

# Atrium

11 | 2009

THE NEW BUILDING

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE,  
BUILDING & PLANNING



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

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## Dean's Message

WITH THE PROCESS FOR A NEW BUILDING UNDERWAY AND NEW PROFESSORIAL APPOINTMENTS IN PLACE, WE ARE ENGAGING WITH THE FUTURE OF THE FACULTY.



While a University might be considered a place of tradition, established as we have been for over 160 years and looking forward to at least another 160, we are by necessity engaged at the forefront of ideas and innovation. We are also distinctive in our close engagement with our local community, yet very much a participant in extensive global activities. Various moments in academic life mark this reach and progress: the annual intake of students from across the world; the graduation of those who are leaving us for points throughout the world; the appointment of new colleagues; and the engagement with ideas from visitors local and international.

The past months have illustrated this perspective. We welcomed a new Professor of Urban Planning, **Professor Richard Tomlinson**, who gave his Inaugural Lecture in August on the subject of the influence of internet searches on planning practice. A second Inaugural Lecture will be delivered by **Professor Paolo Tombesi**, Chair of Construction, in October, who has taken over from **Professor Jon Robinson** as leader of this discipline area.

In our engagement with intellectual discourse across the world, we profiled four dynamic speakers in the 2009 Dean's Lecture series: **Sheela Patel**, **Winston Shu**, **Carme Pinos** and **Vladimir Djurovic**. Covering topics in construction, architecture, planning and landscape architecture, the four speakers expanded our debate and left real impact by way of ideas for curriculum design, research opportunities and student experience.

Our undergraduate and graduate programs are developing strongly, the nature and quality of student work is beginning to reflect the potential of our new model of teaching. We were very pleased to hear that a second year student in the Bachelor of Environments, **Jas Johnston**, won a prize in the HP Cityscape 2020 competition which attracted entries from around the world. Jas will be travelling to Berlin for an exchange semester in 2010 and is posting his thoughts about his time at our university online in his blog **The Generator** (<http://thegenerator.net.au>).

In the last issue of Atrium, we led with a challenging comment from **John Denton** that the University should step up to its responsibility as a patron of good design. As he pointed out, this is particularly pertinent in a city where design

is appreciated and promoted. In part, this was the reason we chose the moniker 'School of Design' for our graduate school, marking that our understanding of design is broad, encompassing planning through construction, occupation and conservation. We view design as an ongoing activity – not a process that has a discrete contribution to realising a particular outcome. This attitude is reflected in the new building competition brief that guided entries to the 133 teams who submitted 'Expressions of Interest' earlier this year and the six who were selected to develop postulations in some detail. Specifically, we called for interpretations of the phrases 'A living building; a pedagogical building', as these captured the concept of a continuing engagement with design during habitation. The results of these design exercises and, in particular, the selection of the team of **John Wardle and Office dA**, remind us that the debates around design potential are vigorously pursued across the world and that Melbourne is making a real contribution to this dialogue. We are delighted that our competition attracted extensive world-wide interest and that the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Thus, through this competition I believe we have acknowledged and addressed John's challenge at the Faculty level.

In recent months the University has been the fortunate recipient of capital funding from various sources to develop its research and teaching capacities in several Faculties. These funds will initiate a number of construction projects on and adjacent to our Parkville campus. There is the opportunity in these projects to also meet John's challenge at the campus level. It was a tremendous honour, therefore, to be asked by the Vice Chancellor to take on an additional role as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Campus Development, in which capacity I will be advising him on the directions that we take as these projects are realised. In this role I will be focusing on the design quality we deliver. **A**

We have received sad news that **Dr Michael Horman**, a former student and staff member of our Faculty passed away suddenly. Recollections from colleagues will be included in the next edition of Atrium and we extend our sincere condolences to Michael's family, friends and colleagues.

INSTITUTIONALLY, WE ARE NOW IN A WEAKER POSITION TO FORGE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR OUR CITIES THAN WE WERE THREE DECADES AGO. SO WHAT CHANGED AND HOW CAN WE REPAIR THE SITUATION?



## A Commission to Deliver a Sustainable Melbourne

MARCUS SPILLER

ONE OF OUR ASSIGNMENTS AS TOWN PLANNING STUDENTS AT MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY IN THE 70'S CHALLENGED US TO DEVISE A STRATEGY TO PUT "URBAN POLICY ON THE FRONT PAGES OF OUR NEWSPAPERS".

Dr Marcus Spiller is a Director of SGS Economics & Planning Pty Ltd. His consulting experience spans land economics, regional development, housing policy, infrastructure funding and policy co-ordination systems. He has taken up secondments as lecturer in urban economics at University of Melbourne, adviser to the Minister for Planning and Housing in Victoria and senior executive in the Queensland Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning. He is an Adjunct Professor in Urban Management at the University of Canberra, a member of the National Housing Supply Council and a former National President of the Planning Institute of Australia.

It was the time of the first Oil Price Shock; an energy conservation imperative gripped the developed world. Together with our lecturers, we understood that restructuring the cities was crucial to a sustainable future, but we were all frustrated that urban planning was a non-issue in the community. Managing Melbourne's vigorous growth was seemingly on auto-pilot, and the community appeared to accept what the urban policy institutions of the day dished out.

With the challenge of global warming, energy conservation and transformation of our spatial economies is now back at the top of the agenda. But beyond this, the similarities with the late 70's in planning policy are few and far between. Stories and news items about planning are commonly on the front pages of our daily papers. Strategies like Melbourne 2030 and its successor, Melbourne @ 5 million, are the focus of political debate. The Minister for Planning routinely intervenes in development assessment processes which were once left to independent authorities. More than occasionally, communities organize demonstrations and advertising campaigns to vent their dismay with proposed changes to their neighbourhoods. In this politically charged environment, opposition parties obviously see opportunities to differentiate themselves from the Government of the day, score points and build constituencies. Consequently, what should be a long term and consistent process of policy building for our cities is now subject to the erratic swings of the short term political cycle.

Institutionally, we are now in a weaker position to forge a sustainable future for our cities than we were three decades ago. So what changed and how can we repair the situation?

Prior to the election of the Cain Labor Government in 1982, planning governance in Melbourne was dominated by a quasi independent authority, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW).

This body traced its origins to the Gold Rush period in the city's development.

The MMBW had something of a democratic mandate in its own right; until 1978, the Board comprised fifty four Commissioners, all delegated Councillors from the municipalities making up the metropolis at the time. After an Inquiry in 1977, the Board was restructured to comprise a full time Chair and six part-time members, four elected by Area Commissions or groupings of municipalities within the city and two State Government appointees.

The Board developed a metropolitan strategy and an overarching development control scheme for Melbourne. In performing these functions, it operated at arm's length from the Government, though State and Parliament ratified these documents with advice from other independent authorities such as the Town and Country Planning Board. The MMBW delegated some planning scheme powers to its constituent municipalities but retained development assessment responsibilities for matters of 'metropolitan significance'; for example, land release at the urban fringe, key employment locations and the major waterway corridors.

The Planning Minister of the day was 'above the fray': he was seen as the custodian of the processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act and was rarely drawn into resolving individual development assessment issues. The State political reporters of the day had to look elsewhere for their stories.

Importantly, the MMBW also had responsibility for planning, financing and delivering 'city shaping' infrastructure, particularly trunk sewers, which determined where and when land could be opened up for growth, and highways, which affected accessibility patterns and therefore location choices across the metropolis. In pursuing these responsibilities, the Board had its own rating powers and could issue infrastructure bonds.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF »



The Board had many of the hallmarks of a 'metropolitan government' not unlike the Greater London Authority (GLA). Just as the GLA made great strides in sustainability policy for London under the leadership of Ken Livingstone, the Board established strong planning credentials during its tenure. While as young students, we might have been frustrated by the then seemingly slow response of planning authorities to the global energy crisis, hindsight tells us that some of Melbourne's best planning was delivered under the auspices of the MMBW. These include protection of the Melbourne CBD as the metropolis's pre-eminent social, economic and cultural hub; enforcement of a corridor structure in outward urban growth to define communities and maintain access to food production and recreational resources; and development of an excellent network of metropolitan parks.

The Cain Government's move to strip the MMBW of its planning powers and relocate these into a State department of planning seemed like a good idea at the time. It was intended to make 'planning more accountable'. In part, it was a reforming government's decisive response to then recent land scandals involving the Housing Commission and efforts by some developers to convince the Board to approve a self-contained new town on Melbourne's northern fringe, in a location at odds with the corridor plan.

This move set in train a polarization in planning governance in Melbourne which now threatens to seriously compromise our capacity to deliver the sustainable metropolis. On the one hand, there has been an inexorable centralization of planning power and influence in the State department of planning and therefore the Minister. For example, the formation of the Priority Development Panel enables the Minister to 'call in' a wide range of development applications, with advice from independent experts, but with the Minister making the decisions. Through the Growth Areas Authority, the Minister now effectively directs land release and infrastructure funding policy on Melbourne's fringe.

At the same time, the last three decades have seen a strong thrust to establish Councils as independent planning authorities, with power to create and maintain their own development control schemes in keeping with local community preferences. This was given particular emphasis during the Kennett Government's incumbency.

In short, metropolitan governance was abolished, the instrumental role of the Minister was increased, and Councils were,

in one sense, invited to act with greater autonomy in planning matters. This proved to be a recipe for institutional paralysis. Upon its release in 2003, the 'Melbourne 2030' strategy was rightly lauded as leading practice in a technical sense. But it was not embraced by the metropolitan community as something born of its own democratic processes. Rather it was seen as an edict from Spring Street – something handed down by a remote sphere of governance which had no affinity with the local neighbourhood. When local Councils with clear mandates to represent local interests were asked to make policies and decisions in line with the regional interests set out in 'Melbourne 2030', resistance was inevitable. Outright revolt was forestalled by protracted local planning processes supported by the State Government including the preparation of activity centre structure plans and urban design frameworks. But these merely papered over the inherent weakness in governance arrangements; local Councils were being asked to perform metropolitan functions. The result, as indicated by the Melbourne 2030 Expert Audit Group, is much slower progress on urban consolidation than what we need and what the Government had hoped for.

Significant acceleration towards the vision of a compact city will require smarter approaches to urban design, particularly at the precinct level. However, it is unlikely that we will simply design our way to credibility with the metropolitan community. A precondition is a rethink of planning governance in Melbourne. This needs to be approached with the subsidiarity principle firmly in mind. In particular, it is vital that a metropolitan sphere of governance be reinstated, so that the inevitable tensions between neighbourhood self-interest and regional sustainability can be mediated in more constructive ways, without endangering sound long term plans for our metropolis. Moreover, the interests of Victoria are likely to be better served if the State Government were to be freed to concentrate on the state-wide issues of education, health, policing, industry policy, competitive taxation and regulatory regimes, national parks and Commonwealth-State relations rather than being dragged into what are essentially local or regional matters.

It must tell us something that Australia's major cities are amongst the few in the developed world without metropolitan governments.

A practical first step would be to establish a regional planning authority or Commission with clear responsibility for those places and issues which are of metropolitan significance; such as, all the principal activity centres

in the metropolis, all the public transport corridors which have major intensification potential, all the key employment nodes in Melbourne, including the CBD, the Parkville R&D complex, the airport zone and all development proposals above a threshold size or value. Outside these areas and issues, local governments would have greater independent discretion than they have today to pursue localized planning solutions.

It is essential that any such Commission be seen to have an independent, albeit subsidiary, mandate to that of the State Government. We could do worse than re-instate the seven board member model with three including the Chair appointed by the State and four elected – directly or by electoral college – by sub-regions comprising the metropolis.

The Commission would be staffed by professionals transferred from the current State department of planning, and would be funded by its own rate raising mechanisms, some of which are already in force, such as, the Metropolitan Improvement Fund.

In due course, the Commission could become a fully fledged metropolitan governance institution with responsibility for highways, public transport and major environmental assets, while local Councils continued to provide local services. The State Parliament and its executive would remain the pre-eminent governance institution in Victoria, retaining control of more than two thirds of current budget programs.

It has been interesting to observe the subtle shift in the focus of the planning profession and, by extension, planning education, which has accompanied the gradual re-engineering of Melbourne's governance institutions over the past three decades. As planning has become more politicized, the scope of professional practice has tended to narrow, with far greater emphasis now being placed on negotiation, dispute resolution, development control and administrative process.

Educational institutions will need to play their part in reinventing our planning institutions. They will need to equip planners with the theoretical frameworks, analytical skills and imagination required to recapture the profession's original role as an agent of visionary change. **A**

## Building recollections

WE INVITED SEVERAL ALUMNI FROM ACROSS THE FACULTY'S HISTORY TO SHARE THEIR MEMORIES OF THE BUILDING. WE WILL BE DEVELOPING AN ARCHIVE OF MEMORIES AND RECORDS, SO YOU HAVE PHOTOS, ARTEFACTS OR MEMORIES YOU WISH TO SHARE PLEASE EMAIL MELANIE.SCHOO@UNIMELB.EDU.AU

### Neil Clerehan Architect ARAIA, FRAIA, Life Fellow RAI A BArch (1950)

We had been housed in two huge, former laboratories at the exact north-east corner of the campus (called "the grounds" then.). The bizarre decision by our new Professor to create a new School out of army huts was accepted without question in an unquestioning time.

I won the second architectural competition I ever entered - for the portico for the new school. (The first was a Sand Castle building competition at Brighton Beach in 1929: I got second but should have won.)

The huts were arranged on the South Lawn just as a Railways Architect, but more recently a brigadier in the AIF Engineers would be expected to arrange them: orthogonally and neatly. They spread out from a foyer/exhibition space, and were separated by light courts.

The huts were shoddy and old and for school-leavers moving into the post-war world with no idea as to what a university building should be like, they provided a warm, exciting and fun, environment. It was probably unique at Melbourne University.

Brian Lewis, not long into our first chair of architecture (sponsored by The Age), created a community almost overnight.

His office was first on the left, protected by his loyal sentries, Gwen Milne and later Margaret Wood. His staff was unprotected.

Lewis attracted former mates and new celebrities to his new school. He brought in practicing architects such as Mockridge, Grounds, Romberg and Boyd who made their mark on Australian Modernism.

The much-loved Fritz Janeba brought old-world values to new-world students. A Lewis co-student, Nell Norris came out of retirement to set up a library (and later a rich endowment). The library boasted the only new window in the School.

For a few years a caste system ruled benevolently.

There was the general mass of students but two elect cores ruled: those who had endured their First Year at Mildura (the University's other dramatic solution to the post-war surge of students) and the ex-servicemen who were considerably older than their peers.

Completing their courses under the all-embracing CRTS meant that had spending money and, in a few cases, cars.

Maintenance on the huts was curtailed as their useful lives were ending. Conditions that would make tabloid headlines today were accepted by students.

The buildings may not have been able to keep out water but they could keep in a spirit of community and common purpose.

### Alfred Wong BArch (1953)

During my time at the school from 1947 to 1952 the main building as such was the central space (measuring some 8m (width) x 15 m (depth) which I hope someone will verify) was a lively concourse through which students and staff passed through on their way to their work places. At the end-wall of this space there were 2 doors which opened into our one and only lecture theatre. The Drawing or Design Studios as well as the Staff Offices and Library branched off from the side walls. Whatever wall space that was available was used for the exhibition of students' works from year 1 to year 4. As I recalled, whenever projects were handed in from students of one particular year these would be pinned up awaiting the staff to make their evaluations and also opened to "Guest-crits" from luminaries such as Robin Boyd, Roy Grounds and Mr Romberg.

Mr Romberg with his thick horn rim glasses and thick set physique was a little intimidating and needed to be taken seriously. Robin Boyd was often witty and friendly and came out with gems like "this is van der Rohe - in fact you can't miss van der Rohe!". Roy Grounds was always robust in his remarks and humorous. As soon as the works were pinned up for the crit, this attracted students from year 1 to year 4 to gather around waiting for

the guest-crits and it would become the event of the day or perhaps even of the week for the school.

This central space was truly a forum for staff, students and visitors to mingle and interact. In addition new building products were on exhibition periodically thus academia and the marketplace become actively engaged.

I hope that the new school will be planned with a new version of such a forum, not for the sake of nostalgia, but because with the on-going globalization, the exchange of ideas in the new forum can be expected to be on an international level. This gives a true meaning to the words University Education.

### Pei I Tan BArch (Hons) (1984)

I was at The University of Melbourne from 1980 to 1984 (5 years). When I was first taken to the faculty of Architecture, the building was quite different from what I expected. I envisaged that the Faculty would be housed in a rather historical and grand building, but instead, hidden behind the 'classical stone facade' with elaborate ionic and Corinthian columns was a building with few frills, constructed using fair-faced bricks with exposed beams and columns. What came to mind was 'maybe it is intentional to be such to challenge and inspire design creativity of the architectural students'.

My impression of the different parts of building was associated with the experiences I went through rather than the space it presented. I had very little emotional attachment with the studio as we did not have the luxury of having our own personal studio/space and I spent most of my time doing my project in my tiny room in International House rather than the studio itself. I remember the library well as this is the place we all rushed to after each lecture on history of architecture. The space I fear the most is the administration counter as the counter would close exactly on the dot without allowing any extra second for our submission! I remember the internal court with the ramp leading directly to the

administrative office fondly as it is the brightest part of the faculty and it was also through this space that we sneaked through the window into the office many times to use the computer for our assignment at night. I also remember the hall with great satisfaction as this is the place which I performed the 'ribbon dance' as part of the Architectural Review and received standing ovation.

I enjoyed my five years studying in Melbourne University and there are just too many memorable moments. I think it offered one of the most complete and holistic architectural courses. It was a tough course to go through but it trained us well in terms of design, technical, contract administrative and time management skills, and it has also made us more resilient and independent. We endured many sleepless nights through the years, from project to project, but we found a lot of joy and achievement in completing them on time.

## New Faculty Building for The University of Melbourne

IN 2008, THE UNIVERSITY APPROVED FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUILDING FOR THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING AND PLANNING, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE HIGH-QUALITY SPACES FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS WITHIN THE MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF DESIGN AS WELL AS SPACES IN SUPPORT OF UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING IN RELEVANT PATHWAYS.

The environment created for the Melbourne School of Design and the teaching of Bachelor of Environments design programs will be student centric, facilitative of a strong studio culture, equipped with the most appropriate technology and equipment and nurturing of strong staff-student relationships. At the same time it will continue to provide facilities to nurture the research on which the Faculty's reputation rests.

Above all, it will be designed for change as the faculty continues to develop its research and teaching programs to retain its position of leadership in the Asia-Pacific region.

The process for appointing the architects to work with the University and the Faculty to design the new building was via an international competition. The University elected to undertake a competition because this is deemed to be a significant new project for the Parkville campus, with a well informed and demanding user group and the potential to create a distinctive and highly innovative building that will set a new standard for campus facilities in the region.

### Project Scope

The new building will consist of educational facilities for staff and students, with a total floor area of approximately 18,000m<sup>2</sup>. The anticipated indicative budget for the new building will be approximately AU\$90 million for construction and fitout, plus consultant fees; a major portion of this sum has been committed by the University with the balance of the funding currently being sought from Federal, State, and private sources.

Construction is anticipated to commence in early 2011, with an anticipated completion date during 2013.

### Site and Heritage

The current Parkville Campus Masterplan identifies the existing location of the Architecture and Old Commerce buildings as the site for the new building; development of this site will be undertaken in accordance with the Masterplan.

These current buildings contain items of heritage significance including murals, stained glass windows, sculptures and statues. These elements will need to be addressed in the design response in accordance with University heritage management plans and policies and in consultation with relevant heritage committees and consultants

"BETWEEN 2009 AND 2012 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, THROUGH THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING AND PLANNING INTENDS TO DESIGN AND DELIVER A NEW ENVIRONMENT FOR TEACHING, LEARNING AND RESEARCH. THE UNIVERSITY WILL CHOOSE ITS PARTNERS CAREFULLY AND WILL SEEK TO INTEGRATE THE WORLD-CLASS EXPERTISE WHICH RESIDES IN ITS DISCIPLINES WITH THOSE OF ITS SELECTED CONSULTANTS"



**Preliminary Functional Brief**

The project will provide a series of innovative spaces for research, teaching, and learning, as well as informal spaces for staff and students to interact, relax, or study in between formal classes. These are anticipated to include:

- Research Space
- Administrative Space
- Design Studio Spaces
- Teaching Spaces
- Lecture Theatres
- Faculty Library
- Exhibition Space
- Workshops
- Café and Lounge

**Aspirational Brief**

The project is seen as a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity for the Faculty to achieve strategic objectives relating to the positioning of ABP and the MSD, with a commitment to innovation in relation to the design and delivery of an outstanding campus building. The aspiration of the faculty and the University is that the new building will demonstrate an outstanding level of quality in both the processes of design and development and in the finished product. The resulting design will provide an excellent working environment to encourage high quality research, teaching and learning.

**Process**

The project will be used to demonstrate the best possible processes of design, collaboration, procurement and construction, with all parties working closely together with the University, the Faculty, and with staff and students who will use the building into the

future. The project will also form the focus of a research program around issues relevant to the various professions and disciplines within the Faculty, with staff and students monitoring and recording the processes of design and construction.

**Quality**

The new building will demonstrate an outstanding level of quality in relation to all of the disciplines within the Faculty. It will be a building of international architectural merit, with highly integrated landscaping and urban design features that will make a significant contribution to the surrounding campus and community. It will demonstrate the best practices of engineering, fabrication, construction and servicing.

**Research, Teaching and Learning**

The new building will provide outstanding accommodation for research activities within the faculty, comprising individual and group projects between academic staff, visiting and professorial fellows, post-graduate students, and research assistants. It will provide outstanding facilities for formal interaction between staff and students, as well as for informal and peer-to-peer learning. In particular, the new building will strengthen studio teaching culture within the Melbourne School of Design, recognising the unique contribution of studio projects to student learning, which is dependent upon informal interaction, experimentation and discussion.

Studio spaces must be creative, tolerant of mess, able to be decorated and personalised, and focussed on making students feel valued.

**Environmental Performance**

The Building will demonstrate an outstanding level of environmental performance, expected to be a 6-star Greenstar rating (or equivalent) using Green Building Council of Australia rating system. The building will enable teaching and learning opportunities, with students being able to actively monitor and adjust the environmental features of the building in order to appreciate their impacts on the indoor environment as well as research opportunities for the broader Faculty agenda.

**Process**

The process for selecting the architect, architectural practice or architectural team to work with The University of Melbourne and the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning to design the new building was two-staged.

The request for expressions of interest (EOI) received over one hundred and thirty responses from architectural practice and partnerships. The Jury then evaluated all eligible respondents.

The Jury Consisted of

- Ms Odile Decq Architect
- Mr Peter Elliott Architect
- Professor Glyn Davis AC Vice-Chancellor, University of Melbourne
- Professor Tom Kvan (Chair) Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning
- Advisor to the Jury Mr Chris White Vice-Principal, Property and Campus Service, University of Melbourne
- Ms Carme Pinós Architect, also contributed to the juries discussion and deliberation

A shortlist of six Respondents were nominated to proceed to the second stage.

The criteria used to select the preferred Respondent was based on:

**Design Quality**

Creativity and innovation in interpreting the Faculty's functional needs and aspirations in built form making a substantial contribution to the campus; high degree of spatial quality and resolution; appropriate and culturally relevant architectural language; legibility and ease of use; interaction between internal and external environment; and flexibility and adaptability to suit changing needs.

**Value**

Strategies to meet the brief requirements, in particular the pedagogical and research aspirations of the Faculty, and provide short and long term value for money. Efficient and effective use of material and resources.

**Methodology**

A proposed methodology for working with the Faculty and the University to support the strategic ambitions for this project.

**Design and delivery capacity**

The methodology for providing timely, complete and correct services for the project including coordination of the consultant team suitable for the complex nature of this brief and client.

The six short-listed finalists were:

- Denton Corker Marshall Pty Ltd
- Diller Scofidio + Renfro
- John Wardle Architects & Office dA
- KoningEizenberg with William J Mitchell and Gehry Technologies
- McBride Charles Ryan
- Sauerbruch Hutton with NH Architecture

**John Wardle and Office dA win Melbourne School of Design competition**

The University of Melbourne has selected architectural consultants to design a new building to be located on the Parkville campus. The selected consultants are John Wardle Architects with Office dA.

The building will include dedicated spaces for research into sustainable building design and performance, along with lecture theatres, library, exhibition, and specialist workshop spaces. It will accommodate students enrolled in the Bachelor of Environments, (one of the degrees formed under the Melbourne Model), and in the Melbourne School of Design as well as provide offices for staff Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning.

The selection process began with a call for expressions of interest in March 2009, which attracted 133 submissions from leading architects in 15 countries. Six entrants were then selected to proceed to competition stage, with each paid to develop a conceptual response to the key issues of the brief. The competition was endorsed by the Australian Institute of Architects.

Shortlisted entrants addressed four key issues central to the project: Built Pedagogy, The Academic Environment, The Design Studio, and The Living Building. Submissions to the Jury consisted of a 45 minute multimedia presentation followed by a 45 minute question and answer session. In

evaluating the presentations, the Jury focussed on design quality, value, design and delivery capacity, and methodology for working with the University. The Jury were highly impressed by the presentations given by all six shortlisted practices, and noted the broad range of design responses and variety of innovative ideas.

The selected architects were distinguished by the quality of the partnership between Melbourne based John Wardle Architects and Boston based practice Office dA. Their scheme showed a strong integration of functional, environmental, and social issues in a design that would generate excitement for all staff and students. Professor Tom Kvan, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning, noted that the selected team "showed a detailed understanding of the teaching and research activities of the Faculty and the potential for contribution to research across the campus."

The University extends its appreciation to all those who submitted an expression of interest, and in particular the six shortlisted finalists, for their efforts. The University also wishes to thank external Jury members Odile Decq and Peter Elliott for their assistance in making the final selection. Presentation boards summarising the response from each of the shortlisted entrants were displayed in the Wunderlich Gallery at the Parkville campus throughout September. **A**



## Consult/Design/Build/

DAVID O'BRIEN AND HAMISH HILL

STUDENTS NOW VIEW THEIR EDUCATION AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RIGOROUSLY ENGAGE WITH THE WORLD AND THE MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF DESIGN OFFERS POSSIBILITIES TO ADDRESS KEY ISSUES WITHIN THE WIDER COMMUNITY. STUDENTS HAVE SHOWN THEIR KEENNESS TO ENROL IN PROGRAMS THAT ENABLE THEM TO CONTRIBUTE TO DEBATES ABOUT THE PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES OF SHELTER IN MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES BOTH WITHIN AUSTRALIA AND ABROAD.



One of the roles the university can play is to facilitate their student's wish to address community development needs, engage at the local level and at the same time keep an eye on the broader picture. Community groups, NGO's and service provider organizations are also showing interest in working with the university in joint partnerships where expertise and common goals are shared. For these stakeholder organizations the oblique problem solving skills used by students and their academic mentors generates solutions that might not come easily in their pragmatic day to day approach.

Just as the University sees its role as a 'triple helix' of teaching, research and knowledge transfer we also see our projects as an ongoing process of consultation, designing and building, with each facet informing the others. We are well placed to do this as our students

are highly motivated to use their skills to address complex problems. In the last year, two such projects have evolved with two groups of Melbourne School of Design students – one in rural Thailand and another in one of Darwin's 'town camps'. In both cases students consulted with a variety of stakeholders, designed and then built shelters at full-scale alongside local workers. Working with partner organizations they addressed 'real-world' problems and engaged with issues of sustainability in their many complex forms – cultural, environmental, economic and technical.

Preliminary exercises had the students conducting research, convening seminars, designing prototypes, documenting the construction process and scheduling and sourcing construction materials. This enabled them to confidently begin prefabricating building elements in the

Faculty workshop. Once the prefabricated components were complete the teams moved to the University's rural campus at Creswick for on-site construction. Here the students gained confidence, their familiarity with the tools and materials grew and their problem solving skills were put to the test over a three-day period. These preliminary exercises led towards the main component of each project – students forming partnerships to work outside the university on outreach projects. In both projects the subject coordinators have worked alongside students and community representatives building structures of significant size and complexity.

In 2008 a group of sixteen Melbourne School of Design students worked with students from Bangkok's Thammasat University, Population and Community Development Association (a Thai NGO) and the Ban Nong Thong Lim community

to build a sala (pavilion) for patients waiting at the government health clinic. Community representatives requested that the sala work in the traditional way and be open air and welcoming to the people using the clinic. A wise choice of construction technologies was a key consideration. After so much regional deforestation most contemporary construction in Thailand now uses concrete. The sala, built with steel framing and composite materials, tested possibilities to link traditional lightweight construction techniques with contemporary construction materials. In a broader sense this was testing possibilities that new housing could be built with traditional ideologies – reducing the need for air-conditioning and maintaining the open-air spaces that enhance community cohesion – as well as using new materials with lower environmental costs.

The project will continue with ongoing research investigating links between construction technologies, environmental costs and the cultural behaviours that accompany various uses of space. In 2010 a new team of students from both universities will again collaborate with the NGO and Ban Nong Thong Lim community to investigate housing types using lightweight materials.

The second of our on-going projects is located in Australia's 'top-end'. Although the climate and need for housing is similar to Thailand there are vastly different cultural contexts. The federal government's Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) and well-publicised 'intervention' program have brought indigenous housing to the attention of mainstream Australia. Whereas the agencies once responsible for indigenous housing in the Northern Territory were criticised for too little consultation the claim today is that there is too much consultation with too little housing being built. Today's media provides many commentaries speaking

of the vast sums allocated by the federal government, but with little (or no) housing having been recently built. Paradoxically there are reports from the communities themselves that the consultation process is inadequate. How much consultation with indigenous communities is the 'right' amount?

How should this consultation process be managed and with what outcomes in mind?

With these questions in mind, two groups of Melbourne School of Design students have been involved in subjects that work with two indigenous communities in Darwin's 'town camps'. At the community's request early projects looked at providing design ideas for housing 'long-grassers' – generally itinerant young men who have been held responsible for many of the problems facing indigenous communities. However, after consultation students were invited to recycle one of the derelict houses in the Gudorrka Community. The steel-framed houses were in appalling condition with no bathroom or cooking facilities and no outdoor shaded areas. With \$50,000 funding from a variety of sources the sixteen students, two staff and help from local men and children, we 'blitzed' the house over a ten day period and recycled it into a respectable house. The new residents – one of whom had been born in the house three decades ago – were eager participants in the process and are delighted with the outcome. The renovated house had significantly less environmental impact than a new house, cost one-tenth as much and was completed in a vastly shorter time-span. It also linked the indoors with outdoors to provide greater levels of comfort and a closer connection with the land. This project did not end there – the students then used their experience to design some further facilities for this community and the neighbouring 'Knuckies Lagoon' mob. Their designs are being reviewed by both

mobs, and local government funding agencies, before another group of students comes to continue the project in 2010.

These structures, in both Thailand and Darwin, are only parts of a larger process. The intent has been to use the construction processes and outcomes as a way to stimulate further discussions with the community groups involved. Marginalised communities are not well used to making decisions about their environments and their shelter. Traditionally they have had little or no choice. The process of talking, designing and then building together opens up many opportunities for a more useful dialogue which then enriches the ideas, processes and outcomes for the next project and so on. Successes and failures become more 'real' when viewed from a more level playing field and methods to improve outcomes more easily understood. More broadly speaking the outcomes from the projects are used to contribute to wider discussions about sustainable housing and shelter for groups living in tropical climates.

Projects of this complexity do not come about easily and there are many groups contributing to their successes. In Thailand we would like to thank Thammasat University, Population and Community Development Association and the Ban Nong Thong Lim community. In Australia we would like to thank the Gudorrka and Knuckies Lagoon communities, Yilli Rrueng Housing, FACSIA, Ironbark Employment, Indigenous Community Volunteers, the Aboriginal Development Foundation, Territory Housing and our industry partners including Lightsteel Industries, Modwood, Bluey Technologies, Danpalon and Bluescope. We also appreciate that The University of Melbourne has contributed by awarding a group of students financial support through the Knowledge Transfer Student Awards. A

## Faculty Exhibitions 2009

It's been a busy year so far for Faculty exhibitions.

With the refurbishment of the Wunderlich Gallery on the ground floor, of the Architecture Building and upgrading of the Atrium display area we saw an increased number of exhibitions held this year. Here is a sample of what has been shown. The end of year EYES exhibition and graduate shows will be held in November and December. Visit [www.abp.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au) to keep up to date with all of our events.

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p><b>26 – 29 February</b> Eco-City Melbourne Exhibition Shed 4, The Docklands, Melbourne</p>	<p><b>16 – 20 March</b> Sheela Patel: Selected projects from SPARC - Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p> <p><b>20 March – 3 April</b> Combined Graduate Prize The Atrium, Architecture</p>	<p><b>6 – 17 April</b> 2009 AIA Student Biennale Travelling Exhibition The Atrium, Architecture building</p> <p><b>6 – 17 April</b> Stuttgart Design Workshop Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p> <p><b>20 – 27 April</b> Designing Environments Exhibition Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p> <p><b>27 April – 15 May</b> Winston Shu: Selected projects of Integrated Design Associates, Hong Kong Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p>	<p><b>12 – 19 May</b> Urban Design Theory The Atrium, Architecture building</p> <p><b>18 – 29 May</b> Energy efficient buildings and rating Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p> <p><b>19 – 28 May</b> Urban Design Studies Exhibition of student design projects The Atrium, Architecture building</p>	<p><b>1 – 4 June</b> Integrated Arcade Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p> <p><b>1 – 8 June</b> From Urban Morphology to Building Typology: Ljubljana's new CBD The Atrium, Architecture building</p> <p><b>5 – 19 June</b> Instruments + Environments Master of Architecture design studio projects Upper Level, Lonsdale Street Bridge Melbourne Central Shopping Centre</p>	<p><b>9 – 12 June</b> Representing and Remembering Place: an exhibition of ATLAS projects Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p> <p><b>15 – 19 June</b> Liquid Futures Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p> <p><b>15 – 26 June</b> Sticks + Stones Ground Floor, Architecture building</p> <p><b>23 – 29 June</b> Grid, Corridor and Field The Open Space Gallery Eckersleys, 97 Franklin Street, Melbourne</p>	<p><b>1 – 31 July</b> ABstraction FABrication: Fabrication Design Studio Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p> <p><b>3 – 9 August</b> Carme Pinós: Selected works from Studio Carme Pinós, Barcelona Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p> <p><b>4 – 12 August</b> Combined University Architecture Student Ideas Competition - Parliament House The Atrium, Architecture building</p> <p><b>10 – 31 August</b> MacroMicro Odile Decq: Selected works from ODBC Architects, Paris Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p>	<p><b>1 – 30 September</b> Architectural Design Competition: New building for the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER
<p><b>5 – 16 October</b> Overlooking: eight student proposals for a new ABP library Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p> <p><b>12 – 23 October</b> Feminist Practices: 12 women architects investigating 3rd wave feminism Atrium Annex Gallery, Architecture building</p>	<p><b>9 – 16 October</b> Footprints, Fables &amp; Blisters Indigenous Perceptions of Landscape Architecture Studio The Atrium, Architecture building</p> <p><b>20 – 23 October</b> Redesign of the Carlton Baths studio The Atrium, Architecture building</p>	<p><b>26 October – 2 November</b> Construction Exhibition Atrium Annex Gallery, Architecture building</p> <p><b>26 October – 2 November</b> Talking Spaces – Smart Green Schools The Atrium, Architecture building</p> <p><b>26 October – 13 November</b> Public Works: Peter Elliott Architecture + Urban Design Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture building</p>	<p><b>3 – 6 November</b> Façade Design and Performance exhibition The Atrium, Architecture building</p>	<p><b>9 – 12 November</b> Discovery, Recovery and Community Chile International Travelling Studio Exhibition The Atrium, Architecture building</p>	<p><b>13 – 23 November</b> EYES exhibition Architecture building</p> <p><b>27 November – 11 December</b> Graduate Design Exhibition Architecture building</p>		



INAUGURAL PROFESSORIAL LECTURE

26.08.09

## Shaping Urban Policy: googling 'best practice' in developing countries

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE'S NEW CHAIR IN URBAN PLANNING, PROF RICHARD TOMLINSON, DELIVERED HIS INAUGURAL PROFESSORIAL LECTURE.

In his lecture, titled "Shaping Urban Policy: googling 'best practice' in developing countries", Professor Tomlinson examined the urban policy process in developing countries.

"The lecture traces the influence of best practice during policy formulation and the role of the web in disseminating best-practice concepts. These concepts are dominated by the World Bank, UN Habitat and the Cities Alliance, and this domination is arguably not in the public interest," he says.

"My research concerns search engine optimization and the best practice regime, and how this impacts on professionals and civil society, particularly regarding its contribution to the democratization of the policy formulation process."

Professor Tomlinson, Chair in Urban Planning at the University of Melbourne, is an expert in housing and infrastructure, urban development in a context of HIV/AIDS, urban policy processes and international best practice, and mega-events and their impact on urban economic development. He recently co-edited a book on 'Development and Dreams: The urban legacy of the 2010 Football World Cup'.

Prior to joining the University, Professor Tomlinson served as a Visiting Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand and at Columbia University, as a Visiting Scholar at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and as a Guest Scholar at the Brookings Institution and at the New School University. He has also acted as a consultant to the post-apartheid South African government, USAID and the World Bank.



SPECIAL DEAN'S LECTURE

13.08.09

## Odile Decq ODBC Architects, Paris 'Horizons'

IN CONJUNCTION WITH HER PARTICIPATION IN THE JUDGING OF THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE BUILDING & PLANNING NEW BUILDING COMPETITION, INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED ARCHITECT ODILE DECQ DELIVERED A SPECIAL DEAN'S LECTURE.

Odile Decq set up her own office just after graduating at l'Ecole de la Villette in 1978 and while studying at Sciences Politiques Paris where she completed a post-graduate diploma in Town Planning in 1979.

International renown came as early as 1990, with her first major commission, the Banque Populaire de l'Ouest in Rennes. The numerous prizes and publications that distinguished the building underlined the emergence of a new hope directly born from the punk rebellion which turned old conventions upside down. From then on, 'Odile Decq Benoit Cornette' was considered a tool for the future, and the projects as desire generators.

By questioning the commission, the use, the matter, the body, the technique, the taste, their architecture offers a paradoxical look, both tender and severe, on today's world - the A14 viaduct in Nanterre, the buildings for the Economic Sciences University Department and the University of Law Library in Nantes. They were awarded with a Golden Lion in Venice in 1996.

Alone since 1998, Odile Decq has been faithful to her fighting attitude, while diversifying and radicalizing her research. Each project is meant to be a jubilatory explosion for the senses and can be seen in buildings such as the Museum of Contemporary Art in Rome. Other projects, the L Museum in Austria, the FRAC de Bretagne in Rennes, the apartment building in Florence ironically dance with the camouflaging habits of daily architecture and suggest smiling at the city or the environment.



DEAN'S LECTURE SERIES

04.08.09

## Architecture comes from both a physical and spiritual need, says award-winning Spanish architect Carme Pinós

THERE ARE NO ESTABLISHED RULES IN ARCHITECTURE BEYOND THOSE REQUESTED BY THE CLIENT AND IMPOSED BY THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT, CLAIMS WORLD RENOWNED ARCHITECT CARME PINÓS.

Carme Pinós delivered the Melbourne School of Design's August Deans Lecture, "From the Context", at the University of Melbourne's Carillo Gantner Theatre.

Her approach to architecture is based on the understanding that architecture comes out of observing and reading our surroundings and through this a dialogue is started.

"Architecture is born from a need - physical as well as spiritual. There are no established rules, just the ones that we discover as we understand our surroundings and what is requested."

"The formal game by which we materialize architecture follows the intentions set by ourselves after interpreting the program, understanding the context. We should be aware of the intentions so that the formal game won't be empty."

Carme Pinós was recently awarded the National Prize of Architecture and Public Space by the Catalan Government for her work. She has received many other awards during her career including the National Prize of Architecture by the Consejo Superior de los Arquitectos of Spain in 1995 for the Boarding-school in Morella and the Arqcatmón Prize from the Colegio de Arquitectos de Catalunya in 2005 for the Cube Tower in Guadalajara. She also received professional recognition alongside Enric Miralles with projects including the Cemetery of Igualada (First Prize in the European Biennale of Architecture in Milan 1991).



08.09.09

## Making nature centre stage: world renowned landscape architect at University of Melbourne

HIGHLIGHTING THE UNIQUENESS OF THE ENVIRONMENT WAS VLADIMIR DJUROVIC'S PRIORITY DURING HIS MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF DESIGN LECTURE.

In "Landscapes of Living", the Principal of Vladimir Djurovic Landscape Architecture (Lebanon) discussed his commitment to drawing out the uniqueness of an environment with simplicity of gesture that gives nature the stage, "guided by a philosophy of the esoteric but pragmatic, luxurious but minimal."

"Curating the indigenous with the contemporary, while creating landscapes from which forms emerge in synergic action with a poetic functionalism, is the aim," says Djurovic. "The fluency of architectural composition and the refined simplicity of spaces provide a unique encounter between the language of the natural world and the senses."

His lecture provides an accessible introduction to this new approach to landscape architecture in which the audience will be taken through a selection of key projects from Vladimir Djurovic Landscape Architecture.

The firm has gained international recognition for their approach to innovative design work, winning awards such as the Cityscape Architectural Review Awards, the Aga Khan Award for Architecture as well as the American Society of Landscape Architects 2007 Award of Excellence and the American Society of Landscape Architects 2008 Award of Honor. **A**



## Inaugural event of the ABP Alumni Retrospective Series

## Biennale

### PUBLIC WORKS

PETER ELLIOTT ARCHITECTURE  
+ URBAN DESIGN

26 OCTOBER – 13 NOVEMBER 2009

OPENS @ 6PM, MONDAY 26 OCTOBER

The idea for this “public works” exhibition derives from a long standing interest and investigation into the changing nature of cities, public space and public architecture.

The practice has worked almost exclusively on public commissions for over 30 years within inner Melbourne. This is a small local world, but one which has been progressively informed by forensic observation, the work of other seminal designers, teaching, travelling, books, conversation and ultimately the work itself.

We see architecture, landscape & urban design as sharing a common endeavour. We admire those practitioners who work across all design boundaries and understand and value the place they work in. Our involvement in urban public architecture has happened almost by accident as a body of projects and way of working has developed over time - each commission informing the next.

We like cities and the constant change they undergo. We also like the idea that cities are constructed by many generations and that our contribution has to negotiate its place among many others.

The exhibition sampling includes some urban infrastructure projects which construct new public spaces like road architecture, or urban architecture projects which locate new buildings or additions within the established fabric of the city.

PUBLIC WORKS an exhibition of Peter Elliott Architecture + Urban Design will be held in the Wunderlich Gallery, Ground Floor, Architecture Building, the University of Melbourne.

Opening hours: 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. Free entry.

For further information please contact [abp-events@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:abp-events@unimelb.edu.au)

### ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHER

JOHN GOLLINGS AND MELBOURNE-BASED ARCHITECT IVAN RIJAVEC WILL HEAD THE CREATIVE TEAM FOR THE AUSTRALIAN PAVILION AT THE UPCOMING 12TH VENICE INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE.

The team's two-part 'NOW + WHEN Australian Urbanism' exhibition will highlight three of Australia's most interesting urban regions as they are 'now', before dramatically representing futuristic urban environments as they may be 'when' we reach 2100.

Opening in September 2010, the exhibition will feature a range of dazzlingly visceral digital stereoscopic (three-dimensional) images, which will fill the two-level Philip Cox designed Australian Pavilion and represent both the NOW and WHEN components.

The full 2010 creative directors team comprises Australia's pre-eminent architectural photographer John Gollings, leading Melbourne-based architect Ivan Rijavec, graphic designer David Pidgeon, astrophysicist Professor Jeffrey Shaw, architect and sound designer Nick Murray and 3D experts Sam Slicer and Daniel Flood.

A total of 29 submissions were received for the role of creative director, with five proposals shortlisted in a rigorous selection process ahead of today's announcement of the winning team.

The Venice Architecture Biennale was inaugurated in 1980 and is now held every two years, alternating with the Art Biennale. Thousands of the world's leading architects and city planners plus more than 52,000 people visited the 2008 Australian Pavilion.

Australia's attendance at the Venice Architecture Biennale is an initiative of the Australian Institute of Architects, which pledged funding for each of three Venice Architecture Biennales - 2006, 2008 and 2010.

## Scott Madigan

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT GRADUATE

AFTER COMPLETING VCE IN 2003, I WANTED TO WORK IN A CHALLENGING AND CONTINUALLY EVOLVING ENVIRONMENT, WITH A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

Upon reviewing the options, I found The University of Melbourne's Bachelor of Property and Construction to be both the most industry focused and suitably broad course.

Over the following four years, I completed the Bachelor of Planning and Design (Property and Construction), followed immediately by the Bachelor of Property and Construction Honors in 2007. Thanks to the support of the Faculty, I had already accrued three years of practical experience working for Australian/international builder Multiplex (now known as Brookfield Multiplex). I strongly believe that one of the most important and career-enabling aspect of the course was the faculty's eagerness to involve students in the industry as early as possible, which complimented studies and gave me kick-start in my career.

Almost immediately after completing my studies, I was transferred within Multiplex, to a new role as Site Manager at the Renaissance Dubai Hotel project. The project included the construction of a 28 level, 5-Star Marriot Hotel and Bridge

adjoining the Autodrome Showroom and Office Tower, in a large scale development known as Motor City in Dubai, UAE.

The project offered an opportunity to deal with a wide variety of challenges. I was responsible for leading a team of engineers and supervisors to manage the operation and progress of a 24/7 construction site, working in extreme temperatures with over 2000 laborers. It was incredibly important to adhere to stringent progress, safety and quality standards, in strict coordination with clients, consultants, suppliers and subcontractors from around the world.

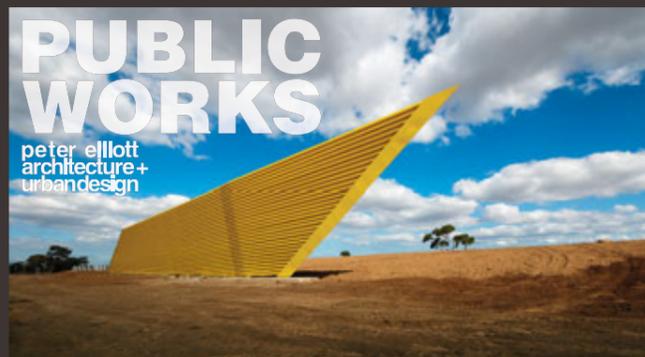
These experiences have helped me develop a unique set of communication, problem solving and managerial skills, as well as a relentless proactive work ethic. I believe that the variety of subjects offered during my studies greatly improved my ability to communicate with different people throughout the industry, from tradesmen, architects, structural engineers, services engineers, developers, to lawyers, accountants and other corporate bodies.

Some of my tasks have included:

- Setting the pace in a site progress meeting
- Debating design details in a technical meeting
- Taking commercial action to mitigate project risks
- Flying around the globe to fast track material procurement
- Re-allocating manpower, plant and equipment to improve site efficiency
- Resolving industrial disputes in varying languages
- Breaking traditional work practices to improve safety
- Delivering a world class building on time without compromising quality

I am glad I decided to tackle the building industry, and that I used the Bachelor of Property and Construction at The University of Melbourne as my stepping stone. I look forward to continuing to travel the world as an expatriate, searching for more challenges and opportunities.

For more information about graduate courses in the Melbourne School of Design, including Construction Management visit [www.msd.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.msd.unimelb.edu.au) **A**



## From the Faculty

### CONGRATULATIONS

**Paolo Tombesi** was confirmed as our new Chair in Construction at The University of Melbourne. From 2009 he is also Visiting Professor at the School of Construction Management and Engineering of the University of Reading (UK).

**Ruth Fincher, Kate Shaw, Paolo Tombesi and Andrew Martel** won a 2009 Vice-Chancellor's Knowledge Transfer Award for their project '*Transnational and Temporary: Students in Central Melbourne*'. The awards celebrate knowledge transfer achievements of University of Melbourne staff and students.

**Janet McGaw** won the John Grice Research Prize in Architecture for 2008. The John Grice Prize is awarded for excellence in a PhD or Masters thesis by a research postgraduate student in Architecture.

**Hannah Lewi** was elected Chair of DOCOMOMO Australia in July. Joining her on the executive are two ABP PhD students, **Jennifer Mitchelhill** and **Christine Phillips**.

SJB Architects Director and Partner **Adam Haddow** (BArch (Hons) 1997) was awarded the National Future Leader Award at the 2009 Property Council of Australia Rider Levett Bucknall Awards for Innovation and Excellence in June.

### EXHIBITIONS, LECTURES AND EXPEDITIONS

Forty-five Master of Architecture students from the Melbourne School of Design were involved in the exhibition **Grid, Corridor & Field** at Eckersley's Open Space Gallery over winter. The students presented an array of visionary propositions to critical issues confronting the life and design of our city.

**Jillian Walliss, Julie Willis, Hannah Lewi, Paul Walker, Philip Goad** and **Cameron Logan** all presented papers at the SAHANZ (Society of Architectural Historians of Australia and New Zealand) conference in Auckland in July.

**Hemanta Doloi** conducted a corporate training course on '*Integrated Cost and Schedule Control in Projects*' to over 40 professionals in Hong Kong, KL and Singapore in July. Organised through the Applied Technology Group based in Singapore, this initiative promotes diversity of teaching in the Melbourne School of Design.

**Philip Goad** was a keynote speaker at '*(Un)loved Modern: Conservation of 20th century Heritage*', the annual conference of Australia ICOMOS in Sydney in July. Other presenters from ABP were **Anna Ely, Hannah Lewi** and **Peter Raisbeck**.

**Professor Haig Beck and Melbourne School of Design** students recently visited Ahmedabad, for a travelling studio. This studio is a design-based investigation in an Indian urban setting – the city of Ahmedabad. Ahmedabad, in the state of Gujarat in western India, is the site of four buildings by Le Corbusier (two houses, a museum and the famous Mill Owners' Building).

**Ray Green** lead a studio through Santiago, Chile focusing on the new design for the settlement town of Chaitén which was evacuated following the eruption of the Chaitén Volcano in May 2008. The design for Nuevo Chaitén will incorporate a range of sustainable design solutions; such as finding ways in which their future energy needs might be met through the adoption of technologies for producing alternative energy – wind, solar and tidal.

**Lindy Joubert** was invited by the City of Yokohama, Japan to be a guest speaker at the Creative City International Conference in September.

### BOOKS

**Victor Chen** was invited by OECD to attend an experts meeting in Paris about the Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) as a discussant focusing on the STRI for construction services in July. Victor then visited Beijing where he coordinated a two-week summer school program on international construction, infrastructure and property based at Tsinghua University.

**Ajibade Aibinu** presented a talk on '*Preventing Project Delivery Failure and its Implication to the Bottom Line*' at the 2009 Asian Business Forum (ABF) Construction Cost and Management Conference in Singapore.

Once again the faculty will be hosting the annual **Graduate Exhibition and Everyones Year End Show (EYES)**. For more information visit <http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/aboutus/events/>

**Dominique Hes'** new book *ESD Operations Guide for owners, managers and tenants* was published by the Australian Government to support the optimisation of the environmental performance of existing buildings and infrastructure.

**Carolyn Whitzman's** new book *Suburb, Slum, Urban Village*, published by University of British Columbia Press, was launched in Toronto in August.

**Philip Goad** was co-editor (with Ann Stephens and Andrew McNamara) of *Modern Times: The Untold Story of Modernism in Australia*, published by Miegunyah Press. The book coincided with the Powerhouse Museum's travelling exhibition *Modern Times*.

### FUNDING/ GRANT SUCCESS

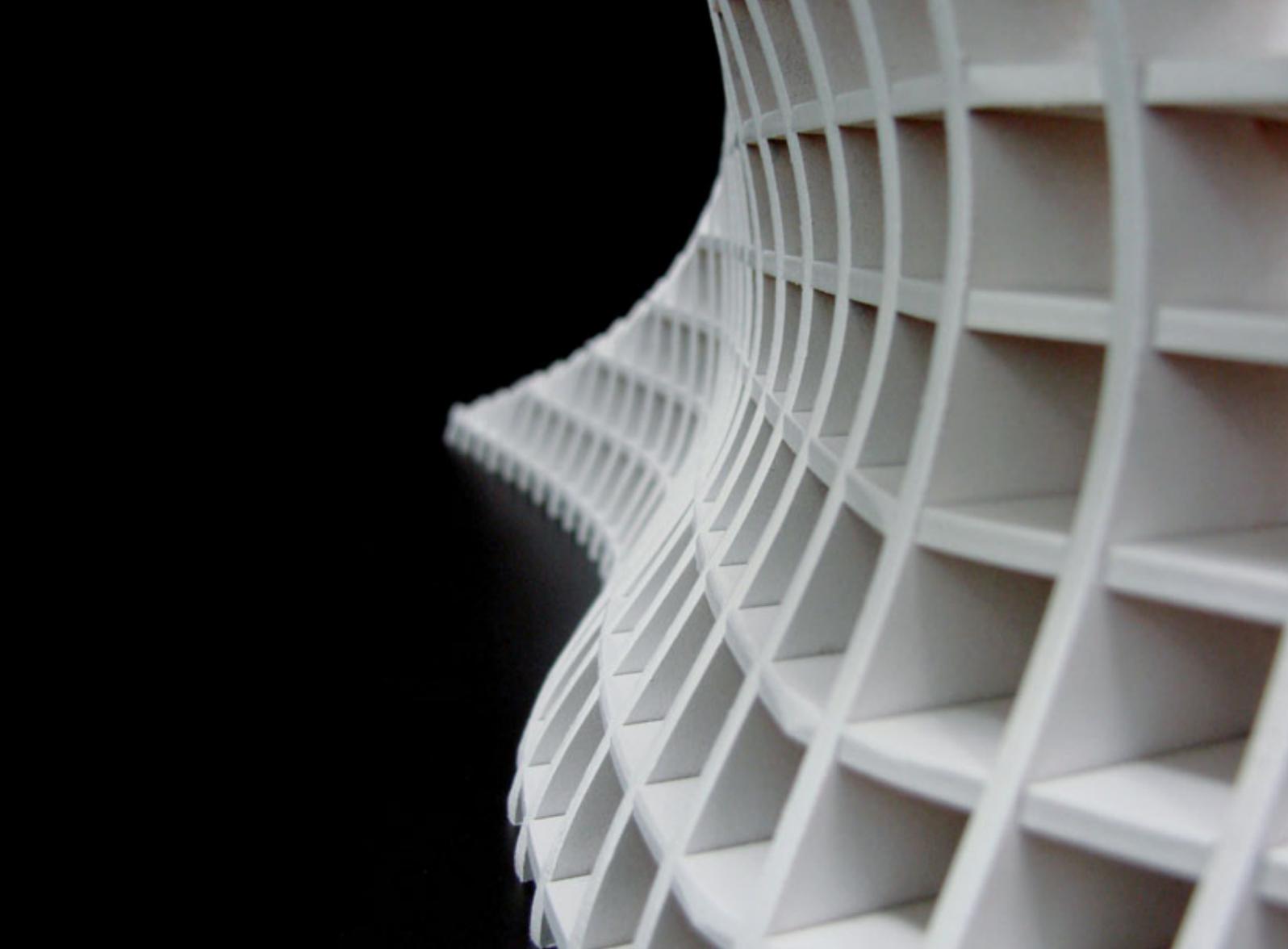
Several ABP staff recently received University Research Collaboration Grants: **Alan March** with the Country Fire Authority for '*Bushfire Risk Reduction through Subdivision Design Parameters*'; **Eckhart Hertzsch** and **Chris Heywood** with Meinhardt Australia Pty Ltd for '*Second Life for Buildings: Life-Cycle Investing for Sustainable Refurbishments*'; **Peter Raisbeck** with Arup Pty Ltd for '*Creating and Managing Design Knowledge Using Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) Procurement*'. Each project was awarded \$19,000 to seed a research idea in partnership with industry, leading to an ARC Linkage proposal.

**Flavia Marcello** was successful in obtaining a Grant from the Cultural and Community Relations Advisory Group, in collaboration with Dr. Anthony White, for the School of Culture and Communications. The project is the '*INTER SPACES: Art and Architectural Exchanges from East to West*' conference scheduled for August 2010.

**Siqing Chen, Hao Wu** and **Victor Chen** were recognised in the recent University ECR (Early Career Researcher) grants round.

**Siqing Chen** – *Simulating the carbon footprint of urban development for metropolitan Melbourne*

**Hao Wu** and **Victor Chen** – *Inner city brownfields for sustainable residential property development and construction A*



# Atrium

11 | 2009

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