Issue 15 - May 2014

In this issue:

- Venice Biennale - Perth preview event
- ALVA student chooses between Oxford and Cambridge
- UWA recognised at AILA (WA) Awards
- Telling Stories - Narratives of Landscape...
- Top ALVA students recognised
- Art student selected for HATCHED
- Recent reunion of architecture cohort 1979-1983
- Students on site to see innovation up close
- Sad loss for ALVA
- Torbay hill house limited design competition

Australian Design Review of Christopher Vernon’s work
Memorialising the Griffins at Canberra April 30, 2014
The centenary of Walter and Marion Griffin’s arrival down under makes it timely to (re)consider erecting a memorial to the city’s authors at the national capital, Australia’s greatest achievement in landscape architecture. Read more

Graduate Certificate in Architectural Conservation - New
If you’ve ever wanted to master the full range of concepts, methods, and practices involved in the specialised field of architectural conservation, the Faculty will be offering a new Graduate Certificate in Architectural Conservation starting in 2015. The course consists of four units that are offered on a part-time basis (2 units per semester). Interested parties may apply to enrol in January or July next year.

More information will soon be listed on the ALVA website, in the meantime if you would like to find out more please contact the Course Coordinator Dr Ingrid Van Bremen.

New major in Fine Arts to be offered in 2015?
The Faculty has proposed to offer a new Fine Arts major within the Bachelor of Design degree course from 2015 onwards. The proposal is still going through the necessary approval channels but it is hoped that the new major will provide students with a broad and flexible skill set in visual expression, informed by research and high level communication skills. Students will be introduced to the

Venice Biennale - Perth preview event
The last Australian stop in the journey towards the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale took place on 9 May at the Linton and Kay Galleries, Perth. A preview event of the Augmented Australia 1914 – 2014 exhibition was included as part of the festivities for the National Architecture Conference. The exhibition brings 22 unbuilt projects to life through augmented reality, activated by an application on the viewers’ smart device.

AIA members and VIPs enjoyed the penultimate presentation from Creative Director Assistant Professor Rene Van Meeuwen (above) and were shown one of the latest animations to be released - the John Andrews No.2 Bond Street (below) which, like all the other projects included was never realised. View animation

The same evening, at the newly built State Theatre Centre, organiser Patrick Ford (ALVA alumnus) invited Co-Creative Director Craig McCormack (a fellow ALVA alumnus) to share with an audience some of the spectacular animations produced by students from the Advanced Computing Unit at ALVA that are included in the Biennale exhibition.

ALVA student chooses between Oxford and Cambridge
Jessyca Hutchens (28) is one of three recipients of a national Charlie Perkins Scholarship, announced 21 April. She was accepted into both Oxford and Cambridge and has decided to accept Oxford’s offer and will undertake a three-year DPhil in Fine Arts at the Ruskin School of Art starting in October. Along with the other scholarship winners, she will travel to the UK next month to choose the college where she will live while studying.

A descendant of the Palyku people of the Pilbara region, Jessyca graduated from UWA in 2010 with a Bachelor of Laws with Distinction and a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in Fine Arts. In her final year she wrote her Honours dissertation on ‘Hans Ulrich Obrist and the New Curator in Contemporary Art’. Read more

UWA recognised at AILA (WA) Awards
The Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts’ students, staff and alumni featured prominently on the winner’s list at the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) WA Chapter’s biennial awards held on the 2 May.

Dr Julian Bolleter from The Australian Urban Design Research Centre (AUDRC) took the main award of the night, the WA Medal for Landscape Architecture, for his research and publication...
practical study of cultural production and will be encouraged to actively explore contemporary issues through the formation of concepts and creative ideas leading to new works of art. For more information please contact Dr Peter Mudie, Discipline Chair Visual Arts.

Winthrop Professor Bill Taylor, with co-editors Winthrop Professor Michael Levine, Oenone Rooksby and Joely-Kym Sobott, have been awarded a book contract by Bloomsbury for a new collection of essays on The ‘Katrina Effect: reflections on a disaster and our future.’ At its core, the book, resulting from research funded by the Australian Research Council, charts important ethical territory that underscores thinking about disaster and the built environment globally.

The book, scheduled to appear in May 2015 to mark the 10th anniversary of Katrina, includes essays by contributors including Taylor and Levine (authors of Prospects for an Ethics of Architecture), Christine Boyer (The City of Collective Memory), David Simpson (9/11: The Culture of Commemoration), Graeme Thompson (with Paul Hirst, Globalization in Question), Naomi Zack (Ethics for Disaster) and others.

UWA Open Day in Singapore
On 11-14 April a group comprising Dean Simon Anderson, Associate Dean (Education) Sophie Giles and the Discipline Chair for Landscape Architecture Tony Blackwell travelled to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. As well as visiting many universities and educational agents, the group met with the Australian Trade Commission in Kuala Lumpur and participated in the UWA Open Day in Singapore. At the Open Day the Dean chaired a Roundtable discussion with a gathering of ALVA graduates from 1970s-2000s including Johnny Tan, Larry Ng, Richard Hassell, May Kong and Jane Kung.

Winthrop Professor Tony Blackwell also gave a brief presentation on behalf of ALVA on the Urban Heat Island Effect – some observations and propositions which addressed the fundamental distinctions between the research being undertaken in Singapore and Australia with the focus of the talk being on the key role that Landscape Architects will play in future in helping to deal with the impacts of Global Warming and UHI.

Whilst in the region, the ALVA team hosted an Alumni Dinner for graduates living in Malaysia. Attendees included Dennis Teoh, Hong Keat Hiew, Jeffrey Yeung and Pen Yee Ooi. The cultural and geographic spread of the alumni who attended this event was particularly telling, both as an indicator of the Faculty’s past history and future directions.

Guest lecture by Eleanor Suess
Alumna of the Faculty, Eleanor Suess gave a lecture to staff and students at ALVA on Tues 8 April.

Made in Australia – The Future of Australian Cities, co-authored by Adjunct Professor Richard Weller.

To quote the jury citation: ‘This bold piece of research presents a confronting yet critically important discussion about the future of Australia’s settlement patterns.’

The jury was impressed with this thorough and influential body of work that puts Landscape Architecture at the centre of urban development. ‘Made in Australia... proposes that landscape architects can speak to such large scale, long-term issues and add a much-needed perspective on strategic, long term urban design and planning. The project was conceived to encourage and inform broad public debate, and it has received national and international acclaim. Awarding Made in Australia... the 2014 WA Medal for Landscape Architecture celebrates a larger body of research, collaboration and participation in public debate by the authors and AUDRC.’

Alumnus Liam Mouritz, now working at Ecoscape, received the Future Leaders: Graduate Award for various projects undertaken in his two years since graduating with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture.

The jury commended Liam ‘for his dedication to and enthusiasm for the profession, evident in his work and his involvement in multiple entries in these awards. His previous success in the student award category coupled with this graduate award, mark an impressive early career that with proper support from the profession should further develop a future leader for WA.’

Recent UWA Landscape Architecture graduate Philippa Munckton also did the Faculty proud, picking up the Future Leaders: Student Award for her impressive honours studio work The Patchwork Code which proposes ‘how, through a strategic approach to design, a framework picking up the Future Leaders: Student Award for her impressive honours studio work The Patchwork Code which proposes ‘how, through a strategic approach to design, a framework

Top ALVA students recognised

Nineteen of ALVA’s top students from 2013 were recognised for their exceptional work in both practical and theoretical subjects at the Annual Prize-Giving Ceremony and Exhibition opening held on 7 May. Recipients and their guests, prize donors and staff of...
Her lecture Light Matter: the Architecture of John Smith’s Leading Light focused on the practices of architectural representation and structural film. It sought to find correspondences between these disciplines which, once revealed, may serve to enhance the respective practices of each. In particular, the lecture explored how strategies for drawing time within structural film practice might support the development of a form of architectural moving drawing, allowing the temporal as well as the spatial to be drawn.

Eleanor has a Bachelor in Fine Arts as well as architectural qualifications from UWA and the Bartlett, London. She qualified as a British Architect in 2004 and is registered with the Architects Registration Board.

With more than ten years’ experience in architectural practice in London, she has worked for award winning practices Fashion Architecture Taste (FAT) and Proctor and Matthews Architects.

Eleanor is currently an Associate Professor and the Acting Head of the School of Architecture and Landscape at Kingston University, London.

Out and about

Winthrop Professor Bill Taylor delivered a keynote lecture and participated in the International Seminar on design for Light Architecture for War Landscapes at the Civil Engineering and Architecture Department, University of Brescia (Italy) 25-26 March, 2014. His lecture was titled ‘The weight of earth: Landscape design and commemoration’. It outlined how the history and human geography of commemorative landscapes provide useful points of reference for investigating the ethical domain underlying our species’ transformation of the natural environment. In times of mass conflict, particularly for the period beginning with humankind’s first truly global and industrial war - the First World War - one can examine instances where ‘the earth’ and places of burial acquire new philosophical, material and above all political significance.

Dr Eve-Anne O’Regan (Adjunct Lecturer and ALVA PhD graduate) was in Sydney on 10 April for the Arts and Education Partnership Forum. The role of art and artists in our communities face growing challenges both in adapting to and affecting the cultural education of children. At the outset of the twenty-first century, a collective examination of the critical role played by artists in shaping educational opportunities is timely. The Art and Education Partnership Forum brought together representatives from a number of art environments such as artists, art workers, and major institutions committed to performing arts, visual arts and museum sectors, to discuss methods of working together, both in the classroom and beyond.

He spoke about his own studies at ALVA and encouraged the ALVA students to work hard and ‘fall in love with what they do’. With the assistance of the Dean, Fred then presented the 2013 prize recipients with their awards.

Thanks were expressed to the generous prize sponsors: Architects Board of WA, Association of Consulting Architects Australia, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (WA Chapter), Cameron Chisholm and Nicol, Cox Howlett & Bailey Woodland, Hassell, Margaret Pitt-Morison, Midland Brick, Robwin and Sons, SKM Building Services and The University of Western Australia.

Students Mark Sawyer, Philippa Munckton (pictured above with Fred Chaney) and Kyra Lomas all took home two prizes each. Read more

Art student selected for HATCHED

This year’s Hatched, National Graduate Show at PICA (Perth Institute of Contemporary Art) showcases the work of 34 emerging artists who have recently graduated from 22 tertiary art schools throughout Australia. The eclectic, aesthetically diverse and technically adroit works on display have been sensitively curated, resulting in a must-see exhibition.

The University of Western Australia is represented by the work of Valdene Buckley (Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours). Valdene is currently undertaking a Masters degree within the Faculty and tutoring in Visual Arts. Her work selected for the exhibition comes out of her Honours research. The large canvas, Matter of Memory 2 (2013) is stained by the presence of rusted sheet metal, sourced from abandoned antiquated machinery found on the artist’s family farm.

The work maps the history embedded in the surface texture of these objects. Pitted rust, traces of enamel paint, and deep, heavy indentations are imprinted into the surface of the canvas. The resulting indexical marks evoke the individual and collective memories that the artist’s family members acquired while using the machinery to work the land, but also carry the memories of the art process. Matter of Memory is a repository of familial events and experiences that explicitly identify the artist’s role as a mediator between past experiences and present remembrance.

The exhibition runs until the 29 June at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA).

Recent reunion of architecture cohort 1979-1983

Many of those who had commenced studying architecture at UWA in 1979, and the graduates of April 1984, gathered for a reunion at UWA on the evening of Thursday 17 April 2014. Held on Easter Thursday the timing encouraged some travellers to return to WA for a break, and the date and time of dinner was exactly 30 years since graduation.
Dr Christopher Poole is currently in Amsterdam to deliver a paper for the European Society for Aesthetics Conference (31 May – 2 June). This annual event is hosted by the Philosophy Department at the University of Amsterdam and runs for three days. His paper ‘The fall of reason and the rise of aesthetics’ argues that when the age of reason began to lose its high optimism for truth and clarity it profoundly affected the rise of art into the modern era.

New staff appointment

The Faculty welcomes Hannah McAll who recently joined the team in the role of Faculty Development Officer. Hannah is a UWA alumnus - she completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Communication Studies and English. Hannah’s position is co-located with the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

The main priority of Hannah’s role is to increase the Faculty’s fundraising capacity by building strong relationships with alumni and key stakeholders. Her focus is on increased community engagement and developing lasting and positive relationships with prospective donors, at both an individual and organisational level.

Hannah has a background in fundraising for not-for-profit organisations including Cancer Council, RSPCA and North Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club.

Mid-Year Student Exhibition

23 June – 9 July 2014
Cullity Gallery

More information

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The evening started with drinks in the Cullity Gallery, followed by a sumptuous dinner at The University Club of Western Australia, where various memorabilia and a slide-show of ancient photographs revived long-forgotten memories. Various toasts were made to absent friends and sponsors including Stuart Chalmers of Alice Springs, by organiser and Honorary Research Fellow John Taylor. Most of the by-now fairly mature alumni carried on to a post-dinner review in Dalkeith, and belying their age, partied into the small hours of Good Friday.

Associate Professor Sophie Giles and a cohort of Master of Architecture students were lucky enough to experience a Bubbledeck (concrete) structure the afternoon before pouring. The students were able to understand this innovative structural system at 999 Hay St, courtesy of PACT Constructions and site managers John Lyons and Max Bennett.

Gavin Jack, a structural engineer from Bubbledeck, was also on site checking the reinforcement prior to the pour and was able to describe this system in detail to the students. The Austrian system uses ‘bubbles’ which are manufactured in Western Australia; with the significant savings in time of construction. The line ‘1kg of recycled plastic replaces 100kg of concrete’ is one the students now understand in detail.

The students have also visited the following key projects over the last 2 months:

- New State Netball Stadium by Sandover Pinder in partnership with Suters Architects, constructed by PS Structures
- New Perth Library and Treasury precinct by Kerry Hill Architects and Doric Constructions
- Perry Lakes housing developments by Landcorp
- Freshwater Apartments by Hassell constructed by Pindan Construction
- New Children’s Hospital by JCY and Cox JV constructed by John Holland
- Cambridge St Medical Offices by Norm Bateman and constructed by Georgiou Group
Sad loss for ALVA

Vale - Peter Parkinson (1925 - 2014)

Renowned architect, theatre consultant and former Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts staff member Peter Parkinson MBE LFRAIA RIBA passed away peacefully on 24 April 2014.

Born in London, Peter graduated from the Architectural Association in 1950 and moved to Perth in 1952. He was a founding member of the architectural practice Hill and Parkinson, later Hill, Parkinson and Harris, from 1965 to 1980, specialising in his great passion, theatre design. His work included the Octagon Theatre and Dolphin Theatre for UWA and the acclaimed restoration of His Majesty’s Theatre, Perth. Read more

Vale - Martin A. Heine (1957 – 2014)

Sadly one of The University of Western Australia’s most renowned Fine Arts alumni passed away suddenly on May 12 in a Manila hospital at the age of 57. Martin was in the Philippines undertaking an artist’s residency following an exhibition of his new paintings at the Drawing Room in Singapore. Feeling ill, Martin entered hospital to have treatment for the flu – he was diagnosed with advanced leukemia and died suddenly within 48 hours. His surviving family plan to have his remains cremated and to returned to Germany where he was born.

Heine was born in Villingen-Schwenningen in 1957, a small village west of Munich and just north of the Swiss border. At the age of 19 Martin went to Berne in Switzerland to attend the School of Creative Art and completed a screen-printing apprenticeship before they migrated to Australia in 1987. Heine attended the Claremont School of Art in 1990-91 and was one of the first students to enrol in the new Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) program at UWA in 1992. Read more

Torbay hill house limited design competition

Five teams comprising ALVA architecture staff and current architecture students submitted entries in a competition to design a house on a hillside site in Torbay, West Cape Howe, twenty kilometres from Albany. The competition was sponsored by the landowner, Michael McFall, and coordinated by Kate Hislop.

The brief called for conceptual proposals responding to the key design objective: ‘The house should feel warm in winter, cool in summer and should at all times register the sensory atmosphere that is specific to the site and surrounds. It is important that inhabitants can hear, see and “feel” the bush and the weather as they occupy and move through the house, along decking or corridors, while being protected from rain. Michael is looking for a building that delivers a sense of being part of the external environment while being cosy inside – not unlike the experience of camping.’

 Judges included Adrian Welke (Troppo), Fred Chaney (Chaney Architecture), Michael McFall (client) and Nick Page (graphic designer, friend of the client and instigator of the competition). After a thorough briefing from the client and careful scrutiny of schemes the following awards were decided:

- 1st place (AUD$6,000) – Paul Wakelam with Peter Tibbitt, Soo Shin Han, and Gordon Pekeur
- Equal 2nd place (AUD$2,000) – Sophie Giles with Hayden Ward, Josh Cobb and Mitch Cook
- Equal 2nd place (AUD$2,000) – Tor Dahl with Tom Hobbs, Patrick Miller, Hannah
At the client's request a public ballot was held and the winner of the People's Choice Award (AUD$1,000) was the Giles team.