Issue 8 - November 2012

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Dean Simon Anderson LFRAIA

At its meeting on 2-3 August the National Council of the Australian Institute of Architects approved the elevation of ALVA Dean Simon Anderson to Life Fellow of the Institute in honour of his outstanding contribution to architectural education, the profession and the Institute.

National President Shelley Penn FRAIA noted that the Institute had benefited greatly from his participation in Institute activities in WA for over 20 years, all of which was acknowledged in his 2009 WA Chapter Presidents’ Award. Penn went on to say in recording her thanks for his generosity toward the profession in Australia: ‘At the same time he has also maintained a full time teaching and research position at the University of Western Australia, currently as Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts, and also an award winning practice – a feat many admire!’

Farewell to Richard Weller

One of our colleagues, Winthrop Professor Richard Weller, is leaving us to take up the role of Martin and Margy Myerson Professor of Urbanism and Chair of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, one of the preeminent schools of Landscape Urbanism in the United States.

Since Richard came to UWA to develop the Landscape Architecture programme with Craig Burton, his former mentor, he has had an enormous impact on his students, the design profession, and on politicians and planners. He relentlessly promoted, through articles, interviews and lectures a vision for the future in which Landscape Urbanism, a combination of landscape, architecture and planning, will tackle the key challenges facing the ecology of human settlement, at a micro- to macro-scale.

Many of these ideas were explored in polemical fashion in his well-known book, *Boomtown 2050: Scenarios for a Rapidly Growing City* (2009). In his time at UWA, Richard has been an inspiring teacher, motivating his students to be ambitious in their global and local perspectives, his impact being reflected by several UWA Excellence in Teaching awards.

Richard was already well-known through his design practice before arriving at UWA. In his time here he rose to prominence with projects such as the Garden of Australian Dreams, at the centre of the ARM-designed National Museum of Australia, and the successive projects for the Perth Foreshore, again in collaboration with ARM. Richard’s design work has been widely recognized and internationally awarded, and was published as a monograph by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2005.

Richard’s departure is a loss that will prove impossible to completely fill, but we wish him great success in his new position, and thank him for his great contribution.

ALVA Landscape Architecture students wins WA Water Award

Last Friday night at a gala presentation dinner at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, final year Landscape Architecture student, Laura Thwaites, was awarded the WA Undergraduate Water Prize as part of the Australian Water Association (AWA) Water Awards 2012 - presented by the Department of Water and the Water Corporation.
Awards

Alumnus Landscape Architect Vanessa Margetts was part of a team at the Fremantle landscape architecture firm UDLA awarded the 2012 Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Australian Medal. The medal recognised their work on behalf of the Yawuru Registered Native Title Holders Body Corporate on their published Yawuru Cultural Management Plan. Margetts project managed the Broome-based plan, one of two projects she is responsible for in the region. Full details www.aila.org.au/awards/2012/

Lucas Ihlein, an ALVA alumnus who completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1995 won the major prize at the recent 2012 Fremantle Arts Centre Print Awards along with fellow artist Ian Milliss, for their collaborative work Yeomans Project. The awards are recognised as being Australia’s leading printmaking awards with the top acquisitive prize winner receiving $15,000. Yeomans Project will now form part of the City of Fremantle’s permanent Art Collection.

Officer Woods Architects won a National Commendation for Residential Architecture - Multiple Housing for their 58 Stevens Street project in the AIA National Architecture Awards. These were held this year in Perth for the first time at the Midland Railway Workshops on November 1. The project was also the winner of the Building Product News Sustainability Awards 2012 in the category of Multi Density Residential, announced recently in Sydney.

Early last month, Winthrop Professor Richard Weller was recognised with a national Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning, at an award ceremony in Perth. He was commended for his ‘sustained commitment to inspiring and enabling students to engage creatively and critically with complex design problems’.

As announced last Friday at the End of Year exhibition in the Cullity Gallery, final year Master

The prize ‘encourages and rewards students for excellence in the field of water studies and research and provides a forum for students to display their academic excellence and research findings to future employers and clients’.

The three finalists including Hani Mohamad (studying Engineering at UWA) and How Zuo Tong (studying Chemistry at Curtin University) presented on their work for 20 minutes at a separate judging evening earlier in the week. Thwaite’s final year project on ‘Fluid Terrain: resiliency in water management design for a potential large park on Perth’s urban fringe’ was judged the winner. (The project is currently part of the End of Year Exhibition at the Cullity Gallery until Dec 11.)

For this she receives a three-year membership of the Young Water Professionals Network and flights, accommodation and registration to Ozwater 2013 where she will present her designs as part of the conference program. (The national winner’s paper will be published on AWA’s website and in AWA’s Water Journal.)

Full list of winners and finalists

ALVA goes to Venice

Designs for a 22nd century metropolis - created by staff, graduates and students of the Faculty - were on display in one of the world’s oldest cities, Venice. The city, a World Heritage site, hosted the 13th International Architecture Biennale, which drew a big contingent from UWA and closed on Sunday.

According to the Biennale di Venezia, it is estimated that over 178,000 visitors enjoyed the 2012 Biennale and that attendance was up 4.7% on 2010.

Winthrop Professor Geoffrey London was Chair of the Australian Committee for this year’s Biennale and Assistant Professor Sophie Giles, in Europe on a Faye Gale Fellowship, was selected from 200 architect applicants to staff the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) pavilion along with recent graduate Kara Guerney.

Another ALVA alumnus, Dr Ian Weir, was chosen by the AIA to represent innovation in Australian architecture (as covered in the August issue of this newsletter). Several staff members and students submitted three projects for the Maribor 2012 European Capital of Culture project. Maribor, in Slovenia, is an ancient market town and the project called for visionary master plans for the city in 100 years’ time. They were on show in Venice in both the Australian and Slovenian pavilions.
of Architecture student, Thomas Hobbs is the 2012 winner of the prestigious Ferguson Travel Scholarship. Chosen from a shortlist of five impressive candidates, judges Gus Ferguson, Philip Goldswain and Marco Vittino awarded the scholarship to Thomas based on his proposal to re-visit Denmark (where he spent a year on exchange working and studying at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts) to photograph Scandinavian architecture. He is particularly interested in the study of architecture’s relationship with light, context and identity in the region. The scholarship will allow Thomas to explore architecture as both a producer and expression of cultural identity and as a field where collective narratives are reflected in form, materiality and space. The prize of $10,000 will be used to fund his trip.

Nominations for the 2013 National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Western Australia Crystal Vision Awards will be closing on 21 December. The Crystal Vision Awards are held annually to recognise and celebrate the achievements of women in the construction sector. The awards are open to women in WA involved in the construction industry, including students, and we are encouraging all industry members to consider nominating themselves or any women they know. Visit www.nawic.com.au for more details.

Bachelor of Fine Arts Honours Exhibition

Bachelor of Fine Arts Honours students, Linda Cheok and Rachelle Dusting, who completed their degrees in Semester 2, held an exhibition of their work in the Cullity Gallery in late October. Matisse and Flatness (Cheok) and I AM (Dusting) showcased their unique and exciting artistic styles. Winthrop Professor Richard Read formally opened the event, after which both students both spoke briefly about their ALVA experience and its importance in shaping their artistic direction. Cheok sold one of her largest pieces, Hakone Hydrangea Collage, in the first 30 minutes of the opening. The event

The ALVA invitees created 3D computer imagery, graphic images and 3D models for the projects. Those who took part were: Assistant Professor Rene Van Meeuwen, Assistant Professor Jon Tarry, alumni Craig McCormack, Matt Delroy-Carr, Tristan Morgan, Domenic Trimboli and undergraduates Khem Aikwanich and Katie Morgan.

(Images above taken from final year Architecture student Khem Aikwanich’s project.)

Ross K Chisholm Forum 2012

Professor Christine Hawley of The Bartlett School, University College London, visited the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts for five days in October to deliver the 2012 Ross K Chisholm Forum Lecture. The inaugural Forum was held in 2008 where the distinguished visitor was Timothy Hill, of Donovan Hill, Brisbane.

Hawley was welcomed by ALVA staff and representatives of the profession. She visited the Australian Urban Design Research Centre, reviewed Honours student presentations and held meetings with ALVA staff. The lecture ‘Shadow House + other Conversations’, introduced by Bill Busfield was attended by a cross section of staff, students and members of the profession. Katrina Chisholm, daughter of the benefactor the late Ross K Chisholm, hosted a dinner after the lecture and Patrick Beale gave a farewell gathering at his residence on the day of her departure.

Singapore alumni gathering
culminated with the auction of one of Dusting’s pieces from I AM with the proceeds being donated to charity Beyond Blue. The night was a great success and was attended by over one hundred guests.

Out and About

Associate Professor Christopher Vernon delivered a paper ‘Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin: swansong in India’, at the Institute of Urban Designers in Lucknow, India after attending a ceremony to unveil the new gravesite of Walter Burley Griffin together with Robyn Archer AO and historian Dr David Headon on September 27. Burley Griffin, the designer of the city of Canberra died of peritonitis in India in 1937 whilst working there. He was buried in an unmarked grave in the Nishatganj Cemetery. The renovated gravesite is part of a series of international events to celebrate Canberra’s centenary.

Vernon later presented ‘Canberra through an international lens’ to the members of the Institute of Urban Designers – India in collaboration with the Australia India Institute in New Delhi.

Assistant Professor Jennie Officer was invited by the NSW chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects and Sam Crawford to speak at the spring series of ‘Tuesdays at Tusculum’ in Sydney on November 20, part of a series called ‘Conversations Across Borders’.

Assistant Professor Tinka Sack delivered her paper ‘Neo-Baroque Ecology: Design as a cultural strategy for urban ecosystems’ at the Society for Ecological Restoration’s Australasian conference held this week in Perth.

Dr Gini Lee, Elizabeth Murdoch Chair of Landscape Architecture at the University of Melbourne, visited the Faculty this month to assess ALVA Honours student projects.

The Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts (ALVA) hosted a gathering of some 28 alumni at the Singapore offices of WOHA on the October 2 on the eve of the World Architecture Festival. The Dean, Winthrop Professor Simon Anderson welcomed the guests emphasising the importance of strong alumni networks to the Faculty’s culture and future.

Professor Anderson remarked during his address how pleased he had been to discover the prominence and breadth in which members of the UWA network continue to figure in the region. The cross-section of alumni attending included not only architects in traditional practice, but also project managers, government practitioners, team leaders and policy makers, covering a wide range of leading professionals involved in the development of the built environment in Singapore and Malaysia. These included one of the faculty’s very first, and now most eminent, graduates Kerry Hill AO (1968) an Adjunct Professor at ALVA and Richard Hassell (1989) one of the two principals at WOHA and also an Adjunct Professor. Husband and wife team Keat Hiew and Helen Paul (both 1992), co-principals of their own private consultancy in KL, flew down from Malaysia for the event and expressed their interest in a Malaysian alumni event in future.
Assistant Professor Paul Trinidad has been back in Bali further developing the international ISACFA program for 2013. Whilst he was there, he attended the opening of Nature on Art exhibition at the Gaya Gallery, a field trip with the Faculty of Art & Design (FSRD at the Institute Seni Indonesia) and the Rudana Museum.

Current & upcoming exhibitions

The 2012 End of Year exhibition of student work is now on at the Cullity Gallery. Opened on Friday 23 November by Bernard Seeber and curated by Assistant Professor Patrick Beale it will run until 11 December. For more details see http://www.alva.uwa.edu.au/cullity-gallery

Mythology - an exhibition by Anna Cocks

Opening Saturday 15 December, 6pm at UWA’s Artlaab space (old Masonic Hall, Broadway, Nedlands)

Mythology is the first solo exhibition of Tasmanian-based artist Anna Cocks. After completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts at UWA in 2008, Anna re-located to Hobart in 2010 to do Honours at the Tasmanian School of Art. This exhibition brings together a selection of ‘stories’ and images, mostly completed during that year, that speak of everyday experiences, encounters and relationships in a new environment. Anna is currently undertaking a studio-residency at CAST (Contemporary Art Space Tasmania) and working at MONA, the Museum of Old and New Art. For more information contact the artist Anna Cocks via sister_janet@hotmail.com

Recent PhD completions

Congratulations are due to the following staff members on

Part of the Dean's presentation alluded to the importance of family-styled networks in navigating and facilitating opportunities in the vast and unfamiliar new landscapes of a truly globalised economy. 'Students from Singapore and Malaysia have occupied a special place in the life of school since the days of the Colombo plan in the 1960s, and our alumni connections are an important part of keeping this family together.'

UWA's decision to remain small, but relevant and globally aware, is evidence of this self-conscious familiarity. All those present reflected fondly on their days studying architecture at UWA, whether or not they had yet had the opportunity to return for visits. Jane Kung (2002), now a Senior Team Leader CPG Consultants (a part of CPG Corporation - the corporatised entity of the former Singapore Public Works Department (PWD)), remembers the social informality of ALVA: ‘the Faculty were well known professional figures, but accessible like good friends’ and this was not quite the same culture she found at the Australian university where she went on to postgraduate studies. This kind of observation is common among ALVA graduates, and an important and intentional quality of the ALVA culture.

The Faculty has initiated strategic support for the ongoing development of Alumni networks, through the strengthening of its Student Office, which now takes on the roles of developing Internationalisation programmes, the maintaining of better data on alumni details, and the hosting of more events and opportunities for interactions between alumni. It is only the second time that such an event has been held in Singapore, and talk has already begun about the possibilities for future events in the region.
completion of their Doctor of Philosophy degrees:

Associate Professor Nigel Westbrook - Architecture - An architectural interpretation of the Early Byzantine Great Palace in Constantinople, from Constantine I to Heraclius

Assistant Professor Jon Tarry - Visual Arts - Lines of Resistance, Explorations of Geopolitical Space through Art

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Contested integrated Landscape Architecture goes public by collaboration

Associate Professor Grant Revell curated two public student exhibitions recently - the first held at the Kellerberrin Agricultural Show Day on Sept 22 & 23 - showcasing students' ecology and rural design studio work from semester 1, 2012.

This community-based design studio was run out of the Aurora Arts Centre at Kellerberrin and involved staff and students in Landscape Architecture from UWA and Environmental Engineering at Murdoch University. Students provided new plans for the town centre and surrounding environs, focusing on regenerative design solutions that would address issues relating to contested town identity, parklands amenity, cultural-tourism with a local-experience-of-place, and the pragmatic design stewardship issues around bio-diversity, storm water and salinity land management.

The town's complex water management issues were addressed in technical detail by Murdoch University staff and students offering specific design specifications to ALVA students in wetland harvest and habitat design, greenskin living walls and public parks and wildlife corridors across the town. The exhibition contained a total of eighty-four drawings.

2012 marks the seventeenth anniversary of the Faculty's Rural Design Studio. During this time the community-based landscape and architecture design studios have taken place in fifteen different townships across regional WA.

The second exhibition on September 22 was held by Revell's Garden Design Studio students who were invited by the South Fremantle Community to provide designs for the contentious FreoFarm proposal at the disused South Fremantle rubbish tip-site.

This toxic brown-field landscape is owned as open-space by the City of Fremantle and local residents are interested in potentially developing a local environmental technology centre and sustainable food garden on a section of the lands which is considered safe for human-use.

Over this semester, these ALVA Garden Studio students have been studying successful international remediated brown-field landscapes and have incorporated this contested knowledge into their current plans. Draft plans generated from previous community-critique sessions were exhibited at the recent Hulbert Street Sustainable Fiesta receiving additional feedback from the estimated 7,000 visitors.
Enthralling memories unveiled secrets of new arena

Rare insights into the demolition of the iconic Perth Entertainment Centre and intriguing ideas behind the futuristic design of new Perth Arena were revealed in an impressive exhibition at the Australian Urban Design Research Centre which opened on November 2.

In My Beginning is My End explores the strikingly-shaped new venue’s design secrets and celebrates the legacy of its much-loved predecessor, which for 28 years enthralled Perth audiences with hundreds of superb performances - from Disney On Ice to KISS - by some of the world’s greatest acts.

The new AUDRC exhibition in central Perth features photographs, video, animation, drawings and sculptural constructions that combine the talents of UWA Assistant Professor Jon Tarry - a renowned WA artist - with Australia’s most inventive and controversial architects - ARM Architecture - and joint venture partners Cameron Chisholm & Nicoll.

Read more

Postcard from Switzerland

As part of a Fay Gale Fellowship, Assistant Professor Sophie Giles recently visited Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) Zürich, to meet with the Chair of Structural Design and the Chair of Building Structure, both members of the Institute of Technology in Architecture (ITA).

She took part in a seminar in Parametric Design run by Professor Toni Kotnik and observed the construction of a free-form Catalan thin-tile vault, designed using RhinoVAULT, by the students of Professor Dr Philippe Block. Giles also attended a lecture by Professor Alfonso Ramirez Ponce, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM).
Giles visited this highly regarded Institute at ETH to envisage future scope for UWA’s new Integrated Design major. Other innovative aspects of the ITA include their work in digital stereotomy, advances in architectural geometry, experiments in force flow, structural testing of discrete structures using rapid prototyping, robotic fabricated high-rises, object oriented design, interactive design tools for funicular shells and three-dimensional lower-bound analysis of complex masonry vaults including gothic churches.

(Photos: top - Catalan thin-tile vault by Dr Philippe Block and below - robotically laid brickwork column by Gramazio and Kohler)
Alumni evening in London


Simon Anderson gave an update on UWA and Faculty achievements and ambitions, over drinks and canapés. The night was a great success and we thank those who attended.
Summer Schools' Studio

Current Year 11 students with an interest in architecture, urban design or landscape architecture are being invited to take part in the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts' (ALVA) Summer Schools' Studio 2013. The studio is an opportunity for students entering into Year 12 in 2013 to, through intense tuition sessions with Faculty staff, develop new skills and 'jump start' their academic careers with ALVA.

Program Coordinator Dr Annette Pedersen said Summer Schools' Studio 2013 was designed to give Year 12 students an academic extension experience well beyond their school experience. 'The students are faced with solving challenging design problems, learning to work with new computer design tools and ultimately drawing and then constructing a model of their design concepts.'

The studio will consist of:
- An introduction to design by staff from the Faculty
- Model making and drawing
- An introduction to computer modeling
- A visit to a site of architectural significance (in this case, the newly built Perth Arena)
- Talks by architects involved with the design of the Perth Arena
- An exhibition of student work at the end of the studio

To view a video of a previous studio or for more information see alva.uwa.edu.au/community/studio now - enrolment closes on December 14 and places are limited.