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Issue 7 - August 2012

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Upcoming Alumni Events
In the next couple of months we have two international functions planned for ALVA alumni in Asia and Europe:

- Singapore - Tuesday 2 October (eve of the World Architecture Festival)
- London - Wednesday 17 October

Invitations will be sent via e-mail. If you aren't sure if we have your e-mail address and you are interested in attending please contact Laura Radovan.

Workers, Soldiers, Suburbs: 100 years of government housing
For lovers of history and property alike, a new exhibition exploring the 100 years of government housing.

Ian Weir at Venice
ALVA Alumnus Dr Ian Weir has been selected by the Australian Institute of Architects to represent innovation in Australian architecture at this year’s prestigious Venice Architecture Biennale.

Since 1996, Ian’s work has focused primarily on the biodiverse bushfire prone landscapes of the Fitzgerald Bioregion on the remote South-East coast of Western Australia. During this time Ian has collaborated with many individuals and organisations in the bioregion – including the Bremer Bay Community Development Committee, Gondwana Link, Mix Artists, and UWA alumni Daniela Simon and James Quinton.

His submission to the Biennale Committee included photographic artworks from Lightsite, Ian’s project for the 2007 Festival of Perth, and a number of cartographic works produced by Ian for his PhD entitled Transformatve Mappings (2008) which was supervised by Winthrop Professor Richard Weller.

The catalogue featuring Ian’s work, entitled Formations: New Practices in Australian Architecture, is available from the Australian Institute of Architects.

In addition to Formations, Ian will be hosting an exhibition at the Contarini Boathouse at Dorsoduro in Venice on the 31 August. The Biennale itself runs from 27 August to 25 November 2012.
year history of government housing in Western Australia will be unveiled in Perth's CBD this month.

The Workers, Soldiers, Suburbs exhibition, presented by the Department of Housing, commemorates 100 years since the first government housing scheme was introduced to Western Australia in 1912. Drawing on key moments in history which have helped shape WA's housing landscape, the exhibition features stories on inter-war migration, post-war reconstruction, Aboriginal housing and regional housing.

Opening times: Mon to Fri 7am – 6pm, Sat 10am – 4pm, Sun 12noon – 4pm.
Venue: Central Park foyer, 152 St Georges Terrace, Perth

Open House Perth - Call for Volunteers
UWA is proud to be a major sponsor of the upcoming Open House Perth event being held on 3-4 November. The organisers are currently looking for volunteers to assist throughout. If you love Architecture, Design or even Perth, Open House Perth is looking for friendly people to help as tour guides, queue managers, patron counters and more...

To sign up please click here
If you would like further information please contact the organisers via info@openhouseperth.net

UWA Postgrad & Honours Expo
Discover how further studies can help you achieve your ultimate career or research goals. UWA's Postgrad & Honours Expo provides an outstanding opportunity to explore the array of coursework and research programs we have on offer.

Two wins for one project
Assistant Professor Jennie Officer of ALVA and Officer Woods Architects (OWA), has won the 2012 Harold Krantz Architecture Award for Multiple Residential and the 2012 Walter Greenham Sustainable Architecture Award for the OWA project 58 Stevens Street at the recent Australian Institute of Architects (WA) Awards. The project was also featured in Architecture Australia (Vol. 101 No. 2 March/April 2012).
Into the Matrix: the future of augmented reality (and you)

(an excerpt from article published in The Conversation by Assistant Professor Rene Van Meeuwen)

The growth of augmented reality (AR) will almost certainly change the way we visually experience the everyday world. And, as discussed previously on The Conversation, it’s likely to be Google’s Project Glass leading the way on this new frontier.

But other technologies on the horizon will profoundly alter our interactions with computational technologies. More important than the eye-candy value of AR will be the applications for those who are physically or economically disadvantaged.

Virtual reality has been a staple of science fiction since the 1950s. In the 1956 film Forbidden Planet a race of aliens – the Krell – build a computer the size of a city in order to leave their physical beings behind and transmute to a virtual world. Read more

Postcard from Emiliano Roia

This August, thanks to the support of ALVA (particularly Dean Simon Anderson and my colleague Marco Vittino) I have the opportunity to be part of a workshop on architecture and landscape (LABA2012) held by the Spanish practice RCR (Aranda, Pigem, Vilalta).

This year will be the fifth workshop run by RCR and the first one academically recognized by the University of Girona. It will also be the XXV anniversary of RCR. The four-week intensive workshop will be hosted in the RCR studio (Espai Barberi) in Olot. A small town in the northern east part of Catalunya. Olot is the capital of la Garrotxa. Surrounded by a beautiful volcanic area this territory is a strong inspirational element in RCR’s work. RCR is one of the most renowned international architecture firms, which in the last twenty-five years has contributed outstanding works to the field of contemporary architecture, landscape, and art. Monographic books and prestigious magazines such as El Croquis have published their work.

The workshop will offer a vision of RCR’s architecture and an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit their built works. The workshop is conceived as a humanistic experience and will offer the chance to meet with prestigious guests such as Josep Maria Montaner (architect and professor at the Escuela Tecnica de Barcelona and author of more than thirty books on architecture) and Hisao Suzuki (internationally renowned architectural photographer) amongst others. In addition, this workshop will provide a great opportunity to have Aranda, Pigem, and Vilalta critiquing the work produced during this time.

I consider this experience to be a great opportunity and believe that it will enrich my personal knowledge as a designer and provide me with new enthusiasm to share with my future students.

Hasta pronto!
Associate Professor Emiliano Roia

Trans-disciplinary cultural design at Ngaanyatjarra

The Warburton Design Project - a unique design collaborative between ALVA, AECOM (Australia) and the Shire of Ngaanyatjarra continues again this semester with four final design students undertaking studies in the western desert communities of Warburton.

ALVA's Associate Professor Grant Revell accompanied students Charis Wu, Cecilia Su, Amy Sullivan and Kieran Ward into the desert earlier this month to undertake field studies with the Ngaanyatjarra peoples. Proposed design projects include further investigations into indigenous housing typologies; redesigning the aerodrome and roadhouse facilities; clinic staff housing; shelters for the cemetery and local church; traditional medicine gardens and an overall storm water management scheme for the town’s surrounding lands.
coordination and support of Associate Professor Nigel Westbrook, and leading Greek architect, Kalliope Kontozoglou.

The Milan studio, in collaboration with the Politecnico di Milano, provides students with opportunities to visit important architectural projects in Italy, France and Switzerland. The studio is coordinated and taught by Marco Vittino with assistance from other academic staff.

Out & About

Mike Boon (Alumnus 1989) of Arkitek JFN, a leading heritage architecture practice in Sarawak, has completed the award-winning heritage conservation of the Kuching courthouse. Mike presented a joint paper with John Ting of the University of Melbourne on the courthouse project at SAHANZ conference in early July: ‘Conservation in Sarawak: The case of the Old Kuching Courthouse’.

PhD candidate Simon Kilbane will present his paper ‘Green Infrastructure: Planning a National Green Network for Australia’ at the next International Federation of Landscape Architecture Conference in Cape Town on 7 September. He then travels to the Alterra Research Centre at the University of Wageningen, Netherlands (partly supported by a National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) Terrestrial Biodiversity Network PhD travel grant) to meet with key scholars involved in large and small scale landscape ecological planning and to visit several key projects. Simon will also present his research at École Nationale Supérieure

ALVA Honours student brings music to the West Bank

Immersing himself in the Arab culture of the West Bank was a perfect springboard into his art studies for Honours student Joshua Baker.

Joshua spent two months as a volunteer in a community centre in the Palestinian territory, teaching children to play the guitar. It was part of a trip to the Middle East that
du Paysage (Versailles) and University of Roskilde, Denmark before going to the 4th International EcoSummit in Columbus, Ohio to deliver a paper ‘Managing for ecological and cultural resilience across the Australian continent: Green infrastructure as design strategy’ on October 1.

Associate Professor Nigel Westbrook presented a joint paper with Rene Van Meeuwen and a sole-authored paper at the Australian Association of Byzantine Studies conference at Macquarie University NSW in July. The joint paper was based upon recent collaborative research into the topography of the Byzantine and Ottoman periods of the city of Constantinople/Istanbul, and relates evidence of the Lorichs panorama of the city to the archaeological record in proposing several new building attributions. The second paper examines the question of mutual influence in Roman, Byzantine and Sasanid Persian architecture up to the time of the Arab invasions.

Associate Professor Jon Tarry and Plan E are recipients of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) National Award of Excellence for Design for the Rio Tinto Naturescape (RTN) in King’s Park, Perth. Plan E also won an AILA state award for RTN earlier this year.

Winthrop Professor Bill Taylor and Associate Professor Nigel Westbrook presented papers at the Launceston SAHANZ architectural history conference in early July. Taylor's paper: ‘Wrack and ruin, rust and rot: sketch for an alternative account of “character” and the Australian Colonial prefabricated building’ is a critique of positivist, technological transfer

Students focussed on the design of 'living-walls' across the inner city of Fremantle and exhibited these works at a Mayoral function and later in the City of Fremantle's library. The work will progress to design development over the course of semester 2 this year with Dr Martin Anda's Environmental Engineering students preparing thermal and water performance modelling investigations at the preferred sites.

Loop portraits at UWA Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery

On the 7 June, the three Js, [Jon Stockman (Karnivool), Joel Quartermain (Eskimo Joe) and Jon Tarry (UWA)], seized an opportunity to explore a project that had been simmering away for some time: a live fusion of sound and visual improvisation.

The three artists formally got together following an invitation to respond to the portraiture exhibition Beyond Likeness at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery. The project Loop came about following lengthy late-night early-morning discussions about creative processes and the question of how to represent soundscapes.

To ‘portray’ reveals the interaction of one to another; for example, the artist observing and representing a subject (in portraiture, the sitter), rendering and revealing characteristics transcribed through material. Portraits tell as much about the observer as they do the subject. The three Js wanted to unravel this and explore a dynamic interplay. This is why the presentation/performance/event/action was in the round, with attendees part of the mix, making sounds, doing drawings and being in the drawings and gestures.

The project was trialed in Joel's recording studio in O'Connor, at Jonno's Vool Studio in
In July, Associate Professor Christopher Vernon made his sabbatical research trip to Panama and Brazil. In Panama, he is investigating the new towns and architecture constructed by the Americans in the former Panama Canal Zone as expressions of American imperialism. In Brazil, he lectured on ‘Capital Connections: Australia, Brazil and Landscapes of National Identity’ at the Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo, Universidade de Brasilia and the 15th International Planning History Society conference at Sao Paulo. He also furthered his research on Brasilia and the gardens of Roberto Burle Marx.

ALVA Honours student Georgia Taylor Berry and former sessional staff member Ben Braham both presented at the Visions for Fremantle – from Victoria Quay to Kings Square public event on the 23rd of this month. ‘Lessons from Leicester’ was the title of Ben’s talk where he spoke on his experience of this retail led transformation and Bayswater and Jon’s Cave Studio in Belmont. Surrounded by paper, graphite, pencils bound to drum sticks mixed up with wire cables, loop stations and effects pedals: this became the live event on the night.

Rainwater harvesting the right solution

Councils and developers need to consider the ‘suburb’ as a giant piece of water collection infrastructure; a collective system for water management argues Matthew Delroy-Carr, sessional academic at the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts.

Based on the design of a typical dwelling, the average suburban household has the ability to collect at least half its annual water consumption through rainwater harvesting. If we were to address rainwater harvesting over an entire suburban street, for example, there is the possibility of looking at the collective roof area of all households, back and front yard and street surface areas.

While solutions to sanitation and water treatment need to be resolved, this suggests a feasible way of looking at large-scale water collection for a small community. Water is arguably one of the most precious and widely available resources within society, so why, given the advancements in technological capabilities, are we not utilising this commodity to its full extent in Perth, which is facing a future Water crisis? Read more

EG Cohen Medal

The EG Cohen Medal was donated by Eustace Gresley Cohen MC FRIBA FRAIA who was born in Wales and educated at Repton School. He played a prominent part in the Institute of Architects of WA taking a keen interest in the younger members of the profession. He established the bronze medal in 1924 during his lifetime. Mr Cohen was a past president of the Australian Institute of Architects (WA), and of the Town Planning Association.
its similarities to the Kings Square project. This was followed by ‘Connecting Fremantle with the Waterfront’ – where Georgia presented her final year independent design project plans for Victoria Quay that radically reconnect Fremantle with the Harbour.

The prize is awarded annually to an architectural student from each of the two Schools of Architecture in Western Australia. Students who have distinguished themselves highly in their work and who, at the same time, have shown a spirit of unselfishness and cooperation in their relationships with their fellow students. This year’s winner from ALVA was Master of Architecture student Craig McCormack (seen below with Alumni Philip Gresley, grandson of EG Cohen).

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