

UNSTAKED TERRITORY: Frontiers of Beginning Design

Proceedings of the 19th National Conference on the Beginning
Design Student, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma
April 3-5, 2003



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Challenging The Boundaries I
Challenging The Boundaries II
Integrating The Boundaries
Obscuring The Boundaries
Various Terrains
Initial Terrain

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Computer and the Internet in Beginning Design: A Critique in Progress

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The use of the computer and the Internet has changed the way we teach architectural foundation classes. This paper proposes pedagogy and methods that can be used teaching beginning architectural classes using digital technology, the Internet and the computer in meaningful ways.

During the past three years, I have been developing, teaching, and participating in two architectural foundation classes, teaching an introduction to architecture and design with the use of the computer and the Internet.

Since the Fall of 1998 I have taught an introduction to architecture design class of more than 120 students at the College of Architecture at Texas Tech University. In the beginning foundation classes, I post the calendar, assignments, and parts of the required readings on the Internet. In addition, I search for websites that complement my lecture topics, offering students the opportunity to expand beyond the required course material, linking them to the lecture outlines posted on the class web site.

I encourage students to visit the course website prior to the lecture and to print out the lecture outline and assignments. I also use the Internet as a communication and research tool for my students' education.

In order to determine students' experience with computers I conducted surveys. A first survey showed that in Fall of 2000 approximately 70% of incoming freshmen students had their own computer with Internet access. By the second survey in Fall of 2002 this number had increased to over 90%. The purpose of the surveys is to find out what computer and software the students bring to the College of Architecture and how this may affect teaching methods.