

Nature, form and architecture

Richard Weston and Hannes Macnamara

Architects have frequently looked to nature as a model and with the advent of computer-aided design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM) software designers can realise forms that emulate the complexity and variation typical of natural form-making processes. This studio will introduce this emerging territory through seminars, readings and practical activities and during it you will:

- Explore, illustrate and explain a form-generating process in nature.
- Acquire sufficient knowledge of Rhino, an industry-standard CAD/CAM programme (used to create everything from jewellery to buildings), to model a complex, nature-inspired form.
- Translate your CAD model into physical form, either by generating cutting templates or by outputting it via a 3D printer (laser sintering or stereo lithography) in the Manufacturing Engineering Centre.
- Visit the Oxford University Museum of Natural History to study the building – an embodiment of John Ruskin's vision of a nature-inspired 'Living Architecture' – and to see Richard Weston's exhibition 'Formations. Images from Rocks' which will be showing there until the end of May.

