

-DECEMBER-

MONTHLY REPORT

“WE DO NOT INHERIT OUR LANDS FROM
OUR ANCESTORS, WE BORROW IT FROM
OUR CHILDREN.”

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SUMMARY

With its urban jungle sprawling over 600 square miles and a population of roughly nine million people, London is a world in itself and stimulates any interest one would have. With many national galleries, cathedrals, museums, universities and a wide variety of architecture, London is capable of supplying much information and different perspectives that is to be learned. With projects like the London Olympics, deconstruction conferences, interviews with professionals and professors, I have had no trouble learning about building deconstruction as well as the reuse of construction materials. My goal of ending strong in the UK has been fulfilled because the fast pace the city has and the amount of material to learn keeps you on your toes.

My biggest challenge has been my struggles in fixing my computer multiple times. With the hard drive crashing 3 times, I have lost some contacts and other information making my travels somewhat frustrating. I was forced to get out more and research construction techniques and how they affect different industries, from IT design programming to construction material recycling plants and how building designs affect construction material reuse. Though some of my material had been lost, much was gained from being proactive and moving forward with research in London as well as other cities in England.

INTERVIEWS/CONFERENCES

One of the most powerful conferences that I attended while in London was a full day conference called “OneDayOnePlanet” where professionals, professors and manufacturers gathered from all over the world. Sustainability experts shared their knowledge about where the world is in terms of sustainability and where we need to be, and case studies were given to show how we can get there. Much information was given from terms of energy efficiency, to building zero carbon communities, to integrating local habitat, to retrofitting projects and reusing construction materials. The seminar was hosted in a temporary tent that is located about a 10 minute walk from the London Eye. The exterior of the building was built like a tent while the inside looked more like a reception hall with carpeted flooring, paneling, speakers and lighting supports as you would see in a concert. An area was designated for companies to advertise their technologies, products, etc.; there was even a second story for the post conference social gathering! All materials within the building were designed to be taken down after the conference and reused for a different venue. Please see the picture to understand the feel of the environment in the building. At the conference I was able to speak with a number of companies and their concern for minimizing construction and demolition material waste.



The employees at BioRegional hosted the “OneDayOnePlanet” conference and are dedicated in making their mark in the sustainable design world here in the UK. They are developing award winning, commercially developed buildings, sustainable products and services which meet the needs of local developments while considering earth’s resources. Their office is located in the BedZED project which was completed in 2003 and contains a total of 99 housing complexes. They specifically worked on this project and proved that investing money up front in research for local materials and sustainable construction techniques can offset the project cost through the amount of money saved using local and reclaimed materials.



I was able to go to a SmartWaste Conference in London where BRE introduced their Smartwaste calculator which they developed. Based on a project design and the materials which are needed, the calculator can predict the amount of construction waste which will be generated through the construction of the actual project. The calculator also capable of showing how much CO2 is being emitted into the air. Another portion of the conference had a representative from the London Olympics, who discussed the deconstruction of the main London 2012 Olympics Stadium. After the conference, I spoke with the representative about the D4D concept for the stadium and to my surprise, I found there is no game plan for where the materials are going to go or what they are going to be used for. I was able to get another contact from someone who might know a little bit more about the deconstruction of the building and I am looking into this in greater detail.

At the SmartWaste Conference, I met a gentleman named Steve Tomlin who owns Minchinhampton Architectural Salvage Company, which is one of the best salvage yards in the UK.

Steve and I were talking and he invited me to see his salvage yard and then help him work. This was an event in my life that I will never forget because Steve showed me the “ins” and “outs” of his business. I traveled with him to various places, speaking with his customers, helping him and his workers install a reclaimed water fountain and even got contacts for if I wanted to start my own salvage company when I get back to the states. His personality, drive, customer service and attention to detail have shown me how to run a successful business.



I also went to a construction material recycling plant in which I learned how old concrete is separated, crushed, and remade into usable aggregate base for roads and backfill. We talked about the different aggregate sizes and mixes that can be made as well as what types of building designs would be best for breaking down and remaking into a new product. We even looked at other materials which can be remade such as glass, asphalt, and hardcore. This visit has helped me understand the business of a construction material processing plant.



The last conference that I went to in England was the EcoDeco Conference at the University of Lincoln. Here a number of D4D and material reuse case studies were presented. I was also introduced to some sustainable materials and participated in a discussion about reducing the amount of materials with which architects ought to design. The conference has many positive effect on the fellowship; however, the most beneficial was the field trip to the Hill Holt Woods project where I saw the construction of a building out of rammed earth. I was introduced to the construction technique of reciprocal roofs and the benefits it has compared to a traditional roof structure. Another construction project adjacent to this building was a complete wood building in which wood was sourced on the same property. The goal of this project was to reduce the carbon emissions as much as possible through such technologies as

sheep’s wool insulation, hempcrete, and limecrete I-beam wall construction. This conference had been a good way to get in contact with a number of people who are also concerned with the amount of waste being generated from deconstruction and renovation practices.

WEBSITE

Because of my computer not working properly, I had not made any progress with my website. I have only laid out what I would like to say on each page but I am going to focus on getting this website up and running next month while I have the Christmas and New Years break going on.

PERSONAL LIFE



Living in London has been a huge culture shock. In any really big city, the pace is very fast and if you can't keep up with it, you get trampled over or knocked into. With my computer breaking down three times, I had lost some contacts and connections of places to visit. Google Earth does not have a backup program and I was not able to see some of the places that I intended to. Being flexible when traveling has been important for me to keep my head above water.

I have been able to really enjoy the English culture as well as the history. Because of the free museums, I have been able to see many paintings from famous artists, visit many cathedrals, as well as other typical tourist attractions. I have enjoyed the efficiency of mass transit, travelling to the suburbs of England to see the Prime Meridian, local markets, Kew Gardens, and other typical English countrysides.



Once again “thank you” for this wonderful opportunity and if there is anything that ought to be addressed more directly, please feel free to email me at stephand@msoe.edu.