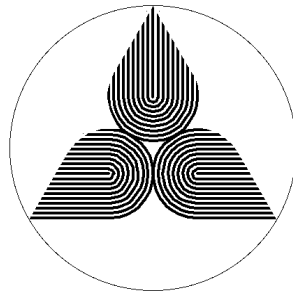
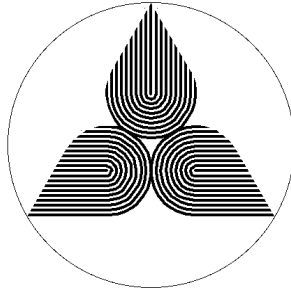




The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
National Conference 22-24 August 2002
Stokes Hill Wharf Complex
Darwin Northern Territory



presenter abstracts



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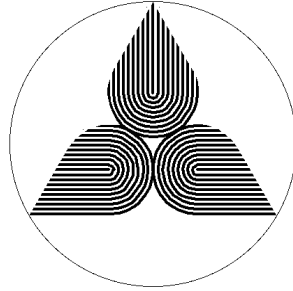
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Netafim

Rain Bird



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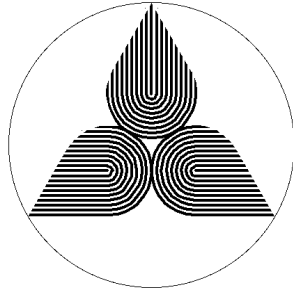
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Imagining the invisible city

WRIGHT, John and MONSOUR, Michelle

Territory Wildlife Park Masterplan – Providing a window to the unique landscapes of the Top End



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Please note that the abstracts contained in this document have not been edited by the Organisers. All details were correct at time of including this publication on the website, however the organisers reserve the right to alter the program as necessary.

ECOLOGY OF TOP END LANDSCAPES

Paper: Friday 23 August at 10.45 a.m.

Presenter: Dr Alan Andersen
CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems
PMB 44
WINNELLIE NT 0822

Abstract:

Discover the unique ecology of the tropical savannas before you head out bush – a fascinating blend of plants, animals, fire and water!

Profile:

Alan leads CSIRO's Tropical Savannas Research Unit in Darwin, a position he has held since 1995. The unit comprises about 20 people and applies ecological research to the sustainable management of Australia's savanna lands. Alan has a PHD from the University of Melbourne, and has two major research interests – ant biodiversity and the use of ants as bioindicators in land management, and fire ecology and management.

BEST PRACTICE FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN IN MULTICULTURAL URBAN SPACES

Workshop: Friday 23 August at 4.00 p.m.

Presenter: Professor Helen Armstrong
Queensland University of Technology

Abstract:

Current research is examining spaces designed for culturally plural populations including processes landscape designers and planners use to negotiate cultural difference. Aims are to identify the range of issues encountered in practice and to develop innovative processes and strategies for multicultural spaces in Australia.

Although recent media coverage about refugees has undermined the image of multiculturalism, studies show that cultural pluralism in Australian cities is more heterogeneous than other world cities. The successful image of multiculturalism, however, tends to be marketed as stereotyped ethnic precincts. This study goes behind such images to reveal the everyday experiences of planning and design, sometimes involving conflict and confusion, within complex cultural communities.

The workshop will explore how current practitioners are negotiating differing values and customs, including difficulties and conflicts to be negotiated in order to generate and maintain spaces that accept numerous cultural groups?

Profile:

Helen Armstrong is Professor of Landscape Architecture, Queensland University of Technology. She is a landscape architect and academic. Her research has focussed on heritage and Australian sense of place; including studies of significant landscapes. Recent research has involved the study of migrant place-making and the contribution of cultural pluralism to Australian cultural heritage.

CUSTODIANS OF THE VISUAL LANDSCAPE

Paper: Thursday 22 August at 12.00 p.m.

Presenter: Patricia Barwick
Barwick and Associates
233 Collins Street, HOBART TAS 7000
University of Technology Sydney

Abstract:

As Landscape Architects, perhaps more than anything else, we show interest in maintaining high quality in the visual landscape, and in this there is no doubt that we are an elitist group, deriving a large part of our income from pampering the wealthy.

But as in any field, only the top few landscapes will ever be in the control of professional designers, and yet we are totally surrounded by man-made landscapes.

Many people contribute to aspects of our surroundings such as, how they are used, how they are constructed, their ecology, maintenance, etc., but interest in the aesthetic qualities often seems to be rather lacking.

This can be frustrating, so some 10 or 12 years ago when I embarked upon my own 'Decade of Landcare', I think I may really have been on a crusade to improve the visual landscape.

Through those years my focus was on road corridors, and later on the coast. The client group consisted of road workers and engineers from local government, power authorities, forestry companies and the like, and although we together had involvement in quite a range of activities, essentially I was trying to help them to improve their aesthetic outcomes in the landscape. Sadly not always a natural outcome of their work.

Now it may have rarely been stated, and the techniques were not direct. But we explored the horticultural aspects of tree pruning and the ecological benefits of promoting native grasslands. We took lists of trees from the National Trust and considered the legal implications of ignoring them. Together we investigated road safety and public opinion and soil conservation and the cost of weed control. We looked at works calendars and land calendars and work delegation. There is no doubt that over the years we toyed with every aspect of the "firmness, commodity and delight" triumvirate as it can be applied to public landscapes. Perhaps not grand civic landscapes, but those civil outlooks that surround us every time we drive on a country road or go to the beach.

And through our odyssey my road worker friends and I taught each other some unique perceptions about landscape, and appearance, and what it really takes to make a difference.

Is this landscape architecture? Perhaps it is not. But if improving the visual surroundings is the work of the landscape architect, then perhaps it is. I like to think I have helped my friends to extend their role as custodians of the infrastructure (pot-hole menders and vegetation clearers), to include a role as caretakers of the visual landscape in a deep way that derives from structural honesty and the beauty of elegant functionalism.

I think that together, we have made a difference to the visual landscape, and this presentation will trace something of that journey.

Profile:

Patricia Barwick RAI, FAIA, RLA, started her career in Architecture, at which she worked in Hobart and Sydney for about 10 years, prior to the opportunity to move to Landscape Architecture in 1980. While completing Landscape Planning studies at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education she worked for 3 years as a trainee under Stuart Green in Scott and Furphy's Hobart office. In 1983 she started her own consulting practice, and has worked as the Principal since that time. At first the practice focussed on the hard and soft physical design of institutional Landscape projects, mainly schools for the Tasmanian Government, and an assortment of other work. In 1990 Patricia took a part time position with Greening Australia, working on roadside vegetation, and this started a long term connection with the organisation, and a much greater focus for the practice, on

local native vegetation. Over the last 12 years Patricia has often worked with the people who produce the large scale landscapes (Council workers, utility company employees, engineers), rather than as a designer herself. Much of her work has been in delivering training and management information to such groups, and working with them in the field. Most recently the focus of the practice has again shifted, with Patricia often asked to prepare visual and management assessments, and sometimes acting as an expert witness in land use tribunal hearings. There is also a reversion to more physical design work, and this is often associated with land management issues.

THIS PLACE – THIS TIME – THIS CULTURE

Paper: Thursday 22 August at 12.30 p.m.

Presenter: Richard Brecknock
Brecknock Consulting Pty Ltd
PO Box 8126
Station Arcade, ADELAIDE SA 5000

Abstract:

This paper will argue that while great strides have been made in bringing artists into collaborative design processes there is a deeper and more fundamental cultural dimension that has not as yet been fully explored. Culture is a multifaceted construct varying from person to person with tangible and intangible dimensions associated with place. People have a multi dimensional understanding of culture and place depending on heritage, personal experience, social structures, spiritual experience and awareness of contemporary community values. Therefore one place may mean many things to many people. Culture and place are evolving concepts constantly absorbing or rejecting influences from other places and other cultures. Place-making that is sensitive to and informed about past and present cultural influences can therefore be a powerful expression of contemporary culture.

By understanding cultural layering, place-making processes can lead to creation of physical outcomes that are culturally relevant and meaningful. The Paper will explore ways that Cultural Planning can provide an insight into these layers of meaning and underpin all planning and design activity.

Profile:

Richard Brecknock: Director, Brecknock Consulting P/L
Richard is a Cultural Planner with twenty years of experience of working in the built environment as a professional artist and consultant. He has been involved in a wide range of Public Art and Cultural Planning projects. Richard has written extensively for architectural, urban design and art journals and presented papers regularly at national and international conferences.

PLACING OURSELVES?

Paper: Saturday 24 August at 10.15 a.m.

Presenter: Professor Catherin Bull
Elisabeth Murdoch Chair of Landscape Architecture
Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning
University of Melbourne
PARKVILLE VIC 3010

Abstract:

The common definition of place is that it is a space with meaning. It has territory and it has a constituency, or people who share an acknowledged connection with it.

This paper explores the notion of the landscape architectural profession in Australia as place. The profession has a constituency and perhaps a definable territory, but does it have meaning? In order to answer this question, the importance of meaning is discussed using a series of cases that the profession has identified as its most influential. The results of analysis of these cases reveals how particular constituencies, territories and meanings can be construed as making up the "special place" shared by landscape architects in Australia.

After a slide and oral presentation, the audience will be requested to act as "interviewees" whose responses will supplement existing data and influence continuing research into the characteristics, value and meaning particular to the profession here.

Profile:

Dr Catherin Bull holds the Elisabeth Murdoch Chair in Landscape Architecture at the University of Melbourne.

Her principal area of interest is the relationship between theory and practice in Australian landscape architecture. Her recent preoccupations have been with the role of the urban landscape and its relationship to the broader aspects of Australian culture, the topic of her forthcoming book to be published by Images Publishing in September 2002, *New Conversations with an old Landscape: Landscape architecture in contemporary Australia*. She is called upon in a design review capacity and is currently Chair of the Design Advisory Panel for Brisbane's South Bank and a member of two of Sydney Olympic Park Authority's advisory committees.

TARMAC DREAMING - GETTING DOWN AND DIRTY ON A ROAD TRIP

Challenge: Thursday 22 August at 2.15 p.m.

Presenters: Tony Cox and Vivienne Gardiner
Clouston Associates
GPO Box 1118
DARWIN NT 0801

Abstract:

Too often in today's busy world, everything is about the end point, the destination, the reaching of a goal. This is so even in the way we approach our holidays. But perhaps it is time to rethink what a holiday is and how we approach it. How can we, as planners and designers bring the road to life and make the road trip an experience in its own right.

Road trips – a chance to really see the land and the people who have been shaped by it. From central Australia to the Savannah Way across the top of Australia, the road trip can be a unique journey – a way of going and a way of knowing. A drink, a yarn and a good look around – a different approach to interpretation, education and travel.

Profiles:

Along with their colleagues, **Tony Cox and Vivienne Gardiner** have prepared tourism drive plans and visitor guide systems for projects in central Australia, Tonga, Stuart Highway from Darwin to Port August and the Savannah Way from Cairns to Kununnurra. Come and enjoy the journey!

CONNECTING THEORY, PRACTICE AND PLACE IN TODAY'S LANDSCAPES – AN EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Paper: Thursday 22 August at 11.00 a.m.

Presenters: Michael Erickson
EDAW
235 Edward Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
And
Gill Lawson
School of Design and Built Environment
Queensland University of Technology

Abstract:

Landscape planning has been a traditional focus within post-graduate studies at QUT since the establishment of Australia's earliest formal studies in Landscape Architecture. These have evolved from an earlier emphasis on applied physical geography through to traditional techniques and processes in visual assessment and management through to the more complex exploration of natural, economic, social and cultural landscapes.

Recently the QUT focus on landscape planning has been on particular regions under pressure from local economic change. These have included under-threat 'picturesque' landscapes of Montville and the Tweed Valley. Attempts to link to the landscape have unearthed, through a studio focus, strong connections to the landscape through; sustainable villages, roadside interpretation, way-finding, local economic initiatives, special area creation, cultural heritage brokering and ecological enhancements. Examples of these initiatives will be presented by the program's lecturers who span both local practice and academic pursuits.

An open, yet intensive program has been used with a wide-range of recognized specialists offering a range of perspectives to students. The program has been closely linked to design studios so that planning and design are closely linked and inform each other in reclaiming complex landscapes.

Profiles:

Michael Erickson is a Landscape Architect and the Managing Principal of EDAW's Brisbane studio. He has over fifteen years of experience in Australia, England and Asia. He spans both practice and teaching and has been a lecturer at the Queensland University of Technology for many years, including an appointment as Adjunct Professor.

Gill Lawson is an Associate Lecturer in the School of Design and Built Environment at QUT. She has worked previously for the Department of Natural Resources in Land Management. Gill has a strong interest in applied ecology, sociological research and land systems.

THE BARGE, THE BEER AND THE BACKPACKERS – VISITOR MANAGEMENT ON FRASER ISLAND

Paper: Friday 23 August at 2.30 p.m.

Presenter: Michael Erickson
EDAW
235 Edward Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Abstract:

Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world and one of Australia's most popular and visited world-heritage listed areas. It's appeal lies in its aqua-blue perched lakes, rich cool rain forested creeks, sandy beaches and the VB induced haze of four-wheel driving and dingoes. These attract huge numbers of visitors to the Island each year looking for a unique landscape experience. Most do obtain this – but at what cost does this occur?

The author has led several studies examining tourism impacts, the overall impact and management of all camping and the identification of definable targets for sustainable usage. This has involved close consultation with numerous stakeholders and taken the author back to the landscapes, to engage, appreciate and to attempt to understand its special qualities.

Through this work lessons have been learnt and attitudes developed. These are grounded in a sense of landscape-inspired 'stewardship' and the desire to achieve a quality balance between conservation and appreciation by users. The author will share these and present ideas regarding the island's 'unveiling', the quality of experience, the cost of appreciating its values and the cultural value and 'reading' of its landscapes.

Profile:

Michael Erickson is a Landscape Architect and the Managing Principal of EDAW's Brisbane studio. He has over fifteen years of experience in Australia, England and Asia. He spans both practice and teaching and has been a lecturer at the Queensland University of Technology for many years, including an appointment as Adjunct Professor. He is a regular visitor to South-East Queensland's glorious sand islands.

PARKLANDS AND GARDENS: RELEVANT OR RECALCITRANT

Paper: Thursday 22 August at 12.30 p.m.

Presenter: Stephen Forbes
Director
Adelaide Botanic Gardens, ADELAIDE SA 5000

Abstract:

Current concepts of gardens and parklands in Australia may be viewed as lying somewhere between indulgent and culpable. Regardless of the direct impacts, gardens and parklands often serve as both a distraction and a refuge from effective reconciliation with the Australian environment and, as such, contribute to our inability to resolve Australia's environmental issues. Gardens and parklands have a real challenge ahead in establishing a horticultural identity reconciled with the land it grows from, and in contributing to Australia's ability to address water, land and biodiversity degradation.

The inability of the community to change this situation questions the potential for self-regulation, and raises the likelihood of Government intervention in some form in the future - perhaps through a range of policy instruments ranging from pricing to regulation. South Australia is perhaps the best venue to establish a connection, and to develop a new garden paradigm. South Australia's self-identification as a cultural centre, its cultural renaissance and the scale of its environmental issues provide a unique opportunity for a partnership between communities, industry and government to test environmental policy in urban areas. It may well be here, in South Australia and in the garden, and especially in botanic gardens and parklands that a new land ethic takes root and flourishes.

Profile:

Stephen began his career working on botanical surveys in south eastern Australia and later in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. After experiencing systematic botany at the National Herbarium of Victoria he decided to pursue his interest in the relationship between plants and their environment. He completed a Masters degree exploring ecological approaches to landscape management at Bath, and returned to Australia where he worked as Superintendent for the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne. After a stint as Business Manager for the Forests Service nurseries in Victoria he moved to Western Australia as Director Living Collections and Natural Heritage at Kings Park and Botanic Garden where he was responsible for revitalisation of the botanic gardens and taking Kings Park to Chelsea Flower Show for their first Gold Medal.

In 1998 Stephen took the position as Director, Botanic Gardens and Public Programs at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney and was responsible for significant upgrading of programs and infrastructure in the lead-up to the Sydney Olympics. Following the Olympics he left to join Rebecca (- his partner) in Tanzania where he worked on a floristic inventory, forest management planning and post-mining restoration of the Geita Forest Reserve near Lake Victoria. He stepped off a flight from Mwanza to take up duties in Adelaide on 2 October 2001.

Stephen has published widely in plant systematics, floristic survey, landscape management and urban nature conservation.

RE(-)PLACING PLACE

Paper: Friday 23 August at 2.30 p.m.

Presenters: Phil Harris and Adrian Welke
Troppo Architects, Adelaide/Darwin

Abstract:

A country's architecture is a near perfect record of its history. Every building captures in physical form the climate and resources of a country's geography, the social, economic, technological and political conditions of its society and the moral, philosophical, aesthetic and spiritual values of its people. Every building records, describes and explains the time and place in which it was built".

So wrote Max Freeland in 1966. And so inspired, and to test Max's thesis in 1977 four young architecture students set out on a voyage of discovery around Australia. Encouraged by the outcome they wrote a book 'Influences in Regional Architecture'. The book could be said to be the first comparative documentation of the nation's regional architectural heritage. As such it dwells on the constructs of a 'Sense of Place'.

The student authors are now grey and working in architecture and landscape architecture in diverse fields and cultures; and have all dwelt and dealt in a variety of regional settings in Australia, near Asia and beyond. 25 years on, how do they feel about their earlier findings? Is the sense of regionalism in Australia's architecture now diminished? Is there still out there (somewhere?) a Sense of Place? Is it important? Does anybody care?

In this presentation, recent interviews with the 1977 crew are presented against a backdrop of slides from the '77 voyage as well as the present. The backdrop shifts to particularly focus on the history of architectural development in the Top End.

Viewers are asked to draw their own conclusions as to today's response to Place in Australia.

Profiles:

Phil Harris

Travel Japan, Asia 1972, Pacific 1974

University of Adelaide, B.Arch 1974-78

Travel, around Australia 1977-78

Ursini Associates, Architects, Adelaide 1979

Vin Keneally & Associates, Architects, Darwin 1979-80

Troppo Architects, Darwin 1980-

Chair, DHA Tropical Housing Research Committee – 1995-96

Director, Troppo Architects (SA), Adelaide 1999-

Lecturer, Visiting Research Fellow, University of Adelaide, 1999-

Adrian Welke

University of Adelaide, B.Arch. (Hons) 1974-78

SAGASCO prize 1978

Russell & Yelland Architects, Adelaide 1979

Department of Transport and Works, Darwin 1979

Vin Keneally & Associates, Architects, Darwin 1979-80

Troppo Architects, Darwin 1980-

Lecturer, Professor Emeritus, NT University, 2000-

CONNECTING CULTURES TO CREATE A LEGACY

Paper: Thursday 22 August at 11.30 a.m.

Presenter: Graeme Harvison
EDAW
235 Edward Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Abstract:

As landscape architects, we are consistently hired to bring a multidisciplinary and cross cultural aspect to our work. Whether this is from the smallest environmental micro system to a regional city plan – the question of cultures and their ever-changing aspects through globalisation are becoming increasingly complex for us as designers.

Never have communities been so keen to shape their identity, so aware of natural and historical resources. Throughout the world, words like development and conservation no longer have a single simple definition.

The project we present demonstrates the range of land-based needs our client brought to us – and in turn the merger of scientific analysis, strategic thinking, environmental consideration and design savvy we brought to meet these challenges and create new potentials.

The result is a project, which has influenced and changed the way the indigenous of China interact and connect with the land. The project is now recognized as more than an aesthetically pleasing landscape. It reflects societal and cultural changes of a modern China.

Natural and human, the environment is complex. It resists simplifying and rewards comprehensive treatment. As landscape architects and designers, we need to bring this comprehensive approach to the client, the community, and the environment. This may include not only blending cultures from different countries but also cultures of a different time to strengthen and reflect the current context of how people connect with the land.

Profile:

Graeme Harvison, RLA and Managing Director EDAW Australia and Asia

Graeme is the Managing Director of EDAW and has more than 20 years experience in both management and design throughout Australia and Asia. EDAW is among the largest landscape architecture practices in the world with over 700 staff and 26 offices globally. Graeme has been involved in several mixed integrated developments, primarily on land use planning and master planning projects, participating in design teams where his creative and practical input enables ideas and concepts to be advanced.

MURRAY RIVER TORTOISE RESCUE PROJECT AT LAKE BONNEY SA

Paper: Friday 23 August at 1.30 p.m.

Presenter: Graeme Hopkins
Fifth Creek Studio
PO Box 515
MONTACUTE SA 5134

Abstract:

This project is a collaboration between Adelaide University's Landscape Architecture student construction studio, local government authorities and Fifth Creek Studio.

The Lake Bonney Recreation Study (Fifth Creek Studio for Berri Barmera Council, 2000) identified the local population of Murray River Tortoise (3 species) and only known habitat on the western shore of Lake Bonney as being in crisis, with an aging population and very few juveniles surviving. Predation of nests by foxes is unsustainable at 93% (Thompson, 1983) and uncontrolled vehicle and pedestrian access destroys the breeding habitat and remaining hatchlings.

Through consultation with community and local authorities, and detailed site investigation, innovative designs were developed for fox proof fencing, reconstructed salt affected habitat, and interpretation for pedestrian access to the site. Significantly, this site is an indicator of the health and biodiversity of the broader Lower River Murray.

Profile:

Fifth Creek Studio – rural focused practice, specialising in intensive community consultation to develop innovative landscape and urban design.

Adelaide University – Landscape Architecture studio based course, with this project encompassing ecological research through to construction documentation of the habitat and facilities.

Graeme Hopkins – Registered Landscape Architect and Registered Architect, Director of Fifth Creek Studio and Lecturer in Landscape

RETHINKING MAPPING IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: A GIS EXPERIENCE

Paper: Thursday 22 August at 11.30 a.m.

Presenters: Clay Johnsen
MAPAM Spaces
and
John Hudson

Abstract:

To explore the importance of rethinking mapping in landscape architecture and the role it can play in understanding and interpreting the cultural and decision making environment.

Method

By way of mapping research, mapmaking, a mapping questionnaire + a review of contemporary theory + mapping exhibitions we can explore a match between quantitative and qualitative practice. To provide a grounded rethinking of the usage and making of maps and what this means in the context of landscape architecture.

Discussion

On the plateau of Post-modernism and Post-Millennium madness what is the progressive thinking of mapping one of the most basic practices we apply to communicating and enhancing our lives. We need to discuss and provoke and produce an argued engagement + critical re-thinking of mapping in the face of GIS technology.

We need to illuminate mapping processes, techniques and ideas.

Maps as sources of revelation of sensitivity analysis and of layout programs for future sewerage systems for developers.

To engage in a rethinking of mapping techniques and processes is a vital step required by professionals and students alike if we are to be at the forefront of broad based planning in the natural and designed environments.

Profiles:

Clay Johnsen

SHINING EXAMPLES DESIGN

2001 – 2001

Landscape design and implementation

WAVERLEY COUNCIL

1999 – 2000

Student landscape architect

COMCARE

1993 – 1996

Statistician

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

1986 – 1993

Economist

John Hudson

TIME, SEASONALITY AND DESIGN: RECONSIDERING TEMPORAL DIMENSIONS AND PATTERNS OF THE AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE

Paper: Thursday 22 August at 11.00 a.m.

Presenter: Dr David Jones
School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design
The University of Adelaide
ADELAIDE SA 5005

Abstract:

The Australian landscape spirit lies in unravelling and seeking an attuned relationship with its system and meanings. Generations of Aboriginal nuances, traditions and 'readings' crafted bioregional systems where one community melded with the landscape, dwelt within a particular philosophical adventure, and created designs to express and as a response to this ecological construct. We are only now beginning – as a post contact occupiers – to comprehend the dimensions of their approaches to time and seasonality that positioned their 'designs'.

This paper charts a cultural anthropological and ethno-ecological survey over contemporary research into Australian landscape seasons. It considers translation of this information into design practice, and presents an alternative culturally informed design and planning approach to projects and site formulation. The survey draws upon Victoria, South Australia and Northern Territory research, and explores recent design approaches employed at the new Museum Victoria and South Australian Museum complexes by Taylor Cullity Lethlean and Woodhead Australia.

Profile:

Dr David Jones, foundation Director of the Landscape Architecture program at the University of Adelaide, serves as a consultant landscape planning and heritage adviser, and has published extensively on the South Australian cultural landscape including *Designing Landscapes in South Australia (1997)* and *Gardens in South Australia (1998)*.

SNAKES AND LADDERS – DREAMING AND SCHEMING FOR INDIGENOUS CULTURE

Paper: Friday 23 August at 1.30 p.m.

Presenter: Leonard Lynch
Clouston Associates
PO Box 44
LEICHHARDT NSW 2040

Abstract:

Landscape throughout Australia is increasingly influenced by the community's appreciation of our diverse multi-cultural characteristics. With Landscape Architects in practice, this is often expressed by artistic or historic reference in design; for others, through academic work or advocacy programmes, we see cultural values more sensitively researched or respected in place management.

In relation to Aboriginal traditional culture, or responding to contemporary issues, Landscape Architects have not been so successful nor are we so professionally well-equipped. Design solutions are too often superficial or tokenistic – another rainbow serpent mural applied or an Aboriginal place name adopted – solutions of the artistic potential or the practical need in the circumstances!

What, then, are the ways to more appropriate and engaging design reflecting indigenous values? Is the pragmatic or provocative approach best? From the centre of Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden to the communities at the heart of the continent, there are project examples where the Ladder is more effective than the Snake in responding to this challenge. It is certainly not a game, but there is a real enjoyment and learning at every twist and turn.

Profile:

URBAN METABOLISMS – PARAMATTA ROAD STRUCTURAL MASTERPLAN

Paper: Friday 23 August at 11.45 a.m.

Presenter: Adrian McGregor
mcgregor+partners
PO Box 1083
MANLY NSW 1655

Abstract:

Parramatta Road is a twenty-three kilometre stretch of street spanning between the central business districts of Sydney and Parramatta, acknowledged as New South Wales and possibly Australia's worst urban nightmare. This traffic route has existed for time immemorial. Prior to white occupation, indigenous people used the same route as a song line and walkway. In the early stages of European invasion, the lands surrounding the road were considered a rural area of some significance to the growing colony. Over the ensuing two hundred years Parramatta Road has been consumed by the worst forces of Australian urbanism. The street is choked with 80,000 vehicles moving along its central thread every day.

The Inner Metropolitan Regional Organisation of Councils (IMROC) was formed to coordinate planning issues between the eleven Councils in the inner west of Sydney. In 1997 IMROC received State Government funding to develop a locally initiated strategic framework for the revitalisation of Parramatta Road. Four years later Australia's largest urban design competition since Burley Griffin's plan for Canberra was launched. An international expression of interest received 41 entries resulting in six teams from around the globe being selected to participate in a single stage design competition.

The winner of the Parramatta Road Urban Design Competition was announced in September 2001 as the multi-disciplinary team of sydneyCentral. sydneyCentral team composes of three key firms: mcgregor+partners; Choi Ropiha and Stanistic Associates; who are supported by VIM Design; King + Campbell; the revolution, Hill PDA; and TTM Consulting. Following the competition the team is currently preparing the Parramatta Road structural masterplan for IMROC.

Sydney, in reality, is two cities masquerading as one.

The first is the glitzy Harbourtown, the postcard city, containing all the high profile architectural and cultural icons of the city. It's the centre of government, arts, media, business, and most of the sweet life "Sydney identities".

The other Sydney is the alienated Subtropolis of the West. Higher crime rates, higher mortality, higher unemployment, Sydney's forgotten backyard.

The sydneyCENTRAL team considers this backyard as the greatest chance Sydney has of becoming a sustainable compact city by integrating land use and transport at a regional scale. The success of sydneyCENTRAL will be dependent on multi-level governmental acceptance of a coherent planning vision covering all the environmental, economic and cultural metabolisms of Parramatta Road and its region.

Profile:

Adrian McGregor (AAILA MAIH) is the Director of mcgregor+partners.

PLACE, PEOPLE AND PROSPECT: RESPONDING TO SPIRIT

Keynote Paper: Saturday 24 August at 9.15 a.m.

Presenter: Dr Diane Menzies
Menzies Environmental Ltd
Landsdowne Valley
RD2, Christchurch, New Zealand

Abstract:

The people of the place hold that their genealogy extends back to the land. Development may, they believe, destroy the health and spirit of the place and will cut links with their ancestor. Without a past they cannot envisage a future. How can these values be accommodated with the market view that land is an economic commodity? Time and understanding encourages emotional links with the land, be they felt by Maori, or more recent settlers, but it does not necessarily lead to shared values.

This paper examines examples of development where cultural values and development aims appear to be in conflict and considers how to account for the metaphysical.

The objective is to move from conflict to accommodation and collaboration: to show that design which responds to the spirit of place, its history and processes, offers prospect for future resolution of conflicts over place values.

Profile:

Diane Menzies has academic qualifications in horticulture, landscape architecture, business administration, a doctorate in Resource Studies and has 30 years experience in landscape planning and management.. She was a regional manager and director of communications for Ministry for the Environment, served a term as an elected local government representative and is a Past President of New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects

In 2000 she formed a sole practice environmental consultancy. She was elected Secretary General of the International Federation of Landscape Architects in 2001, just before she was appointed as a Commissioner for the New Zealand Environment Court. She has a husband, two sons, 30 geese and plenty more sheep.

PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES

Paper: Friday 23 August at 11.45 a.m.

Presenter: Rosalea Monacella
Department of Architecture, RMIT Campus

Abstract:

In what ways are landscapes productive? How can we think of landscape in terms of an event, a movement in time, an innovative process of qualitative transformation? How can landscape processes transform the community or communities in which they work? What is the political nature of landscape? Perhaps this might mean processes that move the 'one' of Being around, reorganizing it by activating elements immanent to it. Such processes of radical movement travel through the sameness that binds a community to convention in obedience and in so doing they produce it otherwise. It is important to note this is not just any movement, each is significant in its own right and when brought into relation with other movements a kind of provisional community ensues. French philosopher Henri Bergson, for example, envisages private singularities touching and leaking through reality without entirely assimilating that which is external to it: a sociality of affection. In this respect the separation of subject and object, individual and community, singularity and multiplicity is no longer a question of space whose distance mediates the two. Rather, temporality marks their relation as indivisible and heterogeneous. Searching for the intensities washing through a community's pores a complex whole is created, whereby the end of one and the beginning of the other is rendered indistinct. I intend to utilise the work of Henri Bergson as a theoretical benchmark in order to rethink and rework the landscape urban. Primarily then, this presentation explores problems of a conceptual nature in relation to architectural methods.

Profile:

Rosalea Monacella has practiced in Australia, United Kingdom and the Netherlands for both architecture and landscape architecture firms. She is Director for PLUS.au architecture & urbanism and regularly contribute to the O24-7 design research group. I currently teach architectural design at RMIT, having previously acted as the design critic for the Architectural Association London, RMIT University Melbourne .

21st CENTURY LANDSCAPE AND URBANISM

Paper: Friday 23 August at 1.30 p.m.

Presenter: Professor Elizabeth Mossop
Harvard Graduate School of Design
48 Quincy Street
CAMBRIDGE USA

Abstract:

What does it mean to be a landscape architect in the 21st Century? The great urban challenges of the 21st century are landscape challenges. Massively increasing urbanization, increasing urban density, resource limits and environmental stress are forcing a worldwide re-examination of approaches to urbanism. Clearly neither the so-called 'new urbanism' nor the old urbanism is going to solve the issues of clean air and clean water for all urban dwellers or how to live at increasing densities.

Attitudes, approaches and practices in landscape architecture offer enormous potential in rethinking urban strategies and the development of these strategies presents design opportunity on a massive scale. New strategies could include: making a substantive relationship between urban form and environmental systems; using environmentally effective ways of dealing with water, waste management and urban climate; transforming infrastructure to make all urban landscapes valuable; and designing landscape structures that will enhance urban life at high densities.

Australian cities offer a really significant opportunity to explore new urban landscape strategies because they combine a unique set of factors:

- A high level of capital investment in urban infrastructure
- A sophisticated planning and design industry
- An educated and environmentally aware population
- the natural resources and short development history of a recently settled colony
- proximity to Asia offers a huge incentive to find solutions.

Profile:

Elizabeth Mossop was appointed as Assistant Professor in Landscape Architecture in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design in 1999. Until this time she was Head of the Landscape Architecture Program at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. She is the author of numerous articles and essays on landscape design and urbanism.

Spackman and Mossop landscape architects specializes in the public landscape. Recent projects include Cook and Phillip Park, the Olympic Tennis Centre and the new Martin Place in Sydney.

LANDSCAPE FUTURES – EDUCATION BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Workshop: Friday 23 August at 4.00 p.m.

Presenters: Professor Damien Mugavin and Dr Kim Sung-Kyun
Department of Landscape Architecture
Seoul National University
South Korea

Abstract:

Landscape Architects have learnt to extend their influence, beyond the boundaries intimated by old conceptual and political limitations.

- The AILA has adopted a new Education Policy and an Education Accreditation Procedure. The NZILA has been involved in both documents.
- IFLA Eastern Region may move towards similar policy regarding accreditation and education, for other member countries.
- Coincidentally, through-out the region, Landscape Architects are leading in the ground breaking work that requires cross-boundary initiatives: Cross-boundary, both in the sense of the disciplines involved and the multi-national nature of the issues and responses.
- At the same time there is an acute awareness of the crucial value of locality, cultural nuance, differing histories, myths and perceptions.

It is timely therefore, to open discussion and examine the boundaries of both types, for certainly *they are not unrelated*.

Profiles:

Damien Mugavin is a Landscape Architect with extensive academic and practice experience. He has taught in Universities in South Australia, Tasmania and Singapore, and is currently Professor at Seoul National University, Department of Landscape Architecture.

Kim Sung-Kyun is a Landscape Architect, currently Chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture, Seoul National University. He holds a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. He has previously presented papers to international symposia on Landscape Education.

URBAN ABORIGINALITY – A WARPING OF TRADITIONS

Paper: Thursday 22 August at 12.00

Presenter: John O'Grady
Pittendrigh Shinkfield Bruce
360 Pacific Highway
CROWS NEST NSW 2065

Abstract:

Australian Aboriginal culture is on the move in the urban environment. Aboriginal people are searching for their identity and exploring their relationships with the land in new and vital ways in the urban context of our cities. Their search creates new challenges for the design and planning professions to come to grips with the very specific needs of urban Aborigines. In the Australian urban environment, the need to arrive at a place of common ground with Aboriginal people is vital to their survival as a culture. In turn, that search provides opportunities for new ways of interpreting, planning and designing the urban environment that could arguably be vital to the cultural and physical future of our cities.

This paper will explore the evolving relationship of Urban Aborigines with the land through the author's ongoing involvement over three years with the Wilson Bros site, a 3000m² parcel of former industrial land located adjacent to the Eveleigh Street aboriginal precinct in Redfern, NSW. Situated at the interface between the aboriginal precinct and the remainder of Redfern, itself a culturally and socioeconomically diverse community undergoing rapid change, the Wilson Bros site has become a focus for all of the aspirations and concerns of the people of Redfern.

The paper will be presented by John O'Grady, the project planner and representative of Pittendrigh, Shinkfield and Bruce, the head consultants for the study.

Profile:

John O'Grady holds dual qualifications in landscape architecture and urban planning and is a senior planner with Pittendrigh Shinkfield Bruce, a Sydney based landscape architectural and planning practice. His particular professional interests include urban and landscape planning, heritage planning and urban design. His interest in working with communities has led to some benchmark projects.

A PRESENTATION – MORELAND CITY COUNCIL URBAN STRATEGY PROJECTS

Paper: Friday 22 August at 10.45 a.m.

Presenter: Leanne O'Shea
Moreland City Council

Moreland is an inner city municipality with an area of 50km², 4 kilometres from the Melbourne GPO. It is bounded by the Merri Creek to the east and Moonee Ponds Creek to the west with Sydney Road as the central spine of the Municipality. Moreland is a highly urbanised municipality with a diverse population of 137,000. The municipality of Moreland and its community is undergoing change as a result of urban consolidation.

In 1997 Moreland City Council engaged a Landscape Architect and an Urban Designer to develop an in-house design capacity to implement the objectives of its policy direction, such as the Moreland Strategic Statement and the Moreland Open Space Strategy 1997, and in turn develop a design culture within Council. Importantly the in-house design team enables the interpretation of policy into projects and develops the consultative processes necessary to change perceptions and values about open space within the community and Council itself. This is a good model for local government.

The active and vital role of open space in the context of urban consolidation is critical. The role of landscape architect and design has played a key role in developing new open space and re-interpreting existing open space within Moreland; open space has been established as civic space, streets have been reclaimed as open space and existing sites given new uses and meaning.

The presentation will illustrate the nature of the design projects, the role of landscape architect and the importance of an in-house design capacity, its impact on the Moreland landscape, engaging the local community and future directions.

Projects

Victoria Mall Coburg – closure of a road to create open space as civic space. Pedestrian and retail activity increased in a retail centre of regional importance. Projects relationship to the Moreland Strategic Statement. Wins 3 AILA awards Victoria division 1998.

Albion Street Brunswick – design and reconstruction of a road as open space. The road reclaimed for the inclusion of a shared pedestrian and bicycle path. The experience of working with Council civil engineers – changing perceptions and the Moreland Integrated Transport Policy. Wins Case Earth Award for construction detail.

Randazzo Park Brunswick– the creation of a new park following the closure of a public school as an initiative to implement the object of the Moreland Open Space Strategy to purchase land for open space in areas deficient in park land. A tailored consultation & design process to engage the local community. Local artisans input. Implementation complete 2002.

Bain Reserve Merlynston – redesign and re-interpretation of existing park land and surrounding street network as the first initiative to implement the Merlynston Urban Village Structure & Action Plan. Locals embracing change. Currently under construction.

Mechanics Institute project – The preparation of a masterplan to strengthen the concept of a Civic & Arts Precinct at the Southern end of Sydney Road as part of a strategy to promote the municipality's cultural and historical heritage.

Profile:

Leanne O'Shea graduated from RMIT as a Landscape Architect in 1997. Since graduating she has worked for Moreland City Council as the in-house design Landscape Architect. In 1998 Leanne's first design project wins 3 AILA awards including Award for Design Excellence. Leanne has also taught design studios at RMIT in the Landscape Architecture course and has been a guest critic for other design studios. Leanne also has a degree in Social Sciences from La Trobe University.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AS A FORM OF CIVIC REPRESENTATION: STREETSCAPE AND IDENTITY ALONG THE OLYMPIC HIGHWAY

Paper: Friday 23 August at 2.00 p.m.

Presenter: Julian Raxworthy
School of Architecture and Design
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
GPO Box 2476V
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Abstract:

Landscape architecture is a presumptuous practice. Its creative works are peppered with assumptions about the nature of "place", "community" and the "public", rendered in the language of "amenity" – that invisibility of good-will and smoothing of difficulty and difference. Evidence of this minimum performance approach has clothed country towns in generic red-brick paved and rusticated icons of doubtful particularity. These places are now struggling in the face of bypasses and confused tourists who can't tell one place from another, as they have lost their uniqueness to this professional blandness.

This lecture will be a counterpoint to the earnestness of the conference theme, and will argue that it is just such an attitude as the conference title suggests that has caused this condition. It will follow a narrative path from the start of the Olympic Highway at Albury, through to Bathurst, examining the nature of towns and how professionals have responded to the requirements of modern civic programs. It will, as it goes, examine alternative connections to places that may have allowed a more specific treatment, and then suggest aspects of the inherent values of landscape architecture as a profession that has caused this to occur.

Profile:

Julian Raxworthy is a landscape architect who teaches at RMIT University, after having practiced most recently with ASPECT Melbourne & Sydney.

THE CROSSWIRES OF TIME AND PLACE

Keynote Paper: Friday 23 August at 9.15 a.m.

Presenter: Dr Peter Read
Centre for Cross Cultural Research
Australian National University, Canberra

Abstract:

I shall speak in this talk mainly about my current research into enspirited places in Australia, and how Australians identify, create, maintain or seek to remove, spirits of places or sites. My work has involved conversations with Buddhists, Christians and Hindus, musicians, poets and artists, witches and exorcists, New Agists and shamans.

Profile:

Peter Read is an Australian Research Council Senior Fellow based at the Centre for Cross Cultural Research, ANU, Canberra. After many years working in Aboriginal history ([The Stolen Generations; Charles Perkins A Biography etc](#)), he began working on the ways in which all Australian feel themselves to be attached to certain places. This work has resulted in a three volume survey, [Returning to Nothing](#) (relationships with places and sites now vanished or destroyed) [Belonging](#) (relationships with country from which Aboriginal people have been dispossessed) and the current research in progress for *The Crosswires of Time and Place*.

PARALLEL GROUND: A TALE OF TWO PARKS AND TWO CULTURES, WANGANUI, NEW ZEALAND

Paper: Friday 23 August at 11.45 a.m.

Presenter: Richard Reid
Richard Reid Architect and Landscape Architect
19b Victoria Road
DEVONPORT NZ

Abstract:

Queens Park and Cooks Gardens are two parks of national significance located in the urban centre of Wanganui (popn. 40,000, on the lower west coast of the North Island). These parks share unique successional histories: originally large inland sand dunes, they both became Maori defended settlements (*pa*), then imperial garrison stockades (to protect colonial settlement) and after being decommissioned, recreational reserves. Both parks; parallel histories were further embellished by their remarkable incorporation as either end of the major cross-axis of the City Plan.

Queens Park is now a classical high ground it showcases the city's fine (European) cultural achievements (art gallery, museum, library) and acts, like an ancient *Sanctuary*, as a repository for the city's mostly European ideals and monuments. Cooks Gardens houses two of the city's regionally important sports facilities, a famous athletics track and a cycling velodrome. Both parks, however, are only just beginning to acknowledge Maori history/s and significant relationship with these places. For local Maori, they have *tapu* (sacred qualities) associated with their significance and are part of a much wider, complex and very long Maori settlement of the region. Queens Park and Cooks Gardens also neglect important landscape connections and suffer from weak design and poor definition especially where they interface with the city.

Our proposed *Landscape Plan for Pukenui Queens Park* seeks to redress these cultural and physical shortcomings in ways sensitive to and appreciative of both Maori and European concerns. It also sets out to re-assert the landscape value of Queens Park and Cooks Gardens as unique components of the City Plan: and indeed, world town planning history.

Profiles:

Richard Reid - B.Arch, Auckland University(1988); B.L.A., Unitec, Auckland (2001). Worked with Neville Gruzman, the eminent Sydney architect, landscape architect & town-planner (1990-93); with Sir Colin St. John Wilson on the New British Library, London (1995-96), designing the urban landscape (north). (The British Library was Britain's most important & largest public building built last century.) Now residing in Auckland, NZ with his own practice.

Des Kahotea, Ngati Pukenga, Tauranga. 1970's carving background; 1980's MA (Archaeology), Waikato University, working at Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC; 1990's heritage management consultancy, lecturing Waikato, Victoria Universities & Unitec, Auckland. Currently working on Waitangi Tribunal claims & finishing a PhD at Waikato.

THE SPIRIT OF DESIGN AND GENIUS OF PLACE – THE JE NE SAIS QUOI OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Paper: Friday 23 August at 10.45 a.m.

Presenter: Jo Russell-Clarke
Senior Landscape Architect
Earth Tech Engineering Pty Ltd

Abstract:

The 'genius of the place' is a concept explored, popularised and regurgitated to students as a timely 18th century reappraisal of humanism's troubled relationship with a newly commodified 'nature'. The 'spirit of design' appears as a similarly provocative and vital phrase in our own time.

The 'spirit of design' may be just the sacred cow of a self-referential deity. Equally it may present itself through this conference as the personification of that omni-present goad to the difficult, open-minded and inclusive process of design.

Along with the re-valuing of 'landscape', this paper reviews the emergent re-valuing of 'design' as the demonstrable if not quantifiable measure of successful landscape utilisation. The 18th century's land 'improvement' has clear parallels with present land 'development'.

Through the exploration of key historical precedents of landscape appreciation and design, this paper argues that just as landscape design initially emerged to support, critique and exploit an economic, political and cultural privileging of the land, so Landscape architecture now could and should be the single most informed, marketable, lucrative and important profession in the fraught arena of land development.

Profile:

Jo Russell-Clarke is a graduate of RMIT and currently undertaking her masters in Landscape Architecture. Following some years practice with Paterson + Pettus P/L she moved to Fisher Stewart which has subsequently become part of the international Earth Tech company. She became an Associate member of the Institute last year.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE – EARNING CREDIBILITY?

Paper: Thursday 22 August at 12.30 p.m.

Presenter: Michael Ryan
Chair, Landscape Professions Registration Board of Australia

Abstract:

Michael Ryan and Paul Costigan have been investigating the wide range of issues that influence the way in which Landscape Architects are perceived by potential employers and clients. The study is based on the databases of AILA and the LPRB plus the results of many surveys and a considerable quantity of anecdotal evidence.

While the study is ongoing, this paper summarises work to date and the resultant strategies. Each major strategy is briefly reviewed. The role of the Institute in developing and/or reshaping the culture of life-long learning among Australian Landscape Architects is covered in greater detail.

Profile:

Michael A. Ryan. FAILA and Chair of the Landscape Professions Registration Board of Australia.

SURVIVAL OF THE BEDU CULTURE

Paper: Friday 23 August at 2.00 p.m.

Presenter: Geoffrey Sanderson
Shankland Cox
PO Box 80670
Al Ain
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Abstract:

The Bedu people of the Arabian Peninsula were lineal heirs of a very ancient civilization; they enjoyed the freedom of the desert and survived the rigours of such a life by a self-imposed discipline. They were great navigators, crossing the Empty Quarter by camel with skills known to no other. They cherished every plant, every animal, every insect. They read the mood and spirit of the dunes, their camels and their fellow man. Now it is all gone. The nomadic lifestyle is no more. They struggle to adjust to a lifestyle imposed by the wealth of oil.

How do they now live, what ambitions are there, what is urban life, what can replace the uncomplicated life of the desert?

How do designers shape the places where the new Bedu society, the young town and city based generation live?

Profile:

Geoff Sanderson FAILA has lived for 10 years in the Middle East, in Bahrain, Kuwait and now the United Arab Emirates. His work includes daily advice to the City of Al Ain, a City with its roots in the Bedu culture. Geoff is a Past President of the AILA and practiced in most parts of Australia before submitting to the adventure and pioneering challenge of the Arabian Peninsula.

CREATIVE DESIGN OR DEDICATED FOLLOWERS OF FASHION

Challenge: Thursday 22 August at 2.15 p.m.

Presenter: Franek Savarton
Franek Savarton & Associates
1195 Burma Road
YUNDI SA 5172

Abstract:

CREATIVE DESIGN OR DEDICATED FOLLOWERS OF FASHION

- The skill of creative design, presumably the basis or core of our profession's worth of Architects, Landscape Architects, Engineers, Creative Artists or Planners – where does it come from? Can it be taught or is it an inherent gift?
- Does our design emanate from our Cultural Connections; our Intuition or Imagination, our Logic and Reason, or Common Sense – are these needed to be a creative designer, or can design be taught?
- How do we rationalise and justify our design decisions – with ethics or social values or is it all about *clients*?

This presentation presents and investigates a range of arguments/ideas that questions current design *"practice values"* or lack of values. The presentation will draw upon personal experiences from my past 30 years as a designer in Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, Environment Activism and "Landowner".

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS – MEMORIES

- The basis of connection with place and projection to the future; the formation of values and projection of ethics
- Environmental versus genetic or inherent disposition or influences is commonly debated as the determinant of behaviour and formation of values and ethics. I will question the origin of my own design philosophy or Spirit of Design through memories of culture, formation of ethics, the influence of mentors/of fashion/of education and accepted common practice.
- Internationalism the new vernacular? Or the Ego?

ETHICS OR EGO – THE SPIRIT OF DESIGN?

Are we driven by ethics as a profession or are we simply dedicated followers of fashion – or simply driven by money?

- The presentation seeks to challenge the current paradigm of the professions "common ground" and seeks delegates to confide their own core values or ethical position; and is there a "key" to be discovered!
- Finally the presentation will offer delegates to participate in a forum challenge titled

"DESIGN IS CORRUPTED BY THE EGO"

Profile:

Franek is a designer with 30 years of experience ranging from Architecture of the 1970's, to Environmental Planning & Landscape Design. He is multi-disciplined with a strong focus upon wildlife management and habitat development. His design works are based upon philosophies and ethics that emanate from: cultural influences and environmental events, migrant/multicultural influences and experiences and educational influences. This paper will seek to underpin and challenge the core Conference Theme on "The Spirit of Design".

WATERMARKS

Paper: Friday 23 August at 2.30 p.m.

Presenter: Jan Seto
Architect and Landscape Architect
PO Box 9024
WYNNUM PLAZA QLD 4178

Abstract:

As an island continent all human access to, and often through, Australia, across time, has at some stage been via water. Many researchers interested in the ways people relate to the lands they occupy, have for a number of years explored reading the stories of communities using the tapestry of markings they have left on the land. But the land offers only parts of the landscape stories of Australia's communities. Have marks have been left on the water? Can watermarks also offer translations into stories of human interactions with place?

A study framework co-developed by the author in 1994 for the identification of historic cultural landscapes was successfully floated onto the water as the basis for the study of *The Brisbane River as an Element of Designed Landscapes*. The study received a gold award for heritage conservation in 2001 from the National Trust of Queensland.

Profile:

Jan Seto is an architect and landscape architect in private practice as a sole practitioner. Her work in recent years has focused on cultural heritage issues for landscapes in association with broad scale landscape planning policy and its interface with land and coastal management policies. She is also an ardent dingy sailor.

URBAN GREEN?

Paper: Thursday 22 August at 12.00

Presenter: Jane Shepherd
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University
GPO Box 2476V
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Abstract:

The designs of many urban projects in contemporary Australian Landscape Architecture have been motivated in part or wholly by environmental conservation. This paper interrogates a selection of projects to ask questions about the nature of 'place' that results from designs endorsing environmental ethics. These projects represent significant changes in the design style of urban spaces and raise a range of issues about community acceptance, concepts of cultural heritage, new horticultural requirements and maintenance regimes. Although it can be seen that environmental commitments have been gaining wider levels of acceptances amongst design practitioners in recent years it is an arena where conflicts and deep divisions have at times characterised discussions, particularly in regard to the appropriateness of using Australian and indigenous plants. Speculation will be made on the underlying meanings that have motivated these divisions but the emphasis will be on outcomes 'on-the-ground' through the creation of new types of places.

Profile:

Jane Shepherd is a lecturer in Landscape Architecture at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University. Jane has a particular interest in the way that conversation, environmental and sustainability issues can be a creative forces in the process of design and the creation of new space types.

THE MEMORY LINE

Paper: Thursday 22 August at 11.30 a.m.

Presenter: Jon Shinkfield
PSB
360 Pacific Highway
CROWS NEST NSW 2065

Abstract:

Lost memories of a site are like occupying ghosts. They lie dormant, awaiting the opportunity for release and reconnection with new site activities and uses.

Left unconsidered they play havoc with new overlays and are detractors from the aspirations associated with the new place.

If attended to, they provide a new change, a re-energising of place, a connection and reconnection between past, present and future. They attach themselves to the minds of our community.

Thematic, no.

Referential, yes.

Non prescriptive, ideally. Allowing the future to inhabit and establish the new.

This paper will explore the memory lines of past, present and future in a body of recent waters edge projects in Sydney and Newcastle, notably Brays Bay Reserve (Sydney), Honesuckle Public Domain (Newcastle), The Old Spit Bridge Abutment (Sydney), and the affect that this has had on local communities.

Profile:

Jon Shinkfield was born in Melbourne, studied and graduated in Canberra at Canberra University, and has over the past 20 years practiced in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney. During this time Jon's preoccupation with patterning and form and his consideration of the balance between conservation and growth have lead to a resume of interesting and diverse projects which draw from an urban, historical and cultural base.

Jon has been responsible for winning several limited design competitions including:

- Western Gateway to Rookwood Necropolis; and
- Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park Masterplan

And has lectured for the last couple of years in The Post Graduate Design Studies program at the University of Technology Sydney. In addition he has all but completed his Masters of Urban Design at Sydney University.

Jon's work has been published at a number of levels, the most recent being the Barcelonan Book 'The Arco Colour Collection – Environmental Restoration' where his role in The Masterplanning of Rookwood Necropolis was recognised as 'rejecting a conservationist posture, opting to activate the site' energies rather than preserving its image forever'.

LANDSCAPE AND REMEMBERING: THE PLACE, THE PEOPLE IN WOOMERA

Paper: Friday 23 August at 11.15 a.m.

Presenter: Erwin Taal
University of Melbourne

Abstract:

This paper focuses on Woomera as experienced through the fieldwork and subsequent design suggestions by students of the University of Melbourne. Woomera is an outback town of national and international infamy. It has a rich and unique history that is under threat. Woomera's creation was a triumph of determination and design over a hostile environment, its growth attributable to a dedicated, structured community and its decline symptomatic of changing world times. Since de-restriction, spasmodic foreign interest has failed to return Woomera to its heyday. Woomera is a case study for other outback towns facing similar demise and this paper will consider the function of Landscape Architecture and Landscape Design in such situations.

FROM DESERT TO OCEAN WAVES

Paper: Thursday 22 August at 11.00 a.m.

Presenter: Kevin Taylor
Taylor Cullity Lethlean
7 Hutt Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Abstract:

Drawing a line north – south from Uluru through Lake Eyre, the Flinders Ranges, and Adelaide to the cliffs of the south coast of Kangaroo Island, this presentation will describe one group's design response to the culturally and elementally powerful landscapes of Central and South Australia.

The journey will explore how the experience and lessons of each place not only influence local responses, but also changes our vantage point or view of other places. Questions of how experiences of the ocean and the outback affect the way we design in the city will be examined; leading to reflections on how our urban landscapes can interpret the uniqueness of our environment and culture.

Profile:

Born in Adelaide, Kevin Taylor has practiced in Victoria and South Australia over the last 18 years. Recent projects in iconic landscapes such as Uluru, Lake Eyre, Flinders Ranges, coastal Kangaroo Island, and North Terrace and Victoria Square in Adelaide have stimulated the questions raised in Kevin's paper.

DESIGN + LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT = A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE?

Paper: Friday 23 August at 11.15 a.m.

Presenter: Glenn Thomas
Queensland University of Technology
School of Design and Built Environment
GPO Box 2434
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Abstract:

This paper explores the propositions that the combination of emerging theories of urban design and local economic development offer a powerful paradigm to explore community sustainability and a rich medium to explore centre and periphery issues in cities and rural centres. The proposition asks four questions of the design processes and outcomes:

- Can design explore the tensions between the centre and periphery of poly-nucleated cities?
- Can community design involve socially disadvantaged transient populations on the periphery?
- Can design develop urban design interventions that act as a catalyst for new forms of employment?
- Can design develop innovative solutions to environmental sustainability?

Examples are drawn from a number of advanced landscape design studios at QUT in which students are required to justify their design interventions in terms of their potential to assist local economic development and not in superficial terms of cosmetic improvements to urban landscape amenity.

Profile:

Glenn Thomas BArch., GradDipL'scapeArch., MAppSc(Research)., FRAIA., FAILA.

Glenn joined the academic staff at QUT after twenty years of extensive private practice in architecture and teaches and researches in the areas of landscape construction, site planning and urban landscape design.

FARMING STYLES AND LANDSCAPE CHANGE: ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE OF PARTICIPATORY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Paper : Friday 23 August at 2.00 p.m.

Presenter: Dr Don Thomson
Landscape and Social Research
RMB 4260, Neil's Road
MT LONARCH VIC 3468

Abstract:

There are increasing demands on farmers to participate in natural resource management (NRM) initiatives, such as Landcare, to redress land degradation and preserve and enhance ecosystem services. However, in the past, farmers have been perceived as a homogeneous group. It has not been recognised that farmers are very diverse in their perceptions of natural resource 'problems' and the solutions to these problems. As a result of these and other assumptions about farmers and their interaction with landscape, participation in NRM initiatives has been relatively low.

Recent research by the author has addressed the issue of diversity of farming by developing a method to identify 'farming styles' – or groups of people with similar ideas about 'good' farming, which manifests in similar patterns of behaviour. This research also explored the role that landscape plays as an important medium for the communication of ideas about 'good' farming. Farming styles are socially constructed, through the landscape, because each farm landscape is a portrait of the farmer who manages that land.

This paper explores the role of landscape as a medium for the communication of ideas about 'good' land management and how landscape can be used as a tool to encourage the wider participation of farmers and other land managers in natural resource management initiatives.

Profile:

Dr Donald Thomson Bach. Land. Arch. (Hons) (RMIT), PhD (University of Melbourne), AAILA.

Don is a Landscape Architect with over 10 years experience working with farmers, Landcare groups, catchment management authorities and State government departments to improve the sustainability of agricultural landscapes. Don completed his PhD in 2000, exploring farmer perceptions of landscape and the social construction of 'styles' of farming. Don lives in Central Victoria, and with his wife and 3 children, manages a self-replacing flock of super-fine Merino sheep.

WHAT ROLE FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS IN AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Workshop: Friday 23 August at 4.00 p.m.

Presenter: Dr Don Thomson
Landscape and Social Research
RMB 4260, Neil's Road
MT LONARCH VIC 3468

Abstract:

In light of an increasing international trend towards multifunctional rural landscapes, there is an ever-increasing role for people with skills in planning, design and communication to resolve land use conflict and maintain and enhance landscape integrity. In Australia, problems of salinity, soil acidification and other natural resource management issues add another dimension requiring our attention to preserve our heritage and ecological services.

Landscapes play a vital role as a key medium through which cultural notions of 'good' farming are transmitted and received: agricultural landscapes are the physical manifestation of individual- and socially-defined notions of 'good' farming. By influencing the 'appearance' of landscape (not just the picturesque), landscape architects can play an important role in re-defining cultural definitions of 'good' farming, towards those practices which are more ecologically and socially sustainable.

This workshop will explore the extent to which landscape architects are currently involved in rural landscapes; the perceptions of other professions towards landscape architects, and how this influences the involvement of landscape architects in natural resource management; and, the skills and qualities necessary to practice landscape architecture in rural communities.

Profile:

Dr Donald Thomson BArch. Land. Arch. (Hons) (RMIT), PhD (University of Melbourne), AAILA.

Don is a Landscape Architect with over 10 years experience working with farmers, Landcare groups, catchment management authorities and State government departments to improve the sustainability of agricultural landscapes. Don completed his PhD in 2000, exploring farmer perceptions of landscape and the social construction of 'styles' of farming. Don lives in Central Victoria, and with his wife and 3 children, manages a self-replacing flock of super-fine Merino sheep.

IMAGINING THE INVISIBLE CITY

Challenge: Thursday 22 August at 2.15 p.m.

Presenters: Gay Williamson, Catherine Keirnan, Rod Baxter, Trina Stiff and Susan Conroy
Planning and Land Management, ACT Government

Abstract:

This challenge aims to explore the relationship between the conference themes of:
Cultural Connections and Design Philosophy and Practice

The Challenge Team

...comprising landscape architects, architects and planners engaged in developing sustainable urban frameworks and strategies for Canberra.

The Challenge.....

...requires participants, either individually or in groups, to draw in plan and section the *Invisible City* as described by the Challenge Team.

Each member of the Challenge team will deliver a monologue that presents a different **experience** of living in the *Invisible City*. The monologues will be carefully scripted to ensure that:

- a different 'stakeholder' perspective is presented each time;
- the description is only of the behaviour and emotions that are created and not the physical space;
- they build to present a complete concept of the *Invisible City*.

After participants have drawn the *Invisible City* that they imagine has been described, they will be asked to present it and describe it in spatial terms. This will then form the basis of a short discussion (led by the Challenge Team) of the outcomes and of the importance of integrating community values and perception of places in the design/planning process.

The basis of the Challenge...

...arises from the work of the Team in preparing urban design policies and plans for residential areas and commercial centres in Canberra. The issues that the Team consistently deal with would be presented in the monologues and include traffic, access (physical and behavioural), character of place; legibility of the urban form, improving environmental and social sustainability.

More importantly the Team are exploring different ways of engaging all the stakeholders in the design and planning process. This is an imperative to gaining ownership and to exploiting the opportunities for successful and successive implementation.

Profiles:

The Challenge Team, from the Urban Projects section of Planning and Land Management, ACT Department of Urban Services, include:

- Gay Williamson, the team Manager. Gay is a landscape architect with over 20 years experience working in private practice, Commonwealth, State and Local Government. Gay is dedicated to making Canberra a model, sustainable Australian city.
- Catherine Keirnan. Catherine trained as a landscape architect and has expanded to include in her 20 year career, a key role in urban design. Catherine is passionate about practical, quality design that is respectful of natural and cultural heritage and responsive to community needs.
- Rod Baxter. Rod has a well rounded career spanning over 20 years that encompasses construction management, design and environmental planning. Rod understands the importance of 'equilibrium' in your work and personal life and is keen to ensure that we plan cities that will support this.
- Trina Stiff. Trina is a town planner and graduate architect with 10 years experience in private practice and ACT Government. Through her work with the Commissioner for Land and Planning and with the High Quality Sustainable Design program, Trina is committed to achieving equitable solutions for all constituents.

and

- Susan Conroy, Cultural Planner who regularly works with the team (in various capacities) to develop community planning processes. Susan is well recognised for her expertise in facilitation and in Public Art policy and co-ordination. Susan is an advocate for community participation in planning and for innovation in consultation techniques.

TERRITORY WILDLIFE PARK MASTERPLAN – PROVIDING A WINDOW TO THE UNIQUE LANDSCAPES OF THE TOP END

Paper: Friday 23 August at 11.15 a.m.

Presenters: John Wright
Hassell
Level 3, 120 Edward Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Michelle Monsour
Territory Wildlife Park

Abstract:

This paper will be presented in two parts. The first part will present the master plan for the Territory Wildlife Park, which aims to introduce tourists and locals to the natural and cultural wonders of the Top End. This achieved by immersing visitors in authentic habitats representative of the broader region and creating opportunities for close encounters with wildlife.

The second section of the paper will discuss the operational and commercial objectives of the Park and explain how these objectives are incorporated in the master plan.

Profiles:

John Wright is a Principal Landscape Architect with HASSELL in Brisbane. John has over 15 years experience in zoological planning and design and was the project manager for the Territory Wildlife Park Master Plan.

Michelle Monsour is the Director of the Territory Wildlife Park in Darwin. Michelle has long term experience in the operation and commercial areas of Wildlife Tourism attractions. Michelle is strengthening the business development and management of the Territory Wildlife Park so that it can meet the government's financial performance objectives and generate sufficient revenue for the expansion of its exhibits and conservation programs.

