Group Recipients of the Pioneer Architects (Lim Chong Keat) Prize

In Picture: Assoc Prof Joseph Lim (second from left) with the group of seven M Arch students

Seven students under the research direction of Associate Professor Joseph Lim won the prestigious Pioneer Architects (Lim Chong Keat) Prize for the most rigorous experimental thesis in architecture. It is the first time the University has awarded the prize to a group instead of individual students.

The students, who have recently completed their Master of Architecture (M Arch) degrees, are Christopher Wijatno, Wang Yigeng, Chen Qisen, Davis Wong, Sakinah Halim, Bek Tai Keng and Roy Tay.

In the M Arch course, design inquiry methods used in thesis projects are applied to topics of global concern. Thesis studios become platforms for progressive thinking in the discipline and in practice. Functioning as think-tank units, design studios can be engines of design thought leadership.

About the winning projects

The group was awarded the prize for a collection of solutions to emergent need in the light of climate change. They were counterpoints to megacities with ecological footprints that are untenable. The continued depletion of natural resources leading to scarcity has resulted in displaced communities and will eventually lead to war.

What if we floated on sea instead of consuming land inefficiently?
And could we use wave energy instead of nuclear energy?
Could we replenish food supply and regenerate marine eco-diversity?
How would our lives be shaped by new offshore settlements?
What would we use as structures for shelter, farming scaffold and recreation?

Floating cities emerged in the 1960s with Buckminster Fuller’s Triton City and Kenzo Tange’s Tokyo Bay Plan. Current manifestations include Vincent Calebaut’s Lilypad,

the Seasteading Institute and the mile long Freedom Ship housing 50,000 people. These examples have huge raft-like surfaces which heat up the seawater and risk environmental damage. They minimize the opportunity of incorporating water bodies into interior urban spaces.

As an alternative to these examples, three types of vessels in the marine industry, viz the jackup platforms, the semi-submersibles and the super barges are re-purposed in projects to save the world.

New applications comprised offshore solutions to hospitals, post-disaster accommodation, campuses or training facilities, housing, prisons and funerary facilities to save land. These proposals can be of interest to military, security, primary production and United Nations aid organizations.

The following link gives project details.
http://q-r.to/JLEMdesignexplorations

Physical models of these proposals are currently on display at the University Town Plaza lobby (outside Koufu).