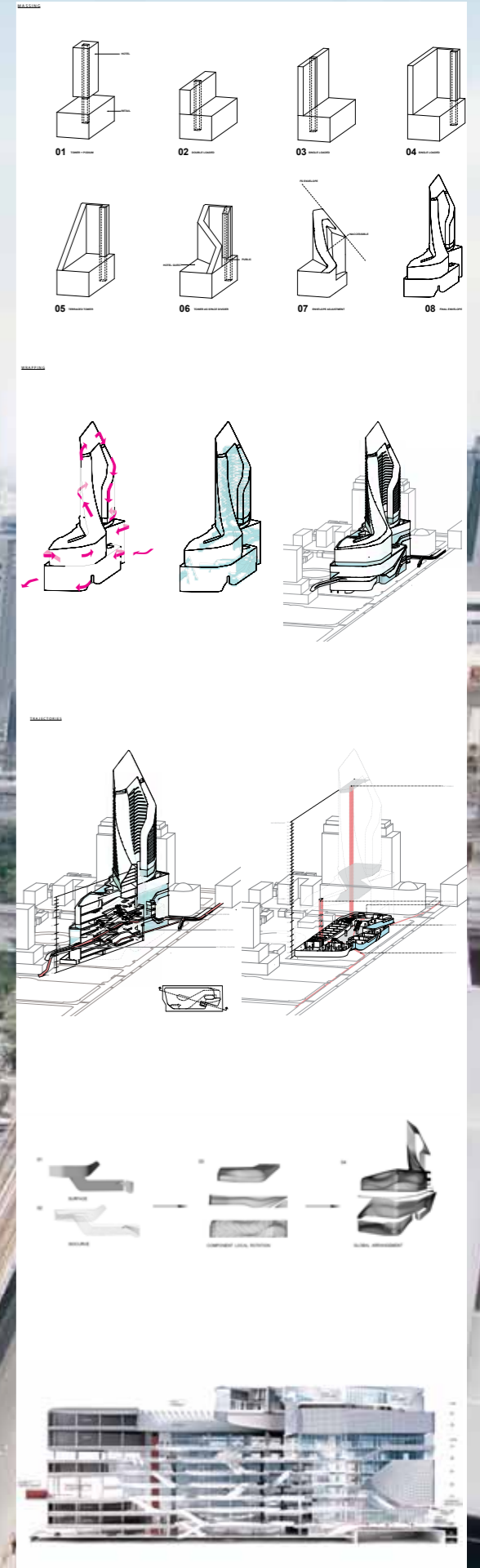


05.1.1 Built Pedagogy

We use the studio as a laboratory and the site as a classroom. Our design ethos revolves around the process of design research, where each project is viewed as a body of study and research is seen as an act of design. This process explores the application of critical thinking, design technology, material innovation and environmental strategy as drivers to developing solutions which challenge the way people perceive, inhabit, and experience the built environment. We also explore forward thinking means of fabrication and construction and use the making of a project as a generative tool. As an extension of the design research agenda, we use the design of furniture and objects to explore architectural ideas and we value the cross-over of ideas between the small scale and the large scale.

We take conceptual buildings and make them buildable concepts. The advent of digital technologies as tools for both design and fabrication allows us to explore forms and design strategies inaccessible through conventional methodologies and has thus given us great liberties in form-making. However, this newfound freedom comes with great responsibility as the seductive quality of empty form can never replace the integrity and ingenuity of carefully developed concepts. Recent advances in parametric modelling and digital fabrication have enabled us to articulate concepts with greater dexterity and increased accuracy. With the ability to test, manipulate and refine ideas in direct dialogue with fabricators and builders we are able to challenge conventional notions of space and explore form in genuinely new and dynamic ways.

Images: Bangkok Central Embassy, Thailand - 2008
Status: Completion 2013
Client: Central Retail Corporation LTD
Program: Mixed-use retail, entertainment, and hotel complex
Size/Area: 1.5 million sq ft / 145,000m²
Project cost: £110 million



05.1.2 The Academic Environment

We believe that the qualities of the environment in which you learn affect how much you enjoy learning. The design of the Classrooms of the Future was predicated on this belief. Advanced thinking in architecture and design, combined with the best practical expertise in education and technology made these learning spaces are both beautiful and inspirational. They challenge the traditional roles of teacher and pupil, encourage creative thinking and provide a genuinely new experience for all those involved in the learning process. Flexible space planning was utilised to accommodate a number of different learning scenarios.

We use architecture to provoke visual and social interaction. The way we use, perceive, populate, organize and inhabit space lies at the heart of architectural invention. How a space is designed changes the mood and behaviour of its inhabitants. It changes the way we see ourselves and the way others see us. Throughout history, from the urban scale to the interior, space has been used to influence individuals and shape society. From the expansive campus of News Corporation in London to the intimate interiors of a house in Dublin to the dynamic presence of the iconic Drift bench, our projects change the way people experience the built environment by capitalizing on the transformative potential of space and its ability to affect and inspire those who inhabit it.

The design of City Academy, sited within a socially deprived area of London has the potential, not just to create new beginnings for pupils, but also to act as a motivator for learning and a catalyst for welcoming and engaging with the wider community of Southwark.



1



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3



Main image and image 1: World Classrooms UK 2001

Status: Completion 2004
 Client: Richmond Upon Thames Borough Council
 Location: Meadlands Primary School and Grey Court Secondary School in Richmond
 Program: Classrooms of the future
 Contract value: £1 million

Image 2: House in Dublin

Status: Design development
 Client: Private
 Location: Dublin, Ireland
 Program: Private Residence and Furniture Design

Image 3: City Academy in Southwark

Status: On site; Completion 2010
 Client: DCFS with ARK Academies
 Location: London, UK
 Program: Academy for 1500 students, 2 new buildings 2 refurbishments
 Contract value: £45 million

05.1.3 The Design Studio

We challenge convention and embrace innovation. We are not specialists in the Higher Education sector, nor do we prescribe to formulaic design solutions. We see the varied and conflicting accommodation requirements within the project brief not only as constraints which will feed our design parameters, but also as opportunities for challenging convention through the discovery of new spatial organizations. A consistent theme within our work has been to confront the inherent dichotomy of diametrically opposed elements to create the unexpected. These issues are explored in our projects where we have successfully blurred the boundaries between structure & skin (Lords Media Centre, London), tower & plinth (Central Embassy, Bangkok), digital technology & hand craft (Established & Sons), and object & field (Corian Super-surfaces, Milan).

We seek to continually redefine the boundaries of architecture, space and design. Every architectural project contributes to the wider culture and is a reflection of contemporary technology and, therefore, carries a greater responsibility to its public and to the environment. Our work is an opportunity for us to not only engage in theoretical architectural discourse, but to spark dialogue with specialist consultants and end-users on a broader level. We see this project as an opportunity to genuinely affect the learning environment of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning by studying and analysing how we can engage its social and pedagogical organizations.

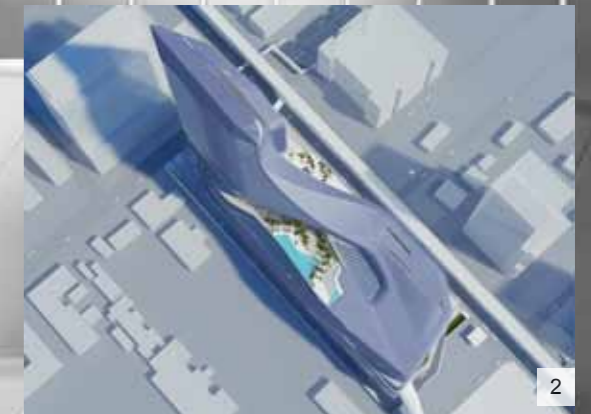
We are a London based office with a uniquely global perspective. Every great architectural project contributes to a wider cultural debate and is a reflection of ourselves – it therefore carries a great social responsibility. Our talented team of architects and designers hail from the UK, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Ireland, Russia, Finland, Ghana, Kenya, China, Japan, South Korea, and Thailand. This diversity in background, experience, and perspective allows us to engage architectural discourse with a truly global understanding of relevant social issues.

Main image: Corian Super-surfaces Installation 2008
Status: Installation in Milan Design Fair April 2009
Client: DuPont Corian® Solid Surface
Location: Milan Design Fair
Program Exploit the material properties of Corian technically and aesthetically

Image 1: Lord's Media Centre - commission and completed as Future Systems
Status: Completed 1999
Client: Marylebone Cricket Club
Program: Media centre at Lord's Cricket Ground
Project cost: £5 million
Size / Area: 6,400 sq ft / 600 m2

Image 2: Bangkok Central Embassy, Thailand - 2008
Status: Completion 2013
Client: Central Retail Corporation LTD
Program: Mixed-use retail, entertainment, and hotel complex
Size/Area: 1.5 million sq ft / 145,000m2
Project cost: £110 million

Image 3: Around the Corner - East
Status: Completed 2008
Client: Established & Sons
Location: London, United Kingdom
Program: Limited Edition show of four new pieces



05.1.4 The Living Building

We see buildings as organisms and cities as eco-systems. Global climate change is an undeniable reality in contemporary society. As architects we have tremendous responsibility to respond to this issue with designs which are inherently environmentally conscious. By taking an organic approach to a mechanical problem, our solutions respond to their eco-systems through their orientation, formal composition, materiality, and integrated building systems rather than layers of additive gadgetry. Digital environmental analysis is utilised to analyse various strategies and proposals. This strategy is evidenced by two recent projects: the re-modelling of 1,000,000 square foot print works for News Corporation that will create one of the largest naturally ventilated office buildings in Europe and the intricately tiled ceramic facade of Central Embassy, which dramatically reduces the impact of solar heat gain in an intensely hot climate. The inherent goal is to integrate environmental responses with solutions which augment the spatial and visual impact of the architecture.

For this competition, we will partner with Scott Wilson's Sustainable Design and Construction Team as well as their Building Physics team to assist us in developing and applying the best available techniques and technologies for sustainable design.

We don't just design buildings, we design the process of making them. At the outset of a project we initiate dialogue between designer, fabricator and builder. Whether it is through the development of new fabrication methods (variable moulding system for the Corian Super-surfaces, Milan), the application of CAD/CAM technologies (CNC milled formwork for Spencer Dock Bridge, Dublin), or the appropriation of construction techniques from other industries (aluminium monocoque skin for Lords Media Centre, London), we continue to demonstrate our expertise as innovative and lateral thinkers.

Main and Image 1: News Corporation London Headquarters

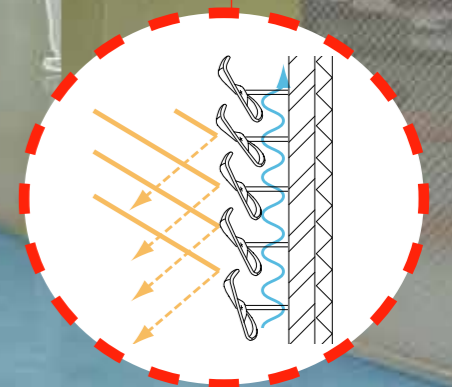
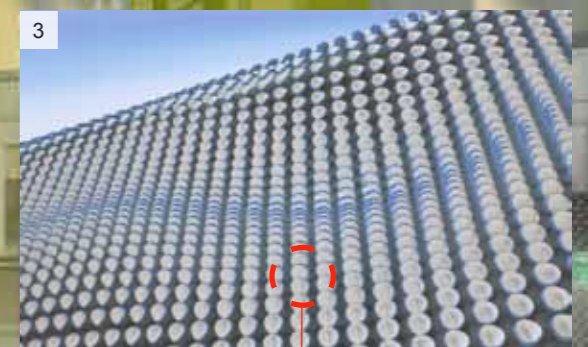
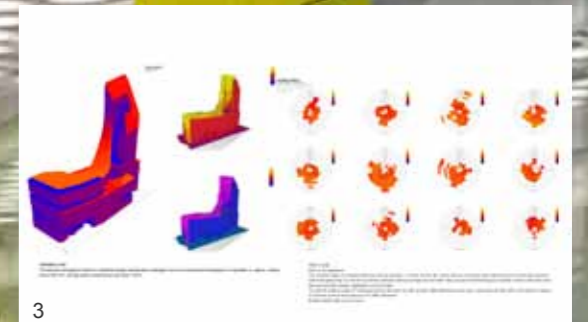
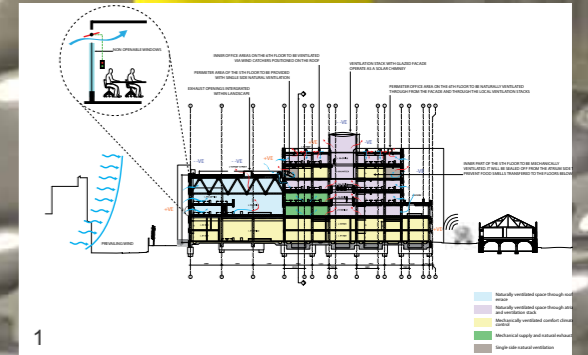
Status: Planning Application
Client: News Corporation
Location: Wapping, London, United Kingdom
Program: 98,595 sqm Multimedia Headquarters; Offices, Restaurant, Museum / Archive, Potential retail space for local businesses

Image 2: Spencer Dock Bridge

Status: Completed 2009
Client: Rail Procurement Agency; Dublin Docklands Development Authority
Location: Dublin, Ireland
Program: Bridge for pedestrians, vehicles and tram
Project cost: £5 million

Image 3: Bangkok Central Embassy, Thailand - 2008

Status: Completion 2013
Client: Central Retail Corporation LTD
Program: Mixed-use retail, entertainment, and hotel complex
Size/Area: 1.5 million sq ft / 145,000m²
Project cost: £110 million



Main image: Selfridges Birmingham
 Status: Completed 2003
 Client: Selfridges & Co
 Location: Birmingham, United Kingdom
 Contract: Value £60 million
 Program: Department store

Image 1: Copenhagen Apartments Tower
 Status: Completed 2008
 Client: Nordkranen
 Location: Copenhagen, Denmark
 Contract value: £11 million
 Program: Luxury apartments tower

Image 2: Lord's Media Centre
 Status: Completed 1999
 Client: Marylebone Cricket Club
 Program: Media centre at Lord's Cricket Ground
 Project cost: £5 million
 Size / Area: 6,400 sq ft / 600 m2

Image 3: Hills Place
 Status: Under construction; Completion May 2009
 Client: Clarendon Properties
 Location: London, United Kingdom
 Program: Redesigned facade plus addition of three floors to existing structure
 Contract value: £3 million



05.1.5 Capability and Process

We believe great design results from a genuine collaboration. Collaboration begins with communication. As design team leaders our role is to lead the discussion between architect, client, user, engineer, fabricator, and builder. By provoking an open dialogue and challenging traditional preconceptions we are able to extend our clients' ambitions and make groundbreaking work. The design and construction of the Media Centre at Lord's Cricket Ground and Selfridges in Birmingham are testament to this. Currently we are working very closely with News Corporation to create a million square foot multi-media campus in London which will have a transformative affect on their business.

For this competition, we will partner with multi-disciplinary international design and engineering consultancy Scott Wilson. Scott Wilson will provide Structural Engineering, MEP, Building Physics, and Sustainability consultancy. They have Australian offices in both Sydney and Brisbane. We have successfully partnered with Scott Wilson (UK & Thailand) on the Central Embassy project in Bangkok and have established an excellent working relationship.

For international projects, we typically partner with a local architect who will assist us in conforming to local regulations and construction issues.

We have proven that excellence in architecture, functionality and economic value are compatible. While providing tangible returns by constructing to a tight budget is profitable, providing intangible returns on a world-class design is priceless. Our proven track record of producing striking and innovative designs while working within rigorous economic constraints, has allowed us to create significant value for our clients. Selfridges in Birmingham, despite its unique geometry and architectural form, was built for the same cost as a conventional department store. The design of Selfridges however has become a landmark which has successfully redefined the face of the city of Birmingham and contributed hugely to Birmingham becoming a major international shopping destination.

Client Referees

Bangkok Central Embassy
 Chart Chirathivat, International Leasing Manager
 Central Retail Corporation
 Tel: +662 650 3705

News London Headquarters
 James Murdoch, Chairman & CEO Europe & Asia
 News Corporation
 Tel: +44 20 7782 4000

Selfridges Birmingham
 Vittorio Radici, Former CEO
 Tel: +44 20 7268 3519

05.1.6 Merit

We are an office born of a seminal architectural heritage. Prior to founding AL_A, Amanda Leveté was co-partner with Jan Kaplický at the influential Future Systems for 20 years. One of the most innovative practices of its time, Future Systems completed numerous award winning and internationally recognised buildings including Selfridges department store in Birmingham and the media centre at Lord's cricket ground which won the prestigious RIBA Stirling Prize.

We are a studio evolving a new legacy. Since launching in April 2009 and establishing its own identity, AL_A has been widely published and recognized for its contemporary and visionary aesthetic, and applauded for its innovative material research and novel use of construction technology. We have amassed a recent string of prestigious commissions around the world including a 1.5 million sq ft hotel and retail development for Central Retail Corporation in Bangkok, the redevelopment of media giant News Corporation's headquarters in east London to create a campus for its UK operations housing the Times, Sunday Times, News of the World and the Sun newspapers, Dow Jones, Harper Collins, MySpace and 20th Century Fox, and most recently the completion of the innovative Corian Super-surfaces lounge in Milan. Other prestigious commissions include winning a competition for a mixed use development in East London, a house in Dublin for two art collectors complete with all the furniture and a bridge in Dublin.

Amanda Leveté - Selected Awards

Design Week Award for Furniture Design, Drift, for Established & Sons 2007
 Concrete Society Awards 2004, Overall Winner, Selfridges 2004
 RIBA Award for Architecture 2004, Midlands, Selfridges 2004
Royal Fine Art Commission Trust, Retail Innovation, Selfridges 2004
 Institution of Civil Engineers, Project Award Winner 2004, Selfridges 2004
Civic Trust Award, Selfridges Birmingham 2004
 Retail Week Awards 2004, Store Design of the Year, New Look 2004
 Architectural Record Houses/Interiors Award, Comme des Garçons Tokyo 2003
FX International Interior Design Awards, Designer of the Year 2003
 Outstanding Retail Experience Award, Selfridges Kids 2002
 World Architecture Awards, NatWest Media Centre 2001
 Civic Trust Award - The Nat West Media Centre 2000
RIBA Stirling Prize - Natwest Media Centre 1999
 British Construction Industry Award - The Nat West Media Centre 1999
 RIBA Award Wild at Heart Flower Shop 1998
 Civic Trust Award & RIBA Award - West India Quay Bridge 1998
 Civic Trust Award - Hauer/King House 1996
Geoffrey Gribble Memorial Conservation Award - Hauer/King House 1995
 1st Prize, AJ/ Bovis Royal Academy Award - Stonehenge Visitor Centre 1993
Berkhamsted Citizens, Environment Award - House in Berkhamsted 1992
 IDesign Week Award, Product Design - Ivy Trolley 1992
 2nd Place, International Competition - Bibliotheque de France, Paris 1989

Main image: Lord's Media Centre London 1994

Status: Completed 1999
 Client: Marylebone Cricket Club
 Location: London, United Kingdom
 Construction Value: £5 million
 Program: Media centre at Lord's Cricket Ground

Image 2: Example Publications & Exhibitions

Image 3: Selfridges Birmingham on official UK Stamp

Image 4: Amanda Leveté Interview, The Age - Melbourne, March 2009

