



1

RICHARD KROEKER

Richard Kroeker has been a professor at the School of Architecture since January of 1991. Originally from Western Canada, he came to Nova Scotia from architectural practice in London, where he had graduated from the Architectural Association in 1985. His work and teaching have focused on tectonic issues and their relationship with the natural and cultural contexts.

Richard's research and practice interests are closely related to his pedagogy. There is an ongoing emphasis on community development and cultural continuity. Cultural continuity is seen as being fostered through innovation, which acknowledges that living cultures continue to adapt, change, and invent in the context of their own location and history.

Together with British engineer and adjunct professor **Trevor Butler**, Richard has developed a Building Systems curriculum that teaches green building design from first principles. It invites students to invent new strategies and forms based in knowledge of fundamental issues and principles.

Community development is a related interest that has involved him in projects in Columbia and West Africa. This work has also combined practice with teaching. The projects have dealt with critical issues in each community and designing appropriate responses based upon local skills and resources. In the case of West Africa, Gambian students under Richard's guidance developed a life jacket and a water pump that could be made and repaired locally, as part of a design course which integrated study of the community with design for specific urgent needs. The village of Gunjur was studied

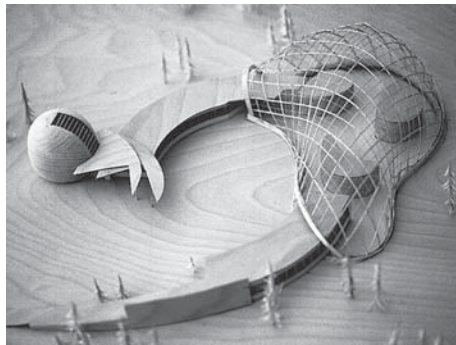
at a number of levels, which included a survey of skills, materials, tools, and economic links within the community. Solutions to community-defined problems were then designed in this context.

In 2000 Professor Kroeker was awarded a Canada Council grant for the study of First Nations architecture in North Eastern North America. This is part of a continuing interest in developing new ways of constructing buildings based on a study of Mi'kmaq precedents. As well as addressing issues of cultural continuity, the study responds to issues of environmental sustainability. This work is continuing with students in the construction of a healing centre for Mi'kmaq elder **Murdina Marshall** in the Cape Breton community of Eskasoni. It is important to the spirit of the research that the results are of direct benefit within the Mi'kmaq culture. The building site has operated as a remote classroom for a number of students in the School of Architecture.

His interest in building technology research has involved Richard in a range of exciting projects, including the configuration design for a flight simulator for CAE industries, in collaboration with L'Oeuf of Montreal and Filum of Halifax. He is also currently involved in setting up a seniors housing initiative for his home community of Sambro, Nova Scotia.

In July Professor Kroeker will commence an appointment as Honourary Research Associate at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. He has been invited to speak at the 21st World Congress on Architecture in Berlin.

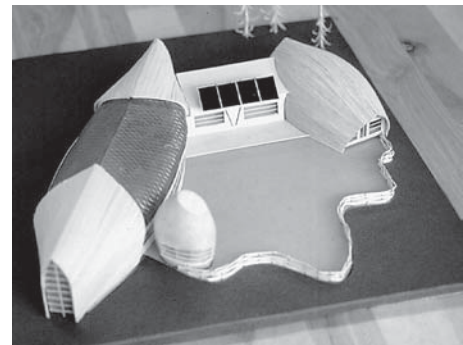
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2



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