

CAD: Tutorials, Strategies and Support

Henry Elysee

School of Art, Design and Architecture, University of Huddersfield

Synopsis

The manufacturers and distributors of Computer Aided Design programmes provide a wide array of self help books and on line video tutorials to enable students to develop their IT skills. The delivery of CAD modules are designed to engage the students in the use of ITC and enable them to articulate creative solutions, from which they are assessed against a number of prescribed learning outcomes.

Problems identified:

- 1) The wide range of age and student CAD abilities in the learning environment.
- 2) In study groups with more than 10 Students it is evident students who are slow to engage become disheartened or feel intimidated while the quick learners become frustrated with the lack of progress
- 3) From feedback students often find the self help books and videos inappropriate for their immediate needs and time consuming to understand

The producers of ArchiCAD software Graphisoft made an unprecedented commitment several years ago to Education in the Built Environment with the provision of individual ArchiCAD licences to all students free of charge www.graphisoft.com/community/education/downloads. This has encouraged students to engage with ArchiCAD at an early stage in their professional development and to forge links with the international ArchiCad fraternity.

The project aims to provide a series of tutorials created proactively or reactively as required following communication between teacher and learner which will build up into an archived resource based in the TRB but available electronically to students on and off campus through the University intranet or Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Blackboard.

The tutorials are supported by a number of short videos formatted to be used on a number of platforms, including MP3. with the facility to enable students to share with the wider academic community through forums/discussion/feedback groups via the Huddersfield University web based portal.

The format of the tutorials starts with adapting the ArchiCAD software as it comes out of the box, enabling students to create and customise their own ArchiCAD template file; to help develop and expand their own individual style of drawings; and to use the programmes rendering engines to create photorealistic and sketch illustrations which can be exported to other rendering platforms as well as tutoring the use of Adobe Photoshop to provide high quality presentations.