Enhancing the online “studio” environment with new technologies in the delivery of architectural design education

Presenters:
Dr Joo Hwa Philip Bay, Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture and Interior Architecture
Mr Steven Feast, Educational Designer, School of Built Environment
Mr Samuel Fardoe, Sessional Academic, School of Built Environment
Dr Boon Ong, Head of Department, Department of Architecture and Interior Architecture

Abstract:
There is a concern that the communication between tutors and students was limited using the Collaborate sessions we have via the Blackboard online educational delivery platform, suspecting that students working in isolation lacked the intensity of a room in which students work together and collaborate.

Computer technology has become increasingly tactile including innovations around the pen stylus and graphics capabilities. As information grows beyond our ability to absorb, graphics become more critical as means to capture and present information in an understandable way.

The growth of graphic capabilities in computers, 3-D software, and those that facilitate team discussions, open up opportunities for us to better teach architectural design online, enabling us to not only share images more easily but also to draw interactively, as if it were face-to-face.

Feedbacks from tutors and students are being sought for what works, and what could be done better. These new technological tools used in certain ways with Collaborate and other social media-like platforms are explored in the ‘virtual design studio’, not just to address the concern poor communication online, but also to show ways on how to enhance face-to-face learning on campus.