RAPID DEPLOYMENT ARCHITECTURE
THE CONCEPT OF SPEED

By

FOO PIAU THIAN
HD972011M

Submitted to School of Architecture
On 13th November 1998 in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Architecture

Abstract

Rapid deployment architecture has been in service around the world for many years. The immediate responses to the term rapid deployment architecture have been from disaster relief housing to circus tents. However, rapid deployment architecture encompasses much more than these common examples. They have a greater potential than commonly perceived and can be applied to solve some of the construction problems faced by conventional building construction techniques. To realise this potential, we must first comprehend what rapid deployment architecture is. The main difference between this form of architecture and conventional architecture is that it possesses the ability to deploy, modify and withdraw quickly. The research into this characteristic, the notion of speed in architecture, will form the basis of the dissertation. The dissertation will explain what is meant by the term ‘rapid deployment architecture’ and the need for ‘speed’ in this form of systems with respect to the special criteria that makes the systems successful and how they are achieved through complex innovations of today. Finally the dissertation will explain through the use of relevant examples how the requirements of rapid deployment architecture is achieved and the success of these systems the are already in use. Ultimately the aim of the dissertation is to study the concepts and technology of rapid deployment architecture with particular emphasis on the intrinsic quality of speed and efficiency. Comparisons will be made between the technology of rapid deployment architecture and conventional building methods in an attempt to show how key issues and concepts may be used improve the efficiency of conventional building construction.

Dissertation Supervisor: Associate Professor Milton Tan

Number of words: 13307