
Introduction

CAADRIA, the association for Computer Aided Design Research In Asia, was founded in 1996 with a conference held at the University of Hong Kong. This was the first forum in Asia at which researchers and teachers of computer-aided architectural design could come together and share their work. The association has met annually since in a variety of locations: Hsinchu, Osaka, Shanghai, Singapore and, in 2001, in Sydney. Representation at the conference has consistently been broad, bringing together researchers and teachers throughout Asia. Visitors from Europe and North America are regularly in attendance as well. Information about the association can be found on the web at www.caadria.org.

The conference chairs for the first four conferences have selected papers from CAADRIA conferences in the years 1996–1999 to present here in *Automation in Construction*. We have identified papers that represent a cross-section of the work underway in Asia at the end of the decade. Papers by Lee et al., Woo et al., Kaga et al., Chiu and Lan and Ng et al. are application-oriented, reflecting the demands for innovation in the construction industry in the region. Much of the research and teaching in the region is sponsored by industry or integrated into project-specific needs. The work of the Sasada Lab in Osaka illustrates this very well, represented here by three papers: Lee et al., Woo et al. and Kaga et al. In this lab, the research agenda is carried out within the context of design projects commissioned by Professor T. Sasada, permitting fundamental research

questions of computer-aided design to be investigated and immediately tested in a design setting.

The other three papers presented in this issue of *Automation in Construction* examine aspects of computer-aided design in teaching and design development. This second focus represents the other need in the region, the training of practitioners and researchers with skills relevant to regional needs for communication, density or culture.

We are grateful to the Editors of *Automation in Construction* for inviting CAADRIA to present representative work in this journal and hope that this exposure will encourage more communication between researchers in Asia and the rest of the world.

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