



# **ACADIA 2013** **ADAPTIVE ARCHITECTURE**

Waterloo / Buffalo / Nottingham

Proceedings of the 33rd Annual Conference  
of the Association for Computer Aided Design in Architecture

Edited by Philip Beesley, Omar Khan, Michael Stacey





## ACADIA 2013 **ADAPTIVE ARCHITECTURE PROCEEDINGS**

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# ACADIA 2013 ADAPTIVE ARCHITECTURE

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Editors

Philip Beesley University of Waterloo

Omar Khan University at Buffalo

Michael Stacey University of Nottingham

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The University of  
Nottingham

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# ACADIA 2013 ADAPTIVE ARCHITECTURE

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# INTRODUCTION

**Philip Beesley** University of Waterloo  
**Omar Khan** University at Buffalo  
**Michael Stacey** University of Nottingham

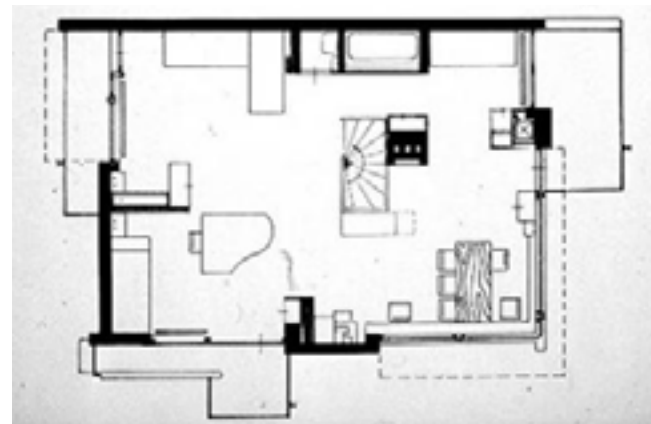
ACADIA 2013 Adaptive Architecture, the 33rd International Conference of the Association for Computer-Aided Design in Architecture, focuses on the computational design of environmentally responsive, intelligent, interactive, and reconfigurable architecture. Organising this conference we perceive new intellectual territories opening, arising both from technology and from our native inventiveness. In 2013, humankind benefits from millennia of cultural continuity while it faces profound challenges and opportunities. Fuelled by potent new research tools and techniques the discipline of architecture is ripe with potential. New modes of practice offer models where research, design and development are seen as one, and where knowledge passes with extraordinary fluidity, as if by osmosis, from practice to academia, from teacher to pupil and from the future architect to the architect-academic. The future is now.

Sir Peter Cook opened the first Adaptive Architecture Conference, at the Building Centre, London, on 3 March 2011. He addressed Adaptive Architecture with a body of work that included the inspirational teaching of over three generations of future architects. We have yet to see Archigram's visions fully realized, yet the pen-and-ink drawings by Cook and his collaborators present a future with such veracity that looking at them in a magazine or gallery one cannot help dreaming of a more flexible and adaptive future for architecture and humankind.

New roles for architectural environments are emerging that transform portions of static buildings into dynamic responsive surfaces by equipping them with near-living intelligent distributed computation systems and chemically active functions. Adaptation of architecture can be as simple as the windows, blinds and sliding screens of Gerrit Rietveld's Schroder House, 1924, where the first floor transforms from spaciousness to intimacy in the hands of its occupants, or it can

be the sophisticated biomimetic gill-like adaptive shading of Ocean One by the Austrian practice of Soma.<sup>[i]</sup> New design methods and new qualitative and performance-based paradigms are needed for working with complex systems within the built environment. Adaptive architecture is as much about process as well as product and outcome. We could recall Cedric Price's prescient mantra from his 1976 Generator project: "never look empty, never feel full". This observation speaks to adaptation in architecture in a poignant way, addressing its unstable, liminal nature. Price envisioned an adaptive architecture perceived within dynamic, ever-changing space. Equally important would be its emotional effects on the inhabitants which he suggests could be felt in the lack: never empty, never full.

Architecture has always been inventive and adaptable. Our current era, however, is unique in its technical potential and in the formidable challenges that societies and environments face today. The built



2 First Floor of Gerrit Rietveld's Schroder House, 1924 - open



3 First Floor of Gerrit Rietveld's Schroder House, 1924 - cellular



1 Instant City, Peter Cook/ Archigram, 1969



4 Dynamic Adaptive façade of Ocean One, SOMA

environment is becoming responsive in terms of physical, real-time changes acting under intelligent controls. At the same time, the design of adaptive architecture might involve a dilemma that alternates between searching for materials and systems to be able to do so much more and perform so much better, while at the same time dwelling on substantial concerns about the potent implications of active, regenerative systems. What are the consequences of making adaptive architecture? How might we become responsible for this expansion of the power of architecture?

The papers included in ACADIA 2013 Adaptive Architecture provide a lens into the potential for architectural adaptation within our built environment. Recurring terms run throughout these papers, offering an emerging field of qualities: *self-assembling, irregular, performative, aggregate, genetic, stigmergic, generative, regenerative, morphogenetic, parametric, evolutionary, resilient, learning, morphing, behavioural, active, alloplastic, responsive, variable, reviving, deployable, differentiated, open-ended*. These qualities seem closely aligned with the attributes of living systems. Analogies drawn from life testify to inspiration for design, and they also imply aspirations to explicit performance, analysing and implementing tangible functions.

With the range of topics presented here, material intelligence appears as one consistent focus. Here emphasis on material properties and intelligent assemblies provides opportunities for designers to explore multiple scales and exploit new optimizations. Structures that are open to environmental and climatic influence to elicit change are one of many goals of this work. Another area of interest is in the adaptive nature of energy. Banham and Dallegret's Environment Bubble has burst and energy no longer requires membranes to control it. Like materials its instability is welcomed yet made more predictable through complex feedback systems and visualization. A more precise understanding of how energy works in buildings suggests a different model of energy performance that is no longer thermostatic but thermomorphic and evolutionary.



5 13 meter GFRP Prototype of gill like adaptive shading of Ocean One, SOMA

The embedding of information systems in architecture to make them interactive and responsive is another recurring area of research. Kinetics remains a strong interest within this topic including work on moving structures, shape memory alloys and new tectonic assemblies. A rapidly-growing interest in intelligent robotics is evident, from swarming capacities to remote action through geospatial controls. As responsive systems are realized, opportunities for social action through these responsive environments has also become an important issue.

Finally, we are seeing continued shift towards performance-based issues in modelling, visualization and fabrication. Through advanced computational tools the focus has moved from how something looks to how it behaves. Performativity has introduced a new attitude that is ripe with optimism. New mechanism for evaluating and simulating architecture that can respond to real time data is calling into question basic tenets of practice. There is caution to be had here as we embrace new opportunities. The spectre of technological determinism indeed lurks here, undermining the "lack" that Price so astutely observed as a quality to strive for.

Adaptive qualities offer the means to realise a myriad of opportunities within contemporary architecture and they can be used to address key challenges facing humankind, including global warming. In the twenty first century we have the knowledge and technology to pursue sensitive, renewed relationships for humankind interconnected with their surrounding environment.

## NOTES

[i] soma - <http://www.soma-architecture.com>. The 13 meter high GFRP prototyping of this adaptive facade is included in Prototyping Architecture – the exhibition that accompanies ACADIA 2013.

[ii] Kristina Schinegger & Stefan Rutzinger, Adaptive Formations: Two Pavilions, One Adaptation and One Tower in Michael Stacey, ed., Prototyping Architecture, Riverside Architectural Press, 2013, p. X

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*Sixto Cordero, Austin Smith*

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A Climate-Responsive Prototype Project Based on the

Elastic and Hygroscopic Properties of Wood

*David Correa, Oliver David Krieg, Achim Menges, Steffen Reichert, Katja Rinderspacher*

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- 6 Nichols, Nancy. 2013. Macroscopic gyroid density variation materialized by a microscopic gyroid based raster pattern.
- 7 Michalatos, Panagiotis; Payne, Andrew. 2013. Blending in voxel based modeling.
- 8 ———. A screenshot of the interface showing the blending of the density field around two curve objects and a linear material gradient.
- 9 ———. Light transmittance can be controlled through the tilt angle of the 3D printed panel.
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- 5 ———. T3-C series.
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- 7 ———. Particle distribution in ATF-C.
- 8 ———. Cell densities artifacts.
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Material Parameters and Digitally Informed Fabrication

of Textured Metals

*Christopher Romano and Nicholas Bruscia*

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## ENERGY

### Understanding Heat Transfer Performance

#### for Designing Better Facades

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- 7 Top to bottom, left to right: Blondin, Sharaidin, Urquiza, Shahi, Narvaez, Shahi, Fagre, Kim, Narvaez, Kim, Dino, Chen, Marcuz, Narvaez, Dino, M. Burry, Blondin, Urquiza, Shahi, Nielsen, Vergauwen, Marcuz, Marcuz, Urquiza, Sharaidin. 2013. Examples of analog façade prototypes for testing.
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A Case Study of Applying Evolutionary Energy

Performance Feedback for Design

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- 8 ———. Cell densities artifacts.
- 9 ———. Patterns in material disposition.
- 10 ———. Physicochemical interactions.
- 11 ———. Particle distribution.
- 12 ———. SynthMorph particles.
- 13 ———. Multiple particle system.
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*Carolina Ramirez-Figueroa, Martyn Dade-Robertson, Luis Heman*

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*Kyle Konis*

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#### Energy Performance Optimization

*Mohammad Rahmani Asl, Saied Zarrinmehr, Wei Yan*

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#### Performance Residential Design

A Case Study

*Geoffrey Thun, Kathy Velikov*

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- 11 ———. Logic diagram for external shade and HVAC state control.
- 12 ———. ALIS components: an integrated suite of building-integrated and mobile interfaces.
- 13 ———. ALIS Home Touchscreen and shade control user override feedback (upper); ALIS GUI Web displays (lower).

## INTERACTIVE

### Morphological Behavior of Shape Memory Polymers

#### Towards a Deployable, Adaptive Architecture

*Steven Beites*

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- 8.2 ———. Expansion sequence of the SMP when heated for shape recovery (386 seconds).
- 9.1 ———. Contraction sequence: (a) memorized shape, (b) temporary shape, (c) returns to memorized shape.
- 9.2 ———. Contraction sequence of the SMP when heated for shape recovery (434 seconds).
- 10 ———. SolidWorks™ animation sequence exploring the kinetic properties of folded patterns.
- 11 ———. Interconnected panel with snap-fit design application.
- 12 ———. Dynamic actuator in memorized “closed” shape.
- 13 ———. Dynamic actuator and interconnected panel.
- 14 ———. Final deployed condition upon successful activation of the SMP.
- 15 ———. Development of aluminum molds: (a) panel (b) dynamic actuator.
- 16 ———. Dynamic actuator—memorized “closed” state.
- 17 ———. Polypropylene (PP) injection-molded panel.
- 18 ———. Polypropylene (PP) panel and SMP actuator in memorized position.
- 19.1 ———. Shape recovery: (a) memorized shape, (b) temporary shape, (c) returns to memorized shape.
- 19.2 ———. Upon heating, the SMP actuator returns to its memorized shape (shape recovery) forcing the panels into a closed configuration (734 seconds).
- 20 ———. Closed assembly (actuator in memorized “closed” state).
- 21 ———. Open assembly (actuator in temporary state).
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## Alloplastic Architecture

The Design of an Interactive Tensegrity Structure

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A (Smart) Material Ecology

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Reviving Tundra Grassland Through Robotic Herding

*Ian Miller and Matt Rossbach*

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# INFORMATION

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Making Adaptive Tools to design Roofs and Landscapes

based on Computational Interpretation of Flow Patterns

*Masoud Akbarzadeh*

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- \_\_\_\_\_. Triangulated surface: a. Vertices and their connectivity; b. plan; and c. surface representation.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. a. Simple surface network module; b. aggregation; c. contour extraction; and d. final topography.
- \_\_\_\_\_. a. Contour extractions and smoothening; b. smoothening level I; c. level II; and d. level III.
- \_\_\_\_\_. a. Side by side aggregation of the Surface network units; and b. descending aggregation of the surface networks.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Step by step transformation algorithm.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Surface transformations algorithm.
- \_\_\_\_\_. completion process; a. propagation process; b. cell activation process; and c. transformation process.
- \_\_\_\_\_.Physical manifest of the process.
- 24 \_\_\_\_\_, Step by step process of activation of cells.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Surface transformation algorithm II.
- \_\_\_\_\_. a. Algorithm II; b. algorithm I.
- \_\_\_\_\_. a. Point grid; and b. input Flow pattern on the point grid.
- \_\_\_\_\_. a. Point grid; and b. input Flow pattern on the point grid.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Each cell is compared to eight primary directions of the flow to rationalize the unitized direction vector.
- \_\_\_\_\_. a. the area covered by downward only; b. covered by both; and c. covered with either/ or.
- \_\_\_\_\_. a. Rationalized connected network; and b. shortest distance drawn from each point.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Slope-finder algorithm; a. upward direction; b. downward direction; c. superimposition; and d. surface network graph.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Physical model of the rationalized surface based on flow direction.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Physical model of the discrete flow pattern for another surface geometry.
- \_\_\_\_\_. a. Area of influence; b. input polyline; c. distance from point grid; and d. distance translation to height; e. transformed point.
- 37 \_\_\_\_\_, Different quantity of z creates different slopes for the surfaces.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Spatial polyline generation: a. polyline; b. curve; and c. branching polylines and control polylines; d. branching sequence.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Break in the geometry resulted from direct translation in plan and height caused by spatial curve.
- 40a-b \_\_\_\_\_, Point grid pre-transformation based on the spatial curves.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Superimposition of linear height change and re-transformation of point grid due to spatial curve.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Design Sample Using branching polylines.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Design sample using only plan drawings of curves (designed by Joel Lamere)
- \_\_\_\_\_. Linear versus non-linear transformation of point into 3D space.
- 45a-c \_\_\_\_\_, Use of non-linear transformation in generating surface geometry.

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*Mark Ericson*

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Sensing, Play, and Immigration Policy

*Jordan Geiger*

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A new scripting interface for parametric CAD systems

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Sensing, Play, and Immigration Policy

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- \_\_\_\_\_. Nodes.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Nodes become pheremone sources.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Nodes become pheromone sources to create templates representing external influences.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Queen pheremone template representing public and private affects the program distribution.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Examples of how node masking could be used.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Pheromone values for programs.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Pheromone values for programs with agent’s desired number of nodes.
- \_\_\_\_\_. External influences for scenario A representing exposure to light.
- \_\_\_\_\_. External influences for scenario B representing a privacy gradient.
- \_\_\_\_\_. External influences for scenario C representing privacy and circulation.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Play out of stigmergic space application on scenario C.
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# ROBOTICS, MACHINING AND MECHANISMS

## Adaptable Communication Protocols

## for Robotic Building Systems

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## Breaking the Mold

Variable Vacuum Forming

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# STRUCTURES

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## Bending-Active Bundled Structures

Preliminary Research and Taxonomy Towards an Ultra-Light Weight

Architecture of Differentiated Components

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## Aggregate Architecture

Simulation Models for Synthetic Non-convex Granulates

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Implementation of the Marching Cube Algorithm Towards an

Open-Ended Strategy for Managing Mass-customisation

*Iain Maxwell, David Pigram, Wes Mcgee*

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- 3 Maxwell & Pigram (supermanoeuvre). 2012. Fifteen (15) isosurface intersections scenarios defined by the MC algorithm.
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- 6 Vasey, Lauren. 2012. Robot tendered CNC rod bender.
- 7 Hagenhofer-Daniel, Ben. 2012. Tectonic detail.

### Resilient Structures Through Machine Learning and Evolution

*Ryan Mehanna*

- 1 Workshed. 2011. Actuated Truss.
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*Felix Raspall, Matias Imbern, Will Choi*

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*Matthias Rippmann, Philippe Block*

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- 13 Ford. 2012. Final structure and TNA form finding result of the UT Sydney Ribbed Catalan Vault - 1:1 Thin-Tile Prototype.
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## myThread Pavilion

Generative Fabrication and the Pliability of Form

*Jenny Sabin*

- 1 Sabin, Jenny; Nike Inc. 2012. myThread Pavilion. myThread Pavilion: Built.
- 2 ———. myThread detail views. myThread Pavilion: Built.
- 3 Sabin, Jenny. ———. Activated Threads. myThread Pavilion: Built.
- 4 ———. Knit Material Studies. myThread Pavilion: Built.
- 5 Nike Inc. ———. Exterior View. myThread Pavilion: Built.
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- 7 Sabin, Jenny. ———. Biodata Visualization. myThread Pavilion: Built.
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- 9 ———. Plan and Seam Pattern. myThread Pavilion: Built.
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- 12 Nike Inc. ———. Solar Threads Activated. myThread Pavilion: Built.

## REHEARSAL

Investigating collaborative practice through design and performance

processes; latest work in progress on the PERFORM project.

*Bob Sheil*

- 1 Protoarchitecture Lab. 2013. Overview of areas defined by the authors as the site for the PerFORM/The Scan experiments.
- 2-3 ———. The Crying Room.
- 4 ———. Performed to a prepared script, a group of figures circle the scanner in a slow march whilst two individuals act out a spatial, temporal and audible performance.
- 5 ———. The image illustrates the degree of detail and information that is retrievable and capable of cross reference to performance scripts.
- 6 ———. This series of images (16-18), relay how the assembled digital model allows multiple roles to be performed by individuals.
- 7-8 ———. Enactment of forensic scene by "RCSSD CSI Group".
- 9 ———. Practice Room A. One of three sites selected to receive a paired instrument for PerFORM/The Scan Acts 2 & 3.
- 10 ———. Robotic arm is fitted with a reflective panel and sent a command to sweep in an arc whilst the event is scanned.
- 11 ———. Test illustrating the potential to synchronise reflective panel movement with scanner speed.
- 12 ———. Results of the Digital Realisation Test, closer view.
- 13 ———. Screengrab of grasshopper script at work on a 3D model generated by the site scan in Practice Room A, one of the selected site for Acts 2 & 3.
- 14 ———. Screengrab, alternate view.

## Hierarchy in Knitted Forms

Environmentally Responsive Textiles for Architecture

*Jane Scott*

- 1 Scott, Jane. 2013. Form-finding: natural forms.
- 2 ———. Form-finding: paper crumpling.
- 3-4 ———. The Crying Room.
- 5 ———. 2013. Technical repeats of knitted fabrics, machine state: Anemone, Spiral, Shell.
- 6 ———. 2012. Shell before actuation.
- 7 ———. Shell after actuation.
- 8 ———. 2013. Anemone before actuation.
- 9 ———. Anemone after actuation.
- 10 ———. 2011. Spiral before actuation.
- 11 ———. Spiral after actuation.
- 12 ———. 2013. Analysis of design work showing material choices and hierarchies.

## Topology Optimization and Digital Assembly of Advanced Space-frame Structures

*Asbjørn Søndergaard, Oded Amir, Michael Knauss*

- 1-2 Dombernowsky; Søndergaard. 2010. Unikabeton Prototype. Underside of topology optimized rib structure.
- 3 ———. 2009. Continuum-based topology optimization of prestressed concrete beam.
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- 7 Amir. 2013. Typical structural layout of a roof-supporting space truss.
- 10 ———. 3D grid with 18-by-18-by-2 nodes, connectivity 1, total 4513 potential bars.
- 11 ———. 3D grid with 9-by-9-by-2 nodes, connectivity 2, total 2513 potential bars.
- 12 ———. Optimized roof design based on a 9-by-9-by-2 ground structure with connectivity 2.
- 13 ———. Rstab displacement analysis of optimized design.
- 14 Søndergaard. 2013. Topology optimized, asymmetrically supported space-truss for assesment of fabrication methodology.
- 15 ———. Three-dimensional visualization of optimization result.
- 16 Knauss. Søndergaard. 2013. Diagram of principal fabrication methodology.
- 17-20 ———. Scaled robotic fabrication of optimized space-truss design.



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22	Sondergaard. 2013. Autonomous Structural Formfinding and Fabrication.
23	———. Iterative model of intellectual design influence in ASFF.
24	———. Indirect control of the resulting topologies through reconfiguration of optimization parameters.
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## The Rise

Toward a Morphogenesis of Material Construction

*Martin Tamke, David Stasiuk, Mette Ramsgaard Thomsen*

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### Re-Folding Muqarnas

A Case Study

*Ghazal Abbasy-Asbagh*

- Aga Khan Archive. date unknown. Muqarnas under reconstruction in Yazd, Iran.

### Rapid Type Coffee Pod

*Kory Bieg*

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### Aqua Lung

*David Kim, Christopher Pela*

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### Sheltering The Permeable Body

*Brigitte Luzar*

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### Food Urbanism Scenario Modeling

*Trevor Patt*

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### Formicis

A Study in Behavioral Componentry

*Michael Rogers*

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### Bloom The Game

*Jose Sanchez, Alisa Andrasek*

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### Metabolic Change

Parametric Projections for Urban Configurations and Material Flow
*Matthew Seibert*

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Digital Fabrication of Responsive Materials

*Ming Tang*

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## Memory Cloud

*Andrew Vrana, Joe Meppelink*

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### The Interplay of Fact and Fiction

Capitalizing on Serendipity in Digital Design Processes

*Trevor Patt*

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### Towards An Evolutionary System for Mass-Customization Under Prescriptive Design Environments

*Victor Bunster*

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- . Evolutionary system implementation.

### Crease, Fold, Pour

Revisiting Flexible Formwork with Origami Folding and Digital Fabrication

*Maciej Kaczynski*

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### Self-Organizing Origami Structures

*Dave Lee*

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*David Kim, Christopher Pela*

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*Carol Moukheiber*

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## Integrative Design Tools

*Stefana Parascho, Marco Baur, Ehsan Baharlou, Jan Knippers, Achim Menges*

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*Vera Parlac*

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## Building Bytes

3D Printed Bricks

*Brian Peters, Daphne Firos*

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- . Diagram of desktop 3D printer with custom extrusion system.

### The Nuit Blanche Pavilion

Using The Elastic Behavior of Elastomers for A Lightweight Structure

*Gernot Riether, Keyan Rahimzadeh*

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*Ruth Ron, Renate Weissenböck, Tzach Harari*

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*Bennett Scorcia, Susan Lin.*

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Programmable Folding in Digital Responsive Skins
*Jae-Won Shin, Jenny E. Sabin.*

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*Michael Silver*

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*Wesley Smith, Pablo Colapinto*

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Design to Fabrication process of RoboFold

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*Mark Weston*

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Aliquam in cursus odio. Pellentesque convallis pulvinar orci eget tincidunt. Praesent sollicitudin condimentum dapibus. In non felis tortor. Integer felis lectus, ultrices ac ornare nec, mattis a lacus. In fermentum imperdiet ultricies.

Phasellus felis lacus, tempus ac consequat a, vestibulum et neque. Aenean ornare ultrices risus, at vestibulum libero pretium non. Duis vulputate interdum ante, pretium suscipit nisl ultricies et. Vivamus quam dui, convallis vel tristique sit amet, accumsan eget nibh.

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