In March 2005, ten Master of Landscape Architecture students enrolled in the subject Landscape Masters Studio were landed in a remote part of Victoria and asked to redesign an existing 500m long boardwalk and its setting. The site was Wingan Inlet, which lies within the C Maeagalong National Park, far-east Gippsland. The existing boardwalk is a casualty of the booming Occupational Health and Safety regulatory environment currently afflicting most government departments. There are few amenities at Wingan, the most luxurious being a couple of pit toilets. Mobile phones don’t work. Within a couple of days, most battery packs were dead and digital cameras put away. The catch phrase for the group became ‘Get Amongst It’.

Of the group of ten, five were international students, each from a different country. A few ‘hangers-on’, also from countries other than Australia, not only helped reduce the cost of the bus-hire for the students enrolled in the subject, but also made for a wealth of cultural backgrounds. Most had never been out of Melbourne, so to be driven for eight hours in any direction was a first-time experience in Australia. Our destination, bureaucratically speaking, was a site of ‘high wilderness value’. But in terms of our experience, the mixing pot of culture, design, individual personalities and food made any stereotype of wilderness experience irrelevant.

Each day started at 5am with watercolour drawing down by the water, followed by breakfast shortly after. Daytime activities were drawing, analysis, walking, talking, surf-fishing and swimming. At night: three-hour-long meals sessions around the fire, fresh fish, an abalone cook-off, weird foods prepared in darkness, drink. Sleep. Naturally, a ‘non-site’ precipitated once back in Melbourne.

First, as an exhibition in the Faculty’s atrium space, when a tent appeared and dislocated camping detritus materialised as a result of an ‘exhibition opening’. Continued...
Almost 100 architecture, property and construction, and landscape architecture students participated in the Career Mentor Connection (CMC) program. The CMC program is one of several Faculty initiatives aiming to provide students with a well-rounded experience of university life - focusing not only on academic achievement but also on their transition from university to workforce. CMC gives students a first-hand look at today's working life through site and workplace visits, as well as opportunities to develop networks and to learn about job options.

The mentoring program has been great in helping me see how my study relates to what I will be doing after graduation. It has also helped me see what life is like at an architecture firm - so that when I do have to do work experience next year I will know what to expect.

For further information about the CMC, or if you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Liz Everist on Tel: +61 3 8344 3377, or email: l.everist@unimelb.edu.au

ABB launches Australia's first Workplace Planning and Design degrees

Three new postgraduate courses in Workplace Planning and Design will be offered by the Faculty in 2006. The first of their kind in Australia, the degrees embrace the interrelationship between people, organisational culture, work processes, information technology and management. They are aimed at professionals who want to enhance workplace performance through better use of work space and accommodation resources. Fields covered include health, education, and commercial office design.

The new courses are:
- Master of Workplace Planning and Design
- Postgraduate Diploma in Workplace Planning and Design
- Postgraduate Certificate in Strategic Workplace Planning

The development of the Workplace Planning and Design program has been a long-term project for ABP's Professor Graham Brawn. "The program is unique in Australia - and will be ideal for designers and managers who deal with complex, dynamic, and ambiguous work environments," Professor Brawn said.

The assistance of professional partners in the design of the program has been invaluable with both James Calder, (DEGW), and Corbett Lyon (Lyons), playing leading roles in its development. While the focus is on the strategic planning of spaces and design of the workplace, classes do not assume a prior design qualification. They encourage the interaction of workplace managers, architects, interior designers, property developers, facility planners and project managers.

The courses offer flexible delivery of subjects, usually taught intensively, and can be taken full-time, part-time, or a hybrid of full-time and part-time.

For more course information contact:
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Over the past three years, l'Ecole d'Architecture et de Paysage de Bordeaux (EPA), the Faculty of Architecture, Karl-Ferdinand University (KFU), Bangkok and ABP conducted an exciting project – BMB (Bangkok-Marseille-Bordeaux). The formal part of BMB was completed in Bordeaux in April this year, with our third design-research workshop and an International Symposium, Identity and Globalisation: Design for the City.

BMB staff members David Boisthm from Bangkok, Claire Pann from Bordeaux and Catherine But with Darko Radovic from Melbourne, are now writing a book, with a working title Can Our Identités Survie? The BMB Experiment in Cross-cultural City Design. The intention is to summarise and theorise the BMB experiences, and to offer them for general discussion. The book will be available online at www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/atrium/

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Career Mentoring Program 2005

Honorary Doctors

The Faculty was delighted to award two Honorary Doctors in 2005, to Professor Patrick Troy, one of Australia's pre-eminent urban policy thinkers, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Architecture.

Professor Patrick Troy graduated in Engineering from the University of Western Australia, before undertaking postgraduate training in urban planning at the University of Melbourne and the United Kingdom, and in highway engineering at the University of New South Wales. He is well known for his commitment to environmental sustainability and social justice, and he has been heavily involved with the social and environmental questions associated with urban policy and planning throughout his working life. As the widely acknowledged architect of the Commonwealth Department of Urban and Regional Development programs in the 1970s, he has made a profound and lasting impact on urban policy making across the country. He has worked extensively with state governments across Australia, and served on land commissions and a number of other public bodies, as well as spending time in Paris at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Professor Graham Brawn and Mr Hugh O'Neill celebrate Dr Burgess's honorary doctorate.

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Mentoring Program 2005

Almost 100 architecture, property and construction, and landscape architecture students participated in the Career Mentor Connection (CMC) program. The CMC program is one of several Faculty initiatives aiming to provide students with a well-rounded experience of university life - focusing not only on academic achievement but also on their transition from university to workforce. CMC gives students a first-hand look at today's working life through site and workplace visits, as well as opportunities to develop networks and to learn about job options.

Program Coordinator Lisa Dight says: "The mentors love it because it has very clear guidelines, is not too time consuming, and is a great way to 'give back' to the community and the profession. The students love it because it allows them to see the practical application of theories and techniques they are learning at university."

The program matches students with a mentor based on interests and location, and involves six meetings throughout the year.

Three year architecture student Fiona Lew was placed with mentor Peter Mulat, of Melbourne architecture firm Six Degrees. Fiona says: "I have already done one workplace visit, and we are planning to do a site visit soon. It has been fantastic to hear about the different projects Pete has worked on, and to learn about how he set up his own practice after graduating. It gives me inspiration for what I might do in the future.

The mentoring program has been great in helping me see how my study relates to what I will be doing after graduation. It has also helped me see what life is like at an architecture firm - so that when I do have to do work experience next year I will know what to expect."

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Most of us felt the question of a boardwalk was inappropriate or that the existing boardwalk, eclectic and unsafe as it is, was worth keeping. In this sense, the non-site became a kind of 'bulldust barometer' in the context of such a needy brief in designing (concealing) a redesigned boardwalk in relatively untrammelled nature. Early efforts at design were shier nonsense; the work that students produced was no match for the real life experiences that struggled for expression. Some felt landscape architecture to be irrelevant in this case, and that to design a boardwalk was missing the point. While the final designs that the students came up with exceeded expectations and pushed the boundaries of the formulaic, what was once a throw away line ended up becoming a maxim: 'Get Amongst It!'"
ABP alumni win Silver Medal at World Expo: Aichi, Japan

ABP alumni Dik Jarman (BArch Hons 1992) and Dylan Brady (BArch Hons 1997) are directors, together with Dirk Zimmermann (BArch 1997 UK), of Studio 505, a multidisciplinary architecture and design studio based in Melbourne and Sydney. Lucy Knox-Knight (BArch Hons 1998) is also on staff at Studio 505. This year their work was showcased as part of the 2005 World Exposition held in Aichi, Japan. Studio 505 designed the highly acclaimed Australian Pavilion for the 2005 World Exhibition, developed in collaboration with Think/ITI for the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The Australian Pavilion was awarded a Silver Medal by the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) for content and theme development. The award evaluated the excellence of development ideas and messages created by participants under the theme of the Exhibition - Nature's Wisdom. The jury considered how pavilions communicated the participating countries' efforts to solve issues related to nature conservation, biodiversity, cultural diversity, establishment of long-lasting peace, mutual understanding and the strengthening of international exchange. This is the first time an Australian Pavilion has won a BIE award.

Research Funding Success

ABP’s academic staff have been very successful in attracting research funding in the last year, with 20 ABP staff receiving funding for significant projects. Successful staff come from across ABP’s programs with a considerable number of grants going to interdisciplinary teams.
Lucy Benguma

Lucy Benguma, the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture's first student from Papua New Guinea, joined ARAF in 2004 with the support of an AusAID scholarship. Lucy is from the East Sepik province of Papua New Guinea and her own village, Haripmo, is both remote and relatively culturally intact. The village of Haripmo is situated on the Sepik plains which are characterized by flood plains and low lands. As a consequence, Lucy’s village boasts no road infrastructure to speak of. Transport is by foot or by river in canoes and boats. Alternatively, villagers walk several kilometers to a single bitumen road which bisects the province and where they catch trucks and buses.

The East Sepik province is home to a great diversity of peoples, some of whom include the Sause, the Yangoru, Numbo, Abalam and Arapu. Lucy and her people live in the Sause electorate. The Haripmo village still retains a subsistence farming economic base and approximately 95% of the village population rely on subsistence farming for their livelihoods.

Lucy is the eldest girl in a family of eight children. Her father raised livestock and ran a trade store, of Federation Square, Melbourne has captured the imagination of visitors and residents alike. At the heart of its appeal is Nearamnew, a 7500 square metre ground pattern woven into the fabric of the square’s main plaza. In collaboration, artist Paul Carter and Lab Architecture Studio have produced a complex poetic sculpture that is public artwork at its best.

Mythform tells the story of how this extraordinary work was conceived, developed and installed. A selection from some of the hundreds of studies, drawings and plans made over the four years of design and construction allow the reader behind the scenes into the making of this immense project. Paul Carter’s commentary provides insights into how the ‘concrete poems’ of Nearamnew were cast, as well as the poetry of its materials and the poetic place-making strategy employed. The new Australian landscape architecture created by JCY is symbolic of the extreme colours and context of Western Australia. The volumetric, figurative and formal explorations of their public buildings are immediately identifiable, and JCY are now one of Australia’s most significant and influential architectural practices.

Mythform is a magnificent visual essay that captures the many moods, colours and stories hidden within Nearamnew. It shows precisely why the work is such a critical and popular success. The architecture reflects the excitement and dynamism of the emerging countries of the region. The new Australian architecture reflects the excitement and dynamism of the emerging countries of the region. The architectural revolution during the period 1983 to 2004, as the city turned its face to the water and the world, re-imagining itself to attract new flows of global capital.

Lucy speaks of her village as a place to go and relax, as a place where there is water, food, fuel—just about everything. However, a caution to the adventurous amongst you, Lucy recounts that it takes about a year to establish yourself in Haripmo—this basically represents the period of time it takes to establish a food garden in order to generate a continuous supply of fresh food.

Lucy is the eldest girl in a family of eight children. Her father raised livestock and ran a trade store, and, when it came time to begin secondary education, Lucy went to the nearest town of Weewak where she lived and later worked in institutional housing. She was unable to complete her tertiary studies due to the cultural requirements of the Wantok system which require the family member who is working to support the rest of the family who reside in the village. In addition, as Lucy’s younger siblings came of secondary and tertiary education age, it was her responsibility to pay their fees and look after their welfare.

As a result, Lucy did not have the opportunity to continue her education until she was 25 years old. In 2001, she became a full-time student and returned to her studies. She has been studying since then, and now her younger siblings have received a secondary and tertiary education. She is able to pick up her own studies again. She proudly tells us that her youngest brother is about to finish his degree at the University of Goroka which was also Lucy’s alma mater.

It’s been quite a journey. A

The Old Country: Australian Landscapes, Plants and People

Professor George Seddon

Australia is a nation of keen gardeners. This passion for plants sits unashamedly with the knowledge that much of the country is running out of water. It is...
Reconnecting with Alumni in Singapore and Hong Kong

ABP Alumni and friends in Hong Kong gathered at the Conrad Hotel on 19 October for a cocktail function hosted by Professor Ruth Fincher, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning.

Two nights later, ABP alumni in Singapore joined Mr Ian Renard, Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Professor Ruth Fincher and 275 other University of Melbourne alumni and friends for a cocktail function at the Orchard Hotel.

Both events were a great success, with alumni enjoying the opportunity to reconnect with the Faculty, network with other graduates and meet with Professor Fincher, Mr Renard and ABP staff.

Top right: Professor Ruth Fincher with Mr Teo Choon Lim (BArch 1959) at the Orchard Hotel, Singapore.
Right: ABP alumni and friends at the Conrad Hotel, Hong Kong.

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Urban Design
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Master of Architecture (By Thesis)
Master of Architecture (By Design)
Master of Building (By Thesis)
Master of Landscape Architecture (By Thesis)
Master of Planning and Design (By Thesis)

Alumni Programs and Contributions to Atrium
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