural System: From Toy to Tower", Proceedings from the 2010 SWST International Conference, Geneva, Switzerland.

Rider, T.R., Elliott, J. "Education, Environmental Attitudes and the Design Professions" in Selected Papers of the ARCC 2007 Research Conference, ARCC Journal, vol. 4, no.2, 2007.

Elliott, J., Brown, M. “Green vs. Grey: Energy Performances of Two Olympic Speed Skating Ovals”, Journal of Architecture and Planning Research, vol.24, no. 2, Summer 2007.

Kosheleva, E., Elliott, J. 2006. “Green Building in the Russian Context: An Investigation into the Establishment of a LEED®-based Green Building Rating”, Journal of Green Building, vol.1: no. 3, Summer 2006.

Elliott, J. 2004. “Considering the Natural: Reconciling Eco-ethics and Aesthetics in the Practice of Design”, Journal of Design Philosophy Papers, no. 2.

Elliott, J. 2003. “Eco-ethics, Aesthetics and the Paradox of Informed Negligence”, Proceedings from the 2003 ACSA International Conference, Helsinki, Finland.

Elliott, J; Yoon, H. 2002. "A Green Analysis of SMED, Inc. lifeSPACE Product", Ithaca, New York.

Elliott, J. 2001 "Ergo Versus Eco: A Tale of Two Centricities", Proceedings of 45th Human Factors and Ergonomic Society National Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Elliott, J. 2001 "Mumbling and Stumbling: Paradoxes of Green Design Practice", Proceedings from 89th Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture National Conference, Baltimore, Maryland.

Elliott, J. 2001 "Adirondack Rustic Furniture Industry: Surveys and Prospects", Adirondack Journal Of Environmental Studies, Vol.6, No.1, Paul Smiths College, New York.

Elliott, J. 2000 "Out Through the In(Doors): New Approaches To Green Interior Design Education", In.Form: Journal of Interior Design, vol.1, no.1, University Of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Elliott, J. 2000 "Columena: A Prototype for Sustainable Product Design", Second Place, Idec National Conference, Juried Competition For Creative Works.

Elliott, J. 1999. Reflecting Nature: Artificing as a Biophilic Response. Proceedings of the 20th Annual Conference on Design, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.

Pope, S., Elliott, J., Turbini, L. 1998. Designing for Technological Obsolescence and Discontinuous Change: An Evaluation of Three Secessional Electronic Products. Electronics and the Environment, Proceedings of the 1998 IEEE.

Elliott, J. 1997. The Blur: A Catalyst for Conceptualization. Blurring Boundaries, Proceedings of the 1997 Design Education Conference.

Elliott, J. 1997. The Warm Springs Chair and Table: The Evolution of an Idea. The Humane Village, Proceedings of the 20th Congress of ICSID, 1997.