WHAT IS THE ARCHITECT DOING IN THE JUNGLE?

BIORNAMETICS

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Springer Wien New York
We have to establish a common language
What is an Architect doing in the Jungle?
Nature Sessions deep in the virgin rainforests of Malaysia allow young talents to learn to watch, to understand connections, to correlate structure with function and to transfer deep principles from nature into their respective fields. Students that come from fields as diverse as the fine arts, the applied arts, veterinary medicine, physics, biology, engineering and architecture experience a different approach to their own subjects. For example, the national Malaysian butterfly has amazingly beautiful colours generated by structures alone, and not by pigments. Such ‘frozen rainbows’ can be transferred to architecture, and yield multifunctional, non-toxic surfaces that can be functionalized and thereby become responsive to various signals. A fire? The direction to the nearest exit appears automatically on the walls!

Evolution and Biomimetic Architecture
Convergent Evolution denotes a process where distinct species with differing ancestries evolve similar features in comparable environmental circumstances; examples of this evolution include the eye, cartilage and fin-like extremities. In these cases the relationship between structure and function seems to be exceptionally strong. Morphodynamic investigations allow for biomimetic identification of principles in three distinct scenarios of observation [one animal, one niche, variable time OR one animal, various niches, same or semi-variable time OR various animals, one niche, same time], with a high potential of the subsequent transfer to the arts and sciences.

The Need for a Common Language
It is not easy: scientists and engineers have totally different concepts, languages, methods and aims compared to artists. These groups have started to communicate with each other only recently. The interaction between their respective fields is very important, but also a challenge because of different inherent cultures and communication protocols.
Therefore a common language in arts, science and engineering needs to be developed: a language in which descriptions at different levels of detail are more compatible.
EXPERT RESEARCHERS & PROJECT TEAM SPECIALISTS

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