

Winners of the Breheny Prize



The editors of *Environment and Planning B* would like to announce that the Michael Breheny Prize for the best paper published in 2004 has been awarded jointly to Dr Carlo Ratti and Dr Paul Richens for their paper “Raster analysis and urban form”.

Ratti: An architect and engineer by education, Carlo Ratti teaches at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he directs the SENSEable City Laboratory, a new research initiative between the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning and the Media Lab. The SENSEable City Laboratory explores how technology is transforming urban design and living; in less than three years it has set up several industrial

partnerships and has claimed a number of patents. Carlo is also founding partner and director of **carlorattiassociati**, a rapidly growing architectural practice that was established in Turin, Italy, in 2002; the practice is currently involved in a number of architectural schemes, both nationally and internationally. In 2004 the work of **carlorattiassociati** was selected for exhibition at the Venice Biennale as one of the top emerging Italian practices. Carlo previously held teaching assignments at Harvard University and the École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées. He graduated in structural engineering from the Politecnico di Torino and the École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées, later specializing in architecture with MPhil and PhD degrees from the University of Cambridge. A junior fellow of the Aspen Institute, he has coauthored four patents and over forty scientific publications. One recent article, published in *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design* and questioning space syntax, prompted a large debate in the academic community—including rejoinders by Bill Hillier, Alan Penn, and Philip Steadman [31(4)]. Carlo contributes articles on architecture to the magazines *Domus*, *Casabella*, *Abitare* and the Italian newspapers *La Stampa* and *Il Sole 24 Ore* (*Domenica*).

Richens: A pioneer of the use of computers in architecture, Paul Richens studied science and architecture at Cambridge, before joining software house Applied Research of Cambridge Ltd. In the 1970s he was responsible for the OXSYS and BDS projects, which were aimed at the design, documentation, and analysis of complex prefabricated buildings such as hospitals. In the 1980s he designed GDS (General Drafting System), which dealt with geometrical drawing (and later solid modelling) for many different design disciplines. In 1986, following a takeover, he became Technical Director of the McDonnell Douglas AEC Systems Company.

Paul Richens joined the Cambridge University Martin Centre in 1989, becoming its Director in 1992 (the Centre, founded by Sir Leslie Martin and Lionel March, was the research wing of the University of



Cambridge Department of Architecture). There he led the CADLAB, a group of researchers into architectural computer-aided design, and was a founder with Nick Ray of the Cambridge Historical Buildings Group. The CADLAB made contributions to sketch design, interfaces for geometrical design, digital photogrammetry, urban texture analysis, and spatial simulation, and generated notable innovations in the area of interactive rendering and use of game engines for architectural communication.

In 2002 he merged his research interests with those of Francois Penz's CUMIS (Cambridge University Moving Image Studio) to form the Digital Research Studio. In 2005 he accepted a chair in Architectural Computing in the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering at the University of Bath.

He is a registered architect, consultant to several architectural and software firms, a nonexecutive director of Informatix Software International, and Vice-master of Churchill College Cambridge.