
Gearing up for a virtual walk through Germany

Hi-tech equipment to help architecture students in learning more about designs

BY AFTAB KAZMI
Bureau Chief

Al Ain Architecture students here are about to embark on trip to the German city of Reutlingen without stepping out of the UAE.

The 'virtual visit' of UAE University students will help them in learning more about building design and town planning through the hi-tech imaging equipment.

The setting up of a virtual reality laboratory has

been made possible at the department of architecture with the arrival of the Cave Automatic Virtual Environment (Cave).

Dr Ahmad Okeil, from the university, said the project was in the making for two years and will significantly enhance a student's learning.

The hi-tech equipment with a five channel sound system creates 3D images. Development of different applications is also being considered for teaching

different architectural courses. Explaining the Cave system, Dr Okeil said it mainly consists of a room with graphics projected from behind the walls and the user is surrounded by these projected images.

"It allows an instructor to walk through a design with his student, discuss modifications, and leave behind markers with annotations to record specific suggestions for later design modification."

He said it also allows ex-

perimenting with new instructional concepts that are not currently possible with either traditional or CAD-based computer graphics techniques.

The laboratory will also receive a 3D model of the German city of Reutlingen, provided by CyberCity AG, a German firm specialising in the 3D visualisation of cities, the model will be displayed academically and kept for demonstration purposes in the laboratory.