



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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issue two



Photo: Andrew Saniga

Landscape and Resistance

Ross King Retires

Kim Dovey

The Japanese Connection, 1961

Bangkok–Melbourne–Bordeaux

Renting vs Buying

150 Years of Achievement

Books

Graduates Reflect



## FROM THE DEAN

Professor Ruth Fincher

This year the University of Melbourne is 150 years old. Like other faculties, we are participating in the celebrations and are particularly proud that Professor Philip Goad is co-author of one of the small number of special books being released by the University to mark the occasion. Philip's book, co-authored with a well-known ex-member of our academic staff, George Tibbits, is *Architecture on Campus: a Guidebook to the Buildings of the University of Melbourne* (see page 20 for more details—Ed). Our Faculty, according to the records of Professor Miles Lewis, was formed in 1931, though lectures in architecture have been given in the University since the 1870s. A timeline marking the Faculty's history can be found on page 22.

Speaking of the passage of time, we farewelled Professor Ross King, Dean of the Faculty for the past eight years, on the occasion of his retirement at the end of 2002. Elsewhere in this issue of *Atrium* you will read the speech made in tribute to Ross at his retirement lunch by Professor Kim Dovey. Ross King did make a splendid contribution to the Faculty. We are particularly grateful for the links he opened up for us in the universities and colleges of South-East Asia in his years of tireless work there, and for his role in directing this Faculty to become a unified entity of diverse professional programs, with a growing interdisciplinary spirit.

I have recently taken over as Dean, though I continue to hold my position as Professor of Urban Planning. I assume the new role as the University moves very firmly in a number of directions, not all of

them new to it, but all of them expressed ever more strongly: they are about improving our performance, of course! We in the Faculty are involved in every one of these directions. Accordingly, in teaching and learning we are taking steps to improve the learning environments we provide to our students by: upgrading physical spaces and infrastructure; creating new approaches to teaching and learning in the senior years of our undergraduate programs that will ease the transition of students between university and work; and encouraging our students to participate more in the range of international exchange programs and overseas field trips available to them. In research, we are establishing cross-disciplinary research programs, hoping to see our excellent researchers mount more ambitious programs of enquiry and publication as they work together, especially linking design endeavours with more traditional text-based analyses. In our relations with the built environment professions, we are seeking to develop better links for our students and staff with the firms and organisations in which our many alumni work, and to reach out and draw our past students and friends in professional practice back to the Faculty whenever this is possible. I would like to see in future editions of *Atrium* a section reporting on the activities and achievements of our past students – something that we in the Faculty, along with other past students, would find very interesting and informative I am sure (see page 24 for your opportunity to contribute).

We have made some fine new appointments to our academic staff this year. In the Architecture program these include: Dr Scott Drake, a specialist in built environment sciences and sustainability, who comes to us from the University of South Australia; Dr Hannah Lewi, an architectural historian from Curtin University in Western Australia; and Ms Anoma Pieris who is completing her PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, and who specialises in design and the postcolonial histories of South Asian built environments. In the Urban Planning program we have appointed Ms Carolyn Whitzman, a social planning analyst and practitioner with a special interest in designing for safety in cities, who is completing a PhD at McMaster University in Canada. Appointments were not made in the Landscape Architecture and Property and Construction programs for 2003, but we expect to make some later in the year for 2004.

In addition to these full-time academic staff appointments, we are fortunate to have attracted some exciting Professorial Fellows to our program in 2003, experts who will enrich our teaching and research endeavours when they drop in for a few weeks' work with us here and there during the year. These include Ms Julie Eizenberg, a past student who is now a most successful architect in Los Angeles and an architectural adjunct professor in leading universities across the United States. She will join us for studio work with the Master of Architecture students and to help begin some investigation work across the Faculty on affordable housing; and Mr Steve Calhoun and Dr Rodney Wulff,

principals of the leading Landscape Architecture firm Tract Consultants, will teach into the senior years of the Landscape Architecture program and deliver a major public lecture in the Dean's Lecture Series.

The Dean's Lecture Series — eight formal presentations during the year in which scholars and practitioners of international renown address us in evening events which are free and open to the public — offers a wonderful line-up this year. With the University's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, Dean's Lecture Series in many faculties are including special presentations by alumni and we are no exception. We also are proud to present lectures by our two newly appointed Professors, Kim Dovey (Professor of Architecture and Urban Design) and Philip Goad (Professor of Architecture). A program for this year's series appears on page 17. I do hope readers of *Atrium*, if they are in Melbourne at the relevant times, will attend.

It has been exciting to meet the new undergraduates and postgraduates who have joined us in 2003, to hear about the places from which they come, and to marvel at their accomplishments. Our undergraduate, combined degree program in Property and Construction and Commerce has attracted very high-achieving students indeed. There has also been a large jump in demand for places in our undergraduate Urban Planning degree, so its entry score has increased by the greatest margin of all courses in the Faculty this year. Students

in our classes and courses continue to come from all over the world and from all over Australia, as well as from Melbourne, making a very diverse and interesting study body. During April we held the annual prize-giving event for our continuing students and it was a pleasure to award the growing list of prizes donated to the Faculty for our outstanding students. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the firms and individuals who support our students and programs in this way. Please see page 13 for a full acknowledgment of donors and notification of new prizes.

And so we continue with our busy academic year. I hope you will see in this edition of *Atrium* news of friends and colleagues you knew here, books that entice, and announcements of events in which you might come along and participate. I hope I will meet you, and I look forward to welcoming you back to the Faculty in the future — especially in the University's 150<sup>th</sup> year!



Professor Ruth Fincher was appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2005.

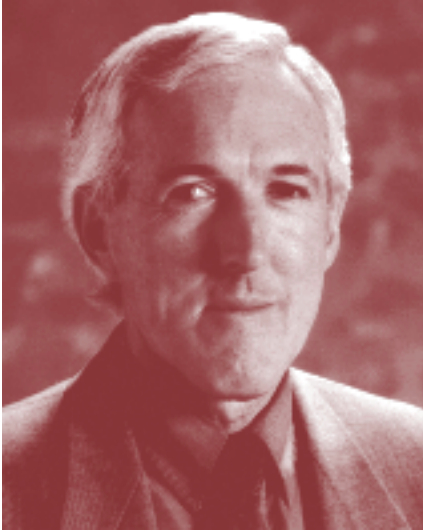
Professor Fincher holds a PhD in Geography from Clark University (USA), a Master of Arts from McMaster University (Canada), and a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours from the University of Melbourne. She was appointed as Professor of Urban Planning in 1997. Prior to this she was Director of the Australian Studies Centre at the University of Melbourne, and has held the position of Assistant Professor of Geography at McGill University and McMaster University. In the early 1990s, Professor Fincher took leave from the University of Melbourne to be Research Manager for the Federal Government's Bureau of Immigration Research, where she established a national research program assessing the effects of immigration on Australia's cities and environments.

Professor Fincher is widely published internationally. Her recent books include *Creating Unequal Futures? Rethinking Poverty, Inequality and Disadvantage* (Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2001) co-edited with Peter Saunders, *Australian Poverty: Then and Now* (Melbourne University Press, 1998) co-edited with John Nieuwenhuysen, and *Cities of Difference* (Guilford Press, New York, 1998) co-edited with Jane Jacobs. She is currently working on a Large ARC Grant project titled 'Building on Ethnicity'.

Professor Fincher's research interests include urban outcomes of immigration policy and multiculturalism, difference and diversity in urban environments, gender issues, inequality and locational disadvantage, and urban planning.

In 2002 Professor Fincher was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. Fellows of the Academy are elected by their peers on the basis of having achieved a very high level of scholarly distinction and for having made a distinguished contribution to one or more disciplines of the social sciences.





## ROSS KING RETIRES

The following is the text of a farewell speech by Professor Kim Dovey on the occasion of the retirement of the former Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ross King

It is not easy to find original words to say at a moment like this without sounding formulaic. I know that Ross didn't actually want to have a farewell at all; I'm sure we can all surmise that he was frightened that we would say embarrassing things about him. While that might be true, and I will certainly do my best, I suspect that for Ross, achievements in the University are not measured in black tie dinners and bronze busts, but in research and teaching programs, and in the resources and leadership necessary to create and sustain them.

In the spirit of filling out a couple of things you may not already know: Ross is a Sydney lad and, as he once told me when we were comparing the relative size of chips on shoulders, the first member of his family to go to university. He studied architecture at the University of Sydney, taking out first class honours and a university medal. This was followed by a Master of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. He practiced for a while before moving into housing research and back to the University of Sydney before he was recruited by George Seddon to the Centre for Environmental Studies in this Faculty in 1975. The Centre was later amalgamated with the School of Environmental Planning where Ross was variously Deputy Head and Head of Department, before being appointed Dean of the Faculty for the past eight years.

Now we all know that academics are fundamentally divided into two groups known as the old fogies and the young turks. The task of young turks is to attack the old fogies, whose task is to recruit young turks and keep them in line. When I first came here as a

### He was one of the few genuine scholars of the place with a real commitment to intellectual life

graduate student in the late 1970s Ross was a young Turk, contentious enough to be broadcasting on the radio, effective enough to be criticised by the government of the day. Ten years later I came back as a young Turk and Ross was, by definition, an old fogey. But his ideas were not old; he was one of the few genuine scholars of the place with a real commitment to intellectual life. His mid 1990s book *Emancipating Space\** was largely devoted to theorising power relations, so I wondered if it might hold some clues to his approach to the Dean's job. It reads in part:

"There is thus the imperative for a savage, furious, Foucauldian architecture... — to attack the institutions, appropriate space, make habitable, green the city, soften, break the townscape of presently unquestioned meanings and relationships of power."

This doesn't sound much like an old fogey. This was the language of a young Turk, which a Dean, by definition again, is not. The motivation for Ross's Deanship

was not to attack the institution but rather to construct one which would be a safe home for such ideas. And we won't understand this era if we forget that the Faculty itself was under attack.

In the early 1990s, towards the end of the 'Davidian' era (when VCs were all named David), the Vice-Person (David III) placed our Faculty under review and on this review panel were some selected senior figures from Geography and Engineering. And this fine body of people recommended that the Faculty be dismembered. Planning and landscape were largely abolished with leftovers distributed to Geography and Engineering—the end of any integrated approach to teaching and research on the built environment. Then commenced a couple of months of lobbying behind the scenes to ensure that such recommendations were not followed. The outcome was that we lost the field of environmental studies and the undergraduate landscape and planning programs but saved the Faculty as a one-department faculty. However, our student numbers were down, leaving us even more vulnerable to the threat of poaching from other faculties.

### Research performance has increased steadily to the point that in many areas we have the greatest collection of intellectual capital in the region

After the first eight years of the new Faculty major changes are in evidence. Most significantly, both student numbers and the budget have much more than doubled. Internationalisation has brought a far broader agenda to our teaching and research. There are new senior and junior appointments in all of our disciplines, a raft of new masters programs have been launched and the undergraduate landscape and planning programs have been rebuilt. Research performance has increased steadily to the point that in many areas we have the greatest collection of intellectual capital in the region. It is always hard to judge just how much credit to attribute to leadership but in the first few years Ross virtually did it alone.

I think Ross might forgive me if I say that not all of the necessary skills of a Dean came naturally to him but he certainly grew into the position. If power is a drug then it can also be performance enhancing. There are some key skills, however, that are Ross's stock in trade. He is a very fine strategic thinker who is rarely ambushed on anything important. He has managed a Faculty where budgets are transparent and where a diversity of ideas are encouraged. He is robust enough to handle criticism and relatively immune to sycophancy.

When it comes to managing academics, the Dean's job is impossible—often likened to 'herding cats'. Now I have a cat (Zora) who is very black, very beautiful and has a chip on her shoulder. She had a damaged kittenhood and she responds to being fed with a look that says it isn't enough, it's too late and she won't eat it anyway. She responds

to love and affection by inserting her claws very slowly and deeply into your flesh. Quite a few of the best academics differ from Zora only in a higher capacity for research and lower capacity to leap fences. Anyone can make trouble for the Dean with relative immunity, and the best academics have the most immunity. But academic status is forever in contention; we have lecturers with bigger international reputations than some professors. This is a field where everyone's teaching is more important than everybody else's; everyone's research is on the verge of creating a paradigmatic shift in the field—if only they had a little more money, time, travel and study leave, a lower teaching load or a better office.

When I took the Associate Dean's role three years ago, I told Ross I would put policies in place that would stop the queue of beggars at his door. In this I have been a dismal failure. The demands on a Dean's time are never-ending, at least until he hops on another aeroplane. And those complaining that 'he's never here' are frequently outnumbered by those lined up to spend an increasing budget when he is.

### **We become a 'university' only by creating and teaching ideas**

The job of Dean, however, has traps for the best of strategists; it involves being a member of the rather strange 'club' that call themselves the University, united in their belief that we work for them. But as every good academic knows (and Ross is surely still one of them) we become a 'university' only by creating and teaching

ideas; as the adage goes: 'they work for the university, we are the university'. In this regard there have been times when we had to pray for Ross's soul, when he came to us to preach the Word of the Vice-Person and the Word did go on and on. And there are times when we have felt impelled to rescue his body from the excesses of travel in some of the more difficult cities in South-East Asia.

While we have worried about the body and soul of our Dean, we have had no such concerns for his mind. It is no secret that these cities—their problems and opportunities, delights and horrors—have become the intellectual passion of this phase of Ross's career. Surely one of the great temptations of a Deanship

### **Ross has a formidable amount of intellectual capital**

is to give up research, but that would really be joining the 'club' and leaving the 'University'. I look forward to the forthcoming book, *Sustaining Asian Cities*, and to the lectures, seminars and debates that will spring from it. Ross has a formidable amount of intellectual capital which I hope we are not losing. In this sense I would like to think that Ross is not leaving the university so much as rejoining it. So thank you and welcome back.

\**Emancipating Space: Geography, Architecture, and Urban Design*. New York, Guildford Press, 1996.

# THE JAPANESE CONNECTION

Balwant Saini

(BArch 1955; PhD 1968)

reflects on the Faculty's pioneering tour of Japan in 1961



Japan in the winter of 1961 was nothing like the country shown on the cherry blossom picture postcards. The trees had shed their leaves. Everything was black and white. The streets were grey with only the occasional relief of a red telephone box. Foreigners were rare. It was the time of the year when the Japanese would rather hibernate than entertain visitors.

After traipsing from one end of Osaka to the other all morning we felt we deserved a break—and some comfort food, a bit of warmth and hot *sake*.

We had finished our lunch at the Inn when a young Japanese boy wandered in and asked us if he could take a picture of our group.

"Sure! Go ahead." we chorused. In fact, we were flattered to pose for the budding photographer. We lined up in our duffle coats and balaclavas. The girls wore long leather boots—it was the bodgies and widgies era—remember?

The young photographer went away happily, or so we thought, while we adjourned to our little rooms before heading for another round of temples and palaces in the afternoon.

The excitement came the next morning when we saw ourselves splashed across the front page of the Osaka edition of *The Manichi Daily News*, one of Japan's leading English language newspapers.

'Inns. Tourist Agencies, Tourists All At Odds' wrote the staff writer Tsunezo Sasai. 'Uncultured Australians' shrieked a subheading. The gist of the coverage was that the Australians were an ill-mannered, uncouth lot who were totally ignorant of Japanese ways—in fact an embarrassment to the host nation.

More pictures and comments were promised inside. Many depicted us laughing—a form of behaviour unknown to the Japanese. Photos of rooms taken without our approval, showed soiled clothes, and girls' dirty leather knee boots strewn all over the place, including some thrown onto the *Tokonomas*—special low tables which displayed carefully arranged pottery pieces and Bonsai. This was quite sacrilege since the Japanese treat *Tokonomas* like shrines. It was a public relations disaster.

The cover story certainly achieved what it set out to do. By late afternoon curious journalists from the Japanese media, including commentators from the television and radio networks arrived.

Brian Lewis, who formally headed our tour group, conveniently—and come to think of it, mischievously—passed the buck to me, saying, "You've done all the donkey work for the tour, you may as well deal with this."

So there I was, with no knowledge of Japanese, trying to communicate in English with journalists who understood only half of what I was trying to say.

"Where are you come from?" was the first question.

"Melbourne, Australia."

"Yes; but where do you really come from?"

"India."

"Aaa... How come you lead this party?"

"Why not?" I retorted.

"Aaaa...well, you see...what about White Australia Policy?" ...

So it seemed to us in 1961 that distrust and suspicion were mutual between Australia and Japan. There was no love lost between the two countries, even though 16 years had elapsed since Australian soldiers had fought the Japanese in World War II and American pilots dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Australians remembered the cruelty of the way Japanese had mistreated their POWs (Prisoners of War) at *Changi* Singapore, and the infamous Burma Railway construction site where many starved to death. The strong lobby group of the RSL (Returned Services League) in Australia had made sure there was no dialogue between the two countries.

This had been clearly brought home to me when I tried to charter an aircraft to take the group of Australians for an architectural study tour of Japan. Every known hurdle was put in my way. It took me nearly six months and numerous trips to Canberra to persuade the Director General of Civil Aviation to allow me to negotiate a deal with Cathay Pacific Airways. Qantas, the

government airline, refused to even discuss the matter.

Our trip to Japan was a pioneering effort. Members of the group were happy to take the credit for generating interest in Asia among the Australian architects who, until then, had always followed the fads and fashions of architecture in Europe and the USA.

During the 1960s, Asian cities became scenes of feverish activity. Exciting projects were beginning to appear on the drawing boards of some Asian architects. The Japanese economy was booming which led the way to a burst of activity in the construction industry. Japanese architects had not only mastered technology but had actually humanised it to the point where it could be used creatively, and with originality. They talked about Zen Buddhist values in their approach to design, and exhibited a sense of confidence that inspired many young architects in South-East Asia who were exploring the new directions of their own cultural roots. Australian architects had begun to think they were missing out on all these exciting events on their doorstep.

The 1960s also saw Australia's traditional trading partner, the UK, join the European Community, and Japan start to buy iron and other minerals from Australia. Australia's economy was thus rescued at a critical time when its future appeared to be in the doldrums. Later, in the 1980s, Japan also became a major source of tourists to Australia. In the year 2000, the President of the RSL made a goodwill forgive-and-forget trip to Japan. The hostility that had lasted half a century finally came to an end.

Since that winter in 1961, I have made several trips to Japan, many as a visiting professor to Tokyo, Waseda and other universities, and as a guest speaker at various architectural conferences. These visits gave me a chance to develop important professional links, and what's more important, form lasting personal friendships.

Edited extract from the book *Notes from a Family Album* published by Il Brennero – Der Brenner, Bolzano Italy, 2003

# THE EUROPEAN EXPEDITION

Miles Lewis

The Faculty's first organised expedition to Europe will be run in November and December 2003. It will be taken by students as an Investigation Project resulting in a substantial report, and representing 25 points of credit in the course. It is also designed for interested members of the public and alumni, who can take it through the Community Access Program, either for credit or simply for interest.

The theme is 'Medieval Europe', and we will be looking at a wide range of buildings in Italy and France, dating from the fourth to the thirteenth century. Time will be spent in well-known centres such as Rome, Florence, Venice and Paris – and of course there will be opportunities to visit the non-medieval sights as well. But we will also inspect a number of lesser-known places which are not so commonly seen by tourists. They will include Spoleto, Pomposa, Lomello, Castelseprio, Agliate, Arles, Cluny, Chapaize, Fontenay, and Dijon.



Those taking the course for credit will be concentrating on one or other of three themes – the planning and function of the buildings; their construction and materials; and their style and decoration. This will give us the opportunity to tease out aspects such as the influence of Roman prototypes, the use of *spolia*, features derived from barbarian tribes (such as the triangular arch), *porticus* planning, the evolution of the chevet, the decline and reappearance of ashlar masonry, the influence of Syria, the emergence of the 'First Romanesque' style; Byzantine elements, the impost block and the dossier block, the rib vault, and the flying buttress.

In addition to myself as the lecturer, we will be accompanied by David Henderson, an experienced guide, who will be responsible for the logistics. The organisation is by Australians Studying Abroad, an experienced company which operates a number of overseas courses for this and other universities. They are responsible for the whole of the travel and accommodation arrangements.

Places are limited, especially for those who require a single room, and bookings should be made early. Details are on the Australians Studying Abroad Web site at [www.asatravinfo.com.au](http://www.asatravinfo.com.au) or tel: 03 9509 1955. It will be helpful if those who are seriously interested email their contact details to me even in advance of formal booking: [milesbl@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:milesbl@unimelb.edu.au)

## STUDENTS PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



The increased demand for Nursing and Teaching courses has generated a great deal of media attention in recent times. Another profession also experienced a very significant increase in interest during the last university admissions period – Urban Planning.

This year, the University of Melbourne's "clearly-in" ENTER score for the four-year Bachelor of Urban Planning and Development rose from 85.70 to 87.90. The popularity of the course was also reflected in the high percentage of undergraduate students who placed the degree as their first preference. First preferences rose by 119 per cent, from 36 students in 2002, to 79 this year.

Professor Ruth Fincher, Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Urban Planning, attributed the rise in figures to the growing awareness of opportunities for planning degree graduates.

She said the shortage of urban planners provided excellent opportunities for students to obtain careers at the end of their course.

While she said it was difficult to attribute the increase in popularity to any one thing, she believed there was a growing awareness and knowledge of urban planning among parents and careers teachers. The Planning Institute of Australia's (PIA's) new *Planning is for You* brochure and *The Planning Game* CDROM have played a central role in increasing prospective students' awareness of the planning profession.

Professor Fincher said the Victorian Government's highly publicised Metropolitan Strategy, which documents the planning direction of Melbourne until 2030, had also helped to highlight the broader aspects of urban planning.

"Throughout the 1990s, planning was very much understood as the exercise of development control on individual blocks of land. But now, the way that planning is understood has been broadened and rendered much more interesting as a potential career," she said.

"I see the new Victorian Metropolitan Strategy as a real signal of the complexity of thinking about the development of the city as a whole and what an interesting area it is to work in."

The Faculty teaches urban planning as both an intellectual endeavour and a professional practice based on community obligation, a commitment to collective and diverse interests, and recognition of environmental and ecological constraints.

The Faculty also offer a suite of postgraduate programs offering professional planning programs to graduates of other disciplines as well as in depth studies in metropolitan planning for those already working as planners.

For more information on studies in planning please visit: [www.arbld.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.arbld.unimelb.edu.au)

If you would like a copy of PIA's *Planning is for You* brochure and/or *The Planning Game* CDROM please contact:

Dean Munday. tel: +61 3 8344 3740 or email: [dmunday@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:dmunday@unimelb.edu.au)



# LANDSCAPE AND RESISTANCE: PAPADAKIS PARK

Andrew Saniga

To resist is to withstand or to strive against. The idea that 'resistance' takes form in landscape is indisputable. It manifests in a variety of ways, albeit often ephemerally, from the overt and confronting nature of graffiti to the triumphant dangling of a football scarf from a car window. In this article Andrew Saniga explores a contested suburban landscape with which he and his students continue to engage.

## Introduction

Papadakis Park is a contested public landscape. It is defined by incremental battles: battles over plants, battles over water, battles over the provision of facilities and battles over its own naming. It 'doesn't look much' – ad hoc planting, sprinkling of native plants amidst copses of *Cordyline australis* (New Zealand Cabbage Tree), roses, pines and a few struggling bay trees (standards) – all of which have individual stories associated with the moment their roots were buried in clay.

Papadakis Park is situated in West Sunshine, a predominantly working class suburb within the Melbourne metropolitan area. West Sunshine lies approximately 14km from the Melbourne CBD and has a large and diverse ethnic population. West Sunshine consists of flat basalt plains with heavy clay soils that crack in summer and become sludge in winter. As a direct consequence of these poor soils, plant material does not easily thrive. The indigenous flora of the plains consisted mainly of open grasslands. The site of

**In the late-1980s Peter Papadakis learnt that his home, along with 104 others, would be compulsorily acquired to build the Western Ring Road**

Papadakis Park could be described as featureless but for the presence of 20-metre high steel power poles which tend to stand out in the landscape until they disappear beyond a seemingly perpetual horizontal line of brick veneer houses.

## Resist

In the late-1980s Peter Papadakis learnt that his home, along with 104 others,

would be compulsorily acquired to build the Western Ring Road. While the road proposal had been known about for decades, residents setting down roots in the late-1950s were only aware that the new road would be built twenty metres from their property boundaries. The new road proposal had grown in scale requiring the demolition of their homes.

The resistance to the road proposal was strong. The Road Construction Authority (RCA) was forced to engage in community consultation. This began in April 1989 and consisted of an exhibition of engineering drawings with associated annotations in English only.

Peter Papadakis attended one of these exhibitions. Outraged by the unsatisfactory communication of the proposal to the multicultural community he barred the entrance to the exhibition and this led to a number of physical and verbal confrontations.

One of the alternative routes was finally chosen. If you look at a map of the ring road today you can clearly see that the highway includes approximately 7.4 kilometres of 'bulge' to the west of its original route.

The abandoned freeway reserve operated as a landscape of resistance beyond the initial battle with the RCA. It became the focus of a fight for new urban parkland in West Sunshine. Papadakis recounts that David Ryan of the RCA mentioned one possible future use for the site would be a park<sup>1</sup> and from this point on to the present day Papadakis has campaigned to achieve this goal. He began to clean and plant the site and solicited the support of appropriate Council employees to rid the site of dumped car bodies and other debris.

Papadakis also coordinated a series of petitions, a rally for support and other activities directed at the Council and State Government to ensure the site's transformation into urban parkland.

A level of success was achieved when the then City of Sunshine prepared a landscape plan for the park, then called 'Collenso Street Parkland West Sunshine.' Nevertheless, at some stage during 1990,

Papadakis erected one of the first signs for the park with a name that he felt was appropriate. The sign was constructed approximately two metres high and consisted of two timber posts with two cross-rails with metal lettering spelling 'PAPADAKIS PARK'.

This caused consternation within Council, and the name 'Papadakis Park' was not formally acknowledged. It seems as if the initiative of Papadakis to look after 'public' land was welcomed, but the audacity of Papadakis to name the 'park' after himself was perhaps too idiosyncratic to be acceptable.

Not surprisingly the initial Papadakis Park sign was removed and the various subsequent versions were 'stolen' and even burnt. One version of the sign received graffiti along the lines of 'Give Up'. Papadakis built another out of steel that was portable so that it could be moved to and from the site. Eventually, in 1992 he constructed the ultimate sign which has been described in Papadakis' own words simply as 'Greek rock mate'.<sup>2</sup> It was three metres long by one metre wide and one metre in height. It was a white washed and rendered structure with large red lettering. The rim had a stucco-like capping and cacti sprouted from a thin film of soil amassed behind small rocks plastered to its top.

The sign meant different things to different people. With regard to the abandoned freeway, the sign was like a sentinel or symbol of finality should there be some bureaucratic change of heart for as Steve Pile states, 'Resistance, then, not only takes place in place, but also seeks to appropriate space, to make new spaces...'<sup>3</sup> In the suburban context of a predominantly New Australian community it was a symbolic extension of the powerful will to set down roots, similar to what Mariastella Pulvirenti and others have documented in migrants' desire to own their own home.<sup>4</sup> The sign lasted five years, longer than the signs that predated it perhaps because the authorities were finally exasperated by Papadakis' persistence but also because shifting 'greek rock' would be no small task. However, in 1997 it was finally dismantled and a pathway of consolidated





Peter Papadakis c.1997



Papadakis Park 2000



Community at work 2001

aggregate conforming to a landscape designer's plan was constructed through the physical position where the sign had stood.

### Progress

From 1990 to 1997 as the Papadakis Park signs waxed and waned, Papadakis persisted with intense lobbying to transform a service easement into a park and he described this consistently in one word: 'progress'<sup>5</sup> This progress included the council gaining ownership of the land, the irrigation of the site and the development of Papadakis Park Inc. as a residential committee of management.

### The eclectic plantings of exotic and weed plants at Papadakis Park could lack 'taste' but the emphasis should be firmly on the symbolic activity and the project of bringing people together to 'act'

Most importantly, Papadakis and the local community plant plants. A lot of them. These plantings have been chaotic and expedient and thus could be perceived to be crude in placement. The great Australian garden designer Edna Walling once spoke about the benefits of planting two or three plants to a single hole but it is only coincidence that Papadakis does the same. For instance, at Papadakis Park, it is possible to observe native plants (probably planted by local 'greenies') with pines or fruit trees planted within inches of their trunks. This says a lot about differing preferences for native plants over exotic plants among the community. But there is another logic at play. The earth is so hard and difficult to cultivate manually, even with a crow bar, that the most effective way to nurture plants is to 'borrow' from the pockets of preexisting friable soil surrounding the base of existing trees. The uninitiated would scoff, but after a single attempt to turn the earth one is reminded of the title and central message of Jim Sinatra's book *Listen to the People. Listen to the Land*.<sup>6</sup> If planting three plants in one hole

is Walling-esque, then there is little else at Papadakis Park that is. The eclectic and at times bizarre plant selection would baffle even the most disinterested for it can happen that a two-metre transplanted palm tree finds itself marooned in the centre of a well-traveled pathway, literally over night. The eclectic plantings of exotic and weed plants at Papadakis Park could lack 'taste' but the emphasis should be firmly on the symbolic activity and the project of bringing people together to 'act'. Kenneth Helphand states; 'The garden can offer an assertion, a voice for the voiceless, involvement for the disenfranchised. Gardens can defy by their chosen location and placement in unconventional places and even in defiance of the law. These activities of guerilla gardeners can be acts of protest, demonstration or resistance.'<sup>7</sup>

At Papadakis Park, any involvement by people, be they native plant enthusiasts, students, designers or planners, is welcomed by the core group of community members who have an ongoing concern for the park. In order to acknowledge the efforts of Peter Papadakis, In 1996 the Brimbank City Council decided that a brief text on a bronze plaque mounted on a large solid bluestone slab with a backdrop of a garden bed of roses and flowering groundcovers would suffice. The situation today is that the plaque has still not been installed even though the bluestone and roses are in place. Meanwhile, Papadakis and the community behind 'Papadakis Park Inc.' are still planting plants, still fighting to have the park named, still organising planting days and generally lobbying anyone required in order to manifest progress.

### Conclusion

Papadakis Park survives and its history, only partly told here, reflects the complexities in the social and political context that make planning and design in Australian suburbia a challenge. If managers of landscape are to seek engagement with such living things, natural and cultural, then the challenge is to do so in a way that does not patronise or



Western Ring Road. Copyright Melway Publishing Wall Map, with permission.

condescend but rather comes as a result of seeking new participatory spaces in which to operate. This often results in a time consuming juggling act at which most public servants naturally balk. Ties to place cannot be designed or planned with certainty and resistance is just one phenomenon that seems to be capable of producing these ties in one kind of designed landscape.

This article is an edited version of an article which is currently being reviewed for publication.

Andrew Saniga teaches Landscape Architecture for the Faculty, and is currently completing his PhD, "Landscape Architecture in Australia 1956-1976" with Professor Catherin Bull and Professor Philip Goad. He is currently coordinating a Master of Landscape Architecture project with students designing schemes for public parks based upon the old route of the freeway in West Sunshine, commenting on both the absence of the infrastructure and the presence of the community.

### Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> P Papadakis, 'A History of Papadakis Park', letter to the Councilor of the City of Sunshine, from Peter Papadakis, West Sunshine, no date.
- <sup>2</sup> P Papadakis, personal communication, 1997.
- <sup>3</sup> S Pile, 'Introduction: Opposition, political identities and spaces of resistance' in *Geographies of resistance*, S Pile and M Keith (eds.), Routledge, London, 1997, p. 16.
- <sup>4</sup> M Pulvirenti, 'Anchoring Mobile Subjectivities: Home, Identity and Belonging among Italian Australian Migrants', in *Inscribed Landscapes: Marking and Making Places*, B David and M Wilson (eds) University of Hawai'i Press, Honolulu, 2002, pp. 219-229.
- <sup>5</sup> P Papadakis, personal communication 1997; P Papadakis, Interview, West Sunshine, 2002.
- <sup>6</sup> J Sinatra and P Murphy, *Listen to the People. Listen to the Land*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1999.
- <sup>7</sup> K Helphand, 'Defiant gardens', *Journal of Garden History*, London, 1997, pp. 107-108.



**Fiona Dunster**  
B Bldg 1995

**Foreword**

Fiona Dunster is one of an increasing number of outstanding female graduates who are dramatically changing the face of the Australian property and construction scene. Alumni will no doubt be interested to learn that the undergraduate Property and Construction program is now accredited by the Australian Institute of Building, the Australian Property Institute, the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia, and Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers. Accreditations are pending with the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors and the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors. A new combined degree with Urban Planning and Development joins existing combinations with Architecture, Law, Commerce and Engineering. A range of postgraduate programs in Property and Construction is also available and will be of interest to many alumni.

Peter Williams  
Head of Property and Construction

**GRADUATES REFLECT**

Growing up with an architect father, childhood was a mix of architecturally designed rabbit hutches, curved walls and 'smilie' windows. Early 'site visits' were spent with my father on overseas work trips where I would spend hours looking at and learning about buildings and the use of space. My education in the world of architecture and building continued, often visiting sites with my father complete with pink gumboots and hardhat with the word 'BOSS' blazoned across the front in silver glitter pen. Rather than dolls, I wanted Tonka trucks and cranes, a strange passion for a young girl and one that never really dissipated.

**Rather than dolls, I wanted Tonka trucks and cranes**

According to my parents, I've always been an organiser. So the story goes, I was organising anyone and everyone I could from the time I could first talk. As a family we used to joke about how there is a fine line between negotiation and manipulation but it was only really much later that I began to realise the difference and the value of the first.

The other strong influence on my childhood was horse riding. I was fortunate to have parents who were both able and willing to foster a rapidly developing passion in equestrian sport. From four years old through to my early twenties my riding was a key focal point of my life and looking back I realise it played a major role in my personal development. The sport demanded that I learn early the importance of discipline, responsibility and commitment: values that developed further with the unfolding of my career.

While my childhood had established my interest in the building industry, I'd learnt by the end of school that my own strengths were not in design. On leaving school I decided I wanted to be a lawyer. As fate would have it I didn't achieve the necessary results to be accepted into law and entered the Faculty's Building (now Property and Construction) degree as a second choice. Being a relatively

young course I didn't know much about it or the future direction it might take me. It did, however, have an emphasis on management and could offer me opportunities to foster my interests in law via electives.

The first three years were tough. Being heavily oriented around technical subject matter, I found it hard to focus and was easily sidetracked. My industry year saw a change in the way I viewed the course. I spent six months working in Sydney for a small construction management company. I was immediately thrown on site and found this experience was exactly what I needed to appreciate the importance of the knowledge base I'd been developing in the first three years of my course.

On returning to Melbourne I took a full-time position with a medium sized project management firm where I became involved in the development of the Juvenile Justice Centre in Malmsbury. The complexity and unusual nature of the issues associated with the design of the facility played on my love for detail and I returned to my final year of studies with newfound zest.

I attacked my final year studies with a passion I hadn't had before, fired by the program's shift to management-based subjects and electives in legal studies. I graduated exhausted, but pleased with the degree and filled with high hopes for my future in the industry.

The opportunities offered by the Sydney Olympic Games were too good to resist and in 1996 I moved to Sydney to join a project management company responsible for the delivery of a number of venues. For three years I was involved in a diverse range of projects including a detailed analysis of the infrastructure and operational needs of the international air terminal to cater for the Games and beyond to 2010.

The highlight of my Sydney experience was being based on site at the new Equestrian Centre being developed for the Games. I couldn't have hoped for such an experience – where I was able

# AUSTRALIAN POSTGRADUATE AWARD (INDUSTRY)

The performance of environmentally sustainable design features in commercial buildings (ARC Linkage Project LP0347037)

to combine work with my long time love. For two years I was responsible for the management of the planning, environmental, quality and community issues of the project. To really augment the experience I was also put in charge of liaising with and hosting the raft of international equestrian team managers and stakeholders who frequented the venue over the course of its design and construction. The project saw me interface with a myriad of government bodies including parks and wildlife, aboriginal affairs, European heritage, quarantine, customs and the major utilities. Developing both design and operational strategies for the movement of spectators, media and athletes around the 400 hectare site exposed me to a rare array of issues addressing disability access, security and servicing.

## **My current role encompasses the identification of potential site opportunities, bringing together appropriate resources to undertake feasibility analysis and market research**

Burnt out, I returned to Melbourne late in 1999 to spend six weeks pottering in the garden with my father and sifting through thoughts about where to go next. I interviewed a number of companies, finally accepting a position with Clifton Coney Stevens (CCS) as a project manager with an eye to developing experience in the retail sector of the industry. During my time at CCS I successfully managed the design and construction of two substantial regional shopping centres and gained an appreciation for the associated issues of leasing and centre management. I embarked on my MBA part-time in 2000 to strengthen and diversify my skill base in general management, business planning and finance. My final 12 months with the company saw me promoted to Associate taking on more business development, staff and quality management responsibilities and as part

of the team managing the design and procurement of a new commercial tower in the CBD for one of the major industry funds investors.

## **In 2002 I accepted a position on the Faculty's Property and Construction Advisory Board**

At the end of 2001, I accepted a position with Australian Super Developments (ASD), the property development company of Cbus, as Manager – Project Development. My current role encompasses the identification of potential site opportunities, bringing together appropriate resources to undertake feasibility analysis and market research, and to determine highest and best use development opportunities for sites. The role also includes identification of potential anchor tenants required to underpin development and management of the negotiation process between the parties to ensure core commercial criteria are not compromised in legal negotiation. I have overall responsibility for the definition of project briefs, appointment of consultant teams and their management in the delivery of final product to the market.

I am now in my final year of the MBA, and many of the communication and process-based skills I established through my building degree are being augmented with a new analytical focus. While the importance of those earlier years of the building degree initially eluded me, looking back it is clear the foundation it gave me has served me well. In 2002 I accepted a position on the Faculty's Property and Construction Advisory Board and via this avenue hope to be able to offer back some support to the faculty that encouraged me to define my strengths and weaknesses and align these to what has and continues to prove a challenging career path within our industry.

An Australian Postgraduate Award (Industry) (APA(I)) is available for PhD study in the Faculty.

### **Project summary**

Two office buildings are to be analysed in respect of environmental performance both technically and in terms of the building occupants. The buildings are similar in location, use, quality and materials. One building contains several environmentally sustainable design features and it is expected that improvements in environmental outcomes will be observed when compared with the other building. The results will provide a useful benchmark and a guide to the potential of environmentally sustainable property development.

The industry partners for the project are the Department of Public Works (Queensland), Building Commission Victoria, and the Construction Industry Institute, Australia.

The PhD candidate is expected to develop a research project in the non-technical aspects of the building, particularly in respect of the internal working environment and the embodied energy in construction materials and processes. The candidate would need to have a background in environmentally sustainable development together with experience in post-occupancy evaluation.

### **Applicants**

Candidates must be Australian citizens or permanent residents and must meet the University's selection criteria for entry to the PhD. They should possess research experience, strong analytical skills, and a first degree at high honours standard in architecture, building, property or facility management. They should have an interest in energy, building services, indoor environments, or green buildings. Professional work experience is desirable.

**Stipend:** Standard APA(I) rate, AUD \$23,033 p.a. (tax free). It is possible to supplement this through marking and laboratory assistance. Additional funds are available to assist in the research.

**Applications:** Candidates should inform the investigators of their interest and apply for entry to the PhD before 28 July 2003. The PhD form can be downloaded from [www.gradstudies.unimelb.edu.au/pgstudy/forms/](http://www.gradstudies.unimelb.edu.au/pgstudy/forms/)

**Commencement Date:** Negotiable (must commence before 31 October 2003).

### **For more information contact:**

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## KIM DOVEY

Ross King

Kim Dovey was appointed to a Chair of Architecture and Urban Design in mid-2002. He first studied Architecture at the Western Australia Institute of Technology (now Curtin University), then a Masters degree at Melbourne and a PhD at Berkeley. He tutored in the Faculty at Melbourne, then lectured at RMIT, returning to the University of Melbourne in 1987. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1993 and then, to repeat, appointed Professor of Architecture and Urban Design last year.

Such, as they say, are the facts. But now for the story. We have long had Australia's finest Architecture program (a bold claim, but the evidence is in the awards and in the subsequent destinations of our graduates). We also have an exciting Urban Planning program, albeit taught until recent years in a different department of the Faculty, and the logical link via an Urban Design program was always elusive. In 1995 we became a one-department faculty, and suddenly the barriers were merely illusory. Kim seized the moment as well as the not always welcoming attention of his colleagues, and we got an Urban Design program in the Faculty under his guidance. I was Dean of the Faculty, and I did not like the proliferation of programs that this represented. I also worried about its content and I doubted its ability to attract students. I was wrong on all three scores.

Urban Design as a discipline tends too often to be about not very much at all – designing the bits of space left over from real architecture. Kim's achievement has been to locate and focus upon the material contents of those places, their profoundly political significances (for

they are, after all, the 'public realm', the space of civil society over which the most terrible battles will be fought, for power in all its dimensions). In the process the political, economic, and cultural significance of the architectures they contain also come to the fore.

*Framing Places: Mediating Power in Built Form* (Routledge, 1999) finely demonstrated the argument that we cannot build nor occupy space without implications for the forms, distribution and exercise of power. So Speer's Reich Chancellery is there ("to take your breath away"), the Dowager Empress's screens ("hidden power, forbidden space..."), and Giurgola's Canberra Parliament House. The Foucauldian lessons are obvious. Perhaps more startling are other analyses: of Jakarta's Blok M, Los Angeles' Beverly Centre, the "domestic dreaming" of the New Urbanism and of suburbia, but also other icons closer to home – Melbourne's Casino and the glories of Collins Street. There is also a subsequent piece on Bangkok's Democracy Monument to glorify dictatorship and we now eagerly await his *Fluid City* on Melbourne's Docklands and, no doubt, much else.

I would say two things about this *oeuvre*. First, in recent years I have been a frequent traveller to Asia, Europe and North America. I have always described my main task in this activity as being to raise the profile of the Faculty. Wherever I go I also listen carefully, to gauge what that profile might currently be. Kim Dovey is, simply, the most recognised and respected of the Faculty's scholars. He is known and held in awe. In part, that

reputation comes from the sharpness of his mind and uncompromising erudition and, it must be said, sometimes from the toughness of his words. The second thing to be said is that the reputation also stands here in Australia; but here there is also too often a resentment. The designers of the analysed projects are too frequently incensed, I sense. For too many the public realm is a one-way street, and they fail to respond by equally rigorous reflection on their own intentions, visions and constraints – surely the only rational form of response – and hence the power of Kim Dovey's analysis is demonstrated. (Indeed power inheres in the written words as in the constructed space, but the interplay is rarely understood.)

The University of Melbourne is to be congratulated on the appointment. It is also to be commended for the wisdom of re-naming the Chair to reveal the inseparability of Architecture and Urban Design. It is perhaps a shame that there is not a single word in our language to do that job.

Kim Dovey is a scholar, a public intellectual, and I have not heard a better lecturer.

Kim Dovey delivered his inaugural professorial lecture, "Place and Power: Rethinking Architecture and Urban Design", for the Dean's Lecture Series 2003. See page 17 for the current program.

# THE EXPANDING FACULTY

Kim Dovey

The size of the Faculty has more than doubled in the past decade placing great pressure on our physical infrastructure. In the second semester of 2002 the Faculty took possession of part of the Baldwin Spencer building, the first major expanse of Faculty space since the fifth floor was added to the main building in 1997. The Baldwin Spencer building is a heritage-listed building originally completed in 1889 by architects Reed, Henderson and Smart. It was the original home of the Zoology department enclosing the north side of the concrete lawns. Our Faculty occupies the heritage component of the building which has been minimally renovated (by Kerstin Thompson Architects) to house the Faculty's coursework masters programs and about a dozen staff offices. The facilities include a large and beautifully lit upstairs hall which we have turned into a multi-use Design Hall for studios, crits, exhibitions and lectures. An antique lecture theatre at the heart of the building has also been renovated and restored. The building has great character in the best and worst senses with an odd collection of rooms under heritage control, including the newly named 'English Room', extending the Chinese,

Japanese and Indian series. We now face the challenge of keeping academic networks intact; the well-worn 100 metre path between the two buildings has become a new Faculty corridor.

A master plan prepared by Kerstin Thompson Architects will see further expansion of the Faculty into the adjacent Old Commerce building, hopefully in 2004. Old Commerce has a neo-classical 1890s facade by Joseph Reed which was gifted to the university during the depression when the Commercial Bank needed a facelift. The art deco building which was added at the rear was renovated in the early 1990s by Peter Elliott. Since this building is barely six metres from the existing building, the plan is to construct a lightweight bridge at the level of the library to ensure a strong connection to existing Faculty networks. The master plan includes a thorough interior renovation of the existing building to meet current Faculty requirements. Key aspects of this work will include opening up the



Baldwin Spencer Building

first floor atrium as a circulation space with new exhibition infrastructure. The inherent flexibility of the building structure will be exploited on this and other floors to generate higher levels of both transparency and security while protecting and recapturing aspects of the building's modernist heritage. The first stage, currently under construction, is the new Dean's Office and Meeting Area on the first floor.

Professor Kim Dovey is the Faculty's Associate Dean (Resources).

## INDUSTRY SUPPORTS AWARDS AND PRIZES

Every year Professor Ruth Fincher, the Dean of the Faculty, hosts the Dean's Honours and Awards Night to celebrate the Faculty's high achieving students.

Apart from the Dean's Honours, awarded to high achieving undergraduate students, an increasing number of sponsored awards and prizes are awarded each year.

This year sees new awards for Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, Bachelor of Property and Construction and Bachelor of Urban Planning and Development students:

→ Ground Control Landscape Architecture Award for Landscape Practice, awarded annually to the landscape architecture student with the best overall achievement in the subject Landscape Practice.

→ Central Equity Prize, awarded annually to the best group performance in the final year property and construction subject, Project Management.

→ Essential Economics Prize, awarded annually to the highest achieving urban planning and development student enrolled in the subject Planning the Productive City.

The Faculty would like to thank the following benefactors of prizes and awards for their ongoing support:

Mrs Noemi Fooks  
Mrs J. A. Stosius  
Mr Jeffrey Turnbull  
Australian Institute of Building  
Australian Property Institute  
Bates Smart Pty Ltd  
Castles, Stephenson, and Turner Pty Ltd  
Central Equity Ltd  
Contour Consultants Aust Pty Ltd

Department of Infrastructure – Planning, Heritage and Building Division  
Department of Infrastructure – Strategic Planning Division  
DesignInc Melbourne Pty Ltd  
EDAW Ltd  
Essential Economics Pty Ltd  
Ground Control Landscape Architecture Pty Ltd  
Hansen Yuncken Pty Ltd  
Mark McWha Pty Ltd  
Multiplex Construction Pty Ltd  
Royal Australian Institute of Architects  
Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors  
SJB Architecture Pty Ltd  
Tract Consultants Pty Ltd  
Urbis Pty Ltd  
Wood Bagot Pty Ltd

The Dean's Honours and Awards Night for 2002 was held on 11 April 2003. If you would like information on award recipients or on supporting the Faculty through an award or prize please contact Dean Munday on tel: +61 3 8344 3740 or email dmunday@unimelb.edu.au.

Dr Darko Radovic discusses a collaborative project between l'École d'architecture et de paysage de Bordeaux, the Faculty of Architecture, Kasetsart University and the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne

Following a series of informal and formal contacts and joint teaching exercises between this Faculty, the Faculty of Architecture, Kasetsart University and l'École d'Architecture et de Paysage de Bordeaux, the establishment of a long-term collaborative project in teaching, design-research and research emerged. This collaborative project was nicknamed BMB (Bangkok–Melbourne–Bordeaux)

In April 2002 representatives from each of the institutions were in Melbourne to discuss the proposal. Discussions included visits to sites of possible interest for the project, which were generously supported by the Docklands Authority, The City of Melbourne and the City of Port Phillip, all of which expressed their strong interest and wish to be involved.

### **BMB works towards both design and research outcomes through exhibitions, an international symposium and a book**

BMB was officially launched at the jointly organised *Modernity, Tradition, Culture, Water* symposium held in Bangkok in October 2002 (see accompanying article on page 15).

BMB works towards both design and research outcomes through exhibitions, an international symposium and a book. The aim is also to contribute to debates on planning and design in the cities of Bangkok, Bordeaux and Melbourne.

Postgraduate urban design-research studios will focus on issues of post-industrial sites and water. Parallel research projects will explore teaching methodologies in and for cross-cultural design studios.



BMB pilot studio 2002. Field work in Bangkok

In 2003 the focus is on Bangkok and Thai ways of seeing and teaching design. Activities in 2004 will focus on Melbourne and in 2005, Bordeaux. The University of Melbourne's activities will be conducted within the Sustainable Environments Studio coordinated by Professor Catherin Bull and Dr Darko Radovic. In 2002 our Faculty conducted a pilot for this studio project that helped define our starting position, and we eagerly await its development through interactions with our French and Thai colleagues.

Throughout the process a number of staff members, research students and associates will be invited to take part. *Atrium* and our web-site will keep you informed about the progress and invite you to take part in BMB.



In 2001 Dr Darko Radovic was invited to join the Institute for Urbanism of Belgrade (Yugoslavia) team on the first post-Milosevic era Master Plan. By the end of 2002 the *Master Plan Belgrade 2021* was completed, discussed and accepted by the Belgrade City Council as the guiding document for development of the Yugoslav capital city over the next two decades.

On the basis of his contribution to the research component and spatial synthesis of that document, Darko was invited to give advice on one of Belgrade's major projects – the redefinition of an area along the 38-kilometre stretch of the freeway which will, due to the construction of a ring-road, be transformed into an urban traffic artery.

Darko Radovic and Steve Whitford are working with a team from the Institute for Urbanism on an urban design strategy, researching the possibility of the transition of a traffic conduit into the series of pedestrian-friendly, urbane avenues.

The project builds upon Darko's and Steve's previous design-research collaboration (some of which was published in the previous issue of *Atrium*) and on the local knowledge and expertise provided by the Institute. The main research focus of our team is on the relationship between the urban morphology and temporal dimension of evolution of urban space.

Another aim of this project is to strengthen the long-term strategy of our Masters of Urban Design (MUD) Program to provide a framework that integrates design-research projects by our staff with those conducted within the MUD curriculum.

Dr Darko Radovic is the Head of the Urban Design program and Senior Lecturer in Architecture. Steve Whitford is a Lecturer in Architecture and Urban Design.



# MODERNITY TRADITION CULTURE WATER

Urban Regeneration, Cultural Survival and Ephemeral Reinvention



From 30 to 31 October, 2002, 150 scholars met in Bangkok, Thailand, to participate in the *Modernity, Tradition, Culture, Water* symposium.

This symposium, sponsored by the Faculty of Architecture of Kasetsart University, Thailand, the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning of the University of Melbourne, and l'Ecole d'Architecture et de Paysage de Bordeaux, France launched the recently established Bangkok-Melbourne-Bordeaux (BMB) collaborative project (see accompanying article page 14).

The symposium's focus on issues of modernity, tradition, culture, water and their interactions sprang from considerations of the home cities of the three sponsoring schools.

Throughout history, changing technologies of transportation and trans-shipment, the silting of rivers and the movement of shorelines have left ports stranded, derelict and abandoned. Changing scales and technologies of agriculture have had a major impact on estuarine and hinterland hydrological systems. Increasing affluence, leisure time and global tourism can lead to the major transformation of old ports and their cities.

Bordeaux may be viewed as a once-great port, subsequently superseded and where there are now opportunities for urban regeneration to turn the life of the city back to the waterfront. Bangkok is also a city that has, in large measure, turned away from its port and watery origins. The intricate network of canals, the very foundation of Bangkok's culture and identity, is now effectively hidden, neglected and in decay. Melbourne,

typical of Australian cities, has embarked on reclamation of its river and port for recreation, entertainment and housing. In the process, old memories and identity are erased and the question of whether the demand for recreation and spectacle can sustain the vision is raised.

So Bordeaux might initially be identified with urban regeneration, Bangkok with cultural survival, and Melbourne with ephemeral reinvention.

**While the BMB project focuses on issues linking Bangkok, Melbourne and Bordeaux, it is obvious that the considerations range far beyond these three cities. In some senses they are universal.**

The symposium was the first of a series of Masters-level design-research workshops to be held over the next two years in the three cities on the topic of "Water, Space, Culture". The broad focus of these projects is on the concept of difference, in this case on the difference between three cultures: Asian, Australian and European. Also under consideration will be ways of seeing, understanding and dealing with two fundamental environmental phenomena and their interactions: the built environment and water.

While the BMB project focuses on issues linking Bangkok, Melbourne and Bordeaux, it is obvious that the considerations range far beyond these three cities. In some senses they are universal.

Students and staff in attendance at the *Modernity, Tradition, Culture, Water* symposium included:

- + Dr Ray Green, 'Tourism Development and the Transformation of Community, Culture and the Natural Environment of the Island Koh Samui, Thailand.'
- + Dr Darko Radovic, 'Celebrating the Difference: Design-Research Education for Cultural Sustainability.'
- + Polladach Theerapappisit, 'River Life Transition: From Agro-Cities to Agritourism.'
- + Sidh Sintusingha, 'Klong, Muang, and Thammachat (Canals, City, and Nature).'
- + Cuttaleeya Noparatnaraporn, 'Community Spaces and Landscapes in Bangkok: What has Survived?'
- + Wandee Pinijarasin, 'A Reflection of Experiences of Well-Being in Thai Vernacular Houses: Nostalgia for Local Lifestyles with Aquatic Environments.'
- + Kasama Polakit Bootsita, 'Everyday Life Along a Waterway in Bangkok: Khlong Bangluang Noi'
- + Prof Kim Dovey, 'Facing up to the Waterfront.'
- + Sirima Na Songkhla, 'Rural Landscape Perception: Towards Visual Resource Management Approach in Mountainous Town, Northern Thailand.'
- + Prof Ross King, 'Dead Cities.'
- + Lana Winayanti, 'A View from a Bridge: Riverbank Settlements in Jakarta.'

# AN INTERVIEW WITH HAMISH LYON

Simon Wollan (BPD Arch 2002) interviewed Hamish Lyon (BArch (Hons) 1986, MArch (Design) 1999) after his lecture, *Instant City*, delivered as part of the Dean's Lecture Series 2002.

*Your recent research has centred on shopping and architecture. What was your motivation in investigating this?*

My interest came through the realisation that public infrastructure and public works in this country now and certainly for the foreseeable future are going to be driven by private forces. If you want to be involved at either a theoretical or practical level in the building of cities and in the question of urbanisation, you just have to deal with this fact.

## Most of the developments in central Melbourne, whether they be residential or commercial, are now being driven by the component of shopping

My interest in shopping also came about through the realisation that most of the world now is driven by shopping. Most of the developments in central Melbourne, whether they be residential or commercial, are now being driven by the component of shopping. Historically the core drivers of the CBD have been places like Myer, David Jones and Melbourne Central. They are now having to reconfigure themselves because the dinosaur of the department store is dying. Finally they have taken notice that all these strange, scruffy little laneways to the south are now where everybody seems to be having coffee and buying records and going to bookstores.

*When did laneways become important again? A number of projects over the last couple of years have made features of Melbourne's laneway system, such as the Queen Victoria site and Federation Square. Yet only a decade ago they were being demolished to make way for developments such as Casselden Place and Melbourne Central.*

The shift that has occurred is that the laneway has returned to public space. It's been driven again from two ends, from the ideological end and from the sociological end. Ten years ago they were pretty ordinary spaces which meant that their rents were low, and people who were independent, entrepreneurial, fine-grained or adventurous could find their way into the central city. It helped

bring in new ideas because it was a cheap place. At the same time there was a growing disenfranchisement with the idea of mediated space – such as the shopping centre. No matter what you did, you had to pay for a cup of coffee in order to sit there. In Australia it was becoming more and more difficult to come to the city or live in the suburbs and experience a public space or a public activity and not feel obliged to pay. The combination of those two things started to reenergize the city at a practical level.

*Could this process of reappraising the laneway lead to its commodification? Many of the artists who lived on Flinders Lane have had to move on. Can laneways still work after gentrification?*

No, there's a sort of process where the parent eats the child and it returns to itself. The 20<sup>th</sup> century is left in the junkyard of types. That is the condition of the shopping centre. It was invented to solve a problem, which was the mobility of the middle class and their desire to have comfort and safety. It invented itself into a highly efficient type, which then, like any efficient type, multiplied itself voraciously. Its sheer success ensured its own extinction. Laneways I think will suffer that same condition.

*Isn't it slightly cynical then to include the laneway as a centrepiece in these various designs?*

I wouldn't say it's cynical, it has to be studied very carefully though, it can't be taken glibly. The history of the Melbourne grid sub-division is not unique to Melbourne. It is a 19<sup>th</sup> century post-Enlightenment colonial model which you can find in North America, some parts of South America, in all the places where the central European countries colonised the new world in the 1700s and 1800s. So Melbourne has that common tie, of the surveyor-general determining the plan of a city. There are certain kinds of typological histories that our city has, and the laneway is clearly the sort of grandchild of that social, political and physical history of our city. A cynical question is what you do with it: if you exploit it purely as a sort of marketing slogan, then yes it is cynical. If you can return to it at the typological level and then hope that over the period of 10, 20,

50 or 80 years it reengages itself then I think it's a successful urban strategy.

*Can architecture solve social problems?*  
No.

*Absolutely not?*

As a short answer, no. Architecture's responsibility is to actually deal with social issues, to direct critical discourse on to those, so that there is a higher level of understanding about the issue. It has a responsibility to engage with social issues beyond the idiosyncratic view of the individual. That has been, I would argue from an Australian architect's point of view, its greatest failing in the generations that I've been part of.

We are a very consumer oriented society and we consume architecture. In the earlier generations in the 1970s, architecture was debated through the issue of the school, the church and the community building. The magazines were full of that kind of debate, about what is Australian architecture. The last 30 years has seen the rise of middle class access to architecture and so the house has become the dominant representational force in architecture. People now consider architecture a lifestyle issue.

## People now consider architecture a lifestyle issue

Housing is important but the house has become a consumer object. It no longer has an architectural content as in the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Now the house is purely an object of personal idiosyncratic desire. So just as you decide whether or not you are going to wear Nike or Reebok, you decide whether you're going to have architect X or Y design your beach house.

So to answer your question, can architecture deal with social issues? It can, but firstly we need to return architecture to a discussion about urbanism, to public architecture.

The full transcript of this interview appears in the most recent edition of *~ise*, edited by Simon Wollan and Dr Sandra Kaji-O'Grady. See page 21 for more information.

## DEAN'S LECTURE SERIES 2003

All lectures commence at 6.15pm and are held in the Sisalkraft Theatre (unless otherwise notified)

The Dean's Lecture Series 2003 has already presented four very successful lectures by Professor Kim Dovey, Professor Steve Calhoun and Professor Rodney Wulff, Professor Philip Goad and Mr Basil Natoli. Of the remaining lectures, four are presented by esteemed alumni of the Faculty: John Denton, Peter Rowe, John Gollings and Noel Henderson.

5 August

**Lyndsay Neilson**

Secretary, Department of Sustainability and Environment  
Victoria, Australia

**MELBOURNE 2020: AMBITIONS REALISED OR DREAMS UNFULFILLED**

12 August

**John Denton**

Denton Corker Marshall  
Architects, Melbourne, Australia

**EUROPEAN REALITY & CHINA SKETCHES**

19 August

**Hiromi Fujii**

Architect; Director, Center for International Programs  
Shibaura Institute of Technology, Japan

**RECENT WORKS: BODY AND SPACE**

2 September

**Peter Rowe**

Dean, Faculty of Design and Raymond Garbe Professor of Architecture and Urban Design  
Harvard University, USA

**SHAPING THE SPACE OF TIME IN CONTEMPORARY CITIES**

9 September

**John Gollings**

Photographer  
Melbourne, Australia

**ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

14 October

**Noel Henderson**

Managing Director, Multiplex Constructions  
Melbourne, Australia

**PLAYING IN THE GLOBAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**

Further details can be found at  
[www.arbld.unimelb.edu.au/events/dls.shtml](http://www.arbld.unimelb.edu.au/events/dls.shtml)

## SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Two **Henry and Rachael Ackman Travelling Scholarships** were awarded for 2003/2004. **Julie Firkin** (BArch 1997) was awarded a scholarship to support her enrolment in a Master of Architecture at Harvard University for 2003. **Martina Johnson** (BArch 1999) received a scholarship to enable her to undertake a Master of Science in Regional & Urban Planning Studies at the London School of Economics in 2003–2004. Julie was "absolutely thrilled!" to hear that she had been awarded a scholarship, while Martina tells us that she is "over the moon about the news, and honored to be given the award to pursue study at the LSE."

The Ackman Scholarship is awarded to candidates intending to enrol in overseas courses of up to three years in length. Preference is given to those applicants engaging in the study of Housing of Aged Persons or Family Architecture but applicants from all architecture-related fields will be considered. The Ackman Scholarship will next be awarded in late 2004 for use in 2005/2006.

Julie Firkin has had a very good start to the year as she has also been awarded **The Fritz Janeba Travelling Scholarship for 2003**. This scholarship is awarded annually to assist BArch graduates of the Faculty to undertake design studies overseas.

The Faculty wishes Julie and Martina every success in their studies.

### Scholarships in Architecture

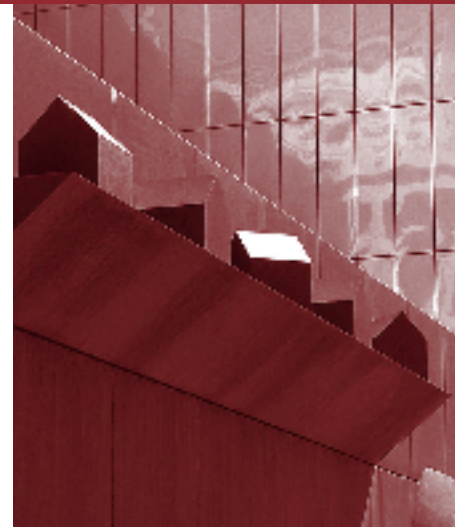
**The Eleanor Edna Norris Research Fellowship** supports a student undertaking a Masters by Research or PhD in architecture in the Faculty. The fellowship is equivalent in value to, and subject to the same conditions as, a Melbourne Research Scholarship.

Closing date for applications: 31 October 2003

**The Fritz Janeba Travelling Scholarship** assists BArch graduates of the Faculty to pursue studies in design at overseas institutions for up to one year. In 2003, the scholarship was worth \$21,595.

Closing date for applications: 1 March 2004

Further information about these scholarships is available at [www.unimelb.edu.au/unisec/awards/archgradindex.html](http://www.unimelb.edu.au/unisec/awards/archgradindex.html) and from the Faculty's Research and Graduate Studies Manager, Fiona Downie on tel: +61 3 8344 6413 or email: [f.downie@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:f.downie@unimelb.edu.au).



## 2003 AASA CONFERENCE DESIGN + RESEARCH PROJECT-BASED RESEARCH IN ARCHITECTURE

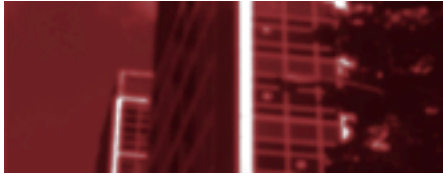
The second international conference of the Association of Architecture Schools in Australasia (AASA) will be held at the University of Melbourne from 28 to 30 September. The conference will debate creative endeavour as research in architecture, and will also include sessions on architectural education and other significant or innovative areas of architectural research. Papers will be interspersed with discussion time to allow academics, practitioners and students to debate education and research in relationship to the practice of architecture.

For more information visit  
[www.arbld.unimelb.edu.au/events/aasa](http://www.arbld.unimelb.edu.au/events/aasa)  
or email: [aasa2003@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:aasa2003@unimelb.edu.au)



# 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE PROPERTY CONFERENCE

11 JULY 2003



Following the success of last year's inaugural University of Melbourne Property Conference, the 2003 Annual University of Melbourne Property Conference will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2003 with an emphasis on cutting-edge property research and its application to practice. Presenters will focus on cutting-edge issues in real estate including changing urban environments, valuation challenges and property law. The conference format is designed to appeal to all professionals directly or indirectly involved in the real estate industry, and to those who wish to meet researchers in this exciting field.

For further details regarding the content of the conference, please visit [www.arbld.unimelb.edu.au/events/conferences](http://www.arbld.unimelb.edu.au/events/conferences) or contact Richard Reed at the University of Melbourne on tel: +61 3 8344 8966 or email: [r.reed@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:r.reed@unimelb.edu.au).

To reserve your place in this conference please contact the Australian Property Institute on tel: +61 3 9646 1977 or email [apivic@propertyinstitute.com.au](mailto:apivic@propertyinstitute.com.au)



## GOOD FOOD, NEW CARS PREFERRED TO HOME OWNERSHIP

Richard Reed

Despite the recent boom in home buying, the dream of home ownership has fallen off the list of priorities for many Australians, says the Faculty's Richard Reed, lecturer in property.

"Some of today's households are better described as 'free agents', preferring to travel, eat out and have financial commitments tied to commodities such as cars rather than home loans, a trend that could have implications for the economy and a wider society," says Mr Reed.

"These implications could include neighborhood instability, higher home vacancy rates, increased crime and decreased demand for home improvement products," he says.

"These factors can affect the economy, the perception of a neighborhood and, consequently, its house prices."

Reed presented his research to participants at last year's University of Melbourne Property Conference.

Reed is one of the few people researching those who have the financial freedom or capacity to borrow for a home loan, but choose to rent rather than buy a home.

**"In many instances, a tenant may view renting as a wise investment decision, no longer seeing it as 'dead money',"**

Other research has shown a decline in home purchase in the under-35 age group from 43 per cent in 1981 to 33 per cent in 1996.

"Home ownership is no longer regarded as the only tenure option. Renting appears to be more socially acceptable and may be becoming a viable alternative for many," says Reed.

"In many instances, a tenant may view renting as a wise investment decision, no longer seeing it as 'dead money'," he says.

But Reed suggests there are many issues that could arise from this changing rental landscape.

"The gentrification of older suburbs relies heavily on the arrival of younger, often dual income, homeowners," he says.

"If an investor purchases a property for rental purposes, the goal will be to maximise the income-producing potential of the property with less usually being spent on capital improvements to the house and garden. Additionally, renters are less likely to take the same amount of care of a place as an owner-occupier. Such homes can gradually reduce in value, and depreciate the value of nearby residences.

"Neighborhoods with a higher proportion of rental properties may also create periods of sustained vacancy levels that can encourage crime and a general decline in overall neighborhood quality. Research has shown that suburbs with lower levels of home ownership can be perceived as less desirable."

Reed has just received funding to further investigate the role of demography in understanding property values and what the implications of declining rates of home ownership might be.

"It is critical for information to be disseminated to individuals and households to help them make informed decisions and fully comprehend the long-term implications of their tenure decision," he says.

"Research, so far, has focused on either home ownership in isolation or rental in isolation.

"Only when the two markets are considered together can the wider implications from emerging trends be fully understood."

Richard Reed lectures in Property for the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. He will present his paper 'The Advantages of Reverse Mortgages in Australia' at the Annual University of Melbourne Property Conference to be held on Friday 11 July. For more details contact Richard on tel: +61 3 8344 8966 or email: [r.reed@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:r.reed@unimelb.edu.au)

## BOOKS BY FACULTY STAFF



Professor Catherin Bull's *New Conversations with an Old Landscape* discusses the work of landscape architects in Australia since the 1960s. It describes how landscape architects have, as contemporary Australians, listened more closely to what the landscape has to say and how they have designed new landscapes in response. These designed landscapes manifest 'new conversations' between the land and its people, from the coast to the outback, from the city to the suburbs. They illustrate not only the ingenuity that accompanies successful adaptation, but the importance of creating landscapes imbued with local meaning.

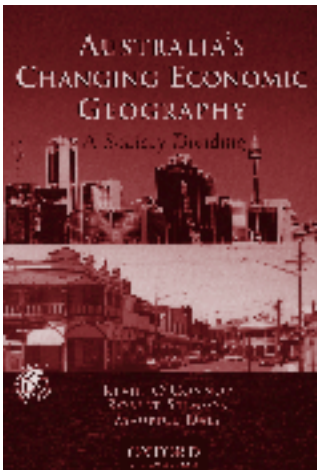
Bull argues that designed landscapes not only express cultural values, they change them. The traditions that have dominated the making of the Australian landscape are discussed and the works of landscape architects since the 1960s in Australia are introduced as propositions designed to counter prevailing, often destructive, attitudes to Australia's ancient and varied landscapes. These works are tangible manifestations of the 'new' conversations that these designers had with the many 'old' landscapes they re-made. They propose landscape forms that are both sensitive to their specific environments and culturally satisfying as models to replace those that had previously dominated.

This book covers the huge reach of landscape architecture in Australia, denoted by chapters including 'Living with the Bush,' 'Beyond the Black Stump,' 'City-Setting for Outdoor Life' and 'Landscape as Journey'. Peter Walker notes in his foreword that "throughout these descriptions runs a persuasive argument perhaps of particular importance to Australians,

such as the protection and use of native landscape, the historical and social purposes unique to Australia, the shortage of fresh water and the difficulties of shallow soils. There is also to be found throughout, glimpses of that most elusive of modern concepts: sustainability."

*New Conversations with an Old Landscape* reveals the full range of landscapes being created in Australia today, from those of everyday settlement through to those special landscapes and gardens that are symbols of Australian culture and nature. These landscapes continue to contribute to the evolving conversation between Australian communities and the landscapes they inhabit, proposing new ways in which those landscapes can be used more sustainably. Although their contribution often remains unrecognised and unheard, the places they make are among our most valued and valuable.

*New Conversations with an Old Landscape*, published by the IMAGES Publishing Group, is widely available through bookstores, by visiting [www.images.com.au](http://www.images.com.au) or by contacting the publisher on tel: +61 3 9561 5544 or fax: +61 3 9561 4860.



Associate Professor Kevin O'Connor, along with co-authors Robert Stimson and Maurice Daly, won the 2002 Planning Institute of Australia, Victorian Chapter award for Planning Scholarship for his book *Australia's Changing Economic Geography: A Society Dividing*.

The award's jurors offered the following comments:

"Urban geography provides an essential part of the theoretical foundations for urban planning. The authors of this book are among the leading scholars in their discipline and they have written an excellent analysis of the changes that have occurred in Australian economic geography since the 1970s as a result of globalisation, the arrival of new technologies, structural adjustment and demographic factors. Their book is based on profound and incisive research. Their views about the ecological sustainability and the social equity of development in the Melbourne-Sydney-Brisbane axis will be the source of intense debate. They defend a particular view of the 'new styles' of planning which they argue are necessary if cities are to meet the challenges of future development. What is most needed, they argue, is government capacity to provide up-to-date information to small and large firms on employment, investment and infrastructure, based on a sound understanding of key industrial and service sectors.

The book is not exclusively concerned with cities, but the insights into urban change and regional planning the book provides stem from the analysis of the wider economic context. The book covers the changing nature of work, the deregulatory turn in institutional settings, demographic changes, the reshaping of transnational corporations, population shifts throughout Australia, the changing economic relationships between Sydney and Melbourne, changes in non-metropolitan Australia and the new internal geography of the big cities. The book concludes with a thorough analysis of challenges for policy and governance.

This book will become a classic text for both students of urban planning and practitioners who want to be well informed about changes in the economic foundations of Australian cities."

*Australia's Changing Economic Geography: A Society Dividing* is published by Oxford University Press.

## BOOKS BY FACULTY STAFF



### 150th anniversary publications

*Making Urban Transport Sustainable* edited by Nicholas Low (with Brendan Gleeson) opens with a dedication “to people who go on foot”. This sets the tone for a volume whose contributors view urban transport from different perspectives and discuss what can and must be done to address its problems.

Urban transport has become a global issue because, through its contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, transport in one city affects the future of the whole planet. Governments are building transport systems design to encourage more travel – when we need less. The era of cheap oil is ending. The atmosphere is warming. Cities of developing nations cannot survive the pollution from road vehicles. Alternative technologies will help but by themselves they will not save urban environments.

The editors have produced a book that discusses urban transport from a worldwide perspective, bringing together expert views on technology, fuel, society, the environment and transport.

Old habits are changing. People want better cities representing their real needs. Adaptation by consumers and planning institutions to the new reality of limits to transport is slowly evolving and this book is a valuable contribution to the debate.

*Making Urban Transport Sustainable* is published by Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke & New York, 2003. [www.palgrave.com](http://www.palgrave.com)

Professor Philip Goad's *New Directions in Australian Architecture* is a critical snapshot of the last ten years of contemporary Australian architecture. It begins with a substantial historical/critical text that dwells on themes such as centre and periphery, landscape and space, attempts to define Aboriginal architecture, questions of house and housing, and concludes with ten 'directions' for contemporary Australian architecture. His main thesis is the existence of 'islands' of definable architectural culture within the Australian continent, from tropical Darwin to composition-obsessed Melbourne. Goad then features the work of fourteen architecture firms. There is a biographical overview of each firm as well as a minor essay on each firm's design philosophy. Each practice is relatively young but with a recognisable body of built work that signals achievement as well as potential. It is upon this work as well as his research into Australian architecture of the last fifty years that Goad has based his observations and conclusions. Sydney photographer Patrick Bingham-Hall's stunning archival quality photographs give the book its strong visual consistency. *New Directions* is thus not just a fine piece of research into contemporary Australian architectural design but a good-looking object!

*New Directions in Australian Architecture* published by Pesaro Publishing, 2001, is widely available through bookstores.

Members and associates of the Faculty have contributed to two major books, published to commemorate the University of Melbourne's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### *Architecture on Campus: a Guide to the Buildings of the University of Melbourne*

Philip Goad and George Tibbits

This book, in the style of Philip Goad's acclaimed *Melbourne Architecture*, offers a unique insight into the University's rich array of buildings, public artworks and landscapes.

When the university was established in 1853, its founders secured a large and expansive site. It was a shrewd move. The first building, the Quadrangle, was Tudor Gothic and handsome in aspect. It sat like a gentleman's villa in a vast park.

Now, 150 years later, the campus is like a city, home to more than 35,000 students and spreading beyond its original boundaries. It is an urban precinct with its own special identity, and its buildings offer an unparalleled chronicle of educational architecture in Australia.

*Architecture on Campus* features over one hundred buildings, complemented by Patrick Bingham-Hall's stunning photographs. It is a celebration of the backdrop to the intellectual, social and sporting life of a venerable and distinguished university.

This clear and thoughtful guidebook is an invitation to explore, and the perfect companion for walks.





**Treasures of the University of Melbourne:  
Highlights of the Cultural Collection**

**Chris McAuliffe & Chris Yule**

With contributions by Philip Goad, Hugh O'Neill, Julie Willis, Jeff Turnbull, and George Tibbits

For 150 years the University of Melbourne has collected diverse cultural objects and works of art. These now form one of the most significant collections in Australia.

The combined University of Melbourne collections comprise some 25,000 items, encompassing paintings, sculptures, works on paper, photographs, textiles, video and digital media, decorative arts, furniture and ethnographical and archaeological artefacts. Works of the highest quality by such renowned figures as Arthur Streeton, Walter Burley Griffin and Percy Grainger, ranging over all artistic media, are part of the University's history and the nation's cultural heritage.

Many of these previously hidden treasures are brought together in this delightful and fascinating volume, alongside authoritative descriptions by University of Melbourne experts. Presented thematically, with short descriptions and illustrations of specific art works, *Treasures* combines intellectual authority with a browsable, bite-size format. Essays presenting new research by staff and students of the University link cultural artefacts with new methods of interpretation.

While concentrating on works from the Ian Potter Museum of Art, *Treasures* also explores the collections of the Grainger Museum, the Baillieu Library Rare Books Collection, the Baillieu Print Collection, the Medical History Museum, the Classics Collection, and the University Archives, as well as the many important works of sculpture and architecture on campus.

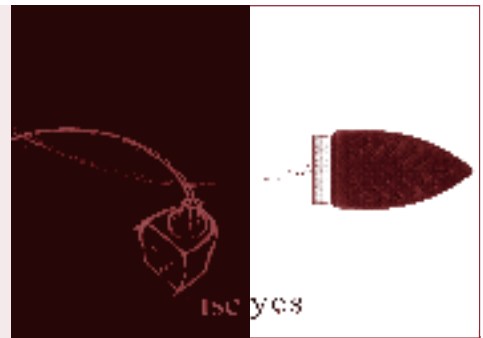
From Greek antiquity through European Old Masters to modern art and architecture, *Treasures* reflects the development of cultural taste, telling the story of a major institution through the highest achievements in the arts.

**Other books published to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary include**

***The Shop: The University of Melbourne, 1850 – 1939* by R.J.W. Selleck**

***A Short History of the University of Melbourne* by Stuart Macintyre & Richard Selleck**

*Architecture on Campus, Treasures of the University of Melbourne, The Shop, and A Short History of the University of Melbourne* are all published by Melbourne University Publishing. They are available from the University Bookroom or directly from the publisher at [www.mup.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.mup.unimelb.edu.au).



**Faculty publications**

**~ISE**

The second edition of *~ise* was launched in April. *~ise* is an edited collection of graduate and undergraduate student writings devoted to critical reflection upon contemporary architecture and urbanism.

Where the first edition of *~ise* was structured around the link between the visual and architecture, *~ise 2002* is constituted between the spatial and architecture. *~ise 2002* argues that theory is a spatial activity, and demonstrates how theory can be a means to experience place, without necessarily defining it rigidly as a place.

*~ise 2002* has been edited and produced by third year architecture student, Simon Wollan and staff member, Dr Sandra Kaji-O'Grady.

*~ise 2002* can be purchased from the General Office of the Faculty for \$10

**EYES**

The eighth edition of *EYES* was launched in April. *EYES* publishes the best design work from the annual *EYES* (Everyone's Year End Show) exhibition.

*EYES* reveals the breadth of design projects undertaken in the Faculty. It also provides an insight into the increasing complexity and professional relevance of these projects as students progress through the course.

Readers of *EYES* will be inspired, given an insight into current pedagogical methods as well as an opportunity to identify emerging talent.

*EYES 2002*, with over 60 of its 150 pages now in full colour, can be purchased from the General Office of the Faculty for \$20.



Main Studio of the Atelier  
Bulletin of the University of Melbourne  
Architectural Atelier 1933

The University of Melbourne's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary offers the perfect opportunity to reflect on the Faculty's history. Following is a timeline tracing the history of teaching and research in the built environment at the University.

**1860** The University establishes the Engineering Certificate course including an architecture subject

**1860-61** The Engineering Certificate commences, and regarded as suitable for training architects

**c 1866** John George Knight, architect, lecturing part-time in the Engineering course

**1877** Professor Pearson recommends the establishment of a chair in Engineering and a Lecturer in Architecture

**1882** New Bachelor of Engineering course includes the alternatives of 'Civil Engineering including Architecture', or 'Mining and Metallurgy'

**1891** Anketell Henderson appointed as first (part-time) lecturer in Architecture

**1901** A committee of University Council proposes modification of the Engineering course, and the establishment of a Diploma of Architecture

**1903** The Fink Royal Commission into the University hears evidence from the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects on 'the subject and teaching of architecture (historical and practical) at the University'. The RVIA is hostile towards the diploma course proposal, and the curriculum at the Working Men's College is seen as more relevant to the RVIA exams

**1904-5** Architecture lectures suspended

**1905** Royal Commission recommends a Diploma course in Architecture

**1906** Diploma course in Architecture is made available

**1907** The first purely architectural subject, 'Architectural Drawing', is established

**1910** RVIA is given representation on the Engineering Faculty

**1911** The first two diploma students enrol, one being Edward Fielder Billson, son of the Minister of Education: only Billson passes

**1912** It is 'found somewhat unexpectedly that lectures in architecture would be required this year for one student of the Diploma of Architecture'

**1913-14** Major reconstruction of the Diploma course occurs, at the instigation of the Victorian Architectural Students Society

**1914** First women enrol in Diploma of Architecture

**1919** The Atelier course in Architecture is established in a building designed in competition by the student Gordon Sutherland

**1920** Eileen Good is the first woman to graduate with the Diploma of Architecture

J G Gawler is appointed (part-time) Lecturer in Architecture, and a hut is provided to accommodate the School of Architecture (as distinct from the Atelier)

**1923** Board of Studies in Architecture is established

Engineering Faculty introduces a subject in Town Planning

**1924** First full-time member of academic staff in School of Architecture, Eileen Good, is appointed. Eileen Good is also the first woman teaching in an architecture school in Australia.

## FACULTY TIMELINE

**1926** Leighton Irwin appointed Director of the Atelier

**1927** Bachelor's degree course in Architecture is established, including Town Planning

**1928** Diploma of Architectural Design is introduced, for Atelier students

**1931** Faculty of Architecture is established with W N Kernot as Dean

**1938** John Gawler elected Dean of Architecture

**1946** 'The Age' Chair of Architecture is endowed

**1947** Brian Lewis is appointed first Professor of Architecture and Dean

**1948** Five-year Bachelor of Architecture established

**early 1950s** Neil Abercrombie is appointed lecturer in Town Planning

**1951** Foundation of Board of Studies in Town and Regional Planning

Diploma of Town and Regional Planning introduced

**1956** Fred Ledger becomes Director of the Department of Town and Regional Planning

**1958** Bachelor of Building is established

**1962** First two graduates in Building (Bruce Morgan and Michael Prentice)

**1962-4** Present Architecture and Planning Building is constructed

**1964** School of Architecture moves into new building

Leo Simon appointed Director of Studies in Building

Introduction of first full-time Bachelor of Town and Regional Planning program by Fred Ledger

Introduction by Mario Gutjahr and Beryl Mann of the first Landscape Design subjects in the Faculty

**1968** Architecture and Planning Building officially opened by HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh

Master of Building and Master of Building Science established

**1968** The Japanese Room, design by Shigera Yura, lecture in the School, 1963-65, officially opened

**1970** L.U.Simon appointed to Foundation Chair in Building, the first such Chair in Australia

Fred Ledger becomes Victoria's first Professor of Town and Regional Planning

**1971** Brian Lewis retires. University appoints a committee to consider all 'Aspects of the Teaching of Architecture and Building in the University'

First Building graduate appointed to academic staff (Peter Williams)

**1972** Fred Ledger appointed as Dean

Charles Robertson appointed Professor of Architecture

**1974** Centre for Environmental Studies (CES) established. Professor George Seddon appointed director

**1975** Establishment of new Faculty of Architecture, Building and Town and Regional Planning

**1976** Master of Environmental Studies and Master of Landscape Architecture established (taught by CES)

Master of Urban Planning introduced

**1977** John Scrivener appointed Professor of Building

**1978** Master of Landscape Architecture introduced

**1979** Professor Alan Rodger appointed Dean

**1980** Professor John Scrivener appointed Dean

Graham Brawn appointed Professor of Architecture

Academic Board initiated inquiry into viability of CES and Department of Town and Regional Planning. Inquiry recommends merger, integration of courses across departments, and introduction of the B Planning and Design

**1982** Faculty of Architecture and Planning established, consisting of Department of Architecture and Building and School of Environmental Planning (SEP - formed by merging Department of Town and Regional Planning with the Centre for Environmental Studies)

George Seddon appointed Dean

David Evans head of SEP (1982-1985)

**1983** Michael McCarthy appointed Elisabeth Murdoch Professor of Landscape Architecture

Brian McLoughlin appointed Professor of Town and Regional Planning

Master of Environmental Studies introduced

**1985** Introduction of the Bachelor of Planning and Design

**1986** University inquiry into the Department of Architecture and Building

Alan Atkins head of SEP (1986-88)

**1987** Peter McIntyre appointed Professor of Architecture and head of department (1987-93)

Course restructure, with B Architecture, B Building and B Town and Regional Planning to follow B Planning and Design

**1988** David Yencken appointed Elizabeth Murdoch Professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, and head of SEP (1988-1993)

**1988** John Scrivener appointed Dean

**1991** Evan Walker appointed Dean (1989-1994)

**1993** University inquiry into Faculty, recommending amalgamation of departments to form a one-department faculty, from 1 Jan 1995

**1993** Haig Beck appointed Professor of Architecture

**1994** Ross King head of SEP (1994-1995)

**1995** Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning formed as a one-department Faculty. Ross King appointed Dean (1995-2002)

**1996** Jon Robinson appointed Professor of Building

**1997** Ruth Fincher appointed Professor of Urban Planning

Property specialisation added to construction management and economics to form new Bachelor of Property and Construction (replacing B Building)

Fifth floor added to Architecture and Planning building and the building is reclad

**1999** Catherin Bull appointed Elizabeth Murdoch Professor of Landscape Architecture  
Bachelor of Urban Planning and Development established

**2000** Bachelor of Landscape Architecture established

**2001** Miles Lewis appointed Professor

**2002** Philip Goad appointed Professor of Architecture

Kim Dovey appointed Professor of Architecture and Urban Design

Faculty extends into Baldwin Spencer Building

Ross King retires

**2003** Ruth Fincher appointed as Dean

This timeline is a work in progress and we apologise for any omissions or inaccuracies. Any comments, corrections or additions are welcomed by the editor (email: dmunday@unimelb.edu.au).

Thank you to David Evans, Mario Gutjahr, Andrew Hutson, Ross King, Miles Lewis, Kristine Philipp, Peter Williams and David Yencken for their contributions to this timeline.

# NEWS

## New Staff

Welcome to **Dr Scott Drake**, new senior lecturer in Architecture. Scott joins the Faculty after more than seven years with the University of South Australia. His research interests include the application and appropriation of scientific knowledge in architecture, especially in relation to the human body.

Welcome to **Dr Anoma Pieris**, Lecturer, Architecture commencing 1 July and **Dr Carolyn Whitzman**, Lecturer, Urban Planning, also commencing 1 July.

New Honorary staff appointments to the Faculty 2002–2003 include:

### Professional Fellows with the title Professor:

Stephen Calhoun, Charles Choguill, Julie Eizenberg, Sumet Jumsai na Ayudhya, Geoffrey London, Rodney Wulff

### Principal Fellows with the title of Associate

Professor: Danny Then

Senior Fellows: Marisa Choguill, Denis Williamson

## Visitors

**Dr Will Hughes**, from Reading University, will be visiting the Faculty in August. Dr Hughes is a leading academic in the area of construction management, and lecture in construction management and law. Dr Hughes will be accompanied by his wife Cathy who is a Research Officer in the Department of Land Management at Reading University, working on valuation issues.

**Associate Professor Stephen Clancy**, Art History Department, Ithaca College, New York, is currently spending a few months in the Faculty as an academic visitor. During this time, he is working with Associate Professor Bharat Dave to develop further his project "The Cathedral as a Virtual Encyclopedia: Reconstructing the 'Texts' of Chartres Cathedral."

## Staff News

**Colin Falconer Munro**, a former member of the academic staff in Architecture, died on Thursday 29 May after a relatively brief battle with cancer. He taught mainly in the fields of Design and Acoustics, and he completed a research Masters thesis on architectural aesthetics. Always a gifted painter, he took early retirement to concentrate on his art, and married Val, who is also an artist.

Congratulations to **Dr Qinghua Guo** and **Dr Greg Missingham**, who were part of the team behind DesignInc's winning entry in the Yuyao Exhibition Centre and Master Planning competition.

**Dr Qinghua Guo** was selected as a 2002 Korea Foundation Fellow. She was invited to visit Korea for six months on a fully-funded trip to conduct on-site research under the auspices of the 2002 Korea Foundation Fellowship for Field Research Program.

**Dr Julie Willis** was awarded the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) City of Melbourne Crystal Vision Award for Advancing and Furthering the Interests of Women in the Construction Industry. Julie received the award, the most prestigious of the Victoria/Tasmania Chapter, for her book *Women Architects in Australia 1900–1950*.

**Professor Miles Lewis** was awarded a Centenary Medal, to commemorate the centenary of federation of Australia, "for service to Australian society and the humanities in the study of architectural history".

**Dr Jianfei Zhu** was awarded the Edward Clarence Dyason Universitas 21 Fellowship in 2002 by the University of Melbourne. This enabled him to visit and teach at Peking University, Beijing, in the second semester 2002 as Visiting Professor of Architectural History. He presented a series of lectures concerning the dialogue between Western theories and Chinese urban and architectural practices. He collaborated with the staff at Peking University's Graduate Centre

of Architecture in research on modern Chinese architecture. While in China, Jianfei was invited to speak at the opening ceremony of a Tumu exhibition ('Young Chinese Architecture') in Shanghai, and an international urban design workshop in Beijing. He was invited to contribute to exhibitions and publications in USA, France and Germany on issues of modern and contemporary Chinese architecture.

**Peter Ashford, Dr Helen Lingard and Dr Guo Qinghua** were recently promoted to the Senior Lecturer level.

**Bharat Dave and Paul Walker** were recently promoted to Associate Professor.

**Professor Ruth Fincher** has been elected as a Fellow to the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

**Professor Kim Dovey** will join some of Victoria's most prominent urban designers, planners and architects following his appointment to the Victorian Design Advisory Council (VDAC.) VDAC will provide leadership and strategic advice to the government on issues affecting building design issues across the State.

**Dr Anthony Mills** is the new president of the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors, Vic.

**Dr Sandra Kaji-O'Grady and Richard Reed** have each been awarded a University of Melbourne Early Career Researcher Grant for 2003. Sandra's grant of \$14,500 has been awarded for her project on Serialism in Art and Architecture in Western Europe, 1965–1975. Richard has been awarded \$14,500 to study the increasing role of demography in understanding residential property values.

## Research News

Several of our PhD students have been successful in winning University scholarships recently. **Beau Beza** has been awarded a Frederick Blake Shepherd Scholarship for the remainder of his PhD, and **Lana Winayanti, Pear Noparatnaraporn, and Jan Smitheram** have all been awarded Melbourne Abroad Postgraduate Travelling Scholarships.

Congratulations to one of our PhD students, **Libby Porter**, who has been awarded a research grant of \$8500 by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies to support fieldwork for her PhD "Spaces of inclusion? Indigenous participation and traditional land management in protected area planning in Victoria."

The Dean's Prize for Published Postgraduate Research in 2002 was awarded to two students this year to acknowledge the contribution made by postgraduate research students to the research culture and performance of the Faculty. **James McGregor** received the prize for his journal article 'The Architect as Storyteller: Making Places in John Hejduk's "Masques".' **Peter Raisbeck** received the prize for his conference paper 'Marine and Underwater Cities 1960–1975.'

**Dr David Beynon** was awarded the John Grice Research Prize in Architecture for 2002. This prize was awarded for excellence in a PhD or Master thesis completed in 2002. David received the award for his PhD thesis 'Hybrid Representations: The Public Architecture of Migrant Communities in Australia.'

**Associate Professor Nick Low and Associate Professor Paul Walker** have been successful in the 2003 Melbourne Research Grants Scheme. Nick has been awarded \$12,900 to investigate the discourse network in road infrastructure planning for Melbourne, and Paul has been awarded \$13,600 to study architectural strategies in colonial museums.

Staff of the Faculty have been successful with three Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage-Project Grant applications:

→ **Professor Jon Robinson with Dr L Aye and Professor W W Charters** were awarded a grant valued at over \$152,000 for the project 'The Performance of Environmentally Sustainable Design features in Commercial Buildings.' Industry partners for this project

are the Department of Public Works, Building Commission, and Construction Industry Institute.

→ **Professor Philip Goad, with Dr A E McNamara and Ms A B Stephen**, has been awarded a grant valued at over \$210,000 for their project 'The Unwritten History of Australian Modernism.' Industry partners for this project are the Powerhouse Museum and the Queensland Art Gallery.

→ **Dr Paul Mees, with Prof T W Burke**, has been awarded a grant valued at over \$69,000 for their project 'Political and Social Factors in the Decline of Mass Transit: an Investigation of Failed Policies to Rebuild Melbourne's Mass Transit.' Industry partner for this project is the Metropolitan Transport Forum.

Faculty staff have been successful in the 2003 ARC Discovery-Project Grants round for the following projects:

→ **Professor Kim Dovey** (\$150,000) for his project 'What is Urban Character? Defining, Constructing and Regulating Urban Place Identity.'

→ **Dr Ray Green** (\$122,500) for his project 'Involving Local Communities in Defining Town Character in Victorian Coastal Towns.'

→ **Associate Professor Paul Walker with Dr C Healy and Dr G Sculthorpe** (\$208,000) for their project 'Four South Pacific Museums: New Museums and Public Culture.'

## Alumni

**Sean Godsell** (B Arch (Hons) 1985) was announced as the joint winner of the international ar+d award in Copenhagen in November 2002, alongside four others. The ar+d award was conceived by d line™ international as and *The Architectural Review* (UK) to discover and celebrate the work of architects who are 45 or younger and is regarded as the award for emerging architects in Britain. Over 700 entries were received from around the world.

**Peter Corrigan** (B Arch 1966) who is regarded as one of the late-20th century's most influential architectural thinkers in Australia has been awarded the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Gold Medal. Announcing the winner of the 2003 Gold Medal, RAI President Mr Graham Jahn said "This award acknowledges Peter's contribution over thirty years as one of the most original and stimulating voices to Australian architectural teaching and practice." Mr Jahn noted that "Peter Corrigan has been a pivotal figure in the burst of creativity in Melbourne in recent decades and is to a large part responsible for a new and distinguishable architectural language."

**Dato' Kington Loo** (BArch 1953), passed away on 21 March 2003. Deepest condolences to his wife, Datin Janet, and his four children.

**Daniel Teo** (BArch 1970) is the International Real Estate Federation's (Fiabci) new World President.

## Student News

The ArchiRevue, a much-loved tradition of the Faculty, was revived in 2002 with five performances of 'Strictly Taboo' in early May at the Central Club Hotel in Richmond.

**Julia Gatley**, one of our PhD students, has been headhunted to teach architectural history and theory at the University of Tasmania in place of a staff member who is taking leave in the first semester.

Students of the Faculty's timber workshop elective were successful in winning two of the three awards presented by the Victorian Woodworkers Association at their annual exhibition. **Daniel Siu-Keung Chan** won the 'start Award for Design Concept' for his 'Barrow Table' while **Fang Cheah** won the 'start Award for Wood as a Medium' for his 'X:PYR (Axe: Firewood rack).'



# ALUMNI RELATIONS PROGRAM

There are about 130,000 men and women located in over 100 countries around the world who are part of the University of Melbourne alumni community. The alumni network offers you the opportunity to continue networking with former students and staff of the University and provides an excellent link to employers and other services. If you keep us updated on your current address, we'll keep you informed of University news and events via our free annual alumni magazine, *Melbourne University Magazine*. Other services available to alumni include:

- + The *Alumni@Melbourne* website (updated weekly, and including the Melbourne Forum, an online Mentoring Program, Events Calendar and e-postcards)
- + Free email bulletin – *GradNet@Melbourne*
- + Annual Virtual Alumni Summit - an online conference (see below for details)
- + Access to alumni networks interstate and overseas
- + Alumni career programs

You can find out more about our University of Melbourne alumni community by visiting the website: [www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni](http://www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni)

For further information about the Alumni Relations Program contact:  
Phone: 61 3 8344 0882      Email: [alumni-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:alumni-info@unimelb.edu.au)  
Fax: 61 3 8344 6895      Web: [www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni](http://www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni)

## Graduate Profiles

The Faculty is seeking to include short profiles of its alumni in future editions of *Atrium*. The University's Alumni website allows you to provide your profile online at [www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/vgappprofileform.html](http://www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/vgappprofileform.html)

Whatever you studied, and whatever you're doing, we are very keen to hear what you have been doing since graduation. Fellow alumni will also be intrigued to hear the stories of those with which they once shared classes.

## Reunions

The urge to get together periodically to celebrate with one's peers is strong, and reunions are a familiar part of university life. If you would like to organise a reunion for your year level the Faculty and the University's Alumni Relations Program can offer support in several ways. Please visit [www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni](http://www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni) or contact Dean Munday on tel: +61 3 8344 3740, email: [dmunday@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:dmunday@unimelb.edu.au) for more information.

## News continued

**Julia Hicks** (B Property and Construction (Hons) 2002) was awarded The Leighton Contractors Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Student at the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) awards night.

**Andrew Robertson** (Year 1 MLandArch by coursework), was awarded second prize in the annual Fleming's Student Design Competition 2003.

## STOP PRESS

**Andrew Simpson** (BArch 1998), who was awarded the Henry and Rachael Ackman Travelling Scholarship in 2001, recently graduated from Harvard University's Graduate Design School. Andrew graduated from the Master in Architecture with distinction and received the prize of dux for his year level. Andrew is moving to London and will be assisting in the delivery of a design studio at the AA from September.

# Faculty Contacts

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## Postgraduate Degrees

### All enquiries:

Graduate Studies Officer: Holly Davis      8344 0401  
email [abp-pgrad@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:abp-pgrad@unimelb.edu.au)

## Coursework degrees

### Course information

Architecture	Dr Paul Walker
Architectural History and Conservation	Prof Miles Lewis
Architectural Practice and Management	Mr Tony Mussen
Landscape Architecture	Mr Andrew Saniga
Planning and Design	Prof Catherin Bull
Property and Construction	Mr Peter Williams
Urban Design	Dr Darko Radovic
Urban Planning	A/Prof Nick Low

## Research Degrees

### Course information

Doctor of Philosophy:	Lorenne Wilks
Master of Architecture (by Thesis)	Lorenne Wilks
Master of Architecture (by Design)	Prof Philip Goad
Master of Building (By Thesis)	Prof Jon Robinson
Master of Landscape Architecture (by Thesis)	Prof Catherin Bull

## Master of Planning and Design (by Thesis):

Architectural History and Conservation	Prof Miles Lewis
Facility Management and Planning	Prof Graham Brawn
Planning and Design	Prof Catherin Bull
Urban Planning	Prof Ruth Fincher

## Undergraduate Degrees

### All enquiries

Student Services Office      8344 6430/50

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## *Atrium*

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