

REVIEW OF SCOTT SUTHERLAND SCHOOL, ABERDEEN

The Scott Sutherland School in Aberdeen emphasises material exploration and the production of physical models as investigative tools. For instance, domestic-scaled buildings were modelled at 1:20; urban blocks, streets and construction studies at 1:50; and city districts at 1:1000. These were constructed from a range of materials including timber, plastics, card, metal and glass, by techniques from casting to 3D printing.

In Year 3 (Part I) students develop a project for the reuse and extension of an existing building then a mixed-use multi-storey urban design, both within Aberdeen. At Masters (Part II) – undertaken over two years – there are three Units, divided as follows: Resilient Towns and Cities, led by Gökay Deveci; 21st Century City, by Alan Dunlop; and The Parochial, by Neil Gillespie. Students write a dissertation and develop a studio project in response to a Unit specific brief.

STANDOUT UNIT

While the 21st Century City Unit was coherently structured and neatly curated – indicative of a collective effort – it is Gillespie’s The Parochial Unit that has formal and conceptual purposiveness with stronger individual talent.

STANDOUT STUDENT

Fiona Thaddeus’ circular-plan Primary School/Swimming Pool in Gillespie’s Unit, developed with elegantly produced models, was powerful in its formal clarity.

IN A WORD

Solid.

Dr. Cameron McEwan (200 words) 27 June 2014

Architectural writer and AE Foundation Associate.

IMAGES

1. Fiona Thaddeus' circular-plan Primary School/Swimming Pool. View of scale model.
2. Fiona Thaddeus' circular-plan Primary School/Swimming Pool. View of scale model.
3. Fiona Thaddeus' circular-plan Primary School/Swimming Pool. Plans.
4. Fiona Thaddeus' circular-plan Primary School/Swimming Pool. Plans.
5. Fiona Thaddeus' circular-plan Primary School/Swimming Pool. Plans.
6. View of scale model in Alan Dunlop's 21st Century City Unit.