Alumni Association

DRINKS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & LECTURE

All graduates and alumni of the Faculty are most cordially invited to the first AGM of the Alumni Association and Annual Alumni Lecture

THURSDAY 9 MARCH 2000

5:00pm Drinks -- Boral Timber Gallery
5:30pm Annual General Meeting -- Lecture Theatre 2
Agenda: Election of Officers for the Alumni Association
6:30pm Alumni Lecture -- Lecture Theatre 1
Clare Design/Adjunct Professors Kerry & Lindsay Clare
Clare Design: Strategies and Choices
HARRY SEIDLER, CHRIS JOHNSON AND PAUL PHOLEROS APPOINTED TO ADJUNCT POSITIONS IN ARCHITECTURE

The Senate of the University of Sydney have approved the Dean's nominations of Harry Seidler and Chris Johnson as Adjunct Professors of Architecture and Paul Pholeros as Adjunct Associate Professor of Architecture and Health Sciences for the 2000-2002 academic years. The Faculty and Department of Architecture, Planning and Allied Arts are truly pleased to welcome these distinguished practitioners to the Faculty. Professor Paul Pholeros taught a BArch studio on sustainability last year and will be doing a special project this year with a selected group of students who will go bush with him. Professor Harry Seidler is expected to teach one of the Open Design Studios this year. And Professor Chris Johnson, due to his duties also as NSW Government Architect, is advising on program development, giving the occasional lecture on urban decorum, and we hope will offer an open studio in 2001. A fourth, also very distinguished appointment, is in the final approval stages; we hope to announce it in the next Newsletter. They join Adjunct Professors Kerry and Lindsay Clare of Clare Design as a powerful design team joining the Faculty teaching especially in the final two-year BArch Program.

JOINT ARCHITECTURAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT SPEAKS TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

In Semester 2 last year 78 students in Year 3 of the Bachelor of Science (Architecture) degree undertook a unique group assignment for the course History of the Australian Built Environment. Course co-ordinator Trevor Howells joined forces with Rosemary Block, Oral Historian at the State Library of New South Wales and Matthew Devine, Public Affairs Co-ordinator at the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, to oversee the students who were asked to interview and record many of Sydney’s most celebrated and eminent architects.

The students were organized in groups of three and set the task of writing a research paper about their chosen subject to insure that each interview conducted had a well-informed basis. The first group interviewed for the Architectural Oral History Project included architects Andrew Andersons, John Andrews, David Chesterman, Joan Domiceli, Keith Cottier, Louise Cox, Philip Cox, Douglas Gordon, Neville Gruzman, Anne Higham, David Jackson, Col James, Clive Lucas, Colin Madigan, Lawrence Neild, Bruce Robertson, Alison Rose, Harry Seidler, Penelope Seidler, Colin Still, Irene Still, Graham Thorpe, Ross Thorne, Peter Webber, and Ken Woolley.

The original tapes along with an edited precis of the interviews will be kept at the Mitchell Library as a public record for research purposes. Additional copies of the precis will be held by the RAIA and the Faculty of Architecture will keep both copies of the tapes and precis for future student research. The project proved to be a great success and was equally well received by both the students and their subjects. With the continued assistance of the State Library of New South Wales and the RAIA this year, Year 3 will continue the oral history program.
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY’S TER/UIAI TOPS NSW

Thanks to the exceptional efforts by academic and general staff, the Faculty succeeded in attracting the top group of architecture students in NSW to the BSc(Arch)/BArch Program.

the Faculty has been steadily attracting higher quality students while increasing its quota of admissions. Students are staying, happy and productive (the RAIA design medal was not awarded last year, but the Honourable Mention and Mention went to Sydney University graduates). This year, under the new UAI (University Admissions Index), Faculty cutoff was 88.35 for a quota of 100 admissions, the highest in the state.

the Faculty is delighted with this achievement. Thanks go especially to the Faculty’s architecture academic staff who are teaching more, better and really making the place a wonderful learning environment. Thanks also go to our new Marketing and Development Centre under the direction of Ms Michaela James and Dr Peter Phibbs who have done a tremendous job in promoting the improved programs, and to the alumni and students who have helped so greatly wherever and whenever called upon.

MAJOR SCULPTURES ON LOAN TO THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE

Those who have recently walked through the foyer of Wilkinson Building will be struck by three remarkable timber sculptures by artist Geoff Levitus, a lecturer in painting and drawing in the Art Workshop Program. Wrought from ironbark logs with chisels and a chainsaw and finished in oil paint, the works tower 2.4 metres tall and stand sentinel at the front entrance. The group comprises two figures holding buildings, entitled Burden 1 and Burden 2 relate to life in the city, and the third, Naked, to our wider place in the environment. All of the works allude to our sense of unease at never quite belonging. They form part of a series of works which also included oil paintings from Geoff’s exhibition Out of Place held at the Faculty’s Tin Sheds Gallery in April 1998. The raw timber of the sculptures were recycled from a road bridge at Wyong.

First installed to help celebrate the Faculty’s 80th anniversary last September, the works have been generously loaned for a further six months. Although keen to acquire them the Faculty is not in a financial position to do so - an ideal opportunity for a generous art donor.
TIN SHEDS EXHIBITIONS 2000

Feb 10th - Feb 26  OUT ART
A Mardi Gras, Community Exhibition

March 17 - April 8  BLACK & WHITE
Feng Jian Wen - Paintings that are inspired by artist Feng Jian Wen’s recent move to Australia.

April 14 - May 6  INNOCENCE
An enchanting installation by Rose Lyn.

May 12 - June 3  PUTTING IT IN PRINT
Presented by Craft ACT. Showcasing innovative screenprinted textiles curated by Catrina Vignando and Catherine K.

June 9 - June 17  SPACE
Advanced Art Exhibition: A Tin Sheds Student Event.

June 23 - July 15  IN AND OUT
Painter, Yifeng Tan presents a surrealistic reflection on multicultural society.

July 21 - Aug 12  PARIS DESKTOP DRAWING
An 18 metre drawing journey created by Greg Creek in Paris. This intricate work refers to historic and present day voyages between Australia and France.

Aug 18 - Sept 9  POWERFUL POSTERS - RED PLANET
Twenty years of Poster art from the collection of Red Planet Screenprint and Design Studio.

Sept 11 - Oct 12  Gallery Closed

Oct 13 - Nov 4  UNCLOSEABLE CHAPTERS
Enid Ratnam-Keese explores the themes of loss & disconnection in these delicate mixed media works. Digital Technology + Painting = Event Horizon: CanvasBytes An exhibition by Kathleen Done.

Nov 10 - Nov 18  HOMAGE TO TEAM 10 IN AUSTRALIA
Architect, Joseph Buch, reflects upon Team 10 British Architects of the 1960s.

Nov 22 - Nov 29  3RD YEAR ARCH STUDENTS’ SHOW

Dec 4 - Dec 16  STAFF SHOW
THURSDAY NIGHT LECTURES

Now in their sixth year the Thursday Night Lectures public program will be soon be in full swing. Over the past five years Thursday Night Lectures have investigated wide ranging ideas about the culture of architecture, planning and allied arts. The series continues to seek to stimulate debate amongst the profession, University and wider communities. This semester’s program promises to be an interesting one.

The series commences on March 9 when Adjunct Professors Lindsay and Kerry Clare will give the Alumni Lecture in Lecture Theatre 1. Under the title, Clare Design: Strategies and Choices, they will review their work, and explore how a series of recurring strategies have been employed to shape their various projects. These strategies include the balance of tradition and innovation, the role of landscape and context, social and environmental ethics, tectonic expression and issues of style.

Although the full Thursday Night Lectures program has yet to be finalised, please note the following dates in your diaries.

March 9  Clare Design: Strategies and Choices
Annual Alumni Lecture
Clare Design/Adjunct Professors Kerry & Lindsay Clare

March 23  Urban Consolidation and Design:
Negotiating the Maze of Competing Issues
Lucy Turnbull, City of Sydney Deputy Lord Mayor
and chair of the Planning Committee

May 4  The First Monument of the Third City:
Professor H Ingham Ashworth’s Visionary Strategy
for the Sydney Opera House
Peter Myers, Architect, Sydney

June 2  Creating the Universally Designed City:
Prospects for the New Century
Leslie Weismann, Architecture Professor, NJIT, New York,
Co-hosted with Women in Architecture, RAIA

No charge
TIME: 6.30-8pm
PLACE: Architecture Lecture Theatre 1, level 2, Wilkinson Building, 148 City Rd
Series Coordinator: Anna Rubbo
SOLAR CITY: VISIONS, TARGETS, TASKS

International Workshop on Renewable Urbanism

DATES: 16-19 MARCH 2000

VENUES:
Tusculum, Royal Australian Institute of Architects, 3 Manning Road, Potts Point
University Of Sydney, Faculty of Architecture , 148 City Road, Darlington

BACKGROUND
The OECD’s International Energy Agency (IEA) was set up in the wake of the 1970s oil crisis to assist with securing reliable energy sources for the future. Since then, the prospect of depleting fossil fuel resources within this century as well as the greenhouse-gas induced climate changes have added great urgency and weight to IEA activities.

Solar City is a recently approved program initiative emerging under the auspices of the IEA’s Committee for Energy Research and Technology, coordinated through its Renewable Energy Working Party. It offers Australia the opportunity to direct a pioneering, internationally visible program that for the first time links regional and urban development to renewable energy and best practice in greenhouse gas mitigation, while doing so in targeted and quantifiable ways. It is a joint project with the International Solar Energy Society (ISES), who proposed the concept to the IEA in 1998. It is intended that it will assist and involve many current community movements such as Cities for Climate Protection, and Brundtland Cities, especially in the areas of assessment, international standards, scenario analysis, and technology.

Australian and international cities will volunteer to work with this program to integrate advanced energy and greenhouse technology into actual community and development processes. In doing so, each of the participating countries will run one of the program’s five subsidiary tasks, while providing its own funding.

Although it is titled Solar City as a working short-hand, this is the first IEA project of interest across a broad range of renewable energy disciplines while at the same time engaging cities and regional development strategies directly, in addition to working through the participating countries.

For more information, call 9351 4576 or e-mail: ud@arch.usyd.edu.au

CALL FOR PAPERS

THEORISING ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

Architectural Theory Review is entering its fifth year of publication. To mark the Journal’s first five years and the year 2000, Vol. 5, Nos. 1 and 2 will be dedicated to the topic ‘Theorising Architectural Education’. The editors believe the question is of core relevance, not only to academics and students, but to those who are connected to architecture in its various forms: architectural and landscape design, construction, structures, professional practice, history, theory, cultural studies, ethics, environmental psychology, digital media and computing etc.

Contributors are invited to locate their praxis or educational experience within a theoretical framework, for example, in the context of a body of thought or in relation to personal or other viewpoints.

Full length papers, or short essays of 1000 words are invited.

To assist with planning, please send a 200 word abstract by February 25, and also indicate whether you will be submitting a full-length paper or short essay, and when. All submissions will be refereed.

Deadlines:
Abstracts: By February 25
Short Essays and Papers
For vol. 5, no. 1: by March 10
For vol. 5, no. 2: by August 10

Please forward submissions to:
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LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear Alumni,

I would like to bring you up to date briefly on a number of important developments in the Faculty over the past few months.

First, we are in the final stages of selecting a new Professor of Architecture. The post was advertised widely in Australia and overseas. I was assisted by an Advisory Committee comprised of some of our most distinguished architecture graduates/alumni. From an applicant pool of close to 30 applicants from all over the world, the University Selection Committee has narrowed the list to three (one from each of Australia, England and the United States). The candidates have been invited to make presentations to staff, students and alumni on successive days -- Tuesday 14 March, Wednesday 15 March and Thursday 16 March, all 1-2 o'clock, ALT2, Wilkinson Building. Informal lunches will follow the presentations, to give everyone a chance to interact with the candidates and make their impressions known to members of the selection committee in attendance. You are most cordially invited to join us for any or all of these talks.

Second, we have made several new appointments in the Faculty, with two others under advertisement. The offer of the Lectureship in Architectural History has been made. Full details of this appointment will appear in the following edition of AAA when the appointment has been officially finalised. Dr Gary Cox, a very successful planning consultant and researcher in Sydney, has accepted a position as Lecturer in Urban Planning. Dr Glen Hill has accepted a new promotional position as Lecturer in Architectural Theory. Mr Densil Cabrera and Mr Michael Bates have accepted a job-shared position in Audio and Acoustics and Ms Louise Trevillian has accepted a position as Administrator (Research) in our new Research Support Office. We are currently advertising for two new continuing lecturers/senior lecturers--in Audio and Acoustics and in Digital Design Media.

Third, we have reorganized the Faculty into two schools and two departments and appointed new heads of schools/heads of departments. The new School of Undergraduate Studies (with academic responsibility for the undergraduate programs) is headed by Ms Kristine Sodersten, RAIA. The new School of Graduate Studies (with academic responsibility for the 11 graduate programs) is headed by Professor John Gero. The Department of Architecture, Planning and Allied Arts (with staff development responsibility in those disciplinary areas plus urban design) is headed by Associate Professor Anna Rubbo, and the Department of Architectural and Design Science is headed by Professor Mary Lou Maher. These four heads are working very well together on staffing issues, teaching assignments and all other matters of organising and developing our teaching programs.

Fourth, the Academic Board of the University has approved in principle the major reorganisation of the BSc(Arch) degree into a new, more problem-based Bachelor of Design degree with emphasis areas in Architecture, Urban Design and Planning and Digital Design Media. The Academic Board has also approved in principle the introduction of a new Bachelor of Design Computing degree. Kristine Sodersten, Mary Lou Maher, academic staff and two panels of distinguished professionals are working to get the curriculum developed for these revised and new programs.

And fifth, I am very pleased to announce that after many attempts over the past two years, the Faculty is finally on the University’s Capital Development Program for the first stage of the expansion and refurbishment of our design studios. You’ll hear much more about this in the next issue of AAA.

All in all, things are clicking along. I continue to be very pleased at the tremendous support from the students and academic staff for the changes we are implementing, and for your continued support and advice.

With warm regards.

Professor Gary Moore, Dean
ADDRESS DATA BASE

In the year since the Architecture Alumni Association was established great effort has been made to compile a complete and accurate mailing list. Please send any updates or additions to the alumni data base to:

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EDITORIAL FOOTNOTES

Grateful thanks are offered to Andrew Winter, Jacqui Hunt, Kim Suter, Gary Moore, Anna Rubbo, Jan Fieldsend and especially Michaela James, Manager, Marketing and Development Centre for their help in compiling the Newsletter. Any comments, contributions, ideas, requests or other contributions to the next issue of A3 are warmly invited and should be directed to

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SEARCHING FOR MISSING GRADUATES/ALUMNI

The Architecture Alumni Association (including Town and Country/Urban and Regional Planning, Urban Design, Architectural Science, Design Computing and all other disciplines of the Faculty, yes, even including Landscape Architecture) is organising a series of Alumni Events for 2000. Included hopefully will be a dinner to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the foundation Town and Country/Urban and Regional Planning program in Australasia together with Thursday Night Lectures, seminars and short courses, awards ceremonies and friendly get-togethers. Graduates/alumni will be invited to these and other events hosted by the Faculty in the Wilkinson Building. The data-base is now up to some 2000+ complete names and addresses. But still missing are many other graduates/alums. Your help is needed. If you know of any graduate/alum of the Faculty who is not receiving copies of the AAA Newsletter (which means they are not yet on our data-base), please ask them to send their current address, telephone, fax and e-mail to Ms Jacqui Hunt, Alumni Coordinator, Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney, NSW 2006 phone: 9351 5924, fax +61 2 9351-5665 or e-mail jacqui@arch.usyd.edu.au.