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Student Shows 2014: Kingston University

25 July, 2014 | By Trevor Horne



Trevor Horne reviews Kingston's end-of-year show

The Kingston University architecture and landscape degree show closed on 6 June, well before many degree shows opened, so chances are you might have missed it – which is a pity, for this was a very good show.

The school has a well-co-ordinated programme encompassing the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate units as part of the wider Faculty of Art and Design. An overriding theme was examined by all units – UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The show was curated by each unit and displayed in 10 studio spaces. Each room shows a graduate diploma unit alongside a BA unit.

The exhibition followed a consistent format of wall-mounted, framed work – drawings, photographs, montages – and a mix of exploratory studies displayed on trestle tables and plinths; models (full scale to urban scale), sketches, computer and hand drawings all demonstrating a high level of investigation.

The work is well documented in a handsome publication produced by staff and students. Overall this intelligent show illustrates why Kingston is so highly regarded.

Standout units

This was a curated show, highlighting only a few projects from each unit; however, the level of design presentation and development was consistently high throughout. I engaged with Jonathan Woolf and Matthew Dalziel (Unit 5), the marginal Classicism of Timothy Smith and Jonathan Taylor (Unit 6), and Tim Gough and Takeshi Hayatsu's 1:3 scale Woodland Cemetery Chapel built for a local primary school (Studio 3.2).

Standout students

Jonathan Woodward (Unit 1) and Amandeep Kalra (Unit 5) are both nominated for the RIBA President's Medals.

Trevor Horne, principal, Trevor Horne Architects

