Pilgrimage to Olot

Pilgrimage to Olot: A photographic insight into the world of RCR - Aranda Pigem Vilalta Arquitectes is an exhibition of photographs by Associate Professor Emiliano Roia. They were taken in August last year during an annual workshop on architecture and landscape arranged by the well-known architecture practice RCR – Aranda Pigem Vilalta Arquitectes in Olot, Catalunya, Spain.

Each year the workshop offers participants the chance to stay for a month at the RCR studio, Espai Barberí, and share ideas, designs, lectures, and site visits. When Emiliano arrived at their studio he was already familiar with the majority of the widely-published works they were going to view; however each experience repeatedly changed his idea of what to expect. ‘Experiencing projects in their own place - lugar (Sp.) - is always unique: the scale of the building, and the overall atmosphere of the place play a crucial role in impression-forming. The photographs are interpretations of these impressions.’

Images from the exhibition will be compiled into a book-catalogue and published by the Fundació Bunka – a foundation created by RCR that aims to share knowledge in architecture and the arts through publications and cultural activities such as workshops, exhibitions and conferences. The book will also feature photographs of other projects, the workshop experience, and the inspiring Espai Barberí space itself, along with an interview with RCR. An iBook version will also be available online.

The 2013 RCR workshop (the 4th to date) will include a display of this exhibition at the Espai Barberí in Olot in August.

Pilgrimage to Olot... runs from 12-23 March in the Cullity Gallery, Faculty of Architecture Landscape and Visual Arts at UWA. The opening night on March 12 will commence at 6.00pm with a presentation by Emiliano Roia starting at 6.30pm.

In addition to the normal Gallery hours, this exhibition will be open during the AIA awards presentations on Saturday 23 March (from 10.30am - 7pm).

Report co-authored by AUDRC aims to transform Perth

The Australian Urban Design Research Centre has co-authored a report with the Australian Greens and the Property Council of Australia proposing that redevelopment of seven major urban transport corridors in Perth is an intelligent way to achieve residential infill targets. The corridors would include residential and activity centre precincts set amongst existing development.

The main premise of the report Transforming Perth: regenerating transport corridors as
Anne’s work Custom Mask was a finalist in the prestigious Doug Moran National Portrait Prize. In conjunction with representational portrait painting, Anne has developed an innovative project using the web and hand drawn illustrations (see www.flyingwolf.co/). Barnetson will be in residence at Arlaab until late this month.

Out and About
Assistant Professor Tijana Vujosevic will be presenting at the symposium Design of the Self, this week at the Department for Architecture and Urban Design at UCLA. The title of her talk is ‘The Flying Proletarian: observations on Communist aerial imagination.’

Winthrop Professor Richard Read participated in a lecture on Adrian Stokes by Emeritus Professor Paul Hills (Courtauld Institute of Art) at the Warburg Institute, London, on 14 January 2013. Read also gave a well-attended lecture on ‘Self and World: Paintings of paintings in studios from the Renaissance to the Twentieth-Century’ at the School of Art, University of Aberystwyth, on 22 January.

Associate Professor Christopher Vernon presented a paper in Paris, France entitled ‘William LeBaron Jenney: Landscape Gardener’ for the Society of Architectural Historians’ William Le Baron Jenney (1832-1907): From the École Centrale of Paris to the Skyscrapers of Chicago conference, in December last year.

Current & upcoming exhibitions at the Cullity Gallery
The WA Branch of the Australian Garden History Society is holding an exhibition, Historic Gardens of Perth, until March 8. It comprises 28 panels of photos, illustrations and text including historic images of Perth gardens, maps, plans and architectural drawings.

The categories explored are domestic gardens, including a rare plan circa 1840 of Alpha Cottage’s garden in St Georges Terrace, open space including parks and squares of the city, and commercial gardens such as nurseries and market gardens. For more details see www.alva.uwa.edu.au/cullity-gallery

Pilgrimage to Olot: A photographic insight into the

a network of high street precincts being that broad bands of suburban areas be left as
is, rather than having uncoordinated higher density developments spread through them. Instead, there should be infilling of under-utilised areas that have direct access to better public transport infrastructure (or potential infrastructure) that is well connected to places of employment and facilities. The report contained case studies from cities such as London, Barcelona and Melbourne, known for exemplary implementation of infill design.

If we can go down this pathway nearly 80 per cent of the infill targets would be met” said Joe Lenzo, executive director of the Property Council of Australia. "We are hoping this report will inspire local governments and the community to think about what can be achieved.'

All three organisations argue that the establishment of an Integrated Design Commission in WA would lead to better outcomes for stakeholders and the general public (as it has in other states).

An industry breakfast launch for this joint study, hosted by the Property Council of Australia, will be held on 7 March at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Perth. AUDRC’s Dr Anthony Duckworth-Smith will be contributing to a panel discussion on design related matters of new housing.

The Dream of a Century: the Griffins in Australia’s capital
A century ago next month, Australia ceremoniously began construction of its national capital. Since then, many hands have shaped Canberra. None, however, are more important than the contributions made by the capital’s original authors, Walter Burley Griffin (1876-1937) and Marion Mahony Griffin (1871-1961).

The National Library of Australia’s forthcoming exhibition The Dream of a Century: the Griffins in Australia’s capital will explore the saga of Walter and Marion’s efforts to realize their prize-winning design. ALVA’s Associate Professor Christopher Vernon curated this exhibition after initially being approached about the project in 2006.

When it opens on March 7, the exhibition will showcase materials drawn from the office records of the couple’s trans-hemispherical practice in the United States of America (1899-1917), Australia (1913-1935) and India (1935-1937). The Library acquired these documents from the children of the Griffins’ Australian partner Eric Milton Nicholls (1902-1965) in 2006.

Astonishing in size, scope and complexity, the Nicholls Collection was assembled from across some 40 years and comprises over 2500 items. These include, for instance, a diverse range of original drawings, maps, blueprints and other reproductions, and
world of RCR - Aranda Pigem Vilalta Architects runs from 12-23 March, 2013. The opening night on March 12 will commence at 6.00 pm with a presentation by Associate Professor Emiliano Roia starting at 6.30pm. For more details call 6488 2582.

Local artist, Rowena Keall Walsh will be exhibiting thirty of her latest works in oil as part of her solo exhibition Urban Shades, which will run in the Cullity Gallery from 2 - 13 April. The official opening function is on Friday 5 April and commences at 6pm. For more information call 0406 539572 or visit www.rowenakeallwalsh.com.au/

Future Events

FEBRUARY 27
John Viska, Chair of the Exhibition Committee, will be presenting a talk on the Historic Gardens of Perth on Wednesday 27 February at 12 noon in G22.
For more details see www.alva.uwa.edu.au/cullity-gallery

APRIL 30
Emeritus Professor Paul Hills (Courtauld Institute of Art) will be giving a masterclass on Renaissance art at the Institute of Advanced Studies, UWA, on 30 April and 1 May. Members of the Faculty and alumni community are warmly invited. For more details

Recent PhD completions

Congratulations are due to the following student on completion of her Doctor of Philosophy degree:

Eve-Anne O’Regan – Fine Arts Art, Advertising and Modernism: The Transfiguration of the Artist in the Age of Capitalism

Subscribe a friend:
Click to invite a friend to receive our eNewsletter

photographs and lantern slides of the Griffins’ public and private works.

Although Walter and Marion Griffin were unable to fully realize their vision for Canberra, the national capital endures as a monument to these remarkable designers. The Dream of a Century: the Griffins in Australia’s capital offers the public an unprecedented opportunity to immerse themselves in the American couple’s vision for an Antipodean arcadia – one no less compelling more than a century later.

Architecture graduate wins top Malaysian award

On 3 December 2012, Master of Architecture graduate Thur Pei Mak was awarded the inaugural Tan Sri Chan Sau Lai Architecture Award by the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM).

Thur Pei received the grand prize with a cash award of RM25,000 (equivalent to AUD8,000) and a winner's certificate for her third year individual project ‘Four Square House Design Problem’. The project was completed during a studio supervised by Associate Professor Emiliano Roia in 2009.

The ALVA graduate was up against competitors from RMIT, University College, London and Tsinghua University in Beijing but won over the judges with her ‘refreshing design, focused on a common architectural undertaking that blended both nature and social interaction seamlessly with frequent green spaces and interconnecting footpaths’.

Her project was an initiative to redefine the notion of housing typology to enhance the living experience of inhabitants. The brief called for a residential development on a hypothetical city grid of 36m by 36m, where each parcel consisted of four houses. Connection and contiguity formed the fundamental concept of the project. From the spatial connection of parcels between houses, to the visual connection between rooms, the project aspired to promote social and family interaction, without compromising on privacy. The solid and void configurations enabled the blending of nature into built structures, establishing contact with natural light and air.

Thur Pei has been working for an architectural firm in Malaysia, Mak Arkitek Konsult, since she finished her university studies at ALVA a year ago.

History of Art’s Rome studio

Last month a group of twenty-one UWA students travelled to Rome to discover the city’s unique layers of history as part of a summer unit taught by Assistant Professor Susanne Meurer and Arvi Wattel.

From exploring Mithraic cult sites buried underneath not one, but two basilicas, to spotting early twentieth century kitchen tiles at the Forum of Emperor Trajan, students learnt about how Rome has not only been shaped by its past, but also continuously shaped its past, as successive emperors, popes, kings or dictators eager to make history, excavated, built upon or tore down buildings.

Highlights of the trip were behind-the-scenes glimpses of the challenges contemporary Rome faces in resolving the protection of existing structures with the needs of the city’s current inhabitants.

An archaeologist from the Dutch Royal Institute guided the group around an excavation site normally closed to the public in the inner-city quarter of Testaccio; while the
Bibliotheca Hertziana (Max-Planck-Institut für Kunstgeschichte) kindly allowed UWA students a preview of its freshly inaugurated library extension by Juan Navarro Baldeweg. A twenty-first century building hidden behind the facades of a Renaissance palazzo sitting on top of the Gardens of Lucullus perhaps best encapsulated Rome and the scope of the trip.

OLT grant win shared by Landscape Architecture academic

‘Re-casting terra nullius blindness: empowering Indigenous protocols and knowledge in Australian university built environment education’ was awarded funding of $220,000 by the Office of Learning & Teaching (OLT). The OLT is administered by the federal Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research recently.

The winning research team includes academics from Deakin University, Griffith University, the University of Canberra and the University of Western Australia’s Associate Professor Grant Revell.

Revell notes that ‘this two year project comes at a critical time for the planning and design academies and their respective professions. The research aims to build upon existing relationships and partnerships with Indigenous peoples nationally and internationally. Integrated inter-cultural design scholarship and practice will be at the forefront of the work aimed to help recognise and further develop old and new learning frameworks for sharing Indigenous knowledge systems across the higher education sector. The project will be introduced later this year as a keynote address at the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects’ National Conference in Sydney with a paper entitled “The ‘country’ within: the challenges for landscape architecture to legitimize its residency on terra nullius.”

ALVA graduate nominated for UWA Warden

Warren Kerr AM, an ALVA architecture graduate has been nominated to undertake the role of Warden of Convocation for UWA.

Warren has been a Council member of Convocation for three years and strongly believes in the potential of Convocation to take a pro-active role in assisting the University to ‘achieve international excellence’.

He graduated from UWA with a Bachelor of Architecture in 1974 and is now a National Director of HAMES SHARLEY Architects. In addition to his formal qualifications in architecture, Warren has a Masters degree from the University of NSW in health administration and planning, and has spent most of his career specialising in the planning and design of major hospital projects.

His current workload includes leading HAMES SHARLEY’s participation in the architectural consortium responsible for the planning and design of the new $2 billion
Fiona Stanley Tertiary Hospital and the State Rehabilitation Centre at Murdoch.

In addition to his project workload, Warren maintains an active interest in teaching and research as a member of the Advisory Board of the UWA Research Centre for the Built Environment & Health, as a member of an international working group on health facilities and through various voluntary roles for the Australian Institute of Architects and the Australasian College of Health Service Management.

Warren is a former State and National President of the Australian Institute of Architects and a former State and National Chair of the Australian Council of Built Environment Design Professions.

This is the first time that an ALVA graduate has been nominated for the role, so exercise your right to vote by completing the voting papers and return them to the University by the closing date of 12 March 2013.

Cross-cultural collaboration combines tradition with the contemporary

Based in the first-floor printing studio is the Summer 2013 artist-in-residence, Rebecca Paterson who has been using the space to dye fabrics for an upcoming collection. In her latest venture with her current label 33poets, Paterson is working with the Rabari women of Kutch, Gujurat, India through her recent co-operation with the non-government organisation Kala Raksha. The Rabari artisans specialise in mirror-work embroidery which they add to Paterson’s pieces in cotton and silk, after she has used Shibori dyeing techniques to pattern the fabric. (Photograph above courtesy of Roslyn Sharp)

Paterson established a national and international reputation for her unique, innovative and experimental design work which saw her become one of Australia’s leading counter-culture fashion practitioners. Her start in early Punk days with Perth label Nu Rotics lead to eventual wide acclaim in the fashion industry after designing for labels Breathless, Selfh, SpppSssp and Di Marzio Line.

Her style is predominantly informed by her time with mentor and Japanese textile legend, Jun-ichi Arai (who worked with Issey Miyake and Yoji Yamamoto amongst
others) with whom she worked in the late nineties. Paterson uses natural fabrics, innovative dyeing techniques combined with radical cuts to create exceptional wearable art. Awarded WA Fashion Designer of the Year 2002, her pieces have been exhibited at the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (NGV) and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Her pieces are also held in a collection by the NGV.

Last December, Paterson inaugurated the Kala Raksha Vindhyalaya’s (Institution of Design for Traditional Artisans) annual fashion show of student work as a guest of the Institution’s Project Director Judy Frater.

Her six week residency concludes at the end of this month after which Rebecca will be finalising a book of photographs (taken by Sydney photographer Roslyn Sharp) of her time in the Vandh village region of north-western India.

---

**Postgraduate Landscape Architecture team travel to US**

A joint paper authored by Professor Richard Weller and UWA postgraduate students Simon Kilbane, Josephine Neldner, Sara Padgett Kjaersgaard and Gerard Siero, titled ‘Asking Difficult Questions: The importance and potential of landscape architectural design research in exploring answers to complex problems’ was accepted for a panel discussion at the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) conference at the University of Austin, Texas next month.

The theme of the conference is Space, Time, Place, Duration. The panel discussion will reflect on the collective strength of individual research projects particularly in their relationship to large scale planning for Perth and the methodologies and findings generated through ‘research by design’. This forum will allow design work to be showcased during a 70 minute presentation to an assembly of academics from over one hundred Landscape Architecture programs in North America.

This will be the first time a group of UWA PhD students within the discipline of Landscape Architecture have presented collective work abroad.

Two of the postgraduates, Kilblane and Neldner, will stay on to present papers at the Fabos Conference on Landscape and Greenway Planning: Pathways to Sustainability on 12-13 April in Amherst, Massachusetts.

---

**New wave ripples through Esperance**

A unique sculpture now graces the new ‘backyard’ entry court for the recently completed upgrade to Esperance Residential College. ALVA postgraduate student and sessional staff member Brad Ladyman collaborated with artist Mlik Green to produce the Stay in School installation.
According to the artists, the work is reminiscent of bio-scientific studies of the local land, sea and sky - remixed to the vibrant sound-laser mappings of The Chemical Brothers. Lit by a large central green uplight, the sculpture works differently at night glowing from within to create unique forms and patterns.

The serial progression of metal tubing is 15m in length and reaches 4m in height. It constantly moves in relation to the viewer, containing a strong interior sense of space, and defining an outer envelope through the manipulation of form. The sculpture is interactive, and lets the viewer become part of the art or stand back and let the simple act of walking around the work engage with the mind.

The College upgrade includes two new accommodation wings and teaching buildings. Built in 1968, the College provides supervised accommodation for regional students attending Esperance Senior High School. The Esperance College additions were managed by the Department of Finance’s Building Management and Works sector for the Country High School Hostels Authority and were designed by UWA graduate Chris Pratt, of Hassell.

The work is planned to be unveiled in a few months by the Premier and the Minister for Education as the focus of the $13 million campus upgrade.