



Peter LIZOŇ

**DISTANT LEARNING EDUCATION OF AN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STUDIO
AND OF A THEORY AND HISTORY SEMINAR ON MODERN ARCHITECTURE**

The FA STU has asked me to teach in the AY 2005-2006 a group of international students who came from France, Germany and Spain to Bratislava as exchange students. The students earn full two semester credits transferred to their home university. The educational exchange is done under the Socrates/Erasmus program of the European Union educational institutions. The international students do not speak Slovak language. They speak, however, English and therefore the instruction is done in English language. I was invited from the United States as a Visiting Professor to teach the Socrates/Erasmus Program students an architectural design studio and a seminar course. I have previously collaborated with the FA STU as well as with the Slovak Architects Society. My work as an educator and practitioner has been known in Slovakia through lectures, publications, conferences, as well as, through professional contacts with colleagues.

I live and work in the US and majority of my teaching at the FA STU is via e-teaching. The method of distant learning is today practiced in many disciplines. However, in architecture, we are in the beginnings. While written and oral communication is easy to transmit, the graphic and visual transmission is complex. The core of architectural education is design and communication of the design process is through graphic images. Normally, a design is developed in a design studio environment, is in a one-on-one bases, between a student and professor through critique sessions, consultations, pin-ups, reviews and presentations. In e-learning, the visual, graphic communication is made possible through video-conferencing. It is live and spontaneous via web cams on both ends and via instant transmission of graphic files from one desk top to another. The traditional critique session is done in virtual space and time.

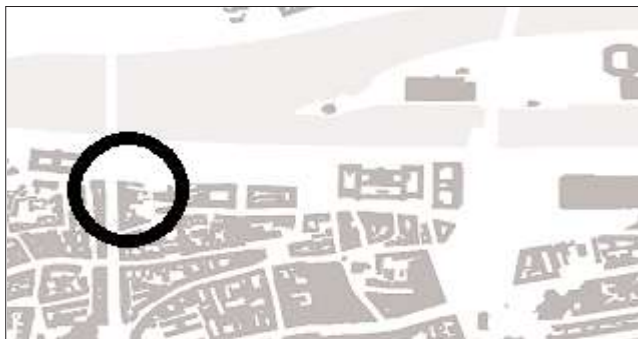
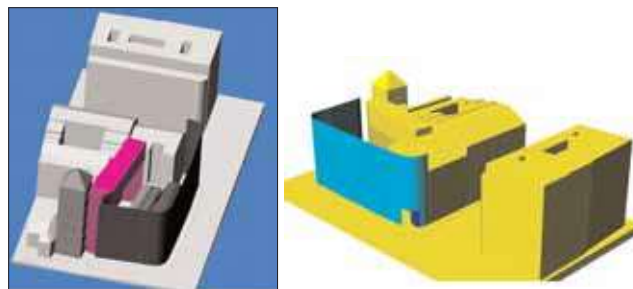


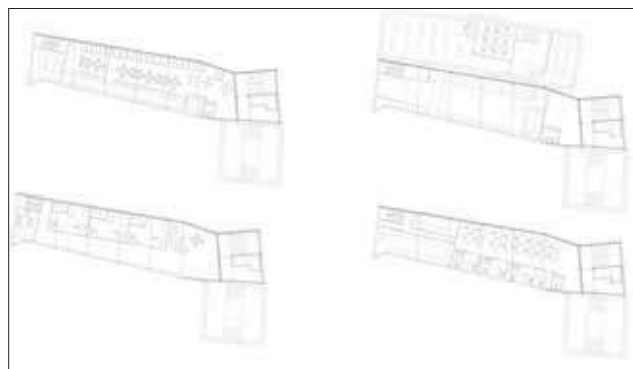
Figure 1: The site for the Centre of Czech Architecture in Prague.

In my teaching approach, I started the students in the first semester by conducting a time intensive workshop. I have introduced and outlined the material of my courses, given out the assignments, courses time table, presented key lectures, but

most importantly, my goal was to get to know the students and their abilities and the students to get to know me and my expectations. The second time intensive workshop was conducted in the second half of the first semester. The third, final workshop is planned towards the end of the second semester. This timing of being physically present and available to students was to coincide with germination, development and refinement of their creative projects execution. In between, through ether, regular weekly group video-conferences have been held and e-mail messages exchanged with students individually. For video-conferencing and audio connection we have used the VRVS and SKYPE programs.



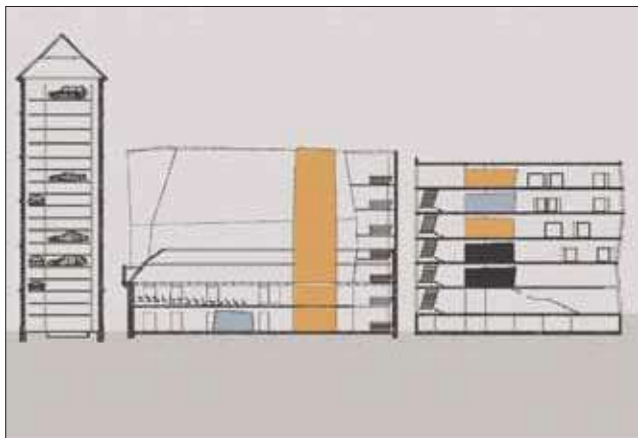
Figures 2, 3: Eugenie Gonzales – Digital massing study.



Figures 4, 5: Isaa Assad – Floor plans study.



Figure 6: Isaa Assad –Preliminary design, Photomontage.



Figures 7, 8 : Marian Brunzel – Section and floor plan of preliminary design.
Figures 9, 10, 11 : Marian Brunzel – Massing studies.

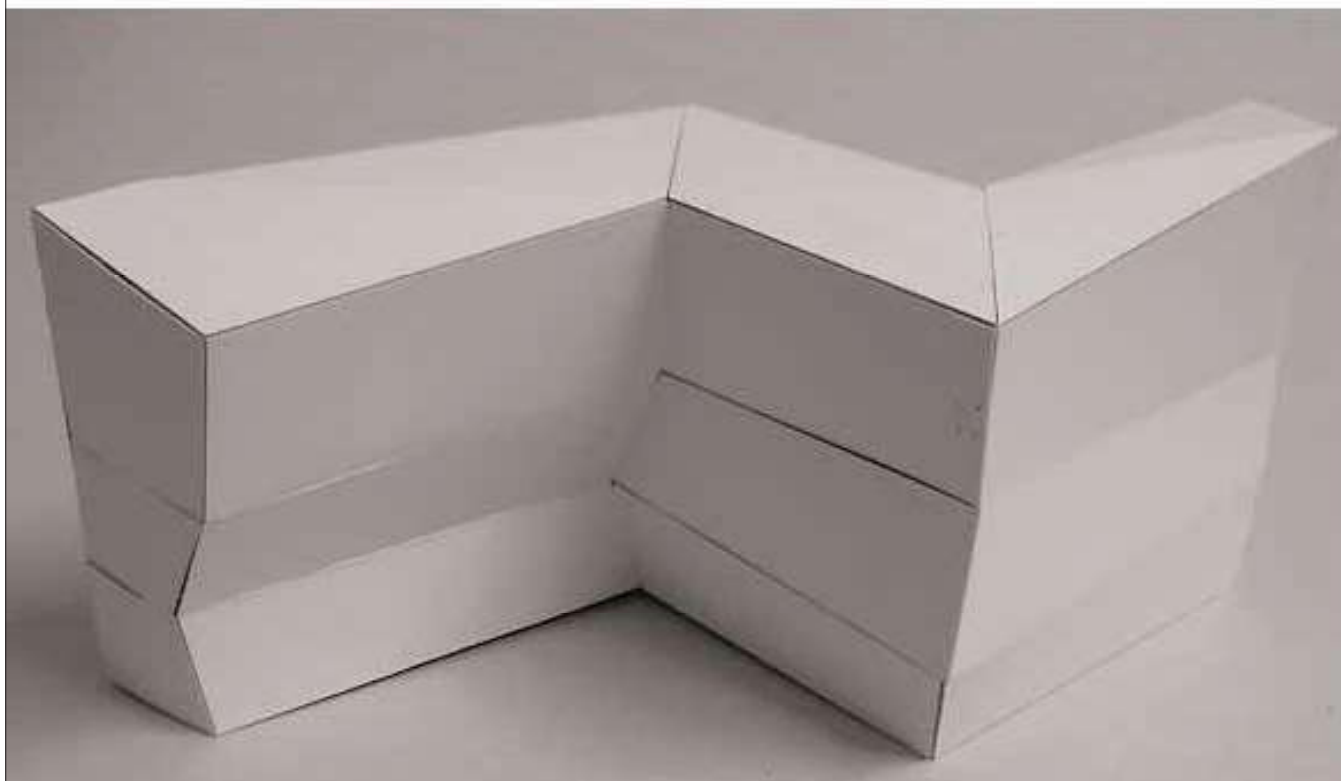




Figure 12: Eugenia Gonzalez – Preliminary design, Photomontage.

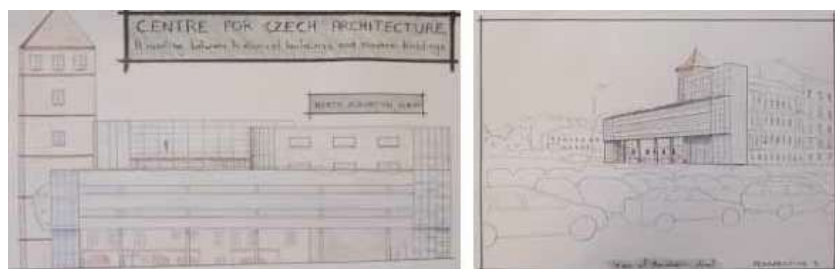
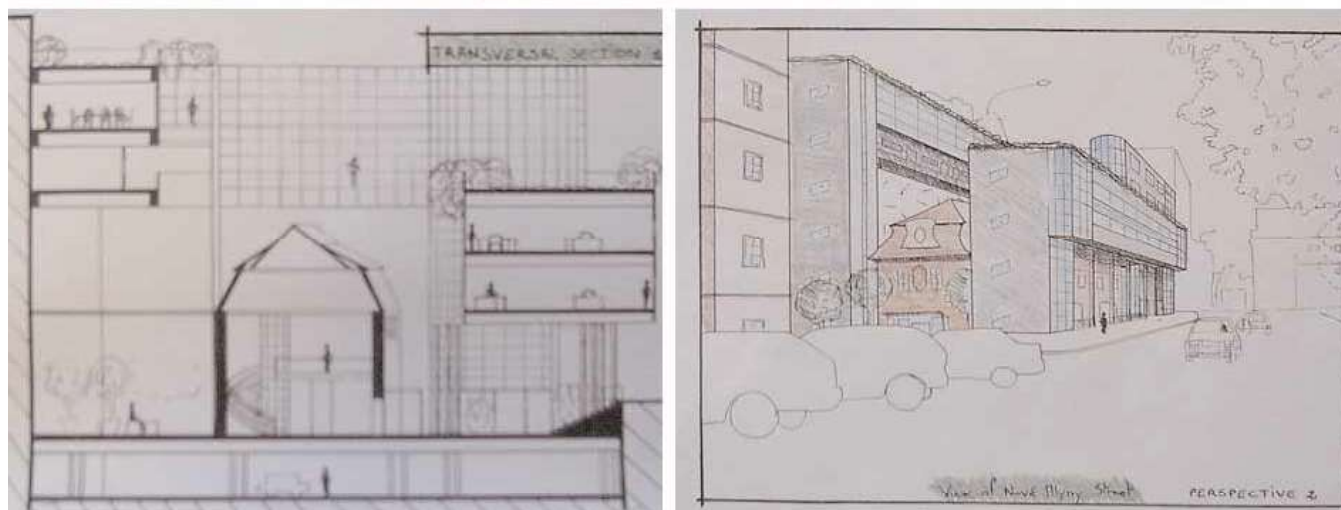


Figure 13: Jennifer Quivet - Preliminary design, Drawings.



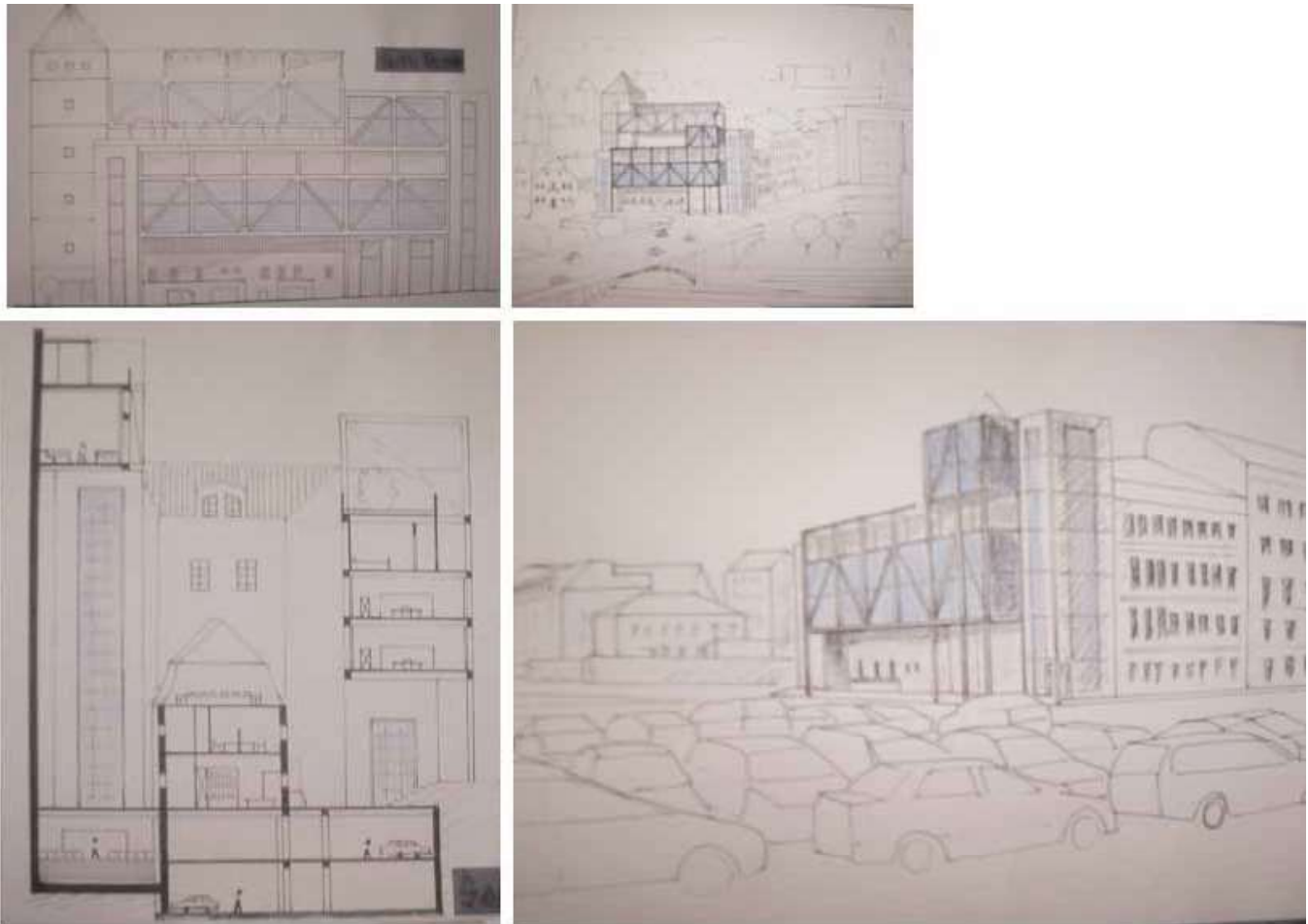


Figure 14: Laurence Adoir - Preliminary design, Drawings.

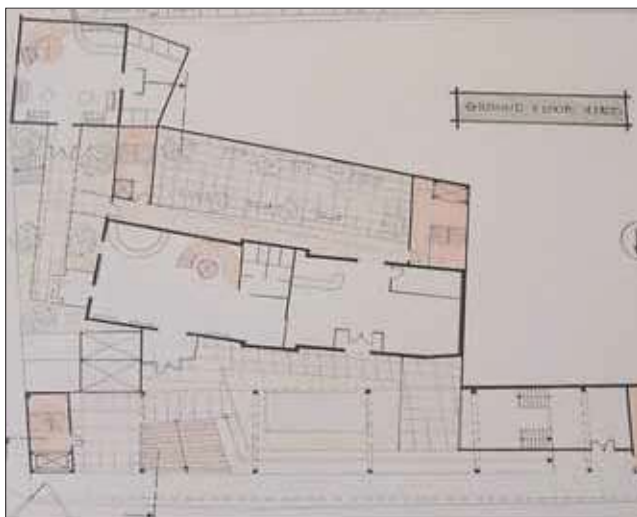
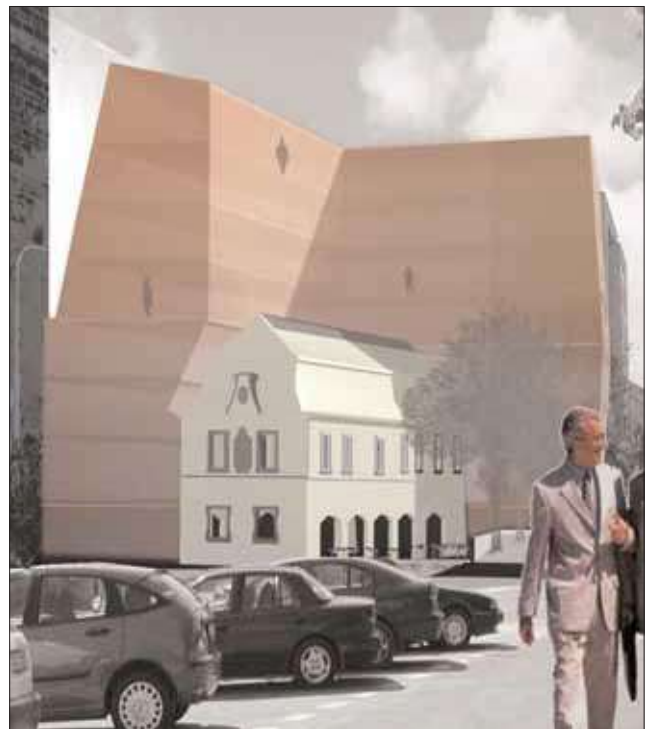


Figure 15: Jennifer Quivet – Floor plan study.

In the architectural design studio, the assignment, I have prepared for students, is to design the Centre of Czech Architecture in

Prague. The building program is an infill structure on a historic site in the center of Prague – to serve as a headquarters for architecture information and resources and house the offices of various architecture organizations. The new center would house an architecture gallery, auditorium, conference rooms, library, architects' club, bookstore, café and three primary Czech architecture organizations: Chamber of Czech Architects (CKA), Czech Society of Architects (OA), and the architectural journal the Architekt. I started the project with students preparing Site Analysis Study, Building Type Precedents Study and a Physical Study Model of the immediate project area. Once the project Perception phase was completed, we moved to Conceptualization phase.

The Formalization phase of design development has been conducted through electronic criticism sessions and consultations. The Communication phase is fine tuning and detailing of design and presentation preparation. This phase has also been conducted electronically. The final jury review in the second semester will be done by a review committee at the FA with my participation through video-conference.



Figures 16, 17, 18: Marian Brunzel – Design of the Centre of Czech Architecture, Digital massing studies.





Figure 19, 20: Laurence Adoir – Design of the Centre of Czech Architecture, Massing studies.

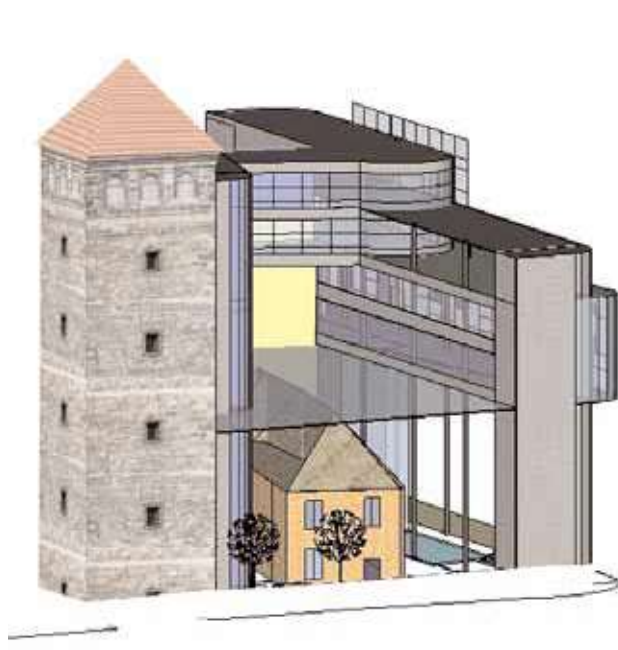


Figure 21, 22: Jennifer Quivet - Design of the Centre of Czech Architecture, Massing studies.

The theory and history seminar on Modern Trends in Architecture is based on my research and book manuscript in progress: Discoveries and Innovations for Architecture of the 20th Century. In the workshop classroom sessions, I have presented a series of slide lectures on the subject. Discussions were held on the lectures. I invited Dr. Henrieta Moravcikova, author of a seminal book on modern Slovak architecture to give a guest slide

lecture on her subject. On two separate occasions, I arranged visits of the class to award winning architectural offices of Bogar, Kralik, Urban and of Dusan Fischer. They made presentations on their work and design philosophy.

Graphical examples of the students' works "Modern Trends in Architecture" :

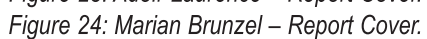




Figure 25: Jennifer Quivet- Report Cover.

Figure 27: Adoir Laurence – Presentation Poster.

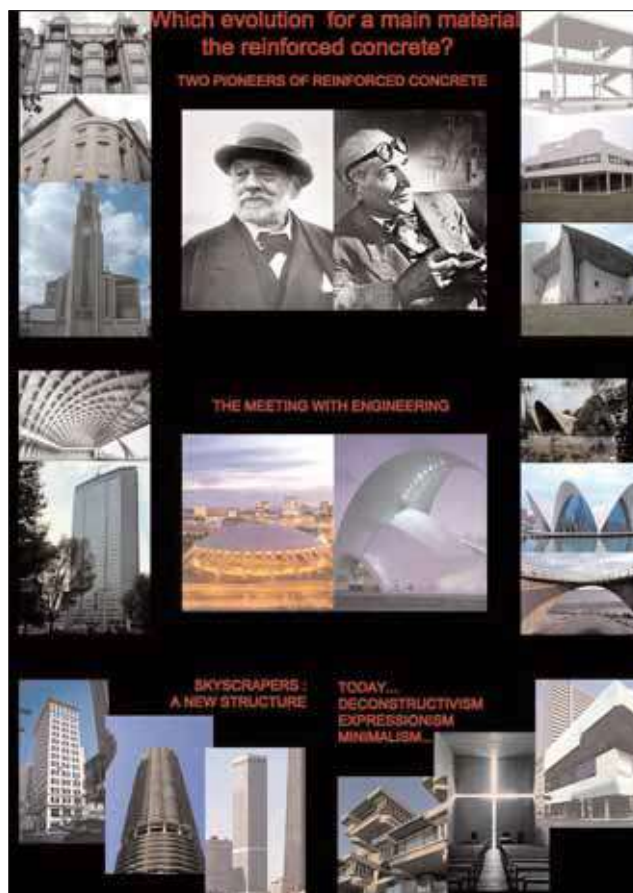
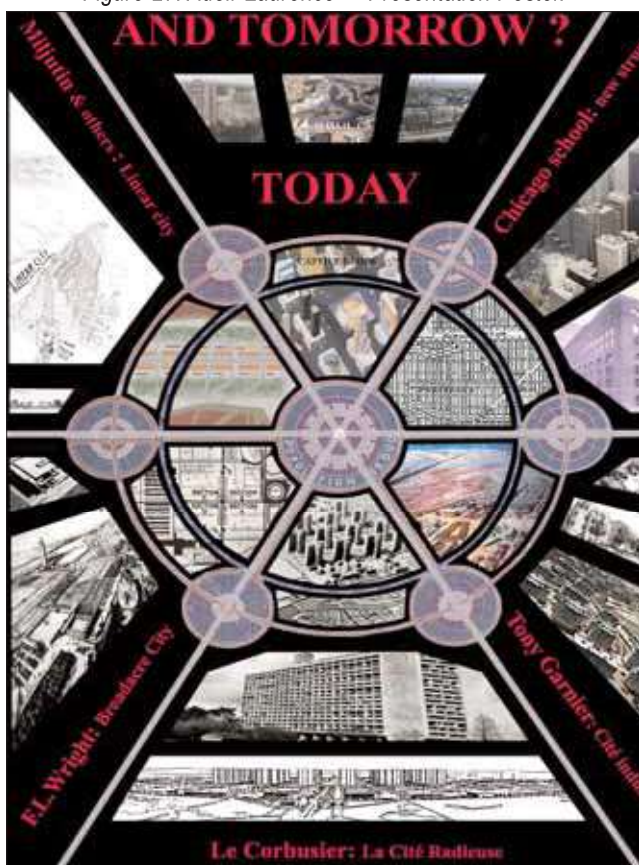


Figure 26: Jennifer Quivet- Presentation Poster.

Figure 28: Marian Brunzel – Presentation Poster.





Individual exchanges with my students on line, video-conferencing and e-mail have been focused on their semester assignment topics. The topics included: The Housing Exhibitions (Weissenhof, Baba, Brno, Wuwa, Zurich, Vienna...), Modern Houses (Savoy, Tugendhat, Melnikov, Lovell Health House, Muller, Falling Water, Villa Mairea...), Reinforced Concrete in Modern Architecture, Steel in Modern Architecture and Town Planning for the 20th Century. Besides illustrated reports, the students have prepared posters on their topics. The students made in-class presentations from their posters followed by discussion comments on concepts and projects to be included in their final reports. The final illustrated reports prepared in desk top publishing software have been electronically transferred to me in the US for review, comments and criticism before they were finished and printed out for review by professors at the FA.

We are in the forefront of the distant architectural education. The education based on graphic communication traditionally done in a studio setting can be done through live and spontaneous webcam video-conferencing and instant transfer of images of computer desktop to distant desktop. A credit is due to the leadership of FA STU and to the Vice Dean Lubica Vitkova, in particular, who initiated my participation and English teaching and is in charge of the Socrates/Erasmus program. Colleagues Igor Kosco and Vierka Joklova of the FA Computer Support Department have been invaluable in providing computer know-how and video-conferencing support and Stanislav Majcher of FA Institute of Architecture I for 3D digital modeling instruction and logistical support of the English instruction class.

Hostujúci profesor z USA Peter Lizoň hovorí o novátorskom systéme vyučby architektov na diaľku využívajúc informatívnu technológiu prednášania, korekcie, konzultácie a prezentácie so študentami cez počítačové video konferencie, elektronickú poštu a okamžitý prenos grafických a vizuálnych súborov cez počítače. V rámci EÚ programu Socrates/Erasmus pre zahraničných študentov konaného v anglickom jazyku vedie architektonický ateliérový projekt a seminárny predmet teórie a histórie architektúry.

Article Review

The FA STU is fortunate to have the internationally renowned architect, educator and scholar Dr. Peter Lizon as a visiting professor responsible for the foreign students of the EU Socrates-Erasmus Program. The e-teaching of architectural design studio and the seminar on the Modern Trends in Architecture is groundbreaking. The traditional one-on-one: professor-student critique sessions held in a studio of freehand sketching, the slide lecture discussions and exchanges, the student presentations and reviews of the work-in-progress and professor comments are now conducted via computer, internet and live video conferencing. In architectural education, where the visual images of graphic language are used for communication of ideas and concepts, this is a new unique method of teaching and instruction carried between the continents of Europe and North America.

The Visiting Professor Peter Lizon helps the FA STU gain international reputation among the sister EU universities whose students attend the program in Slovakia. In the AY 2006-2007, in addition to students from France and Spain, whose students participated also in the last academic year program, the students have come to Bratislava from Portugal, Great Britain and Mexico. The word of success of the FA STU Erasmus-Socrates Program is spreading out to our benefit

Prof. Ing. Arch. Peter Gál, PhD