The Faculty kicked off 2012 with the launch of the newly completed design schemes for our future building. In February and March, we held an exhibition and series of events in the Wunderlich Gallery, showcasing the design developed by John Wardle Architects (JWA) and Nader Tehrani (NADAAA). In this first edition of Atrium for the year, we celebrate this milestone in our project to create a world-class centre of education focused on the built environment, which is an exemplar of sustainable design and transformative teaching. Justine Clark, architectural writer and former editor of Architecture Australia, reviews the exhibition and the new building design in her feature article on page 4. Justine also highlights the collaborative design partnership between JWA and NADAAA. The new building project has already received extensive international exposure since the design competition launch in 2009 but the coverage in the current issue of Singapore Architect is the most thorough to date. As the year unfolds, I look forward to sharing further milestones in our new building project with you, including celebrating the “end of an era” when our current buildings come down at the end of 2012.

We profile a number of other “design partnerships” in this edition of Atrium. The recent MSD travelling studio to Nagoya, led by Associate Professor Barrie Shelton, investigated the concept of the “super-block”. The piece is written by three of the Architecture students who participated in the studio and is an insightful description of the design and cultural challenges they encountered on the visit. A highlight of the studio was how the MSD students partnered with students from Nagoya University to explore the dynamics of Japanese urban design.

Theo Gouskos writes about ABP’s long history of engaging with Asia, through various design and academic partnerships, on page 10. Our iconic Japanese Room, which will be retained and reassembled on the top floor in our future building, is symbolic of our close connection with Asia and commitment to our place in this region.

Louisa Ragas profiles new ABP research into “white roofs” to reduce the urban heat island effect and help keep buildings cool in summer. The research, commissioned by the City of Melbourne and undertaken as part of the University of Melbourne’s “Cool Roofs” project, is another example of how ABP researchers partner with local organisations to produce design solutions which have real community relevance.

The Faculty’s annual Dean’s Lecture Series is the primary context in which we bring inspirational and successful practitioners from across the world to Melbourne as part of our commitment to international discourse. An article on page 14 profiles the highlights and success of this series and notes some of the innovative and acclaimed built environment practitioners and academics we have hosted over the last four years.

We recently hosted American economist and educator Robert Buckley, a Senior Fellow in International Affairs at the New School in New York, who gave us insight into urbanisation patterns across the world and an analysis on different urban income patterns across the globe. In August, Dutch planner and urban designer Caroline Bos, founding partner of the influential UN Studio in Amsterdam, will visit the Faculty to speak about her architectural philosophy and projects, and in October we will host Rafael Sacks, an environmental engineer from Technion in Haifa. The series is highly anticipated and attended each year by the design and university communities and I encourage you to check out the ABP website for further details and to download any lectures you may have missed.
Our student body continues to be a remarkable cohort of brilliant and enthusiastic individuals. In this issue of Atrium, we also cover the 2011 Dean’s Honours Awards, held in April and May for both MSD and Bachelor of Environments students and reflect on the achievements of our brightest students and inspirational academic staff.

We profile the recent success of one of our most talented students, Angela Darby, who was recently awarded a 2012 Rhodes Scholarship to study environmental change and management at Oxford University. An Olympian in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, a youth mentor and of Dean’s Honours Awards recipient, Angela will commence her graduate studies at Oxford in October.

The prestigious inaugural David Yencken Scholarship for a PhD in Landscape Architecture was recently awarded to artist and landscape architect Brooke Madill. The scholarship, in honour of Professor David Yencken, is awarded to an outstanding MSD student who wishes to undertake PhD research in an aspect of landscape architecture. Niamh Cremins writes about Brooke's intriguing research into the theoretical and methodological links between landscape, creative practice and tourism.

An article on page 20 profiles Bill Kavellaris’ studio and exhibition “Synecdoche”, the Hon. Evan Walker Design Studio in 2011. Supported by the Christopher Wren Club, the exhibition showcased student projects from the Master of Architecture studio which aimed to establish a mechanism to express and solve multiple design issues with one critical architectural intervention.

Alumni and Professorial Fellows George Michell and Murray Coleman were both awarded an Order of Australia in the 2012 Australia Day announcements. A long-time supporter of the Faculty, Peter Hansen, was also awarded an AO for services to the building and construction industry. You can read more about their success on page 22.

I am always pleased when I have the opportunity to engage with our alumni community. On March 23, students who commenced their courses in Architecture, Building and Planning in 1962 held a reunion at University House. It was a wonderful event full of reminiscing, celebration and reflection on the changes that have occurred in the built industry over the last 50 years, John Niemann and Yvonne von Hartel write about this special alumni reunion on page 25.

We also highlight recent achievements by more of our talented students, staff and alumni in ‘Inside the Faculty’ on pages 26 and 27. It is particularly rewarding when members of our ABP family are recognised nationally and internationally for their creative and academic achievements. Of particular note is Dr David O’Brien’s recent success in receiving a special commendation in the 2012 Neville Quarry Architectural Education Prize for his work in the “Bower” series of design studios and his dedication to research. David also won the Rio Tinto Award for Excellence and Innovation in Indigenous Higher Education 2012 for his work with the Bower Studios.

Our vibrant events culture continues in 2012. Check out ‘Inside the Faculty’ to read more about our recent and upcoming exhibitions, public lectures and other activities. You can also visit the ABP website to access our current calendar of events: www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/events/.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events or reunions.

Tom Kvan
Image: South west view from Union Lawn. The Bank of New South Wales heritage facade sits within the composition of the new facade. Design by JWA and NADAAA.
“A New Building for the University of Melbourne.” It’s a fairly dry name for an exhibition, but it’s also quite clever. And the exhibition itself is like that too. At first glance it is elegantly restrained – a straightforward representation of the developed design by John Wardle Architects (JWA) and NADAAA – but it also repays sustained attention. The exhibition assumes an intelligent viewer readily able to interpret various materials and to weave these together into an understanding of the building. Although clearly explanatory, it is not didactic – there is no introductory text, no captions and no obvious place to start or end. Instead the gallery-goer finds a range of media, carefully arrayed, to wander through – renders, plans, sections, descriptive text, process images and models – both ‘working’ and presentation. The exhibition also balances carefully between conveying a sense of design process and collaboration and providing a convincing account of the proposed project, an account that is aimed squarely at various ‘stakeholders’.

My two favourite exhibition moments each play with this tension between the provisional and the polished in productive ways. The first is the two huge renders of the project that line the largest wall. The images themselves are refined and authoritative – one a sectional perspective of the building, cut through the Studio Hall and exhibition space, the other a more unusual view, looking up to the roof of these spaces. These two drawings are reproduced at this large scale through hundreds of A4 pages, precisely pinned to cover the walls – the impression is that they could have been spat out of any office printer (but maybe not, they don’t have that tell-take white border). By the end of the exhibition, the humid weather had made the paper sheets expand, so that each bulged ever so slightly. The resulting rippling surface, held in place by the glinting grid of steel pins, shifted the image into three dimensions in a curious way. It also meant that the image/object took on slightly different aspect as the viewer moved through the exhibition. This reminder of the materiality and physicality of the image, combined with the ubiquity of the A4 sheet, meant that the slick renders also retained and conveyed a sense of the contingent.

In contrast, the images used to represent design process are seen via a digital projection, showing on a loop near the entry. At the beginning of the sequence a text outlines the collaborative process pursued by JWA and NADAAA, at the end are paired time-lapse films of the two offices – one in Boston, one in Melbourne – showing the flow of office occupation and activity over a 24-hour period. It seems that the project never slept. Between these bookends is a series of process drawings, each including the messiness of the computer desktop and sometimes complete with the rather tired-looking faces of the protagonists in a skype conversation. These images combine the familiarity of sketchy process drawings, worked and reworked, with the opportunities presented by ever-developing communication technologies.

As viewers we understand that what is exhibited is necessarily a highly edited,
interesting and slightly unusual collaboration. This means disposing program and across the broader disciplinary relationship between studio and scholarship level, the project seeks to ‘rethink the campus plan of 1970. At the programmatic courts established in Bryce Mortlock’s building is conceived as another public created within. At an urban scale the building itself aims to contribute to and engage with the education of students and the production of knowledge: “The design attempts to do this without creating an encyclopedic building, but rather an explanatory building where there is a strong framework of ideas that are legible and rigorously pursued.” It also recognizes that, with most teaching material now available online, the building must contribute in a complementary manner, offering experiences and modes of knowledge not available elsewhere.

But what of the building shown? If the exhibition is quietly accomplished with a few signature flourishes, so too is the building. A series of more conventional exhibition panels present the project in terms of four themes – the studio, the academic environment, built pedagogy and the living building.

‘The academic environment’ is concerned both with keying the building into the broader university campus context and with the specific scholarly environments created within. At an urban scale the building is conceived as another public space within the network of ‘rooms’ and courts established in Bryce Mortlock’s campus plan of 1970. At the programmatic level, the project seeks to ‘rethink the relationship between studio and scholarship and across the broader disciplinary boundaries’. This means disposing program in ways that bring the various disciplinary communities together in formal and informal ways and encourages collaboration and dialogue.

The integration of the extant Victorian facade of the Bank of New South Wales, by Joseph Reed, which encloses the new exhibition space, is also seen as an educational opportunity. It is also the source of another bit of contemporary architectural glamour – the chamfered internal face plays off the openings of the heritage facade, and includes an odd extruded volume crossing the top of the exhibition hall.

The educational role of the building also extends into its environmental systems. The interaction of these with the building users and occupants is outlined in ‘The Living Building’, which describes this interaction as comprising an ongoing research project.

This is not a challenging exhibition in the way that some others to occupy the Wunderlich Gallery have been – there are no solvent-infused, screen-printed carpet tiles or truckloads of polystyrene here – but then that is not its purpose. This is an exhibition to update the various ‘stakeholders’ about the building design, and it does so skillfully. The clearly conveyed message is – ‘a huge amount of work has gone on here, but we are only partway there, and we need your help to realize the building’.

Justine Clark is an architectural editor, writer, critic and researcher. She was editor of Architecture Australia, the national magazine of the Australian Institute of Architects from 2003 until early 2011. She received the 2011 National Bates Smart Award for Architecture in the Media for this body of work. Justine is currently one of a team of nine working on the ARC-funded research, ‘Equity and Diversity in the Australian Architecture Profession: Women, Work and Leadership.’

Image: Studio Hall, featuring the ‘hanging studio’ extending from the ceiling coffers. Design by JWA and NADAAA.
“THE BUILDING ENCOURAGES THE USE AND COLONIZATION OF INFORMAL SPACES THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING FOR A VARIETY OF STUDY ACTIVITIES.”
In 2011 a group of MSD students participated in an international travelling studio to Nagoya in Japan, led by Associate Professor Barrie Shelton. The ‘Rethinking the Super-block’ studio challenged students to examine the architecture, spatial and building typologies of Nagoya and propose their own designs for an integrated, high density structure.

We all knew something about Japan’s pop culture, music, big fashion brands, and beautiful architecture, old and new. Before leaving Melbourne we learnt about Japanese ways of spatial thinking with its more aerial conceptualization of space than that of the (linear) West; and the native appreciation of oku or hidden depth. Some of us had friends there, one or two had spouses. We knew that Australia values big, open spaces, while Japan makes things multi-functional and small. Some of us knew where to find a Tange or Ando building, others how to operate karaoke menus.

But there is experiential knowledge, deeper and richer, that can only be acquired through fieldwork. When we arrived in Nagoya, and embarked on a field study of Gokiso – an unremarkable mixed-use superblock – we began to appreciate how these cities work. Behind wide avenues lined with tall buildings (many tourists’ primary experience), Japanese cities are made up of small, detached houses, and streets often not wider than a metre or two. Every property advertisement notes the walking distance to the nearest train station (never in excess of 6-7 minutes). We discovered that off many major roads were peaceful streets lined with pot plants, bicycles quietly sliding by, unaccompanied five-year-olds safely walking home from school. And, wherever we were, at any time of day or night, fresh food was but a short walk away.

At Nagoya University, we were treated like honoured guests. Professor Atsushi Katagi, Head of the Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture, greeted us on arrival and joined all crit sessions, while Assistant Professor Yoshihiro Hotta provided day-to-day assistance. We had a big, beautiful studio space all to ourselves in the brand new department building, and access to a wealth of information, from historical maps of Nagoya to fine land-use data. Our Nagoya University student colleagues helped us navigate Gokiso, explaining the demographic trends of the area, and where to find lunch. Without their generous assistance, Nagoya would have been significantly more opaque.

We learnt that this Japanese city is pedestrian-friendly, bicycle-friendly, child-friendly, offering a wealth of conveniences while providing privacy to local communities. These qualities come about through unassuming, but ingenious urban design: the wide metropolitan roads, with shopping malls and mass transit stations, provide continuous corridors of intense activity throughout the city, while the interiors of the superblocks host schools, temples and the bulk of residences, with small shops scattered throughout. Two realms - extra large and extra small, global and local, rectilinear and organic - co-exist. Most remarkably, they have been created with modern planning tools, and therefore can be replicated and refined.

Studio leader, Associate Professor Barrie Shelton, has plans to extend our study, and experiment with the applications of Japanese principles in parts of Melbourne. Australian cities have much to learn from Japan about high livability at higher densities. Reciprocating the Nagoyan hospitality, and hosting Japanese architecture students in Melbourne, is the next important step in our sharing of design knowledge.
Images: City streets in Nagoya.
Our commitment
to our place in Asia

THEO GOUSKOS

The Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning has a long tradition of engaging with Asia. During the 1950s, the Faculty population reflected a rich tapestry of staff and students descended from throughout the region: Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong and India, with many students arriving under the auspices of the Colombo Plan. This engagement continues today with a significant number of our academic colleagues and students having strong roots and active industry and design partnerships in Asia.

In 1961, the then Chair of Architecture, Professor Brian Lewis, sought to expand the links into Asia by proposing a student study tour of Japan. However, just sixteen years after the end of World War II, memories of the conflict were still fresh and direct flights between the two countries did not exist. Unperturbed, Professor Lewis took nearly six months and numerous trips to Canberra to persuade the Director General of Civil Aviation to allow him to charter a plane from Cathay Pacific Airways for a direct flight for the study group of 40 students from the Faculty. To reduce costs, Professor Lewis also invited a dozen architects along from the city.

It was during this pioneering voyage to Japan that Professor Lewis met distinguished Japanese Architect Professor Shigeru Yura and invited him, as part of a knowledge transfer exercise, to teach in the School of Architecture from 1963-1965.

During this time, Professor Yura designed the celebrated Japanese War memorial in Cowra, the Japanese Ambassador’s residence in Canberra and the Japanese Room and Japanese Garden for the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Melbourne. The Japanese Room, based on the simple Shoin-Zukuri domestic style of the Seventeenth Century, displays the excellent joinery and timber characteristics of Japan.

Significantly, the Japan/Australia Business Co-operation Committee established the room as an aid to the appreciation of Japanese culture and as a lasting bond between the two countries. Over 45 government agencies and business organisations in both Japan and Australia supported this symbol of reconciliation and promise of future business exchange, including; The Bank of Tokyo, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, The Tokyo Camber of Commerce and Industry, Mitsubishi Electric Company, The Consulate General of Japan, Hartnett Holdings Company Ltd, Nissan Motor Company Ltd and Toyota Motor Sales Company.

Today, we seek to celebrate the foresight of our forebears who, despite the many barriers, forged ahead with recognising the importance of our unique place in the Asia Pacific region and our relationship with our Asian neighbours. In our new building, we plan to elevate the Japanese Room together with the Japanese Garden into a position of prominence on the top floor as part of a public cultural space for the University and the State of Victoria. Importantly, in its new configuration we aim to explore the possibility of continuing its use in the practice of Japanese arts and cultural pursuits, such as the Japanese Tea Ceremony.
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

This profound, yet simple statement by cultural anthropologist, Margaret Mead, rings true for the many dedicated students of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. The built industry presents a unique opportunity to shape the world in which we live and a new socially conscious generation of students and practitioners are embracing that opportunity.

With her commitment to environmentally sustainable design, Angela Darby, MSD student and 2012 recipient of the Australia- at-Large Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University, is taking a lead in advancing architectural practices in a socially and environmentally conscious way. Angela, a graduate of Architectural Studies and currently completing a concurrent Masters of Architecture and Bachelor of Property and Construction (majoring in Property), is one of only 9 scholars selected for the Australia Rhodes Scholarship for 2012.

The Scholarship is awarded annually to young people aged 18 to 25 who demonstrate high intellectual and academic ability, leadership qualities, sporting achievement and an interest and involvement in the community. Angela, an Olympian in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and youth mentor, will commence a Master of Science in Environmental Change and Management at Oxford in October.

“The Rhodes process is incredibly rewarding. They recognise who you are and assess your ambition, passion and personal capabilities, not just your grades,” Angela says.

The Rhodes Trust’s goal is to nurture leaders for the world’s future who are committed to service and promoting international understanding and peace. Angela will join a long list of outstanding Australians who have received the Scholarship including, Former Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, Former Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen and Nobel Prize Winners, Sir John Eccles and Lord (Howard) Florey.

Angela has developed a comprehensive career plan which she feels will position her to develop and promote legal, economic and ethical advancements through contemporary sustainable architectural practices.

“The Built environment must support people and their productive activities,” explains Angela. “This requires an integral understanding of the future pressures that will face our societies, and, of these, the most challenging is environmental change. In order to design spaces and structures that support future productive, resilient and adaptive communities, I need a detailed understanding of environmental change.”

Following the completion of her Masters at Oxford, Angela would like to work at the European Environment Agency in Copenhagen. On returning to Australia, she hopes to work on government initiatives that reinforce and promote sustainability.

At such a critical time in Australia’s infrastructural development, young visionaries like Angela can affect real change in our understanding of the built form and environmental management and help to transform our cities and the way we live. Angela’s drive epitomises the Faculty’s purpose in combining theory, policy and practice to meet the needs and address the problems of our world.

“I am committed to environmentally sustainable and resilient design that takes into consideration the Australian climate and solar design,” says Angela. “I want to work towards shifting paradigms of thinking so we can think about solar in all planning. Initial references to global warming can be traced back as far as 1873. This is our chance to be proactive rather than reactive.”

Professor Tom Kvan, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning supports Angela in her vision. “Angela is a remarkable student,” he says. “She has demonstrated a strong understanding of built professionals’ social and environmental responsibility.”

Melbourne School of Design is committed to enhancing the University experience and prides itself on providing a wide variety of opportunities for students.

Professor Kvan explains, “We see unlimited potential in our students and it is our responsibility to provide them with an extensive curriculum, combining academic learning and practical experience, as well as a fully rounded understanding of inter-related disciplines. This holistic approach equips students with the insight and skills to achieve success in the professional arena.”
Cool and white: new ABP research reveals energy benefits

LOUISA RAGAS

Architecture, Building and Planning (ABP) has an international reputation for excellence in research centred on the built environment and urban research. We actively partner with government, corporate and community organisations, to produce research that explores and responds to vital social and environmental challenges facing our modern world, as well as fundamental research into the built environment.

Our researchers explore various areas of inquiry including urbanisation, sustainability, vulnerable environments, professional practice, design innovation and engage in public and scientific debate in these areas. Our research activities comprise both funded and informal projects and through this mix we can extend our contact with local and global communities and, in many cases, make a real difference to the lives of people.

One current research project with an environmental focus is doing just that, and trialling its findings in Melbourne’s CBD.

The research, commissioned by the City of Melbourne, was undertaken as part of the University of Melbourne’s Cool Roofs project, led by ABP’s Dr Dominique Hes, in collaboration with Associate Professor Lu Aye from the Melbourne School of Engineering and Dr Nicholas Williams and Dr Stephen Livesley from Melbourne School of Land and Environment at Burnley.

The Cool Roofs project looks at the impact of using both high albedo roof colours and green vegetated roofs to reduce the urban heat island effect and help keep buildings cool in summer. It examined the benefits of white roofs and aims to assist residential, commercial and industrial building owners determine if white roofs are suitable for their buildings and guide them through the best materials to use. To do this the research team set up a series of small buildings at the Burnley Campus with sensors that measured thermal loads and the transfer of heat into a building under different roofing systems. Measuring the difference in the reflection of solar radiation from each roof could direct future design efforts towards environmentally and economically sustainable building and management practices.

A leading expert in sustainable architecture, Dr Hes says that when painted white, roofs are able to reflect solar radiation away from the building rather than absorbing it. Some solar-reflective paints also have nano-particles within them, ceramic beads that act as pockets of air and can increase the insulation benefits of the roof.

“Reflective white paint on commercial building roofs reduces the energy used to cool the building. Melbourne’s CBD has over 3,500,000 m2 of ‘lettable’ commercial space. If the roofs of these buildings were painted white, the city could in theory reduce its CO2 emissions by 4.5 million MJ per year, 1.5 million kilograms of CO2 or the equivalent of 3 million black balloons,” Dr Hes said.

“White roofs are a low cost retrofit solution for making buildings more sustainable, particularly our older buildings, and if our air conditioners are not working as hard, there are financial benefits for buildings owners as well.”

The new research findings were launched in January 2012 by the City of Melbourne at ArtPlay – a civic studio where families and children can engage in creative workshops with professional artists. This location was significant as the City Council put also the research into practice by trialling a white roof on the ArtPlay building.

White roofs have gained in popularity internationally in recent years, because of their energy-saving benefits, but this is the first time that the concept has been trialled in an Australian city.

“There has been a lot of talk about the energy consumption benefits of white roofs and we commissioned the University of Melbourne to undertake this research so we could get a local perspective on how white roofs can work in our city,” said the Lord Mayor Robert Doyle.

Councillor Cathy Oke, Chair of the Future Melbourne (Eco-City) Committee said commercial buildings in the City of Melbourne would benefit most from this tool. “White roofs can cool commercial buildings by three per cent on hot days, which helps reduce the urban heat island effect and improve the health of city users,” Cr Oke said.

The Cool Roofs project monitored the temperatures of five test buildings at the University of Melbourne’s Burnley Campus for their performance with and without white coatings and vegetated roofs. The buildings with white roofs experienced significantly cooler temperatures, both on the roof exterior and building interior. A display explaining the research was erected at the International Melbourne Flower and Garden Show in 2011, which drew significant community interest.

“The data we are collecting will feed into a general simulation and visualisation model for Melbourne’s urban conditions that will enable decision makers to ask the model: What happens if we have more green roofs? What happens if we paint all our roofs white? What happens if we have more trees and gardens? Further, we hope that this research will continue and expand to look at the benefits cooler roofs can make to photovoltaic (PV) electricity production efficiency.”

The research is funded by the City of Melbourne and the Nursery and Garden Industry Association (NGIA), with in-kind contributions from EPA Coatings—Durabond, Sky Cool, Thermoshield, and DULUX.

You can watch a Video Podcast on the Cool Roofs project at: http://visions.unimelb.edu.au/episode/129
image: Dr Dominique Hes overlooking the ArtPlay building which trialled a white roof as part of the 'Cool Roofs' project. Photo: Jason South, Fairfax Syndication.
"THE DLS IS THE PRIMARY WAY IN WHICH WE BRING INSPIRATIONAL AND SUCCESSFUL PRACTITIONERS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD TO OUR FACULTY, AS PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL DISCOURSE," SAYS PROFESSOR TOM KVAN.

The Dean’s Lecture Series: bringing a world of design ideas and debate to Melbourne

LOUISA RAGAS

Engaging with international professionals and practitioners working in the built environment arena is a critical part of our Faculty’s knowledge transfer and global exchange initiatives.

The Faculty’s annual Dean’s Lecture Series forms part of our contribution to the intellectual life of Melbourne and our commitment to creating a platform where prominent speakers from around the world can present their latest projects and talk about some of the critical challenges facing the places in which we live.

Since its inception, our Dean’s Lecture Series has brought people with global recognition to the University and highlighted many of the issues impacting our built and natural environments, as well as exploring design innovation in response to these.

In reviewing the variety and depth of topics presented in the series, it also documents subtle shifts in urban and social policy and in the way we think about designing cities and open spaces. In bringing design thought leaders and practitioners to the University to talk about their work and ideas, our own research and initiatives are enriched and challenged. In 2011, the Colombian landscape architect Martha Fajardo challenged us to re-think the way we design urban spaces to create sustainable and affordable ‘landscapes of happiness.’ In 2009, William Buckley, an urban policy expert, challenged us to analyse what we think about urbanisation, its impact across the globe and international development.

The interdisciplinary nature of the Faculty’s programs is also echoed in the range of speakers and subjects presented in the series. The Faculty’s Annual Dean’s Lecture Series forms part of our contribution to the intellectual life of Melbourne and our commitment to creating a platform where prominent speakers from around the world can present their latest projects and talk about some of the critical challenges facing the places in which we live.

Over the last four years, the line-up has included such design innovators and thinkers as: the Chinese architect Wang Shu, 2012 winner of the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize; American architect James Timberlake, designer of the stunning Cellophane House in New York (2011); structural engineer Jane Wernick, one of the creative minds behind London’s Millennium Wheel; Sheela Patel, Founder-Director of SPARC, an NGO focused on housing Mumbai’s urban poor; and Chilean architect and educator Mathias Klotz, who has earned international recognition for his residential, and public architecture which is site specific, and elegant.

Talks have addressed and explored such important issues as environmental sustainability, urbanisation, new design and construction technologies, slum rejuvenation and post-disaster reconstruction and presented new ways of thinking about cities, planning, urban governance, environmental futures, social policy and infrastructure development. This direct and accessible ‘knowledge transfer’ is enriching for our students, researchers, alumni and the broader Melbourne community and can sometimes inspire new research directions and global connections.

American economist and educator Robert Buckley, launched the Dean’s Lecture Series in 2012. A Senior Fellow in International Affairs at the New School in New York, Buckley captivated the 300-strong audience with his examination of one of the most critical issues facing our modern world: urbanisation.

He focused on a region known as the “Global South” – 133 countries located mainly in South and Central America, Africa, and Asia – and emphasised the vital efforts of community-based organizations in creating more responsive environments. Using the Malthusian analogy, Buckley explored how we can improve urban opportunities and assist slums to become the foundations for such improvement.

"It was an insightful perspective of urbanisation patterns across the world with revealing analysis on the different urban income patterns in different continents," said Professor Tom Kvan.
This type of international engagement is of particular value to our staff and students. In the week that each international speaker is hosted by the Faculty, they not only present a public lecture, but an exhibition, a seminar or tutorial with graduate students and academics, and other engagement activities. They also usually have media commitments, enabling them to present their ideas and projects to a wider audience.

The exhibitions held in the Wunderlich Gallery in conjunction with each lecture have become an integral part of the DLS culture. They commonly display renderings, projections and photographs reflective of each speaker’s projects, practice and philosophy. The exhibitions are a rich visual counterpoint to the talks and offer another way of exploring each person’s work.

Of course the series is not just one where the international guest is the “teacher” and we, the Faculty, are the “student” – it is very much a reciprocal engagement. Our research, curriculum and associated events are often of great interest to our international visitors.

American architect Nader Tehrani – who co-presented a Dean’s Lecture with John Wardle in 2011 – was so impressed with how we used the Wunderlich Gallery to display his projects that he went back to MIT (his home institution) to set up a similar exhibition space. One of the first exhibitions in this space also has a Melbourne connection – it will be an installation of a large scale model of the famous Robin Boyd House based on plans of the house.

“Collaborations and partnerships grow from common interests and common pursuits. The public lecture program we have curated in ABP is a key element in our program of enquiry through which we can expand opportunities for explorative conversations,” says Professor Kvan.

The Dutch architect Caroline Bos of UNStudio will be the next international practitioner to present a Dean’s Lecture on August 7. She will reveal the value of strategically designed subsidiary spaces. Her projects include the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart, a dance theatre for St. Petersburg and the renovation of the Galleria Department store in Seoul. For details about the Caroline Bos lecture and exhibition visit the MSD website: www.msd.unimelb.edu.au.
The Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning celebrated the outstanding academic achievements of Melbourne School of Design (MSD) and Bachelor of Environments students and staff at the Dean's Honours Awards at two separate events in April and May. The annual Awards are an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the achievements of our brightest students and inspirational academic staff.

The Dean's Honours Awards have a strong tradition, with many recipients being amongst our most accomplished alumni, working across the built and natural environment professions both in Australia and overseas. Various awards were presented on the night by Faculty staff members, with Professor Tom Kvan presenting awards to our highest achieving Bachelor of Environments and MSD students who made the 2011 Dean's Honours List.

BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENTS
DEAN’S HONOURS LIST

Year 1
Farisha Qistina Abd. Khalid
Andrew Alan Amos
Anne Slatyer Baker
Narelle Emma Bethune
Wai Kay Michelle Chang
Ellen Coral Corrick
Alyssa Lindsay Duncan
Bradley David Elias
Frederick James Campbell Hamilton
Aik Meng Heng
Lisa Huang
Poly Hughes
Madeleine Horigan Ingham
William Michael McLellan
Zhexwen Mu
Sinead Kelly Nicholson
Alexander James Robinson
Christian Harris Slattery
Emily Hui-Wai Tang
Gerard Thomas Turnbull

Year 2
Xin Rui Dai
Jens Otto Duenkel
Yi Fang
Timothy David Hellyer
Poh Hui Ho
Dhanka Ayuputeri Kumaheri
Qing Ping Lim
Jinn Jyh Leow
Oliver Christian Lock
Jack Andrew Monte
Stanley Weiqin Ong
Alexander Jameson Peel
Sarah Lynn Rees
Hui Ching Seow
Nathan Su
Paul Raymond Van Herk
Zhiyi Wang

Year 3
Amy Margaret Bracks
Matthew Craig Griggs
Angela Ruth Hayes
Gaelfnyr Marlyn Mountford Kimm
Justin King
Karen Jean McGregor
Aernyn Rei-Minn Ng
Matthew Timothy Oka
Christopher Graeme Porter
Aedan Orion Puleston
Matthew James Scrah
Yuen Ting Tsang
Stephanie Kall Wong

Bachelor of Environments Medal
Justin King

SPONSORED PRIZES

The Royal Institution of Chartered
Surveyors Quantity Surveying Prize
Dishana Liang

The Royal Institution of Chartered
Surveyors Property Prize
Kate Cristabel Haynes Rietdyk
Olivia Kate Perrett

The Neil Fraser Award for
Sustainable Landscape Design
Angela Ruth Hayes

The AECOM Australia Prize for Urban
Design and Landscape Architecture
Angela Ruth Hayes

The Elizabeth Bennet Prize
for Outstanding Achievement
Bradley David Elias
Anne Slatyer Baker

The Australian Property Institute Prize
Wesley Andrew Goates
Ji Sun Oh
Philip Pui Li Lim
Tan Boon Heng
Tsz Ting Ng

The Australian Institute of Building Prize
Yin Xian Chia
Thomas Thieu
Chun Yang Xiao
Nai Tse Lee
Jun Hyek Choi

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture
Year 4
Suet Lai

Bachelor of Urban Planning and
Development
Year 4
Chu Lam

Bachelor of Property and Construction/
Bachelor of Commerce
Year 3
Paul Lombardi
Marini Tungker

Bachelor of Property and Construction
Angela Joseph
Victoria McNaughton

Bachelor of Property and Construction/
Glennite of Architecture
Year 1
Panagiotis Kolokithas
Year 2
Welan Chu
Year 3
Angelica Kerama

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture
Architecture/Master of Architecture
Year 1
Fenella Webster
Year 2
Megan Ralby

Graduate Diploma in Planning and Design
Joy Welch

Graduate Diploma in Property Valuation
James Knott

Postgraduate Diploma in Planning
Design (Architectural History
and Conservation)
Amanda Mulligan

Postgraduate Diploma in Urban Design
Tanja Redz

Master of Architecture (200 point)
Year 1
Joseph Brett
Andrew Dal Pozzo
Samuel Franklin
Rachel Jones
Ruby Law
Melissa Spencer
Yu-Ying Tan
Eugenia Zoubtchenko
Master of Architecture (200 point)
Year 2
Joanna Butler
Olga Fox
Alexandra Smith
Robert Ventresca
Lucy Warnock

Master of Architecture (300 point)
Year 1
Sahra Stolz
Year 2
Joshua Haddad

Master of Construction Management (200 point)
Year 1
Annie Chan
Year 2
Sudha Venkatesh

Master of Construction Management (300 point)
Year 1
Dongchun Yu
Year 2
Christina Vasin

Master of Property (200 point)
Year 1
Clay Trembath
Year 2
Michael Noblet

Master of Property (300 point)
Year 1
Fengyi Tay
Year 2
Michael Prosser

Master of Landscape Architecture (200 point)
Year 1
Kristy Stone
Year 2
Carla Bates

Master of Landscape Architecture (300 point)
Year 1
Veronica Carrasco
Year 2
Kira Grover
Year 3
Jacqueline Monie

Master of Urban Planning
Year 1
Andrew Bishop
Kate Munzner
Year 2
Paul Fleckney

Master of Design
Miguel Sierra Moreno

Master of Urban Design
Pablo Montero Aravena
Farnia Askarimehr
Maria Suarez Spindola

OTHER PRIZES AND AWARDS

ARCHITECTURE

Architect Michael Kaufman Scholarships
Sukhleep Kaur Dhilion
Zoe Divalabianos
Eki Nakajima
Jonathan Gregory Russell
Samuel Nicholas Sweeney
Yifei Zhu

Edward and Penelope Billson Prize in Architecture
Robert Vincent Ventresca

Ernest Fooks Memorial Award
Evan Chang Yi Lau

John Charles Lloyd Exhibition
Joshua Frederick Haddad

RAIA/Bates Smart Graduate Prize
Lucy Grace Warnock

CONSTRUCTION

Chartered Institute of Building Award (UG)
Angela Philippa Joseph

Chartered Institute of Building Award (PG Coursework)
Sudha Venkatesh

Hansen Yuncken Prize
Howard Luh

Harry Wexler AIQS Prize
Panagiotis Gerasimos Kolokithas

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The Catherin Bull Scholarship in Landscape Architecture:
Frances Gaffney

The Ellis Stones Memorial Awards
First Prize
Carla Marie Bates
Anne Therese Bourke
Second Prize
Brent Greene
Third Prize
Wendy De Nardi
Siqing Li

The Rina Mackley Award for Architects in Landscape Architecture:
Angela Ruth Haynes
David Frank Heymann

URBAN DESIGN

DesignInc Prize for Environmentally Sustainable Design:
Farnia Askarimehr

URBAN PLANNING

Ledgar Prize in Urban Planning:
Paul Richard Fleckney

RESEARCH AWARDS

Chartered Institute of Building Research Award
Peter Mark Lawther

The David Yencken Scholarship for a PhD in Landscape Architecture:
Brooke Madill

Dean’s Prize for Published Postgraduate Research
First Prize
Dr Wyrone Raharjo
Honourable Mention
Xin Liu; Javad Koohsari

Graham Treloar Fellowship for Early Career Researchers
Dr Marcus White

John Grice Award
Dr Chen-Yu Chiu

The Nell Norris Fellowship for a PhD in Architecture
Byron Kinnaird

FACULTY TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

MSD Teaching Excellence Awards
Dr Ajibade Aibinu
Dr Anoma Pieris

ABP Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award
Dr Stanislav Roudavski

ABP Sessional Teaching Excellence Award
Byron Kinnaird

ABP Teaching Innovation Awards
Dr Stanislav Roudavski

BENEFACTORS OF PRIZES AND AWARDS

The Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning would like to thank the benefactors of the 2011 prizes and awards:

Mrs Noemi Fooks
Alasdair and Jenny Fraser
Professor Catherin Bull
Professor David Yencken
AECOM Australia
Australian Institute of Building
Australian Property Institute
Bates Smart Pty Ltd
Chartered Institute of Building DesignInc Pty Ltd
Graham Treloar Fellowship
Hansen Yuncken Pty Ltd
Royal Australian Institute of Architects
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
The University of Melbourne is committed to expanding an already generous suite of graduate and undergraduate scholarships to remove financial barriers to education and attract outstanding Australian and international students to the University. Scholarships and prizes recognise high achieving and talented students and support them in fulfilling their potential. Often, scholarships are named after outstanding built industry academics and professionals, who inspire our students. The prestigious David Yencken Scholarship for a PhD in Landscape Architecture was recently awarded to artist and landscape architect Brooke Madill. The scholarship, in honour of Professor David Yencken, is awarded to outstanding students who wish to undertake original and innovative PhD research in an aspect of landscape architecture at Melbourne School of Design.

During his career Professor Yencken played a central role in planning and urban development in Australia. He directly addressed a number of key urban problems and delivered concrete outcomes. His legacy is visible across Victoria, most notably the key role he played in changing the orientation of Melbourne to face the Yarra River. Professor Yencken succeeded in elevating the discipline of Landscape Architecture and connecting it to the broader issues of design, environmental planning and sustainability. This scholarship ensures his legacy continues through the work of innovative landscape architects and researchers at the University of Melbourne.

Brooke’s project, Adaptive landscape, tourism infrastructure and creative practice: as guiding conditions for expanded landscape experience in the arid lands of Central Australia, will investigate the theoretical and methodological links between creative practice and tourism and explore the inter-relationships between humans and landscape, identity and place.

This challenging and exciting PhD will span three years, with Brooke receiving a stipend of $30,000 per annum, under the supervision of ABP’s Professor Gini Lee. Professor Lee has worked with Brooke on a number of projects and is delighted to have the chance to mentor her during her tenure.

“The Faculty is delighted to have awarded the David Yencken Scholarship to such a deserving applicant and I look forward to welcoming Brooke into the research higher degree community,” she says. “I am sure Brooke will be a great addition to the Faculty as she is a passionate advocate for landscape architecture practice and experimental inquiry into working in diverse communities across a range of landscapes.”

"Without the David Yencken Scholarship, I would still be pursuing my passion for landscape architecture, but I would not have the time and financial freedom to submerge myself in my research."
“The financial support, exposure to the larger University Community and the encouragement and inspiration of my supervisor, Gini Lee, have given me a solid base to conduct my research,” says Brooke. “Without the David Yencken scholarship, I would still be pursuing my passion for landscape architecture, but I would not have the time and financial freedom to submerge myself in my research. The support that comes hand in hand with the sponsorship cannot be quantified. Not only do I have access to one of the leading theorists in landscape architecture but I have gained considerable experience in working with her on a variety of projects that will inform my own work.”

Gini and Brooke’s most recent research project, “Re-investing the Line: small structures, micro-communities and communication ecologies for the American West” won the William Turnbull Competition for Drylands Design earlier this year. The competition, managed by the California Architectural Foundation, in partnership with the Arid Lands Institute at Woodbury University and the AIACC Academy for Emerging Professionals, aims to find strategic architectures, infrastructures and urbanisms that promote adaptation and resilience to sustain the US West in the face of water scarcity and hydrologic variability brought on by climate change. Re-investing the Line was the only competition entry from outside the United States and one of only five entries to be awarded the top prize of $10,000. Gini and Brooke applied their investigation of the Oodnadatta track, an iconic route tracking through Australia’s arid lands, to the United States, specifically a route spanning 850 miles from Texas through New Mexico to Arizona. Their research demonstrates the need for community rejuvenation and management of scarce and intermittent water resources and associated ecologies.

The David Yencken scholarship has positioned Brooke at the crux of landscape architecture research and education, at an exciting time for the discipline and the built industry as a whole. “Knowing David Yencken and the massive influence he has had on both this Faculty and the State, I see this scholarship as an investment in his ethos,” says Professor Lee. “Scholarships provide us, as academics, with a great opportunity to work with fantastic students and support them in the development of their projects and are a fitting acknowledgement of their work.”

Image: Drylands Design competition entry by Gini Lee and Brooke Madill, Re-investing the Line
Images of student projects: top left, Yesterday’s Tomorrow by Keat Wei Chuah, top right, The Church of Ecology by Andrew Gardam and bottom, Urban Farm by Ju Reen Loo.
Synecdoche: solving multiple design problems with one critical architectural intervention

NIAMH CREMINS

The Hon. Evan Walker Design Studio presents students of Melbourne School of Design with a unique opportunity to consider the relationship between the respective disciplines of the built environment, and the social and governmental mechanisms that govern their interplay. Within this context, students develop reasoned and defensible propositions. In 2011 the Synecdoche Design Studio, led by Billy Kavellaris, of Kavellaris Urban Design, challenged students to investigate various scales and typologies of urban infill using Synecdoche polemics within the urban context.

A ‘Synecdoche’ is the simultaneous understanding of multiple ideas within a singular system that can be identified and understood as distinct separate singular concepts, but simultaneously combined to create a new one. By considering the wide variety of issues and their implications prominent at a particular site and taking into account the social and cultural context bearing on it, students tasked themselves with creating one single architectural solution.

“Cities are like people; the interstitial components that make up our built environment are like our consciousness, the city’s consciousness,” Billy Kavellaris explains. “They may appear to be in ordered semblance and linear, however, both our cities and our consciousness are multilayered and non-linear. The city is a mega layered architectural synecdoche that is in constant flux, where millions of narratives coexist simultaneously and collectively in the guise of people, landscape, events, technology, culture and ultimately architecture.”

Students explored the archetypal problems and constraints of urban infill and sought to use these architectural solutions as opportunities for design innovation. The ultimate goal of the studio was to develop and infill Synecdoche propositions that will achieve the immediate context but also play a seminal role within the system of the urban activity matrix in which it is located.

Student projects included reconciling historical contradictions at the carpark beside the Victoria Markets, overlapping contextual settings to create an urban farm in the heart of the city; and celebrating the Melbourne City street art phenomenon through a dedicated street art tourist information centre that doubles as a platform for artists to share their techniques, styles and thoughts.

These Synecdochal propositions are just examples of the wide variety of student research and work that arose from the design studio. Led by Billy Kavellaris, students were inspired to see beyond an existing site and consider each issue, circumstance and implication bearing on it, past, present and future. This approach enables built professionals to create spaces for a changing world with one single construction reconciling a wealth of cultural, economic, historic and environmental contexts.

The Hon. Evan Walker Studio is proudly supported by the Christopher Wren Club who are committed to enabling students to enhance their knowledge of and creative approach to key urban issues in the Victorian context. Through their generous support, the Christopher Wren Club enables the Faculty to provide the highest standard of learning to students in a practical and relevant way. Such hands on learning, gained through studios like Synecdoche, equips students with a more holistic view of the built environment and enables them to envisage architectural solutions in the current context.

The students involved in the Synecdoche studio were: Aaron Lau, Dean McCredden, Jean Yong, Vivian Hui Ying Yong, Zak Kijakovic, Jia Chian Tong, Ju Reen Loo, Keat Wei Chua, Lam Le-Nguyen, Mahreen Mahmud, Marie Chen, Mastura Mokhtar, Nicholas Antoniou, Rachael Jones, Ruby Lawi, Tahlee Bruch, Wai Ting Lui, Yin Lih Tham and Andrew Gardam.
ABP alumni and supporters recognised in 2012 Australia Day Awards

LOUISA RAGAS

If a Faculty’s success is reflected in the achievements of its alumni, staff and associates, ABP is making its presence known. Two of our exceptional alumni and Professorial Fellows were named in the 2012 Australia Day Honours’ List, our nation’s formal way of recognising outstanding achievement and service.

Dr. George Alexander Michell was conferred as a Member (AM) in The Order of Australia for “service to architectural history and conservation as a scholar, author and mentor, as an interpreter of Indian culture, and through the promotion of Australia-India relations.” An international expert on Indian art and architecture, Dr. Michell has authored many publications on India’s fascinating kingdoms and sultanates. A Professorial Fellow in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, he gained a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Melbourne in 1968 and obtained a PhD in 1974 from the School of Oriental African Studies, University of London for his research on Chalukya Indian temple architecture.

Dr. Michell lectures on Indian art and architecture in Australia and India. His connection to ABP remains strong. He gave a lecture on The Great Temple at Thanjavur at the Faculty in 2011. On the occasion of the publication of a book he co-authored with Indira Viswanathan Peterson, commemorating the millennial anniversary of the temple, Dr. Michell’s many other publications include: Mughal Architecture and Gardens, 2011; Kashgar: Oasis City of China’s Old Silk Road, 2008; Majesty of Mughal Decoration: Art and Architecture of Islam, 2007; Inner City Living: New Australia Style 2, 2003; New Australia Style: An exploration of unique Australian Domestic Architecture, 1999; Blue Guide to Southern India, 1998; and Cambridge History of Indian Architecture, 1995. Dr. Michell has also curated several impressive exhibitions showcasing Indian art and culture such as the Ancient Hampi – the Hindu Kingdom Brought to Life exhibition, held at the Immigration Museum in Melbourne, 2008-2010.

Outstanding achievement in the built environment industry was also recognized in this year’s prestigious Awards. Professorial Fellow and alumnus, Mr. Murray Leslie Coleman received a Medal (OAM) in The Order of Australia, as did long-time supporter of the Faculty, Mr. Peter Hansen, for their respective services to the building and construction industry.

Mr. Hansen’s career in and commitment to innovative construction in Australia is unsurpassed. Chairman of Hansen Yunken Pty Ltd from 2000 to 2010, he was the company’s Managing Director from 1992 to 2000, and Director since 1963. He joined the family firm in 1958. Hansen Yunken is one of Australia’s oldest and largest privately owned construction companies, renowned for its innovation in construction technologies and management practice.

Supporting and advancing the careers of talented young construction professionals has always been a part of Mr. Hansen’s ethos, and his company has employed large numbers of university graduates. Peter Hansen and Hansen Yunken have, in fact, been engaged with ABP’s construction programs since their inception in the 1950s, as a key advisor, supporter and employer of our graduates. He created The Hansen Yunken Prize in 1990, in honour of construction alumnus Michael Hansen. The prize is awarded annually to a construction student in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. He also sponsors the Hansen Yunken FE Frank Crowle Award for Excellence in Teaching.

ABP celebrated this close association with Hansen Yunken with an exhibition in December 2010, showcasing the contribution the company has made to the Australian building industry and the urban fabric of Melbourne. Drawing on the company’s rich archival sources, the exhibition documented the many landmark buildings completed by Hansen Yunken during the 20th century including, the Port Authority Building (1931), Bank of New South Wales at 360 Collins Street (1933), Myer Emporium (1931), The Age Building (1969), the Melbourne Stock Exchange (1968) and Union House at the University of Melbourne (1965).

Mr. Murray Leslie Coleman, a Professorial Fellow in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning and Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Australian Institute of Building, was also recognised in the Australia Day Awards for his significant service to the building and construction industry. Mr. Coleman is currently Managing Director of Project Management & Construction, Australia for Lend Lease, and was Group Head from 2010 to 2011. He was Global Chief Executive Officer of Bovis Lend Lease until 2010; Chief Executive Officer of Bovis Lend Lease UK from 2006 to 2008; and Chief Executive Officer, Bovis Lend Lease Asia Pacific, 2005-2006.
The Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning has always received generous support from alumni, friends and industry partners to create opportunities for our talented students.

As a Faculty, we are committed to ensuring that our students – the next generation of built environment professionals – understand the need for sustainable solutions in the creation of urban centres. Now more than ever we have an opportunity to make a significant impact on our environmental and social futures by managing urban change.

But how do we do this? One key way is by ensuring that our students develop interdisciplinary knowledge, where sustainability principles are embedded as a way of thinking and collaboration is the preferred mode of practice. To achieve this it is clear we must create a new, flexible academic space and an inspirational, world-class curriculum.

We have embarked on creating a new building for the Faculty which will be unique in Australia: it will be a centre of transformational education and research into sustainable cities and an exemplar of sustainable infrastructure. In particular, it will allow students and researchers to explore sustainability issues across multiple disciplines in a living and pedagogical building that can be adapted to changing needs, designed to provide ongoing feedback to students and researchers for real-time learning. Therefore, the facility itself will be the platform for training our future leaders engaged in planning, designing and constructing cities and communities here and abroad.

We invite you to join with us to support our endeavours. By supporting our community of students and researchers and our building project, you are making a significant investment in the educational, environmental and economic health of the built environment professions for future generations.
YES! I want to support the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne through my gift of:

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- The Catherine Bull Scholarship in Landscape Architecture

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Images: Photos by Jun-yeu Mah, “Fotoholics”
Recollection: 1962 students’ reunion

JOHN NIEMANN & YVONNE VON HARTEL

On Friday 23 March 2012, students who commenced their courses in Architecture, Building and Planning in 1962 celebrated the 50th year since their commencement with a night of wining, dining and entertainment at University House.

A book produced to commemorate the occasion tried to capture a brief vision of the study of architecture of the time, what it meant to those who were involved, how it affected our lives after completing the industry and our lives over 50 years. Here are some edited extracts:

Preface:
For the organising committee, the fun has all been in the making, organising and holding this reunion. We met often to plan the ‘right and much banter’ has occurred from ‘you haven’t changed at all’ to the polite ‘sorry, I didn’t recognise you’ as members of the year reappeared.

Compiling the contacts list has had its challenges and has demonstrated how the University of Melbourne’s students are spread throughout the world. We have not been able to find everyone, and of those we have found not all could join us today; the tyranny of distance persists, as do family, health and other commitments. We remember the students and staff who are no longer with us and reflect how they influenced us in their interaction with the School and our lives.

Things have changed in the years since we started. Technology, the way we interact and the world of architectural theory and practice have grown beyond that which we might have imagined.

What will the legacy of our year be? The buildings, spaces or built environments we have created? Our contributions to the community in various fields such as art, commerce, social sciences or entertainment? The number of children that we collectively have produced that may (or maybe not) continue working on our ideals for the world? The economic benefit that our combined travails have reaped?

I actually think it’s simpler than that; the interaction with the people we have met along life’s journey and the influences and experiences we have shared, have made us who we are today and they define our legacy. Our University days were unlike any other year has experienced; we were Bauhaus led, environmentally challenged before we even knew what sustainability really meant, we were thrown together to work collaboratively before team work was fashionable, there was no question of sexual discrimination, we were relocated like refugees and we were taught to think we could and would conquer the world. And we did; each of us has faced and surmounted our own challenges; our reunion celebrates being together again and having fun!”

Quotable Quotes: In their own words OR Quotes from the evening
Regarding The Old Tin Shed (old Army huts that housed the school until 1964)
I fondly remember the intimacy of the ramshackle hut where we began in 1962. In many ways I think it was a more successful building than its rather soulless successor.

…when I saw the School of Architecture building, I was so upset by the buildings that I nearly changed my course to Engineering, but the Engineering office was closed for lunch.

And ahh, the old tin shed...

Regarding the course:
Architecture has given me a “key” to life; to see things as they are, to analyse, to rationalise, to understand and appreciate human endeavour in all its manifestations.

My children, a university trained Finance Director, an Aerospace Engineer and a Medical Doctor, did not have the opportunity to stay up all night to ensure the Revue would go ahead or take a cow to the Airport to farewell a favourite Professor. They missed out on so much.

My university days were filled with Archi- Revues, academic overload, having my teeth knocked out (whilst swimming), singing in a Rhythm and Blues band… and running my mum’s Milk Bar at weekends in Geelong – plus trying to find a girlfriend who didn’t mind putting up with all of the above.

What I remember of ‘62 is:
• China was between the “Great Leap Forward” and the “Cultural Revolution”
• There were no P.C.s, “Two Dollar” shops, let alone shirts made in Asia sold by Henry Bucks
• The first Australian troops left for Vietnam to be followed by 20 year old conscripts

Hugh O’Neill

Regarding The Staff:
While Fritz Janeba (Design Professor in 1st year) drove me to distraction with his design ‘exercises’ I did learn to thread string through curtain rings and sharpen a pencil with a blade – two skills which everyone should have …David Saunders, George Tibbits, Neville Quirky, Fritz Janeba, Gard and Renata Block, the Coldicuts, Rosemary Eggleston, Bernard Smith and not to forget Robin Boyd himself – how lucky were we all to have them!

Professor Brian Lewis did so much good and was an inspiration to many of us.

Regarding The Architects Revue:
The Revues – the buzz of being involved, the pride in what made it onto the stage and the feeling that it was somehow historic; a fortuitous combination of people, place and time.

Now:
I draw in cafes with a mate, write songs and poems, and have made a short film with my daughter – how good is that?
Inside the Faculty

PEOPLE

Professor Brendan Gleeson recently joined the Faculty as Professor in Urban Policy Studies. Brendan comes to us from Ireland where he was a Chair in Geography and Deputy Director of the NIPSA, National University of Ireland Maynooth. He undertook his PhD at Melbourne and work at the ANU and Griffith University. Brendan is recognised as an outstanding contributor to issues around social and environmental sustainability in urban Australia and we welcome him and the expertise he brings to ABP. His most recent book ‘Lifeboat Cities’ (2010) explored the political ecology of urban threat and possibility in an age of global risk, and he is currently working on a new book ‘The Urban Age: Paradox and Prospect’.

Dr Elizabeth Taylor, McKenzie Post Doctoral Research Fellow, also recently joined us from RMIT, where she completed her PhD. Her expertise is in urban planning and she has previously undertaken projects with AHURI and worked in the Housing Research Unit of the DCPO. The McKenzie Fellowship is a prestigious post-doctoral award given to outstanding recent PhD graduates, and Elizabeth’s project will examine issues of public participation in planning disputes and the implications of urban policy.

Welcome to Dr Karen Burns who is our new Senior Lecturer in Architectural Design. Previously with Monash University, Karen’s research and teaching strengths encompass 19th and 20th century architecture and urbanism, and their heritage value and interpretation. She is part of a University of Melbourne and research team investigating ‘Equity and Diversity in the Australian Architecture Profession: Work, Work and Leadership’.

Peter Lawther joined the Faculty in March as Senior Lecturer in Construction Management with a focus on cost planning, management and quantity surveying. Peter’s 25 years of professional experience span commercial, academic and humanitarian support sectors.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Donald Bates, Director and founder of LAB Architecture Studio, as ABP’s new Chair of Architectural Design. Donald will join the Faculty in June, synergizing this new academic appointment with his award-winning architectural practice.

Miles Lewis has been awarded the title of Professor Emeritus. Miles has been with the Faculty for over 40 years and this is a well-deserved recognition of his outstanding contribution to both the University and wider Architectural profession.

Associate Professor Hannah Lewi was a keynote speaker at the international symposium: ‘Architecture for Leisure in Post-war Europe [1945-1989]’ at K.U.Leuven University in Belgium in March.

EVENTS & BOOKS

The FLOW 2 conference and exhibition launched another year of diverse and exciting events and exhibitions in ABP. The January conference explored connections between landscape and interiors and featured keynote presentations from Professors Jeff Malpas and Kerstin Thompson. FLOW 2 was co-convened by ABP’s Professor Gini Lee and Professor Mark Taylor of the University of Newcastle, and the proceedings of both FLOW 1 (held in the UK in 2011) and FLOW 2 will be published shortly.

With the conclusion of the design development phase, the design of our future building was showcased in the Wunderlich Gallery from late February to late March. The exhibition revealed the design of our new building developed by the architectural team of John Wardle Architects (Melbourne) and NADAAA (Boston), who are working with us to deliver our vision for a living, pedagogical building that is an exemplar of sustainable design and transformative teaching. Justine Clark reviews the exhibition and talks about the project to create a landmark new building for the University of Melbourne on pages 4-7.

Internationally renowned economist and educator, Robert Buckley examined the demographics of urbanization in the cities of the ‘Global South’, in the first talk of the 2012 Dean’s Lecture Series. Buckley’s presentation focused on the challenges of urbanization and the need for a greater responsiveness by local public institutions in creating more responsive environments.

Yoonjin Park and Jungyoon Kim, Founding Directors of innovative South Korean landscape design firm PARKKIM, delivered the second Dean’s Lecture in early May. The next lecture will be presented by Dutch architect Caroline Bos, who will speak on the value of subsidiary spaces in the design process. Full details are below and on the MSD website.

We were excited to host a special lecture by designer and urbanist, Dan Hill in March. Hill – whose career has been shaped by integrating design, technology, cities and people – has been leading the way in communication technologies since the early 1990s. Currently working with the Helsinki Design Lab, Hill gave a fascinating lecture entitled ‘Dark Matter & Trojan Horses: How might we use design strategically, to build better cities and societies by redesigning our cultures of decision-making?’ and challenged us all to think (and design) more strategically. You can download a podcast of Hill’s presentation on the ABP website: www.abp.unimelb.com/engage/events/special-lecture-by-helsinki-design-lab’s-dan-hill.

Associate Professor Barrie Shelton released the 2nd edition of his acclaimed book Learning from the Japanese City: Looking East in Urban Design, described by one reviewer as ‘an intellectual marker in urban design literature’ in April. Professor Tom Heneghan, from the Tokyo University of Arts launched the book at a special event on 26 April and an exhibition showcasing images from the book was held in the Wunderlich Gallery.
CoNgRATULATIoNS

David O’Brien received a special commendation in the 2012 Neville Quarry Architectural Education Prize for his work in the Bower Studios and his dedication to research. The Prize acknowledges an outstanding contribution in architectural education. David also recently won the Rio Tinto Award for Excellence and Innovation in Indigenous Higher Education 2012.

Congratulations to Valerie Francis on her appointment as Associate Professor in Construction Management with a focus on construction technology, a move that allows her to focus her teaching in areas of her research and professional experience.

Congratulations to Dr Amanda Achmadi who has been appointed as Lecturer in Architectural Design with a focus on Asian architecture, urbanism and history, thus building our capacities in Indonesian research.

Professor Gini Lee was chosen as one of five recipients of a research award in the 2011-12 William Turnbull Competition: Drylands Design.

DEAN’S LECTURE SERIES 2012

Caroline Bos, UNStudio, Amsterdam
More, not Less – Value Engineering for Architecture
Tuesday 7 August 2012 @ 7pm
Carillo Gantner Theatre
Basement – Sidney Myer Asia Centre, The University of Melbourne

The third international speaker in the 2012 MSD Dean’s Lecture Series, architect Caroline Bos will reveal the value of strategically designed subsidiary spaces. Co-founder of UNStudio, a Dutch architectural practice specialising in architecture, urban development and infrastructure projects, Caroline Bos will discuss the propensity to polarize prime, showcase spaces and the more humble subsidiary spaces. An exhibition of recent projects by UNStudio will be held in the Wunderlich Gallery, 30 July to 10 August.

Upcomming Events

ABP Alumni Retrospective Series: Lyons Idea Building
25 June to 20 July 2012
Wunderlich Gallery, Architecture Building

For further event details and to register online visit:
www.msd.unimelb.edu.au/events/deans-lectures/bos/

Exhibition: Vernacular Architecture in the Himalayas - profiling recent research by Professor Bharat Dave
13 to 31 August 2012
Wunderlich Gallery

For an up to date listing of all ABP events visit: www.abp.unimelb.com/engage/events