

CROSS SECTION

The newsletter of the Euroteam design Group



Welcome (back) to Cross Section

After a rather long hiatus, this newsletter is back. It's our intention to send this out twice a year. The purpose of this newsletter is fourfold:

1. To let you know what the design Group is doing.
2. To give you information that may help you in your professional life.
3. To encourage you in your faith in Christ.
4. To let you know about opportunities to help with design Group projects.

It is our hope and intention that this newsletter will be a help and encouragement to you in your work and faith.

As we do this we welcome your input as to whether this newsletter is helpful, and what sort of content or topics you'd like to see in future newsletters.

Naturally, if at any time you'd like to stop receiving this newsletter, just send a reply e-mail with the word "cancel" or "stop" or something to that effect in the subject line. Please feel free to share this newsletter with anyone you think might be interested in reading it. If you received this from someone else and would like to join our mailing list, please let us know at euroteamdesign@gmail.com

Our mailing list will be used only for sending this newsletter and to make needs for assistance with projects known. It will not be shared with anyone.

Learn about us

You can learn about the Euroteam design Group from our web site at: www.etedesign.eu

We also have a Facebook page at: @euroteamdesigngroup Please 'like' us on Facebook to keep up to date!

A design proposal done recently by the design Group to add a new entry and sanctuary to an existing kindergarten building for a church in Germany.

Challenges that architects (and others!) face today

This article was inspired by the article *Blood, Sweat, Tears, Architecture: 10 Contemporary Challenges Faced by Every Architect* by Michael Malone that appeared on architizer.com on December 16, 2016. The first five challenges are presented here and the next five will appear in the next edition of Cross Section.

1. Finding new work and maintaining an income

We have a need to help people see professional services as a value, and not a cost. Of course in some cases there are legal requirements for getting a professional involved, but we need to help our clients see that our work should not stop at the minimum legal level. Also, there are other business models that are available to us, such as property development. Other ventures could include sales of anything from furniture to building materials, anything where the involvement of a building design professional is seen as giving validity or even prestige.

2. Good design over cheap construction

We've all been there: clients who don't want to pay for a better design, but just want something (anything) built. This is especially prevalent in a difficult economy where people don't have a lot to spend. We'd all love to have a client-connoisseur who is willing to spend whatever is needed to have the best design, but how often do we find one of those? And it's not just in the area of architectural and interior design that people want to cut corners, it happens in engineering too.

3. Stereotypes

We all know how our professions are viewed by the public (or at least we should!) and how architects see engineers, engineers see architects, both of these see landscape architects, but is this really helpful? We need to put the client first and this is especially true of professionals who are followers of Christ. We need to have a servant attitude and work with humility.

4. By hand?

Yes, there is still a need for us to do things by hand. Personally I love to write meeting notes by hand and the area I need to work on more is **sketching**. Yes, the kind with a pen or pencil, not a stylus. The scientists can tell you all about what happens inside your brain when you write or draw something by hand, but suffice it to say that it's very beneficial.

5. Only the best materials

Related to number 2. above is the need to spec good quality materials and not just "settle". While we know all that the things of this world are temporary, we should keep in mind that temporary may last longer than we expect and that the projects we design should last a good long time. Keep in mind as well that many people, if not most, notice first the materials in a building and then aspects of the design such as layout, lighting, circulation, etc.

“And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him!

Who then can understand the thunder of his power?”

After Job describes the greatness of God with example after example of what He can do and where we can see His hand, he makes this amazing statement: that all of this is just the “outer fringe” of what God can do. Our problem, Job says, is that we only hear a faint whisper of God's voice. Since this is the case, who can understand how powerful God really is?

Do you make a conscious effort to hear God's voice? He can't only be heard when all is silent; often He speaks loudest in the noise of the day, in the crowd, in our distracted minds. Make an effort to hear Him and to understand His power, especially in the light of the problems you face in your life.