

the entire nation as a campus (because everyone is learning all the time). "Enlightened architects listen to the people who are going to inhabit the building, what we need are buildings that can constantly be remade," he added. Posted by Sean Dodson at 16:08

The cat with many smiles

In a talk entitled Grasping the Smile, Matt Ratto used an extended Alice in Wonderland metaphor to describe the need to focus on creative spaces rather than conventional creative knowledge transfers. In this way, at least, his talk echoes that of both Bob Stein with his notion of frozen and unfrozen books and professor Heppell's plea for an unfinished architecture. In different ways all three advocate ongoing, open-ended projects rather than, as Ratto put it, an "over emphasis on the end product." Posted by Sean Dodson at 17:06

The massive advances in computer technology will transform into a revolution in physical spaces around the world," said Professor Stephen Heppell in the final session of the afternoon. In the last century we built big things to do things for people, but we are not in that century anymore, he said. Professor Heppell went on to say that it is not just, the old industrial model of a curriculum being delivered "that has long gone, but the architecture of the schools designed to deliver such a fixed curriculum should soon follow suit. New school buildings need to be designed to reflect the democratically flat methods of teaching that have been ushered in at the start of this new century. These new schools are already out here, he said, citing a number of cutting edge buildings, including the Discovery 1 School in Christchurch, New Zealand; Copenhagen's Hellerup School that features a staircase that doubles as an assembly hall and lecture theatre where pupils sit on the steps; the extraordinary inflatable pods of Glasgow Caledonian University and even the Cayman Islands, which has recently re-branded

School's out

Dodson at 15:00

You have to be wary about trying to summarise a presentation that says, not long after it has begun, "we have to get away from essentialising explanations", but Anne Galloway also stressed the point that we are all mediators, and what is blogging if it is not a form of mediation? So ... Galloway talked about the differences between morals, ethics and ethos. She characterised morals as being the kind of top-down values that we get from things like fables (and the moral of the story is ...) and Biblical commandments, whereas ethics and ethos were much more fluid and bottom-up and are often much closer to

Context is king

Downing College, where we meet this morning, was founded in the 1800 by Sir George Downing, the grandson of the man who built Downing Street in London. The old door to Number 10 lies somewhere within the college grounds, five bonus points for anyone who can find it. Ex-students of the college include John Cleese, the illustrator Quentin Blake and the poet Philip Hobsbaum. Posted by Sean Dodson at 08:42

Enter_Unknown Territories Day 1
Sean Dodson

said he found the centre "an extremely boring and dull place" dominated by men who seemed categorically unable to talk to one another. So how to create a better atmosphere? Well, the first thing Herriot did was to break up the male-dominated environment by inviting a more diverse range of companies to join the centre, especially those from the media and public relations sectors so, as he put it, "we could legitimately get women in the building." This policy lightened the atmosphere of the centre immensely, but still the engineers and programmers were failing to talk to each other. Herriot next tried wine tasting (but everyone got plastered) and football matches (but that made everyone want to fight) and he was wracking his brains to find a solution. And then it came. Cricket. Not violent, not necessarily alcohol inducing and English enough so everyone could join in. But still the different companies were failing to talk. As a, perhaps, last desperate act, Herriot enlisted some specialists: his two kids who were paid a fiver each for each introduction. He hasn't looked back since and St John's has blossomed into the centre of creativity it was originally designed to be. Posted by Sean Dodson at 14:00

In the second session of the afternoon, Jonathan asked whether the current "euphoric wave" for user-generated content was really "just an illusion". He added that rather give us more freedom, the shift towards amateur content was "actually still under the control of the companies who provide the sites." He added: "It's not freedom is the literal sense of the term." He went on to wonder whether "people are going to wake up and say they are being ripped off?" James Cridland (Digital Media Virgin Radio) shrugged off the concerns stating that he felt that there exist a set of sufficient rewards for users to continue creating content for big media companies. Mike Taylor (Sky Movies Networked Media) was more candid, citing the sudden whelter of footage Sky News was now buying from members of the public (250 a pop is the going rate). But, he warned, "people are putting themselves in dangerous situations." During the Buncefield oil depot explosion of 2005, the police told Sky that they had seen people running towards the blaze in order to get better pictures. "It will take a major disaster before people really begin to wonder whether this is a good idea." Posted by Sean