



5TH CIRRUS CONFERENCE 2011 - MEETING OF TEACHERS February 10th and 11th 2011

ESTONIAN ACADEMY OF THE ARTS

Estonia street 7, Tallinn.

Telefon 626 7369 / E-post: international@artun.ee

BACKGROUND

The grand town of Tallinn will host the 5th Meeting of Teachers in February 2011. These meetings have become a regular feature in the activities of Cirrus and are considered valuable contributions to the development of teaching in general and the development of the MA in particular. What is considered of great value in these meetings is the general openness and participation of teachers in the proceedings as opposed to the many organizational meetings that are necessary in international networks.

The conference will adhere to the similar program, starting early on Thursday morning ending mid-day Friday, making it possible for delegates to make it home before the normal working week is over.

Cirrus is a team of 23 institutions of higher education from all corners of the Nordic and Baltic countries founded in 1990. The central activities of the partner institutions are arts, crafts and design, including innovative activities, technical development and artistic practices. In the growing globalization it becomes ever more important to define local specialties through collaborative work. The Nordic-Baltic area is a powerhouse in design with certain characteristics that do not exist in other geographic areas. It is important for the Nordic-Baltic region to preserve and extend this competence in relation to the wider global field of design. Furthermore in the ever more competitive field of design and design education it is important to run a supporting network for the partner institutions to make sure that the proper benchmarking is created and held.

Cirrus is also a space for people to meet - for students and teachers to exchange ideas and knowledge. The Cirrus schools develop their education and research by supporting each other. They collaborate on important up-to date issues together with commerce and industry, culture and other actors belonging in the spheres of art, design and media. Alongside solid aesthetic and design-related skills, Cirrus offers the power of creative thinking and strategic and scholarly skills for solving any problem. This means that members of Cirrus have to be ready to meet the challenges for a better world that has to be created anew every day and it is the purpose of design to work with the future, projecting scenarios and solutions.

The conference will follow the symposium spirit. The aim is to create an intimate occasion, with opportunities for formal and informal dialogues and create pockets of TIME for delegates to meet each other. Be prepared for lots of active talking, discussion and networking.

Previous conferences have made attempts to look at the following subjects:

Continuum from BA to MA
Space as Interdisciplinarity
Social Responsivity (SRVD)
Design School Collaboration with Industry
Working with Outside Specialists
Gender equality
Business

Sustainability
Entrepreneurship and Design Policy
Design Research and Academic Challenge
Curriculum Development in MA Programs
Industry and Entrepreneurship
Post-Crisis design

These are topics that come up continuously and they will surely be raised in the coming conference. Reflecting current issues it has been decided to run three parallel seminars on: Changes in Design Education, New Opportunities and Common Master Programs.

STRUCTURE

Wednesday 9th Februar

Evening: delegates arrive. Meeting informally in a local restaurant.

Thursday 10th Februar

8:00 - 9:00 Coffee and registration

9:00 Plenum to start the symposium – Primer talks.

9:05 Rector Signe Kivi, Estonian Academy of the Arts: Welcome to the meeting

9:15 Halldór Gíslason, professor, Oslo National Academy and leader of Cirrus: The challenges of the MA programs and the conference.

9:30 Ruth-Helene Melioranski, Estonian Design Centre: European Design Training Incubator survey among alumni of design specialties.

9:45 Presentation of EAA new study building

10:00 To be confirmed

10:15 Coffee Break and program clarifications

10:45 First Parallel Session

1. Changes in Design Education - New Approaches and Challenges, Cross-disciplinary Study Programmes

Moderator: Lylian Meister, Dean of the Faculty of Design, Estonian Academy of Arts + Lauri Hirvesaar, MA student of Product Design

(Room to be determined)

Design education today offers in addition to the design knowledge more and more extensive knowledge from bordering areas and their developments. The multi-disciplinary programs are created with the purpose of combining different skills. Problem solving, teamwork and communication became the key-issues of new developments in design education. Designer is seen as a successful partner of the businessman and as an entrepreneur by him/herself, so the subjects of business, enterprise, marketing and management have got an important position in design curricula. Common research and practice based projects in collaboration with industrial partners are the substance of the studies. Design thinking, strategic design and service design affect different areas of our everyday life. The issues of sustainability and social responsibility are integrated to all levels of studies. (Contact: lylian.meister@artun.ee)

2. New Opportunities for Traditional Applied Arts as Unique Design

Moderator: Mare Saare, Head of the Department of Glass Art and Design, Estonian Academy of Arts + one student

(Room to be determined)

The modern applied art is characterized by a uniqueness that verges on the elite. It is the art for exhibition halls, museums and public exhibition spaces. Applied art is taught in the faculty of Design and during the latest years the focus has been strongly on problem solving design issues and new developments in design world. Could there be a harmonious relationship between the unique artistic solution and functional utility? What are the new challenges of unique design? Do we today still need workshops to experiment with materials and techniques? (Contact: mare.saare@artun.ee)

3. A Common Master Program in Design

Moderator: Halldór Gíslason, professor in Design Strategy, Oslo National Academy of the Arts and leader of Cirrus Network + one student

(Room to be determined)

The strategy of the Nordic Council of Ministers says that the purpose of inter-governmental co-operation is to work toward joint Nordic solutions that have tangible positive effects – Nordic synergies – for the citizens of the individual Nordic countries. The same policy is prevailing in Europe. The Council promotes stronger cooperation between institutes and people in the area. The Cirrus Network has set up a working group to investigate the feasibility of running a common master program in the area. This session will search for findings and open for ideas and possibilities, find willing partners and seek knowledge about the activity that already is in place. (Contact: dori@khio.no)

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Second Parallel Session

15:00 Coffee, Networking and Discussions in informal Plenum

16:00 Presentations of findings from parallel sessions.

Written questions for debate on Friday will be received.

Evening

Dinner for all delegates in a restaurant in town. Dinner is not covered by the conference.

Friday 11th Februar

9:30 Arrival and coffee

10:00 Presentations of challenges and experiences in MA programs

Lizette Gradén, director of Graduate Studies, Konstfack/University College of Arts, Crafts and Design, Sweden: The challenges and benefits of having one masterprogram for art, design and craft (shared courses in theory and research practice + electives).

Tine Kjølseen, leader for the Center for Communication Design, The Danish Design School, Copenhagen with Dori Gíslason, Professor in design strategy, Oslo National Academy of the Arts: The challenges of including entrepreneurship in design education and collaboration programs.

11:00 Panel and questions from the previous day

Coffee

13:00 Summation and Farewell

13:30 Visit to the design faculty of the Estonian Academy of Arts.

Accommodation

Tallink City Hotel (<http://hotels.tallink.com/en/mainMenu/cityHotel/default.htm>) - 54 EUR; includes buffet breakfast, morning sauna & gym; internet.

Please book your room directly, using the reference "Cirrus": (hotelbooking@tallink.ee) (+372 6300 808)

From the hosts: Estonian Academy of the Arts

We look forward to seeing you all and please keep in mind that we do encourage you to bring students with you to this symposium.

Please register your participation due January 10 by filling out the form at our website:

http://www.artun.ee/index.php?lang=eng&main_id=1807

Contact person: Maria Jürisson maria.jurisson@artun.ee (+372 626 7369)