

"Then you better start swimmin' or you'll sink like a stone  
For the times they are a-changin'" Bob Dylan, 1964

## The colours are a-changin` !

*A discarded aircraft carrier becomes a mobile Task Force University for master students of design from all over the world.*

- Background #1** As a cause of global changing, worldwide, locally complex challenges are increasingly appearing in our political, cultural and social perception - *immediate* (e.g. ethnically created crisis) and *chronic* (e.g. natural disasters). There is often no appropriate domiciled institution for an academically supported exchange on location. A kind of „Task Force University of Design and Engineering“ could move international arranged student groups to places where concept and creative exchange of ideas are urgently required. In that way, this „Task Force University“ could work as an experimental and interdisciplinary tool on site - involving and led by locally competent participants.
- Background #2** It took the US-government almost 30 years and several attempts to finally wreck upits former aircraft carrier, the *USS Oriskany*. All traditional ways of disposal were not successful in this case: the 266 meters long ship was simply too big to leave it ‚discreetly‘ on a ship-cemetery and the construction too complicated to be taken apart. Finally in 2006, the unused giant was blown up on the Californian coastline. It is now the biggest artificial reef of the world and a popular tourist attraction for ambitious divers - 64 meters under water.  
In 2015 another similar aircraft carrier, the 340 meters long *USS Enterprise*, will be ready for its withdrawal from service and yet again creates a challenge for the military authorities.  
For (interior) architects and designers it won't be a frightening moment, but an inspiring and challenging one (at least for the following hypothetical task setting):
- Background #3** An international operating foundation plans to convert the discarded aircraft carrier *USS Enterprise* into a swimming campus and will finance an appropriate alteration.  
Totally cleared from military equipment as well as it's nuclear engines, in the future the body shall be moved by tugboats to the place where it will work as a temporary local International University of Design – with approx. 80 students, 10 professors and many consulting guests from all over the world. Therefore accommodation facilities, auditoriums, workshops, a library and the essential administration are already located in the ships bunt. A possible landing stage could offer a comfortable connection to mainland.
- Brief** For this purpose the former manoeuvring area (deck level) should be transformed into a campus with apartments for guests, 5 big studios and a student cafeteria, which can also be employed as representative location for festivities and formal occasions. These new buildings and their interiors are to be designed according to the uniqueness of the place. This shall be presented in several drawings in an appropriate scale.  
In the future this new campus will no longer be an aircraft carrier. It will have no particular site. The users will orientate and focus, depending on the ship's current position, on its various cultural environments. The typical grey of an aircraft carrier cannot be the appearance of the new swimming campus any longer. Therefore the main focus will be the development of a colour- and material concept, which will be largely based on an innovative and aesthetical choice of a building material, especially designed for this project.

<b>Structure</b>	The project is organised in 3 parts, in which each closes with an attestation review.
Phase 1 Inspiration + Warm-up	<p><i>Field Trip to Amsterdam and bi-national workshop (I): Living on the Water   05. – 11.04.2008</i></p> <p>Next to the project-oriented visits on the Field Trip to Amsterdam, the first bi-national <i>workshop</i> in collaboration with the Gerrit-Rietveld-Academy (GRA) will be taking place. Here the key aspects, engrossed with exercises, will be to get to know urban concepts and their consideration of sustainability, integration and identity.</p> <p><i>Ad hoc design masterplan   workshop (II) 14. – 17.04.2008</i></p> <p>Back in Halle, versions of the possible buildings on deck will be developed in <i>small groups</i>. Afterwards, guest-critics will examine the various results and will provide individual feedback. The final scheme, a base to be further developed, will be secretly voted for by the participants.</p>
Phase 2 Interpretation	<p><i>Interior planning, modelling</i></p> <p>At the beginning of the 2nd phase tandem-teams are created. The building proposal will be structured in separate parts – one for each team. Next to referent drawings for the interior in several scales, a section model should be build, which shows the interior design concept.</p> <p><i>Guests from Amsterdam / bi-national workshop (III): Design of an aesthetic building material   18. – 24.05.2008</i></p> <p>Within a workshop of 5 days in Halle, Dutch and German students will visit several objects in Dessau, Leipzig and Halle together. Besides lectures, the design of an aesthetic building material will be a practical exercise, and a bi-national academic joint venture. Afterwards every tandem-team creates an individual colour- and material concept for their design.</p>
Phase 3 Communication	<p><i>Photography of the models and Statement of Intend   workshop (IV) 30.06. – 03.07.2008</i></p> <p>Together with two architectural photographers, one working as a journalist, the photographic communication of the model will be the central theme. The Statement of Intend underlines the whole project communication. Finally, the presentation of the results for the exhibition will be planned and made in groups.</p>
Finale	<p><i>Documentation and presentation</i></p> <p>Within the documentation (booklet) of the processes, experiments, results and thesis of the project parts, developed in this German-Dutch cooperation, are summarised and prepared for a publication in German and English. All design results shall be presented within a PowerPoint-presentation and a short speech.</p>
<b>Referees</b>	<p>Axel Müller-Schöll, Architect and Interior Architect, Head of the idea... Institute at the BURG  Henri Snel, Architect, head of the architectural department at the Gerrit-Rietveld-Academy, Amsterdam  Manuel Schupp, Architect BDA, Wilford Schupp   Architects, Stuttgart/London  Tilman Benatzki, artist and head of the German studios of StoDesign, StoAG, Esslingen  Kai Loges, photo designer BDF / Andreas Langen, photo designer BDF and journalist, arge lola, Stuttgart  Stefan Adlich, Architect, Leipzig and teacher of Construction  Andrea Topánka, Interior Architect, Assistent at the department of Interior Architecture at the BURG  Jörg Hansel, Interior Architect, head of the workshops for wood, metal and plastics at the BURG</p>
Halle, 08.01.2008	Axel Müller-Schöll / Andrea Topánka / Jörg Hansel