During the second half of the 20th century, the stock of existing buildings increased dramatically in Tokyo and other major cities around the world. For reasons of environmental sustainability, historic value, land use economics, and other societal forces, it is often no longer sound public policy or good for private profit to demolish older buildings. At the same time, rapidly evolving social and technological dynamics have often resulted in a mismatch between the existing stock and contemporary user requirements.

The complex problems inherent in this mismatch between sustainable building stock and rapidly evolving user preferences cannot be resolved by simplistic, standardized solutions that address the individual elements of buildings, commonly seen in conventional architecture and building engineering. Rather, these issues require individualized solutions that address the diversity of individual buildings.

Yet, activation methods to reconcile changing social needs and building stock should be widely applicable and not invented anew each time a building has to be upgraded or renovated. Further, it is urgent that new buildings of all kinds entering the existing stock be both an adaptable and stable part of the urban fabric.

With these needs in mind, the Department of Architecture and Building Engineering of the Tokyo Metropolitan University Graduate School of Urban Environmental Sciences established the 4-Met Center (Meta-technology Center for Metropolitan Metamorphosis Methods) in 2003 to serve as a research and education center for the 21st Century COE Program of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. At the 4-Met Center, researchers, engineers, architects, and other specialists work together on activation projects for existing buildings and conduct research to create “individualized solutions with universal applicability.”
Program

Monday 5th of November 2007
Registration, Opening Session, Keynote Speeches, Parallel Sessions, Welcome Party
Tuesday 6th of November 2007
Keynote Speeches, Parallel Sessions, Conference Dinner (optional)
Wednesday 7th of November 2007
Parallel Sessions, Panel Discussion on Building Stock Activation, Closing Session
Thursday 8th of November 2007
Excursion (study tour of building stock activation projects in Kawagoe City, Saitama Prefecture) (optional)

Call for Papers

Building Stock Activation 2007 seeks papers from all sectors on research and practices related to the activation of urban building stock. Paper topics include:

- Design for Building Activation
- Engineering of Building Activation
- Construction of Building Activation
- Structural Technologies for Seismic Resistance Enhancement
- Building Activation Focusing on Structural Design and Seismic Rehabilitation
- Management of Building Activation
- Costs and Benefits of Building Activation
- New Technologies and Materials for Building Activation
- Building Activation Considering Environmental Impacts
- User Participations in Building Activation
- Sustainable / Adaptable Design and Construction
- Case Studies
- etc.

Papers will be screened by the International Scientific Committee through a two-stage process: the screening of abstracts and the screening of full papers. Abstracts should be submitted in English and may be up to 500 words in length (tables, figures or formulae may be included). Abstracts should be limited to a single A4-size page. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 25 March 2007. For more details regarding the submission of abstracts, please see http://www.simul-conf.com/bsa2007/.

Proceedings

All papers accepted for the conference will be published in proceedings of the international conference cosponsored by the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB).

Awards

Papers deemed to be particularly well-focused on the aims of the conference and to be particularly outstanding in content will be presented with a Best Activation Award (tentative name).

Of the papers whose first author is 35 years of age or younger (as of 5 November 2007), papers deemed to be particularly outstanding in content will be awarded a Young Researchers Award (tentative name).

To the first authors of the papers presented with a Best Activation Award or a Young Researchers Award, the conference organizers will provide a subsidy for conference-related travel costs and expenses incurred in Japan during the conference.

Language

The official language of Building Stock Activation 2007 is English. Simultaneous interpreting between English and Japanese is planned for the Opening Session, Keynote Speeches, the Panel Discussion on Building Stock Activation, and the Closing Session.

Important Dates

25th of March 2007: Deadline for Abstracts
30th of April 2007: Notification of Acceptance of Abstracts
15th of July 2007: Submission of Full Papers
31st of August 2007: Notification of Acceptance of Full Papers for Presentation and Notifications of Best Activation Awards and Young Researchers Awards

Registration

For details regarding how to register for Building Stock Activation 2007, please see http://www.simul-conf.com/bsa2007/.
Registration Fee: General: ¥15,000 (CIB member: ¥14,000) (tentative)
Student: ¥7,500 (CIB member: ¥7,000) (tentative)

Venue

Building Stock Activation 2007 will be held at Hall D (Yurakucho sta. side) Tokyo International Forum in Tokyo, Japan