

# HYBGRID

Sylvia Felipe + Jordi Truco



- Aquest és un projecte de recerca dut a terme en el context del curs del Digital Research Laboratory de l'Architectural Association de Londres.
- Tot el material de l'article correspon a textos i reproduccions del material documentat pels autors.
- This is a research project carried out as part of the Digital Research Laboratory course at the Architectural Association in London.
- All the material in this article is based on texts and reproductions of the documentation done by the authors.

**Adaptabilitat :** L'objectiu d'aquest projecte era dissenyar un sistema/procés capaç de generar unes formes múltiples i no predeterminades que fossin modificables pel que fa als requeriments espacials diferencials. Es volia arribar a l'adaptabilitat formal més que no pas a la singularitat (forma ideal). Per això era necessari dissenyar un sistema físic (fenotip) capaç d'articular-se; però era igualment important dissenyar un procés (genotip) que connectés els múltiples requeriments espacials amb les seves múltiples formalitzacions.

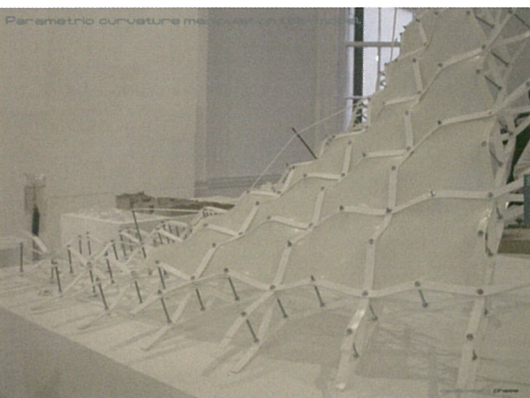
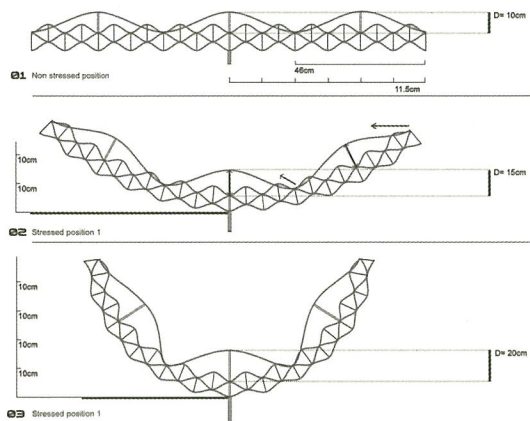
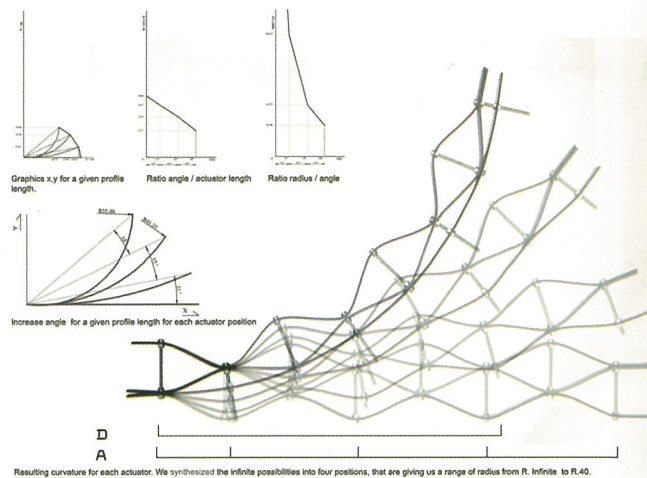
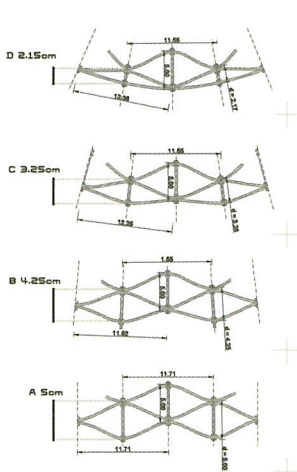
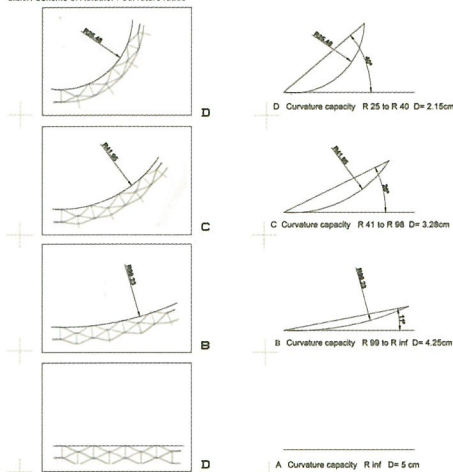
**Adaptability :** The aim of this project was to design a system/process able to generate multiple and non-predetermined shapes that were modifiable with regard to differential spatial requirements. Our purpose was to achieve formal adaptability rather than formal uniqueness (ideal form). To this end, it was necessary to design a physical system (phenotype) capable of articulation; but it was also important to design a process (genotype) linking the multiple spatial requirements to their multiple formalisations.

**Quaderns :** HYBGRID : Sylvia Felipe + Jordi Truco

84

JUNE 2004

242 : Q 2.0

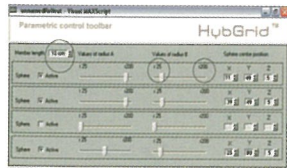


**Fenotip** : el sistema físic basa la seva articulació formal en la propietat de la deformació elàstica. Com demostra l'enginyeria biomimètica, aquesta classe de deformació augmenta les possibilitats de conformació d'una manera simple i econòmica, i també conserva les propietats de resistència característiques de la continuïtat material. No és un sistema mecànic que funciona per connexions universals, sinó que es basa més aviat en les propietats elàstiques de materials com els polímers i els compostos de fibra, que tenen una capacitat de resistència/elasticitat més perfeccionada. Específicament, el sistema físic es basa en una malla feta de tires compostes de fibra. Aquestes tires són contínues i preformades, per aconseguir la inèrcia necessària sense sotmetre el material a tensions extraordinàries. El mètode de producció és prou senzill. No hi ha diferències en la conformació física de la malla durant el procés de producció. En canvi, el sistema pot generar posteriorment una diferenciació formal i estructural canviant les distàncies relatives entre les tires. Aquestes distàncies poden modificar-se fàcilment fent servir uns elements situats entre les tires. Aquests elements els anomenem "actuadors". Tenen quatre posicions (A, B, C i D) que defineixen quatre distàncies diferents entre les tires. La manipulació local de cada actuator provoca, com succeeix als sistemes emergents, un canvi global de la forma del conjunt.

**Phenotype** : the physical system bases its formal articulation on the property of elastic deformation. As biomimetic engineering shows, this kind of deformation increases shaping possibilities simply and economically, and also conserves the endurance properties characteristic of material continuity. This system is not a mechanical system performing via universal joints; rather it is based on the elastic properties of materials such as polymers and fibre composites (fibre-composites have a highly optimised elastic/resistance capacity). Specifically, the physical system is based on a grid made up of fibre-composite strips. These strips are continuous and pre-shaped in order to achieve the necessary inertia without extra-stressing the material. The production method is quite simple. There is no differentiation in the physical conformation of the grid during the production process. Instead, the system can later generate formal and structural differentiation by changing the relative distances between the strips. These distances can easily be changed by using elements placed between the strips. We call these elements 'actuators'. They have four positions – A, B, C and D – that define four different distances between strips. The local manipulation of each actuator results, as in emergent systems, in an overall change of shape of the whole.

## 3.1.0 Designing the digital process. The genotype

### 3.1.1 Parametric morphological manipulation toolbar

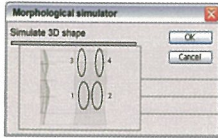


This toolbar sets the link between the abstract programmatic and spatial necessities and the materialization of the artifact. These requirements are digitally shaped by means of the parametric manipulation of what we have called **Sphere Modifiers** (in the toolbar 'Sphere'). The user can activate each of them and set the value of its two defining radii as well as the coordinate position of its center.

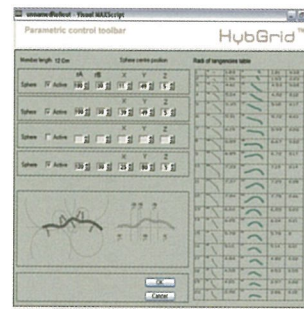
The parameter of max. and min. radii have been previously calculated by the plug-in, when the user was required to define the size of the Member Length. There is a scale relation between this local size and the maximum and minimum curvature radii that the system is able to achieve.

### 3.1.2 Morphological simulation toolbar

Calculates the previous inputs and gives a digital visualization of the 3D shape informed by the Sphere Modifiers.



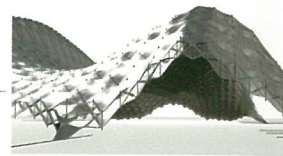
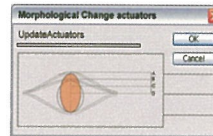
### 3.1.3 Analysis of the curvature sections and parametric definition of actuators



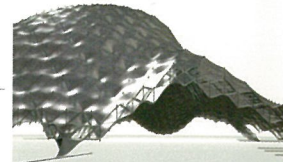
The Plug-in labels each curvature radius with the amount of members and the required actuator position.

### 3.1.4 Physical actuators data transferring toolbar

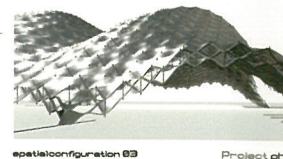
Link with the material artifact. Transfers the actuator labels to those in phenotype.



spatialconfiguration 01

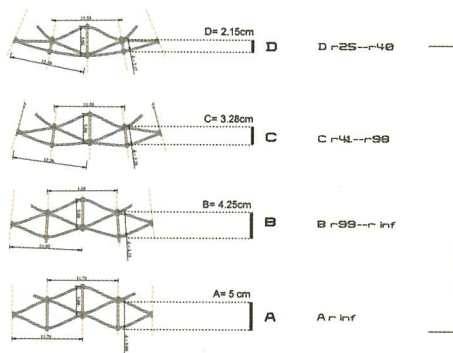


spatialconfiguration 02



spatialconfiguration 03

Project.ph

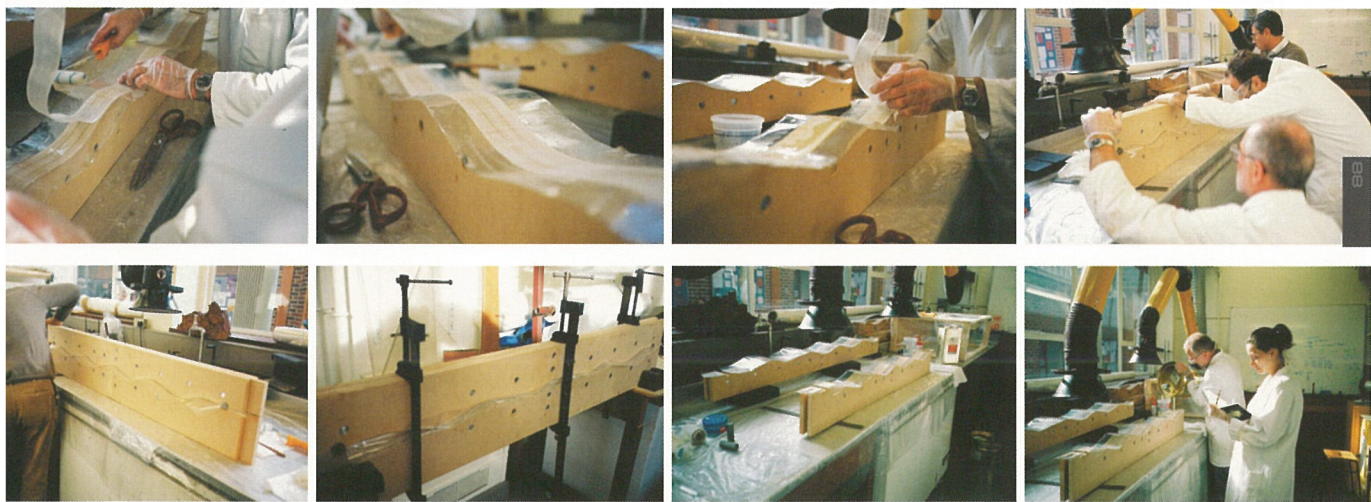


**Genotip** : Els diferents requeriments programàtics i espacials són transferits al fenotip mitjançant un control paramètric fet servir el software. Aleshores el disseny del sistema implica el disseny d'una connexió en la qual els límits, les lleis i els registres del sistema s'introdueixen paramètricament (la curvatura màxima i mínima dels radis en un nivell local i global, etc.). Usant aquest endoll és possible dissenyar la configuració general de la mida i la localització dels espais requerits. Quan aquests espais es defineixen digitalment, la connexió calcula i transfereix cada actuator a la seva posició local requerida: per exemple, si l'actuator etiquetat "90A" ha d'estar en posició A, B, C o D.

Hem dissenyat un sistema complex capaç d'adaptar múltiples requeriments gràcies al fet que funciona segons unes lleis extremadament senzilles. La clau és un algoritme basat en la combinació de quatre posicions: A, B, C i D. Dins d'aquesta estructura, la forma real de l'artefacte ja no és el producte de la visió personal i unidireccional de l'arquitecte, sinó que és informada directament pel sistema que la fa possible.

**Genotype** : The different programmatic and spatial requirements are transferred to the phenotype by means of parametric control using software. Then the design of the system involves the design of a plug-in in which the limits, laws and ranges of the system are parametrically introduced (maximum and minimum curvature radii at a local and global level, etc.). Using this plug-in it is possible to design the overall configuration of the size and location of the required spaces. Once these spaces are digitally defined, the plug-in calculates and transfers each actuator to its required local position: for example, whether the actuator labelled '90A' should be in position A, B, C or D.

We have designed a complex system able to adapt to multiple requirements thanks to the fact that it works by means of extremely simple laws. The clue is an algorithm based on the combination of four positions: A, B, C and D. Within this frame, the actual form of the artefact is no longer the product of the personal and unidirectional view of the architect, but is directly informed by the system that makes it possible.



Quaderns 1 HYBRID : Sylvia Felipe + Jordi Traco