ALVA to represent Architecture on the world stage

A team led by Assistant Professor Rene Van Meeuwen from the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts at UWA has won the coveted position of creative director of the Australian exhibition at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2014, one of the discipline's most prestigious and important events.

The successful project: Augmented Australia 1914-2014 by team felix._Giles_Anderson+Goad, was the brain-child of felix, a company run by Professor Van Meeuwen and recent UWA graduates Matt Delroy-Carr and Craig McCormack. After spending the last three years developing the idea, process and technology, the team at felix invited Assistant Professor Sophie Giles (UWA), Winthrop Professor Simon Anderson (UWA) and Professor Philip Goad (The University of Melbourne) to join their bid for the Venice Biennale 2014.

"We've assembled a team of the highest quality, enabling us to represent Australia on the world stage. The collaboration so far has already borne much fruit. We're planning a high-impact exhibition demonstrating deep knowledge. It should have a big 'WOW factor' “ said Professor Van Meeuwen (who has been involved in different aspects of the Venice Architecture Biennale since 2006).

The selection was made by the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA)'s Venice Biennale Committee and announced at events in Sydney and Melbourne on the 18 July. The project was chosen to represent Australia from 26 team proposals, seven of which were shortlisted.

Augmented Australia 1914-2014 will bring 20 unrealised Australian projects to life through three-dimensional augmented models, images, voiceovers and animations; 10 historical designs and 10 unbuilt public buildings by contemporary architects. Read more

ALVA - UWA Centenary Project

Two finalists in the 2013 Australian Timber Design Awards

ALVA is represented at the national awards with two groups making the finals in their categories.

The first group we featured in the last issue - Master of Architecture students (Timber in Architecture elective) with Unit Coordinator, David Bylund - for their outdoor timber structure at Carey Baptist College Primary School. Their Tree Pavilion has been selected as a finalist in the Treated Pine category.

The Karri Loop House by MORQ (Associate Professors Andrea Quagliola and Emiliano Roia) was shortlisted as a finalist in three categories: Residential Class 1- New Building Category, Sustainability Category and the Timber Panels Category. View all the finalists. Winners will be announced at the Awards presentation night in Melbourne on 19 September. In the meantime it
is possible to vote for either project to win the People’s Choice Award by emailing vote@timberawards.com.au

Perth Arena scoops the Poole

The highest honour at the recent AIA (WA) Awards, the George Temple Poole Award went to ARM Architecture for the Perth Arena. Howard Raggatt and Ian McDougall both taught in the Faculty in the early 90s and ALVA alumni who worked on the project include Andrew Lilleyman and Jeremy Stewart.

Out and About

‘The Rural Cemetery Movement in Nineteenth Century America: Graceland Cemetery in Chicago’ was presented by Associate Professor Christopher Vernon on June 14 at The Arsenal Gallery, Central Park in New York. Four days later he hosted an evening at Frank Lloyd Wright’s Martin House Complex discussing ‘From the prairies to the antipodes: the Landscape Art of Burley Griffin’.

Assistant Professor Tijana Vujosevic, Associate Professor Nigel Westbrook and Associate Professor Kate Hislop presented papers at the 2013 SAHANZ conference at the Gold Coast, Queensland held from 2-5 July. Hislop’s paper was entitled ‘Open to interpretation: a study of the urban implications of Nineteenth Century topographic drawings of the Swan River Colony’.

Winthrop Professor Bill Taylor and lecturer Philip Goldswain are presenting at the 6th Associazione Italiana Di Storia Urbana Congress ‘Visible and invisible: perceiving the city between descriptions and omissions’ in Catania, Sicily next month. Taylor and Goldswain both have papers in sessions dedicated to the depiction of the city in photographic albums.

Goldswain has also been invited by the curator of photography at the Bibliothéque de L’Hôtel de Ville, Paris to give a floor talk at As part of UWA’s centenary celebrations, the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts (ALVA) and the Australian Urban Design Research Centre (AUDRC) are working in partnership with the City of Greater Geraldton (CGG) and the Arts and Cultural Development Council (ACDC) along with media artist Sohan Ariel Hayes and composer Cat Hope to deliver a world class community art project in Geraldton.

This unique project, part of UWA Gives Back, aims to engage high school students and the wider community in sharing their ideas for the future of Geraldton. It will celebrate the important role of young people in the city and contribute to the regeneration of the Geraldton CBD as a cultural hub.

The project will culminate with a public outdoor event on the evenings of Friday 15 and Saturday 16 November. On both nights a large format film will be projected onto the CBH Grain Store in Geraldton Port with a soundtrack simulcast on local FM radio.

The film will be produced from artwork generated during school and community workshops facilitated by a local artist in the Geraldton city centre in late September.

China visit by Dean and Chinese PhD student

Dean of the Faculty, Winthrop Professor Simon Anderson visited three cities in China (Hangzhou, Shanghai, and Guangzhou) between 27 and 31 May.

Zhejiang University (ZJU) in Hangzhou was prioritised as the first stop as UWA has significant existing links with the institution. Professor Anderson had meetings with Professor Xu Shilang, Dean of the College of Civil Engineering and Architecture, as well as Professor Luo Qingping and Professor Ge Jian, Head and Deputy Head of the Architecture Department. The potential of future collaboration in architectural training programs between UWA and ZJU was fully discussed. Both sides agreed to further develop this collaboration. Following the meetings, Professor Anderson gave a presentation titled ‘Towards a 2.5 Dimensional World’ to the staff and students from ZJU Architecture.
the new exhibition ‘Villes du Monde/Cities of the World, 1870-1939’ which documents the many photographic albums received by the City of Paris.

Landscape Architecture PhD student Simon Kilbane will be taking up an appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor (Landscape Architecture) at the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Arizona, Tucson for one year, commencing next month.

Whilst in the United States, Kilbane will be co-presenting a paper with Adjunct Professor Richard Weller at the Society for Ecological Restoration conference in Madison, Wisconsin in October.

Dr Jon Tarry will be exhibiting works in Paris in December in an exhibition titled ‘Reasoned Dreams’, at La Gallery Architecture, in Central Paris. This is part of an ongoing project with Architecture Project + Renzo Piano, Malta/London, exploring aspects of the city of Valletta, and the new parliament of Malta.

Exhibitions

As part of Open House Perth (2 - 3 November) AUDRC’s Western Wall Gallery will present an exhibition of the multitude of proposals prepared for the Perth Waterfront site from 1991–2013. The exhibition entitled ‘Take me to the river’ explores these proposals for Perth’s waterfront as charting an increasingly urbane culture in Perth. While a 1991 competition-winning scheme recreated a naturalistic landscape on the foreshore, later state government endorsed schemes in 2008 and 2011 proposed the urbanisation of the foreshore at significant densities. These recent schemes arguably reflect a growing desire for urbanity in Perth and have precipitated a polarised debate that this exhibition hopes to explore.

Future Events

AUDRC Open Lecture
Tuesday 27 August 5:30pm

The International Design Institute of ZJU was later visited and a long conversation was developed with Prof Liu Bo, Dean of the Institute. Both parties expressed strong interest in collaboration within the Design courses. A further visit from ALVA representatives to the Institute was planned for later in the year.

PhD candidate He Shan joined Professor Anderson on this trip after his conference presentation at Hong Kong University. He provided invaluable contacts and was integral to establishing networks between the Faculty and his alma mater, ZJU.

After visiting the construction site of Hangzhou East Train Terminal, the high-speed rail hub of the city, a visit to the campus of Chinese Academy of Arts (CAA) was organised. There Professor Anderson met with Professor Wang Shu, Dean of CAA’s Architecture School and winner of the 2012 Pritzker Prize in Architecture.

In Shanghai, Professor Anderson was invited to visit the headquarters of the World Trade Centre (Shanghai) Holding Group, who recently held a design competition for their proposed project in Wenzhou. The half-day conversation on the impressive riverbank of Huangpujiang was productive.

UWA student recruitment agents based in Hangzhou and Guangzhou, were also on the itinerary, where plans for increasing Chinese student enrolments at ALVA were discussed.

Photos courtesy of the Zhejiang University website.

WA roofs focus of new publication

In the tradition of Western Towns and Buildings, edited by M Pitt Morison and J White (UWA Press 1979), Western Building Construction - Roofs by Dr Ingrid van Bremen is the first in a series that aims to provide an introduction to the evolution of building construction in Western Australia.
Urban Ecology - Challenges for urban ecology in a rapidly urbanizing world
Speaker: Dr Cristina Ramalho (Department of Parks & Wildlife)
Dr Ramalho will give a lecture on the topic of urban ecology / principles of landscape ecology applied to the design and management of urban spaces. She will outline the essential elements of an emerging framework for urban ecology that incorporates the characteristics of contemporary urbanization and thus empowers ecologists to understand and intervene in the planning and management of cities.

Venue: The Australian Urban Design Research Centre (AUDRC) L2 1002 Hay Street, Perth.

Ferguson Travel Scholarship Talk
Wednesday 28 August 6 – 8pm
2011 winner Architecture graduate Craig McCormack will present ‘The Grand Space Tour of North America’ - his journey across the east coast of the United States which took in The Johnson Space Centre, The Kennedy Space Centre, and The NASA History Department Archives.

Venue: Room G22 (rear of the Cullity Gallery), UWA

Water Sensitive Cities Seminar
Thursday 29 August 4pm
Speaker: Dr Julian Bolleter (AUDRC)
How do you creatively plan for a population of 62 million by 2100? Australia’s current major city planning frameworks only account for an extra 5.5 million people. Whether we want a ‘Big Australia’ or not, Australia’s 21st century is likely to see rapid and continual growth – if we want liveable, high performance cities and regional centres we need to think outside the box.

Following the seminar, light refreshments will be served from 5pm in the nearby foyer of the School of Environmental Systems Engineering. A map of the venues and parking may be found at here.

For further information please contact perth@crcwsc.org.au

Venue: Weatherburn Lecture Theatre, G40 Mathematics, UWA

Detailed descriptions of roof repair and restoration work carried out on a selection of significant buildings are included in an Appendix Volume presented as a PDF file on CD included at the back of the book.

Published recently with the support of the National Trust of Australia (WA), this first edition was printed partly with funds contributed by the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts.

Dr Ingrid van Bremen is a graduate of ALVA, an Honorary Research Fellow and lecturer in conservation studies at UWA, and a practising architect specialising in conservation.

An official book launch is planned, in the interim copies may be pre-purchased from the Resource Room at ALVA for $40 per copy.

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Arts alumni gallery endeavour

Current UWA Bachelor of Arts student Dale Buckley has teamed up with recent Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate Kate Mullen, to create the Moana Project Space in Hay Street, Perth.

Moana Project Space is a new, contemporary art gallery located in the heart of Perth’s CBD where it co-inhabits a heritage-listed ballroom alongside creative studios and a cafe.
Call for Volunteers

Open House Perth is back and organisers are looking for enthusiastic people who are passionate about the city to help deliver this year's OHP 2013 event. They need volunteers for the event weekend on 2/3 November to assist with Front-of-House, In-House and Intra-House roles at the 60 plus buildings, studios and other events that will be part of OHP 2013. To be part of this event celebrating architecture and design in Western Australia volunteer online at www.openhouseperth.net/volunteer

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Recent, well-received exhibitions include ‘Georgia Kaw, Patrick Miller, Elizabeth Pulie: Loose Change Menu’, Alistair Rowe’s ‘Pioneer Village’ and the award-winning ‘Le Salon Scintillant’, a collaboration with Gotham Studios for Perth’s Fringe World 2013.

Their upcoming exhibition ‘The Aesthetics of Disengagement’ curated by Chelsea Hopper, opens on Thursday 29 August and comprises ‘a selection of recent work exploring the expression of malaise, depression and stillness in contemporary Australian art on a national scale.

Working across the media of painting, sculpture, drawing, video, collage and photography, The Aesthetics of Disengagement is a series of meditations on boredom, communicational rupture, anxiety, loss of pleasure, withdrawal; the withering of one’s capacity to remember and project, to dream, desire, and fantasize.’

The gallery has established a series of six dedicated studio spaces for visual artists upstairs from the gallery, on the second floor of the historic Moana Chambers building. Space is currently available; contact the gallery for details.

(Photos courtesy of Moana Project Space - 2nd image by Thom Perry)

Inaugural A Day in the Life of an Architecture Student event

On 16 July Associate Dean (Education) Sophie Giles and Master of Architecture graduate Ben Juckes hosted A Day in the Life of an Architecture Student.

Forty students enrolled for the event which saw them fully immersed in Architecture. Part of the day was spent designing an array of information booths for UWA Open Day 2013. Later, they learnt modelling and drawing techniques in a design studio and presented their concepts in the forum of an architectural ‘crit’.

The students heard from visiting lecturer Associate Professor Miranda Nieboer from University of Windsheim, Zwolle, The Netherlands. Their skills were advanced by computer modelling tutorials by recent Architecture graduate Ben Juckes. The students also were able to view augmented modelling on a campus tour, through a mobile application developed by felix for the Luminous Night centenary celebrations.

Tyran Hanlon, one of the participating students, said that “It was a fantastic experience which not only lived up to but exceeded my expectations. The day was definitely one of my favourite university experiences so far.”
A Day in the Life of a Landscape Architecture Student was held in May and hosted by Assistant Professor Tinka Sack. Both events aim to provide prospective students with a hands-on experience of what it is like to study the disciplines at UWA.

Recent visitors

Senior Lecturer Miranda Nieboer from the University of Windesheim, Zwolle, The Netherlands presented ‘Architecture and Extreme Conditions’ to students in the Faculty as part of the A Day in the Life of an Architecture Student event.

Miranda presented a Dutch housing project in a flood-prone area and a current project for a Himalayan monastery. She discussed Oliver Sacks, Rem Koolhaas and Italo Calvino with the students; she inspired them with discussion of potential architectural sites in great detail and left them thinking about the need to remember to include a cerebral ‘question mark’ as a part of each stage of an architectural proposal.

The University of Windesheim is a similar size to UWA, but with a relatively new Department of Architecture which Miranda helped establish.

Cameron Robbins, an artist based in Melbourne, was the latest artist-in-residence at ALVA. Cameron studied Fine Art (Sculpture) at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and The Victorian College of the Arts during the 1980s. He has lectured at RMIT since 2000 and has won numerous awards for his work. His current wind drawing machine is operating at The Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) in Tasmania.

Whilst with ALVA he created some works with drawing and sound and gave a demonstration/performance of his drawing machine ‘Drawing sonic amplifications’ at ART LAAB on 15 August.

Faculty Manager experiences Bali studio first hand

The International Studio for Arts and Culture (ISCAFA) run by ALVA and the Faculty of Art and Design (FSRD), Institut Seni Indonesia (ISI) continues to develop and provide opportunity for students to experience a unique cultural exchange.

During the final week of the studio run during the recent semester break, and at the invitation of Rector, Dr I Gede Arya Sugiartha, Faculty Manager Gina Evangelista joined Assistant Professor Paul Trinidad and staff from ISI Denpasar to review the program.

ISI Denpasar staff escorted Gina to Desa Sideman and explained the importance of community and cultural connection within the teaching program. Travelling through Klungkung helped to visualise the importance of artistic, spiritual and emotional perspectives within Balinese cultural history.

The first half of the visit to Desa Sideman saw Gina joining staff and students in a three day community workshop during which they met with Master Bapak Ida Bagus to learn about the ancient art of Lontar carving. Students attending the workshops reported an experience of personal growth, gaining of universal perspectives and understanding of the depth of cultural inheritance embedded in Balinese daily life.

On return to Denpasar, Gina met with Rector Sugiartha and Dean, Dr Made Rinu to review the administration of the program and establish protocols for the newly timetabled January 2014 studio.

The closing event of the Studio was held at ISI Denpasar with student award presentations, an exhibition and performances from both groups of students.

The outcome of the visit included reaffirming administrative networks with ISI Denpasar for bi-annual studios and cultural exchange.

Photos courtesy of ISI Denpasar
2014 Design Studio for School Students

ALVA’s annual Design Studio introduces high school students to design at UWA over a week in the January school holidays each year. The upcoming studio will run from 13 – 17 January 2014.

The studio program covers five streams - architecture, landscape architecture, integrated design, urban design and visual arts - through intense tuition sessions with the Faculty’s academic staff.

It culminates with an exhibition of all students’ work in the Cullity Gallery and parents are encouraged to attend. Online enrolments close on Friday 13 December 2013. Places are limited so enrol early to secure a place. Read more

New staff appointment

Tony Blackwell has joined the Faculty part-time in the position of Winthrop Professor of Landscape Architecture. Tony is a senior member of the profession in Australia. He heads Blackwell & Associates, a Peppermint Grove-based practice that is responsible for numerous benchmark projects in WA and recognised as one of the nation’s most innovative landscape architecture practices.