Durham IAS Fellowship for senior art historian

Durham University’s Institute of Advanced Study (IAS) has invited Winthrop Professor Richard Read to take up one of their Fellowships for a period between October 2014 and March 2015. The Institute’s theme for 2014-15 is ‘Emergence’, which they anticipate will be of interest to a wide range of academic disciplines, Read was invited due to his ‘international reputation in the area’ and because colleagues at Durham, including Dr Andrew Hamilton, are keen to engage with Richard and his work.

An IAS Fellowship is intended to give scholars space to develop their research (relieved temporarily from teaching and administrative obligations) in a setting that allows them to think in an unconstrained way, in the company of other Fellows from very different disciplinary backgrounds. In return the Institute requires two presentations (a seminar and public lecture) and a paper for its web-based journal, Insights.

Modernity and regionalism - Kerry Hill book launch

A celebration of the work of Adjunct Professor Kerry Hill AO was held earlier this month in the Cullity Gallery where a recently published Thames & Hudson monograph was officially launched in Australia. A special exhibition accompanied the launch of Kerry Hill: Crafting Modernism, featuring more than 40 international and local projects completed by Kerry Hill Architects (KHA).

Professor Paul Johnson, Vice-Chancellor, welcomed the 120 VIPs and guests before Winthrop Professor Geoffrey London spoke on ‘the nature of practice’ of KHA. Amongst the attendees were the Hon Bill Marmion MLA, Deputy Lord Mayor of Perth Janet Davidson, Janet Holmes à Court and the Mayor of Vincent, Allilah MacTiernan.

The Vice-Chancellor took the opportunity to announce that Kerry Hill Architects had been successful in winning the design tender for the new Indigenous Cultures Museum at UWA, another step in the long-standing relationship that started back when Kerry enrolled to study architecture at the University.

As one of the first Architecture graduates, Kerry Hill left Australia in 1971 to work in Hong Kong, embracing an uncertain journey that would inevitably inform the next 40 years of his practice.

The book Crafting Modernism highlights an enviable portfolio of work created by a studio with offices in Singapore and Fremantle. Kerry Hill has established a regional modernist aesthetic across his most notable projects including a series of exotic resorts and houses in locations throughout south-east Asia and award winning buildings throughout the world.

His early works form a lineage with his more recent award winning buildings, which are recognizable in a shared modernist response with consideration to location, climate, culture, myth and craft. Kerry Hill demonstrates a critical understanding of architecture, and his work is made distinctive by a methodology that crafts the international modern.

The Vice-Chancellor invited all attendees, including architecture faculty members, to join the celebration with drinks and canapés following the lecture. Attendees enjoyed watching an entertaining film of Kerry’s journey to his first project in Vietnam and the movie was followed by a question and answer session before the evening ended with an informal gathering at Olot’s restaurant in East Fremantle.

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New staff appointments

Architecture graduate elected as UWA Warden

During the centenary of its establishment, UWA Convocation has elected Warren Kerr AM, an ALVA graduate as the new Warden of Convocation for UWA. This is the first time that an architect and an ALVA graduate has been appointed to this position.

Out and about

Associate Professor Christopher Vernon’s lecture at the National Archives of Australia on Friday, 1 March was attended by over 100 people, including 92 year old Aldo Giurgola, architect of Parliament House.

The opening of the National Library of Australia’s (NLA) exhibition The Dream of a Century: The Griffins in Australia’s Capital, curated by Associate Professor Christopher Vernon, was attended by nearly 400 people (making it one of the library’s largest). Chair of the NLA Board, Ryan Stokes introduced Vernon and was given an exhibition tour by him. The show attracted a lot of media attention including:


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On April 11, Dr Tijana Vujosevic, presented at the 66th Annual Conference of the Society of Architectural Historians in Buffalo, USA. The topic was "The Communist Egosphere: One-Room Abode in the Russian 1920s.'

Vujosevic also participated in the conference Utopia's Return: Borderlines, Agency and Transformation in Global Art and Architecture in Zurich, Switzerland, on 2-3 May. It included an international launch for the Art Architecture History Assembly (AAHA), founded by lecturers from MIT, ETH Zurich, and UWA. AAHA is creating a venue for artists, architects and historians to present work and collaborate on cutting-edge practice and research.

Assistant Professor Patrick Beale attended a meeting of Indian Ocean rim architecture schools in StDenis, La Reunion from 15-18 May. He was invited by The School of Architecture at Reunion, a satellite of the Ecole Superior d'Architecture at Montpellier, France. The purpose of the meeting was to establish bilateral links for student and staff exchanges and to investigate possibilities for research collaborations.

Schools from India, Malaysia, South Africa and Australia attended the meeting. Outcomes include plans for staff and student workshops, virtual studios run in collaboration and potential research in the areas of tropical and arid zone architecture.

Lecturer Philip Goldswain is presenting two papers at The Global and the Local, a conference sponsored by NAVSA (North American Victorian Studies Association), BAVS (British Association of Victorian Studies), and AVSA (Australasian Victorian Studies Association) being held in Venice in June. Philip's papers 'Dipped Into A Bucket Of Pure Victorian: The spatial transformation of Kalgoorlie 1893-1903' and 'A Memento of a Great and Interesting Event: The souvenir album, photography and the development of a mining town' draw on material from his PhD, currently being undertaken at the University of Melbourne, co-supervised by Dr Andrew Saniga and alumnus Associate Professor Hannah Lewi.

Upcoming exhibitions at the Cullity Gallery

Bachelor of Fine Arts Student Exhibition
Opening night: Wednesday 5 June 6pm
Dates: Mon 3 – Fri 7 June 2013

Mid-Year Architecture and Landscape Architecture Student Exhibition
Opening night: Friday 21 June 6.30pm
Dates: Mon 24 June – Weds 10 July 2013

Future Events

‘Terror, Catastrophe, and the Role of Theory’ Lecture
Presenter: David Simpson
Date: Wednesday 5 June 2013
Time: 6 to 7pm
Venue: Webb Lecture Theatre, Geography Building, UWA
RSVP: lse.uwa.edu.au/lectures/simpson

‘Witness to Disaster: Journalists and Journalism in Hurricane Katrina’ Lecture

ALVA team make Venice Biennale shortlist

A team of staff and alumni from UWA’s Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts were shortlisted recently for the role as creative director of the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale’s Australian exhibition. The team comprises "Felix. + Giles and Anderson" - Assistant Professor Rene Van Meeuwen, Assistant Professor Sophie Giles, Assistant Professor Ramesh Goonewardene, Matt Delroy Carr, Craig McCormack and Winthrop Professor Simon Anderson.

There were 26 proposals this year for the prized position and 7 have been shortlisted. The other shortlisted teams are made up of individuals from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

In the history of the Biennale, one of the discipline’s most prestigious and important events, no Western Australian team has ever been successful in winning the coveted position of creative director of the Australian exhibition.

Rem Koolhaas has been named the Biennale director and has called for the focus to be about architecture rather than architects. Koolhaas has selected the theme ‘Fundamentals’ for next year’s event.

According to arcdaily.com, Koolhaas wants this Biennale, to use historical research to explore how Modernity and globalization has, since 1914, formed the architecture we practice today. The Biennale will focus on the erasure of national architectural identities and the formation, over the last 200 years, of a global architecture which produces, in Koolhaas’ words, “the same stuff, with the same materials, in the same styles. How did this happen?”

Augmented Australia 1914–2014 is the title of the proposal submitted by the ALVA team. The next stage in the competition is a presentation of a more detailed proposal to the Venice Biennale Committee on the 6 June. The successful team will be appointed sometime in July.

Megacities study tour of the lower Yangtze Delta

A group of 18 students, led by Assistant Professor Ramesh Goonewardene, and PhD candidate He Shan, undertook a study tour of the lower Yangtze Delta between April 1-10. Together they visited numerous institutions, places and sites, as part of the Master of Architecture elective unit ‘Asian Megacities: Cultures of Hyperdensity’. The elective focuses on critical design practices for urban life in the emerging cities of the future.
Notably, the group conducted a workshop discussion, ‘Cultures of Hyperdensity’ convened at Zhejiang University (ZJU) School of Architecture in Hangzhou, where they were greeted by the Dean, Professor Luo Qingping, the Associate Dean Professor Ge Jian, and Master of Architecture students from the ZJU School.

The catalyst for the trip was the research work and selfless organisation by He Shan, a graduate of ZJU, and co-teacher of the elective unit. Shan’s PhD work concerns the impact of new infrastructure techniques on the form and patterns of the city. The introduction of a large network of high-speed trains will reduce travel times between the major metropolitan regions of Shanghai, Nanjing and Hangzhou to 30 minutes, effectively creating a single urban agglomeration, or ‘megacity’ with a population of 40 million, and an as-yet unknown potential to grow well beyond that.

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**Catastrophe Project hosts public lecture series and symposium**

As part of their Australian Research Council (ARC) funded project ‘Catastrophe: a historical and philosophical assessment of urban disaster, ethics and the built environment’, Winthrop Professors William Taylor (Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts), and Michael Levine (Faculty of Arts), will host two public lectures in the first week of June.

On Wednesday June 5, David Simpson, Distinguished Professor of English at UC Davis, will present ‘Terror, Catastrophe, and the Role of Theory’. This public lecture will argue that without engaging political and aesthetic discourses we risk remaining passive consumers of the rhetoric of vested interests on occasions of terrorist attack and catastrophe.

Simpson is the renowned author of *9/11: Culture of Commemoration* (University of Chicago Press, 2006), commended by one reviewer for asking important questions on ‘the troubling political uses of 9/11’. The reviewer goes on to say how Simpson ‘criticizes the breathtaking conceit that architecture could somehow contain the conceptual wreckage of 9/11.’

On the following evening, investigative journalist James O’Byrne will present ‘Witness to Disaster: Journalists and Journalism in Hurricane Katrina’. This long-time resident of New Orleans and three time Pulitzer Prize winner will discuss the role of journalists as first responders, as integral to disaster response as police, fire and rescue personnel.

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**Prize-winning students recognised**

Eighteen of ALVA’s top students from 2012 were recognised for their exceptional work in both practical and theoretical subjects at the Annual Prize-Giving Ceremony and Exhibition opening held on May 6. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Robyn Owens, recipients and their guests, prize donors and staff of the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts attended the evening.

Following a brief address by the Dean, Winthrop Professor Simon Anderson, The Honorable Albert Jacob MLA, Minister for Environment; Heritage, a UWA architecture graduate and former prize-winner himself, delivered an inspiring talk. He spoke about his own studies at ALVA and how they had prepared him for the rigours of political life and the relevance of the disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture and visual arts today in Perth’s rapidly changing environment. With the assistance of the Dean, the Minister then presented the 2012 prize recipients with their awards. Thanks were expressed to the generous prize sponsors: AECOM, Architects Board of WA, Association of Consulting Architects Australia, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (WA Group), Cameron Chisholm and Nicol, Cox Howlett & Bailey Woodland, Ferguson Architects, Hassell, Jackson's Drawing Supplies, The Laminex Group, Margaret Pilt-Morison, Boral Midland Brick, Mosserson Galleries, Robwin and Sons, SKM Building Services and The University of Western Australia.

Top Bachelor of Environmental Design student Qian Yun Say won four from four awards she was eligible for, one as a joint winner with fellow student, Andrew Hayden. (The photo above shows her...
Vernon's book garners rave review

Heidi Hohman, Associate Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Iowa State University recently published a review of *Graceland: A Design History* by ALVA's Associate Professor Christopher Vernon.

She writes:

‘the research that grounds *Graceland: A Design History* is impeccable, as evidenced by the range of contemporary historic and archival sources consulted. Consequently, even the notes make interesting reading (at least for landscape history geeks) with nugget after nugget of supplemental information and intriguing detail. The bibliography, too, is an excellent resource for anyone seeking to understand landscape design in Chicago prior to 1990.

Overall, *Graceland: A Design History* is a wonderful example of site-based design research and history, and is destined to become the definitive work on the site. Although the book may not launch a full-scale resurrection of cemeteries as a potent topic of historical research, it is a worthy addition to the canon of landscape history.’

Gridded timber 'trees' for school garden centrepiece

Master of Architecture students participating in Semester 1's Timber in Architecture elective have recently completed the design and build of a new outdoor structure at Carey Baptist College Primary School in Perth's southern suburbs.

Unit Coordinator, David Bylund, and ALVA students met with staff and children at the school to look at whether they could design and build a centrepiece for their communal, permaculture garden. The primary school felt that their garden needed a focal point that could provide some much needed shade, and hoped that the structure could be built using sustainable development principles.

For the first half of the semester, students worked on a number of proposals in a competitive design process overseen by a design review committee. The winning proposal, considered 'a highly imaginative and elegant solution' belonged to Dustin Diep and Sing Liang Chai. It used inverted, interconnected pyramids to represent a spreading canopy of three trees. (They cited as precedents Kengo Kuma and Associate's Wooden Bridge Museum and GC Prostho Museum projects.)

Return to Olot by Roia

Associate Professor Emiliano Roia has been invited to partner with the internationally renowned photographer Hisao Suzuki, to run the ‘An Approach to Photography’ session of the inaugural Audiovisual and Photography Workshop run by Fundación Bunka and RCR Architects from 16 – 30 August this year. This is a consequence of the creative engagement Roia experienced at last year’s Architecture and Landscape Workshop and the subsequent publication of his photographic book *RCR Landscapes: a photographic insight into the world of RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta Arquitectes*.

Immersed in the exceptional landscape of the Garrotxa Volcanic Natural Park, a small number of participants will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge on photography; reflect on and discuss concepts that relate to the visual arts and, ultimately, put them into practice by conducting a creative photographic work or video. During the development of the project itself, participants will also explore the possibilities in which the viewer can experience the work, making the presentation of each piece a unique experience.

New staff appointments

Dr Claire McIlroy was appointed to the position of Research Development Advisor at the Faculty and started at the beginning of May. Prior to taking up this role, McIlroy was the Senior Legislative Officer at The University of Western Australia and previously coordinated the ARC Network for Early European Research (NEER). She is also currently the International Research Liaison Officer for the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions and coordinates the activities of a European-
Carolyn Wood was appointed as the new Faculty Administrative Officer and commenced in March. Previously she worked at UWA’s Study Abroad Office (International Centre) for four years.