
This year the symposium is being held in Vancouver, one of the most scenic Canadian cities. Vancouver is a cosmopolitan city offering an exciting blend of Western, Native, and Asian cultures with year-round opportunities for outdoor recreation in the mountains and on the water. We are confident this is a location that participants will remember and enjoy.

We received sixty-six paper submissions, the second highest number in the lifetime of this conference. The papers were rigorously reviewed by a total of forty reviewers with each paper receiving at least four reviews. Following an e-mail discussion, the program committee selected twenty-one papers to be presented at the conference. The program chairs were impressed by the high quality of the reviews and the selected papers.

As in previous years, there will be a Best Paper Award. The symposium participants select the Best Paper in a single round of voting at the end of the conference.

We are very pleased that four highly regarded scientists have accepted our invitation to speak at this conference. Turing Award winner Fred Brooks will speak on project lessons learned the hard way. Ted Williams, co-founder of Hal Computer Systems, and now vice-president at Morphics Technology, will speak on why synchronous design is not likely to die anytime soon. Barbara Chappell, a principal engineer at Intel and one of the world’s leading researchers in the area of VLSI, will present her view of the key microelectronic challenges of the next decade. Finally, Rajiv Joshi from IBM will discuss whether Silicon-On-Insulator (SOI) is a curse or a boon.

For this year we planned a social event typical of Vancouver. We will start with a tour of Stanley Park, 400 hectares of forest, beach, and gardens adjacent to the heart of Vancouver’s downtown. The banquet will be held in the Vancouver Aquarium, in Stanley Park, with a unique collection of exhibits emphasizing northern-Pacific and Arctic species.

This conference would not have been possible without the help of many persons. We thank all authors who took the time and effort to submit a paper to this conference; we thank the 40 reviewers, each of whom reviewed 8 or 9 papers; we thank the invited speakers for providing us with entertaining lectures filled with experienced advise; we thank Holly Mitchell and the local staff for making the local arrangements and preparing the budget; the authors of CyberChair, a web-based tool to manage the paper submission and review process; Sun Microsystems and Ann Coulthard for maintaining the website for ASYNC2003; the financial sponsors Intel, Fulcrum Microsystems, Sun Microsystems, IBM, and Philips who enabled graduate students to come to the conference by providing travel grants; the IEEE Computer Society for sponsoring the symposium; and the UBC conference centre for providing the conference facilities.

We wish you an exciting conference and a pleasant stay in Vancouver.

Mark Greenstreet and Jo Ebergen
General Co-Chairs

Jo Ebergen and David Kinniment
Program Committee Co-Chairs