Paul S. Coates	In Memory of Paul Coates

Topic: Architecture

In Memory of Paul Coates 1945-2013

and his participation to several GA Conferences, starting from the second, GA'99

Paul Coates, after initially teaching at Liverpool Polytechnic, he developed his main body of research into computer design systems at the University of East London where he founded the MSc Computing & Design in 1991 and where he continued to teach until 2011.

Here, he refined his work on many artificial-life (AL) and intelligence (AI) methods for architectural design, which inspired research around the world and laid the foundations for many developments and academic courses in architectural computing to this day. In 2009 he received the Excellence for Innovative Research award by the Association for Computer Aided Design in Architecture (ACADIA).

Coates' work was not quite finished. But a generation of students and colleagues are carrying on his legacy. Over the last ten years, former students have begun implementing his thinking into the industry context where live projects and design methodologies are starting to translate his research into reality.

Some images from his paper at GA2001
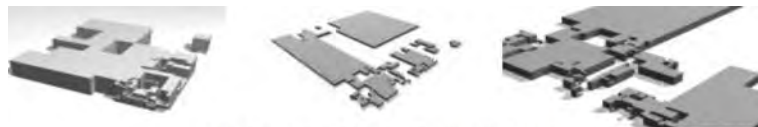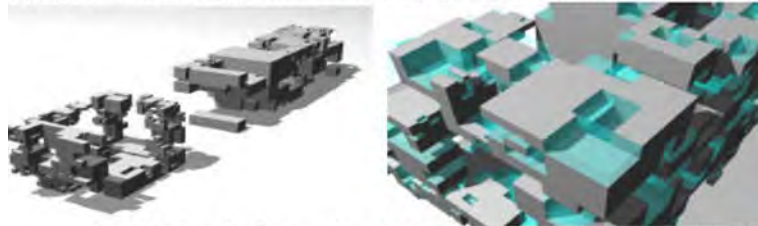

Fig 4 views of 8 generations of the GP using FormBank items (top view)

Fig 5 block and plate decomposition experiments

The system is clearly related to the menger sponge, which like all fractals has the curious property of having finite volume but a surface area tending towards the infinite.

Fig 6 block and cube experiments (with delete replaced by transparency)

Keywords: computer design architecture