

Deborah Cameron (Oxford University)

Building workspace with words: Discourse on/of/at work in the design of a new university campus

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In this presentation I will draw on the framework Thomas Markus and I developed for analysing the role of discourse in architectural design (Markus and Cameron 2001), applying it to the case of the new campus on which this conference takes place. Any major building project generates enormous quantities of written discourse: in this case it will be argued that the texts produced exemplify both discourse *at* work (in the sense that producing/interpreting text is a significant activity of architects and other professionals concerned with building design) , and discourse *on* work (in the sense that university buildings are places of work, and the texts produced by the commissioning institution for potential architects communicate a vision of what that work entails). Here I will consider what texts produced by the client and by the architect who won the competition to build the new Library and Learning Centre might tell us about contemporary visions of academic work; I will also consider the relationship between textual and spatial construction in the winning design.