Glenn Murcutt awarded honorary Architecture Degree at April Graduation

Glenn Murcutt, winner of more national and international awards than any other Australian architect, was honoured with conferral of the degree of Doctor of Science in Architecture (honoris causa) at the Architecture Graduation Ceremony on 23 April 2004.

Throughout his career Murcutt has devoted, and continues to dedicate, much of his time to teaching young architects. He began his long experience as a Design Tutor in the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sydney where he taught a generation of students from 1970 to 1979. Amongst some of his subsequent teaching positions have been Adjunct Professor at the Graduate School of Fine Arts, University of Pennsylvania, Visiting Professor at the School of Architecture, Aarhus, Denmark, Visiting Professor at UCLA, William Henry Bishop Visiting Professor at Yale University and Ruth and Norman Moore Visiting Professor at Washington University, St Louis. He has continued his association with our Faculty through occasional lectures throughout the years, most recently on 19 July 2004 at the Eastern Avenue Auditorium, where Glenn presented a major lecture as part of the Fourth Glenn Murcutt International Architecture Master Class.

Glenn was awarded the Royal Australian Institute of Architects’ Gold Medal in 1992, and in 2002 became the first Australian Pritzker Prize Laureate, the most prestigious architectural award in the world. His work has had a profound impact on architecture and design worldwide.

The evening of 11 June 2004 was the occasion for the Grand Opening Ceremony of the Stage 2 Renovations of the Faculty’s Wilkinson Building.

These renovations included the creation on Level 1 of four new Art Workshop Studios for painting, drawing and site-specific art, ceramics and sculpture, printmaking and mixed media, photography and a sculpture courtyard, the total refurbishment of the Architectural and Technical Services Centre, comprising new Wood Technology, Metalastics and Digital Architecture Studios, along with the Architectural Structures and Materials lab, Architectural Wind Tunnel and Heliodon. In addition, two new Audio Design labs have been set up – a Surround-Sound Studio and an Audio Research and Recording Studio and on Level 2, entirely new Design Computing Laboratories have been created, including a new Digital Workshop.
influence on the architectural profession and public, both in Australia and abroad.

In the words of Richard Leplastrier (BArch ’63), friend and colleague, one of our most distinguished alumni and a fellow RAIA Gold Medallist:

“Murcutt’s work and teaching (how can they be separated?) started like this: From simple beginnings it has become over the years one of the main stems to which so many branches of Australian architecture now refer. His impact is far reaching, both inside and outside the country. His formidable body of work is an interlocking trunk of the many strands that underpin the ethos of the sustainable place, the land, how it is formed and how things fit to and within it.”

Professor Gary Moore, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, during his welcome speech.
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There has been a buzz in the Faculty in recent months, with many successes and new initiatives, a few of which are highlighted in this issue of archetype – and yet with unmistakeable challenges ahead.

We have been very pleased to offer honorary degrees to such distinguished contributors to the architecture of our nation as Joern Utzon, Romaldo Giurgola and most recently Glenn Murcutt. Joern was represented by his son Jan, and family, who are here in Australia from time to time working on behalf of their father on the Sydney Opera House. Joern Utzon was absolutely delighted with his degree, and honorary graduation gown, and immediately sent a lovely photograph back to us robed in the colours of Sydney. Aldo Giurgola is also an Adjunct Professor with us, and Glenn Murcutt and colleagues ran their Murcutt Master Class with us this past July. We hope to make that a continuing event in our calendar.

Stage 2 of our four-stage master plan for the total refurbishment of the Wilkinson Building was completed this May and opened in early June (see separate article). We now have a new Tin Sheds Gallery (and use of the “Old Gallery” for a few months more), along with entirely new and enlarged Design Computing Labs, Audio Design Studios and Labs, a new Digital Architecture Lab, and entirely refurbished facilities for the Architectural and Technical Services Centre. Many Alumni and Friends of the Faculty have contributed generously to this stage of the renovations, for which we are most grateful.

We have been delighted to welcome a large contingent of new academic, administrative and technical staff members to the Faculty (see separate article). Our student numbers have risen in recent years much faster than we’ve been able to add new full-time academic staff. The Faculty continues to benefit greatly from the teaching contributions of many part-time tutors and lecturers across the now 16 degree programs of the Faculty. They bring a wealth of professional and industry experience, and bright new ideas. But strategically we need also to increase the full-time staff. To date this year, seven new academic staff and six new administrative and technical staff have joined the Faculty. As well as contributing to teaching, the new academic staff will also be developing programs of research, scholarship and creative work in collaboration with other senior colleagues in the Faculty. Being a research-intensive University, the combination of teaching and research is critical to our objective of being the leading Faculty of Architecture and related disciplines in Australia and among the best in the world.

Other developments in the Faculty have included the excellent work emanating from the Digital Media and Design...
Computing graduate programs and the Design Computing undergraduate program (Digital Media is now our largest graduate program, followed by Urban and Regional Planning). On the Architectural Science front, Dr Chris Field (PhD ‘98) and Honorary Associate Professor Fergus Fricke have been featured for their invention of the Silenceair, a device to allow fresh air into buildings while leaving 85% of the noise outside. Social responsibility in the built environment continues to be an important theme in the Faculty, with Adriano Pupilli [BSc(Arch) ’02] receiving the 2004 Berkeley-Barcelona Prize for his work with Col James (DipTCP ’77) on sustainable housing for the homeless. All of these achievements are highlighted in detail elsewhere in this issue of archetype.

Offset against these and other exciting achievements and developments over the past year is the continued decline in the proportion of government funding for the University – and thus for the Faculty. As I wrote in the previous newsletter, whereas the perception and perhaps the reality was that the University and thus the Faculty was previously supported 100% by the Government, the times have changed. The Government Operating Grant is now the smallest source of income – only approximately 20% of what is needed to meet the expenses of the University. As a result, the budget of the Faculty is projected to decline, in real terms, by 5.2% for 2005.

The challenge ahead is clear. To become the premier Faculty in Australia and among the best in the world, we need your advice and your support, and we need your financial support for our building renovation campaign, for scholarships and prizes for the best and brightest, and for other programs of the Faculty. I hope we can call upon you and count on you to support the Faculty in the near future.

With warm regards,

Professor Gary Moore, Dean
The death of Emeritus Professor Serge (Vigor Augusto Sergio) Domicelj, aged 70, ended a life of international achievement which had its beginnings in Buenos Aires.

As the elder son of immigrant Slovenian and Italo-Czech parents, Serge Domicelj had a relatively privileged upbringing – a multilingual, sociable, and sporting life. Domicelj was junior tennis champion for South America once, and for Argentina for five years; he was a mountaineer, amateur Andean archaeologist and student of architecture.

Domicelj worked his passage to Europe, undertook planning studies in Edinburgh, Paris and The Hague, had jobs in Europe and the Sudan, but, most propitiously of all, met and married fellow Planning student Joan Phillips at Edinburgh University in 1964.

In 1965 they embarked on the first of many shared missions in their lives – a three-month archaeological expedition in Argentina’s Atacama desert, led by Austria’s Hias Rebitsch, on which they discovered Inca artefacts now housed in the Buenos Aires Museum.

Daughter Gabriela was born in Scotland, before a return to Australia for Serge to work as strategic planner in the National Capital Development Commission in Canberra, the city where Marcello (deceased) and Tamara were born.

A short period as senior lecturer in the newly established Planning Department at the University of Queensland was followed by the first of many international assignments: Regional Adviser to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America in Santiago. Domicelj carried out 28 missions in 14 Latin American countries, becoming deeply involved in social and economic planning and experiencing the turbulence, danger and ultimately the tragedy of the Allende era.

Mindful of threats to the security of his young family in Chile, Domicelj applied for, and in 1975 was offered, the Professorship in Town and Country Planning at Sydney University as successor to the founding chair, Denis Winston. Both men were dedicated and dynamic, but the contrast in their styles and personalities could not have been more pronounced. Winston was English and articulate, passionately concerned always with the form and character of our cities; Domicelj was Latino and expressive, equally passionate about bettering communities through social justice and equity.

While this new direction did not always lead to the smoothest of transitions in his new department, his achievements were many. As emphases changed from physical design to social policy, new courses and new staff were introduced. Innumerable former students speak with affection and gratitude of his benign influence, encouragement of multicultural perspectives, and his personal support for the growing numbers of international students. For a decade he served as Director of Sydney University Planning Research Centre, forging strong links with many colleagues, and at various times was visiting professor at Edinburgh and New Delhi.

In co-operation with colleagues Domicelj developed an innovative masters degree in heritage conservation, his wide experience in the international arena enriching the program, and in 1996 he was appointed professor of conservation planning. On occasions his lectures in this course generated spontaneous and enthusiastic applause from students – a rare phenomenon in the academic world.

After years of membership of the International Society of City and Regional Planners, he was elected as its first non-European president in 1993, during which...
time he introduced the Young Planners program.

Between 1971 and 2002 he addressed numerous international conferences and was consultant to several international agencies, including UNESCO in Paris, as well as representing the Australian government at Hasanuddin University, Indonesia.

After moving to the Blue Mountains in 1998, Domicelj served on the committee of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society, studied yoga, continued to teach, and helped with the successful World Heritage nomination of the Greater Blue Mountains, for which he and Joan received Australian Centenary Medals. In declining health in his last two years, but ever a loving and supportive friend, father and husband, Domicelj and Joan revisited with joy and enthusiasm his former colleagues and family in Argentina, India, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Italy, Croatia and Slovenia. Daughters Tamara and Gabita and his three grandchildren joined in parts of this odyssey.

On January 31 more than 200 friends, family and colleagues came together to celebrate Domicelj’s life at his home in the Blue Mountains, created with architect Richard Le Plastrier (BArch ’63) and landscape architect Craig Burton.

Many of the tributes spoke of his possessing that elusive quality of ‘greatness’. Sparingly though this term should be used, it is not out of place in contemplating his extraordinary and diverse contributions to international humanitarian causes and, even more importantly, in appreciating the extent of his compassion for fellow human beings.

More than 400 friends had written from many parts of the world, and many of them joined in spirit in a simultaneous, round-the-world tribute, a toast to Serge Domicelj which took place in 40 locations.

From Ankara to Bangkok, from Paris to Auckland, from The Hague to Buenos Aires, from Tehran to Dakar, from Brussels to Venice, from Lima to Letterson, from Shanghai to Tokyo, glasses were raised in the memory of this most compassionate of colleagues.

Emeritus Professor Peter Webber, BArch ’54, DipTCP ’59, MTCP ’68.

Published in the Sydney Morning Herald, February 27, 2004 and reprinted with permission of the author.
Staff Bytes

New Staff Members

Dr Duanfang Lu, Lecturer in Environment-Behaviour Studies, from the University of California, Berkeley (PhD) and Tsinghua University (BArch). Duanfang is developing a wide program of research on social and cultural factors in architecture and urban planning. Duanfang is also teaching in the Bachelor of Design in Architecture studios as well as supervising Environment-Behaviour Studies PhD students.

Dr Andrew vande Moere, who received his PhD in information visualisation from ETH Zurich, joined the Faculty in February this year. He will conduct research on information visualisation through the Key Centre for Design Computing and Cognition and teach mainly in the undergraduate Bachelor of Design computing program.

Dr Petra Gemeinboeck, who received her PhD in multimedia interaction from the Technical University of Vienna, joined the Faculty in July. She will conduct research on multimedia interaction and teach mainly in the graduate Digital Media program.

Dr Edward Harkness, Lecturer in Architectural Technology.

Ms Sue Rice, BSc(Arch) ’79, BArch ’82, Lecturer in Architecture.

Mr Greg Smith, Lecturer in Design Computing.

Mr Roy Malhi, Lecturer in Digital Media.

Mr Jason Thorne, Manager, Information and Communication Technology Centre.

Ms Diane Williams, Executive Assistant to the Dean, coming to us from the Australian Film, Television & Radio School.

Mr Steven Clark, PhD candidate in Design Computing and new Teaching Support Officer.

Ms Anne Christian, returning from a year abroad, into the new position of Research Support Officer.

Ms Anita Lever, Administrative Assistant, Tin Sheds Gallery.

Ms Belinda Brydon, Administrative Assistant, Audio-Visual Centre.

Ms Honor Morton, School Publications Officer.

Promotions

Dr Glen Hill [BSc(Arch) ’78, BArch ’80, PhD ’97] promoted to Senior Lecturer as of 1 January 2004.

Ms Kristine Sodersten (BArch ’68) has returned to her former duties as Associate Dean (Undergraduate Studies).

Professor John Gero (MBdgSc ’66, PhD ’74) has been appointed Associate Dean (Research), now also including being responsible for all research students in the Faculty.

Resignations/Retirements

The Chettle Visiting Professor, Andrew Benjamin, has announced his resignation, effective 30 June 2004.

Dr Rabee Reffat (PhD Arch ’00), Lecturer in Design Computing, announced his resignation, due to continuing family obligations in Egypt. He was an excellent PhD student who quickly became an excellent young scholar and teacher.

Ms Eve Teran has completed her period of secondment at the School and has returned to her position in Physics.

Ms Jane Borton has completed her assignment as Unistaff Executive Assistant to Professor Gary Moore.

Mr John Darcy, Building Attendant for many years, has retired.

Mr Calum MacLeod, the Architectural Science Review Publications Officer, has resigned.
2004 Berkeley-Barcelona Prize Winner

Congratulations to Architecture student, Adriano Pupilli, [BSc(Arch)] ’02 who has won the 2004 Berkeley-Barcelona prize. The new Berkeley Prize Travel Fellowship recognizes the vital role that exposure to other cultures and environments plays in helping to demonstrate the importance of the social art of architecture. Adriano will visit Barcelona for two weeks and attend Forum Barcelona 2004. See also the article in Architecture News on the Cardboard House.

Design Computing & Digital Media Student Exhibition

On Monday June 28th, the Faculty of Architecture held its inaugural exhibition of work by students in the Bachelor of Design Computing Degree (coordinated by Professor Mary Lou Maher) and the Graduate Digital Media (coordinated by Dr Kirsty Beilharz) and Design Computing (coordinated by Dr Mike Rosenman) Programs. All works displayed were developed digitally in the spirit of the growing diversity of design computing and designed environments. The works ranged from printed 3D modelling designs, posters explaining virtual environment designs to a show reel of time-based media produced in the 3D animation courses, digital video design, and digital compositing and visual effects. The popularity of the vastly expanded linear and animated media disciplines, taught by Mr Roy Malhi and Ms Emily Tucker, was evident as enthusiastic crowds crowded around the plasma screening. The 3D subject cluster is one of the most exciting keys to the 320% growth experienced by the Digital Media program over the past 3 years.

This event was one of the first public exhibitions of work by students in the new Bachelor of Design Computing Degree, from which the first ‘generation’ has recently graduated. This Degree equips students for computing in the design industry and for designing with computers, especially using innovative technologies.

Rows of kiosk-style computer displays exhibited interactive multimedia – web site design, interaction design, alongside a plasma screen with a ‘smart’ interactive surface. The central venue was the new Sentient Lab in the freshly renovated Level 2 of the Faculty’s Wilkinson Building.

The Sentient is a sensate (sensing), interactive, intelligent space. Works by students in the Digital Media Design Studio utilised the pressure-sensitive mats beneath the carpet to trigger visualisation and sonification responses.
to user movement in the space. Creating generative responses to interaction in real time is a research interest fostered by Dr Kirsty Beilharz and Dr Andrew Vande Moere in the studio. The Sentient is indicative of the growing research-led teaching trend in these graduate coursework degrees and an essential readiness to embrace frontier technologies such as virtual environments (Professor Mary Lou Maher), agent research (Professor John Gero), swarm intelligence, sensate and smart spaces, evolutionary design (Dr Mike Rosenman), information visualisation, sonification, mobile computing (Dr Andy Dong) and tactile interfaces.

Outstanding students received awards for their achievements. The night was a tribute to the diligent efforts of many students, as well as to their tutors and technical support. A second exhibition will take place at the end of this year.

Dr Kirsty Beilharz, Coordinator, Digital Media Program.

Graduate Studies Update

Recently there has been an email circulating which begins “you might be a postgraduate student if….” Then follows a list of fairly telling insights, including things like “you have difficulty reading anything that doesn’t have footnotes; the concept of free time scares you; Saturday nights spent studying no longer seem weird; you consider caffeine to be a major food group;” the intimation being that if you belong in this category you have become an obsessive workaholic with no life, and no perspective on this. Of course this is wildly inaccurate… everybody knows that caffeine isn’t a major food group!

In seeking a remedy, the Restorative Roof Garden project was born. This project is a graduate research student initiative sponsored by the Faculty and is in the planning stage at present. It is sited on Level 5 on the over-pass between the main building and the so-called Penthouse. We hope that in its final form it will be a comfortable retreat and a relaxed meeting place for students and staff. There are also upgrades planned by the Faculty for other graduate areas including the Level 5 Common Room, and a small meeting space on the way to the Graduate Digital Media Lab, which will also provide a bit of much needed informal work and meeting space for graduate coursework students. These areas will have more data and power points installed, enabling students to use these as work areas.

No, graduate life isn’t all beer and skittles… but we’re working on it.

Kate Bishop, Graduate Representative PhD Candidate Environment, Behaviour and Society

Undergraduate Studies Update

A Year 3 Bachelor of Design in Architecture student initiative, Superstudio 2004: Vision 20:20, a NSW student design competition, was launched in August. The Superstudio team comprised University of Sydney students Steve Graham, Bryna Lipper, Nick McLeod, Alan Miller and Joshua Morriri.

This was NSW’s first inter-university design competition, challenging students to leap into the future and visualize the world in which they would be practising. In the Year of the Built Environment, Sydney is a problem, and the competition aimed at encouraging thought on what the city would become, how we would work, live and play, which trends would shape our city, sculpt our foreshores and define our suburbs. Open to NSW students of architecture from the four universities – the University of New South Wales, the University of Technology, Sydney, the University of Newcastle and the University of Sydney, the competition was held on August 13-15 at the University of Sydney and was intended to foster debate and encourage relationships between the state, students, academics, practitioners and the public by focusing on a fundamentally important issue – the future of Sydney.
Graduations 2003-2004

As reported in The UniNews on 11 April 2003, the Faculty of Architecture Graduation Ceremony of Friday 28 March 2003 was the occasion of honouring the two most celebrated foreign architects to work in Australia, Joern Utzon and Romaldo Giurgola, by conferring on each of them the honorary degree Doctor of Science in Architecture in recognition of their body of work and contribution to architecture, including their respective designs for the Sydney Opera House and Canberra's Australian Parliament House. Mr Utzon's son, Jan, accepted the degree on his behalf, while Professor Giurgola travelled to Sydney from Canberra for the ceremony.

April 2004 Graduation Ceremonies

The Faculty's group of graduands for early 2004 was so large that two graduation ceremonies were held on 23 April 2004 at the Great Hall. The occasional address was delivered by Mr Glen Marcus Murcutt, AO, who was also awarded the Doctor of Science in Architecture (honoris causa). See feature story.

Se Young Iris Hwang, BSc(Arch) '01, MHS '03, BArch '04, winner of the Ethel M. Chettle Prize in Architecture.

Winner of the Elizabeth Munroe Prize in Architecture, the James Hartley Bibby Memorial Scholarship in Architectural Design, the Henry J. Cowan Prize in Architectural Science, the Board of Architects of New South Wales Prize and the Woods Bagot Scholarship in Architectural Design, Edmund Choon Khim Low, BDesArch/Digital Architecture '04, seen here (centre) with friends.

Andrew Hallihan, who was selected for the Bachelor of Design in Architecture Year 3 Dean's Honours List, shown here with his parents.

Undergraduate Awards Ceremony

Held at MacLaurin Hall on 27 April 2004, the Undergraduate Awards Ceremony was presided over by the Dean, Professor Gary Moore and the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Studies), Dr Simon Hayman. Among many other scholarships and prizes awarded, the Faculty of Architecture Alumni Association Prize, presented for merit plus leadership and service to the Faculty, was awarded jointly to Andrew Burns [BSc(Arch) '01, BArch '04] and Huw Morgan [BDesArch '04]. The Faculty congratulates these excellent students.

Laurence Nield, BArch ’63, with the 2003 RAIA/Bligh Voller Nield Graduate Award recipient, Kristina Stewart, BArch ’03.

Adjunct Professor Chris Johnson and his mother, Mrs. Jane Johnson, widow of the former Dean, Professor Peter Johnson, with Simon Weir, recipient of the 2003 Arthur Baldwinson Prize in Australian Architectural History endowed by Professor and Mrs. Johnson.

The Dean and Ms. Kristine Sodersten, Co-ordinator of the Bachelor of Design in Architecture Program, with Edmund Choon Khim Low, BDesArch/DigArchitecture ’04, recipient of several top architectural awards.

All photos of the Undergraduate Award Ceremony by Zena O’Connor
Graduate Awards Ceremony

Presided over by the Dean, Professor Gary Moore and the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies), Associate Professor Warren Julian, the Graduate Awards Ceremony was held at MacLaurin Hall on 11 May 2004. Congratulations especially to the winners of the inaugural Australian Institute of Building NSW Chapter Prizes, which were presented by Mr Robert Whittaker, NSW Chapter President, Australian Institute of Building: Adriana Garces Valencia, Master of Design Science (Building), Johan Overbeek, Master of Design Science (Building Services) and Mahmoud Amin, Master of Design Science (Facilities Management).

Mr Toshikazu Mashima, Managing Director, Sony Australia Limited, accompanied by Ms Nina Hearne, Sony Foundation of Australia, presented the prestigious Sony Foundation Technology and Science Scholarships to Giovanni Rosati (Audio Design) and Michael Tosetto (Digital Media).

RAIA Student Awards 2004

The winners of the HPA/Mirvac Student Awards 2004 and the RAIA NSW Graduate Program were announced on Friday 14 May. Congratulations to Charbel Bou-Francis (BSc(Arch) ’01, BArch ’04) who was selected for the NSW Chapter of the RAIA Award and to Kristina Stewart (BArch ’04), who was awarded the RAIA/Bligh Voller Nield Prize in Architecture.
Faculty & School Bytes - Faculty News continued

Members of the Jazz Trio which performed at the Graduate Awards Ceremony: Sam Ferguson (BMus ’01), Alon Ilsar and Corey Harwood.

Mr Murray Robson, IES The Lighting Society and Mr Peter Portelli of Pierlite Pty Ltd.

Ms Lesley Vanderkwast, Admissions & International Officer, with Dean’s Honours List in Heritage Conservation recipients, Patricia Young & Anne McGoverne.

Professor Edward Blakely with Lisa Maddocks, recipient of the City of Willoughby Prize in Planning Procedures.

All photos of the Graduate Award Ceremony by Zena O’Connor

Dr Kirsty Beilharz, Coordinator of the Digital Media Program, with two admirers.
Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers

Over the past 2 years Associate Professor Anna Rubbo has been a member of a UN Taskforce to Improve the Lives of 100 million Slum Dwellers. This is one of ten taskforces set up by the UN to develop policy and strategies by which the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be realised. Over the next 30 years, the world’s most significant population growth will be in urban areas in low and middle income countries. Of the many challenges these trends pose, two important questions are how to make globalisation and urbanisation work for all people, and how built environment professionals can better contribute to a sustainable global future. Under Professor Rubbo’s leadership, the Faculty is charting new directions in social responsibility in the professions. Professor Rubbo would be interested in hearing from alumni who have worked in planning, architecture or related fields that have impacted the rural or urban poor, or who are interested in these areas.

Email: rubbo_a@arch.usyd.edu.au

For more information about the Millennium Project and the MDG’s see www.unmillenniumproject.org

‘Fata Morgana’, by Professor Tom Heneghan and Artist Manu Kumar, opens in Berlin

After an international competition, the design Fata Morgana (Mirage), by Professor Tom Heneghan and artist Manu Kumar, was selected by the Cultural Office of the Berlin City Government as one of a series of installations, entitled ‘Con_Con’ (Constructed Connections) erected on existing bridges in the centre of Berlin. Heneghan and Kumar’s Fata Morgana, which was installed under the arch of the old ‘Iron Bridge’ adjacent to Karl Friedrich Schinkel’s Altes Museum, deals with reflection. A vast illuminated image of Europe, which is itself composed from satellite images of Beijing and Los Angeles – diametrically-opposed Eastern and Western cities, reflects in the moving surface of the river – occasionally clearly seen, and then blurring in the movement of waves. This image of a united Europe is as unsettled and elusive as the political reality. The installation will remain until November 2004.

‘Chateau Cardboard’

Adriano Pupilli (left) and Hugh Moline at work on ‘Chateau Cardboard’ inside the Faculty of Architecture’s Atrium Gallery.

The Ian Buchan Fell Housing Research Unit has been commissioned by the Year of the Built Environment 2004 House of the Future, chaired by Adjunct Professor Chris Johnson (BArch ’68), NSW Government Architect, to contribute the Cardboard House for exhibition in October at Hyde Park. Along with a timber, steel, concrete, glass and brick house, the Cardboard
Architectural Science News

house will be on public display for three weeks.

The objective is to push the boundaries in the domestic housing market towards improved environmental sustainability and affordability. Having just built a cardboard prototype student house with honours student Adriano Pupilli, Col James (DipTCP '77), Director of the Ian Buchan Fell Housing Research Centre and his team are very confident they will have the most sustainable, most affordable housing, which needs t.l.c. and challenges creature comforts.

Mr Col James, DipTCP '77, Director of the Ian Buchan Fell Housing Research Centre

Duck Acoustics

There has been an urban myth circulating lately that a duck’s quack does not echo, the implication being that there is something acoustically peculiar about the construction of the quack sound or the way in which it leaves the bill so as to not cause reflections off surrounding surfaces. This proposition raised the curiosity of the research team in the Acoustics laboratory within the Architecture Faculty because were this to be true, it would open up massive opportunities in sound control applications.

Of course the experienced team was sceptical and it did not take long for that scepticism to be rewarded. A quick analysis of a duck’s quack shows it to be just another noise and as all noises are reflected off hard or reflective surfaces, the duck’s quack would certainly cause an echo. The myth was raised recently in the Sydney Morning Herald, bringing production unit, Becker Entertainment, to the Acoustics Lab for advice. They brought along a duck and a film crew and asked us to prove or disprove that a duck’s quack will echo. The result is presently being viewed in Europe and the US and is likely to screen in Australia on Animal Planet cable TV in the near future. Not long after the story appeared in our own The UniNews, the popular children’s program, Totally Wild came to the Faculty to film their version of events of the Acoustics and Audio group’s explosion of this pseudo myth. The same duck, ‘Betsy’ was used on both occasions for the experiments conducted by Ken Stewart (MDesSc ’00) using the specialised facilities in the Acoustics Laboratory.

Mr Ken Stewart, MDesSc ‘00

Sydney University will be strongly represented by athletes, coaches and officials when the Olympic Games begin in Athens next week – and the University will even have an interest in the quality of the sound system at the opening ceremony.

Scott Willsallen, who graduated from the Faculty of Architecture last year, has been working on the audio system in the main Olympic stadium in Athens. Following his graduation, Scott was contracted to design and implement the sound system for the
Invention Tackles a Modern Urban Dilemma

As reported in the UniNews of 23 July 2004, Architecture alumnus Dr Chris Field (PhD ’98) has been shortlisted for the Federal Government’s Fresh Innovators Award. Having won the heat in The New Inventors on ABC television on 21 July 2004 with his Silenceair, an invention which allows fresh air into a building while leaving 85 per cent of the noise outside, Dr Field originally developed the idea while studying for his PhD in Acoustics seven years ago with his PhD supervisor, Honorary Associate Professor Fergus Fricke.

 opening and closing ceremonies of the 2004 Olympics.
Scott completed a Masters in Design Science (Audio Design) with honours at Sydney.

heads to Athens

having undertaken a dissertation on the subject of electroacoustic transfer function in a stadium. For this he investigated the preferred frequency response of sound at listener positions in the Telstra Stadium during the 2003 Rugby Union World Cup.

The opening ceremony of the Rugby World Cup was one of the most technically advanced shows ever produced in Australia. Scott’s design employed extra overlay clusters of loud speakers to complement the installed system, enabling him to effectively create stereo and surround sound audio throughout the stadium.

By Lisa Bachelor, reprinted with permission of Uninews.

Film & Digital Video Student Screening

On Tuesday evening, 13th July, a screening was held at the Chauvel Cinema, Paddington to feature the work of graduate students in the Film and Digital Video stream of the graduate Design Science program.
Students from Documentary Digital Video and Film production participated to screen their work in two categories, namely Documentary Productions and Film productions. The screening was attended by approximately 200 people consisting of students and their families, staff and members of the film industry. The evening was co-sponsored by The Sydney Film School and Campus IT as well as our Faculty. Thanks also go to C & G Design for designing the program free of charge and to John and Peter Buckmaster, Esther Palau, and Dr Michael Rosenman (BArch ’66, PhD ’82) who put a lot of effort in making the evening possible.

Five documentaries and six short films were shown, all of a high standard. At the end of the evening, the audience was asked to vote for their choice of Best Documentary and Best Film.

The winners were:

**Best Documentary:** *Everything but an Elephant*, a documentary about art and art restoration. The central theme concerns the ownership of art, whether or not we are mere custodians. The film was created by Luke Caldwell, Alicia Wenman and Grahame Knott.

**Best Film:** *Nora*, a film about a young woman with a drug addiction who travels to the after life and back. The film is the work of Jad Haber – Director, Nahren Al-Jeloo – Producer, Sandy Maestro, Damien Foyer, Kylie Huntley and Leonard Sii.

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**The Planner Trying to Ease Sydney’s Growing Pains**

In March, 2004 the NSW Premier, Bob Carr, announced that Professor Edward Blakely, the newly-appointed chair of Urban and Regional Planning in the Faculty of Architecture, would head the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy Reference Panel – a taskforce of eight experts in economics, urban planning, sustainable development, transport and environment. Professor Blakely and his panel have been asked to deliver a comprehensive 30-year urban development plan to cope with Sydney’s breakneck population growth.

Professor Blakely has also been selected to serve on the Urban Planning Peer Review Committee for the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program.

On August 17, Professor Blakely delivered his professorial speech, *The Role of a University in Urban Revitalisation*, in the Great Hall. In the light of his previous experiences in the United States and his extensive international work in urban economic development with universities, Professor Blakely discussed examples and principles that he felt were applicable to the universities in Australia and especially the University of Sydney.

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**Denis Winston Architecture Library News**

More than 500 volumes have been added to the Denis Winston Architecture Library collection since the beginning of 2004. They represent a wide range of topics from the Faculty of Architecture’s areas of research strength: Architecture & Allied Arts; Architectural & Design Science; Design Computing & Cognition; Environment, Behaviour & Society; and Urban & Regional Planning and Policy. A monthly list of
new books is available from our online catalogue.

Did you know that as Alumni of the Faculty of Architecture you can continue to have access to the extensive resources of the Denis Winston Architecture Library and all University of Sydney Libraries any time we are open, and may continue to have borrowing privileges for a fee of only $80 per year? For more information please contact us on:

Phone: 02 9351 2775
Email: architecture@library.usyd.edu.au
Web: www.library.usyd.edu.au
Lise Roberts
Architecture Librarian

Planning Book Launch
In mid July 2004, Honorary Associate Professor John Toon, who recently retired, had his latest book launched by the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Mr Craig Knowles, at a lunch at the NSW Parliament. The book, co-edited with Jonathan Falk, is entitled Sydney: Planning or Politics – Town Planning for Sydney Region since 1945 and follows the history of planning in Sydney. Professor Toon also gave an interview on the book, which appeared on Stateline on 9 July 2004. Copies of the book are available for sale via the Planning Research Centre (prc@arch.usyd.edu.au).

Bricks & Mortar and Capital Gains

In 1988, the National Architecture Accreditation Panel raised serious questions about the then sub-standard physical infrastructure for the teaching of architecture at this University. We now have over 1300 students and close to 70 staff – plus 3 research centres, 8 research labs and 80 research students and post-docs. In short, the Wilkinson Building, home to thousands of graduates from the Faculty, has been in serious need for major renovation and expansion for some years.

In 1998, shortly after my appointment as Dean, we launched an ambitious four-stage renovation master plan. Stage 1 – comprising new studios for the Bachelor of Design in Architecture program and associated seminar rooms and offices – was completed in 2002. Stage 2 – four new Art Workshops, refurbished Architectural & Technical Services Centre, two new Audio Design Labs, entirely new Design Computing Labs, a new mezzanine for the Key Centre for Design Computing & Cognition and our CRC for Construction Innovation, and the new Tin Sheds Gallery – was opened on 11 June 2004.

We are now in the midst of Stage 3, which will complete the BArch Collaborative Design Studios, relocate the expanding Student Administration and ICT Centres, and perhaps, with your assistance, bring what I am calling a Faculty Hearth into the midst of the Wilkinson Building. The spirits willing, construction will begin this November and be completed in time for classes in March of 2005. Stage 4, which will complete the renovations, is slated for 2006-2007.

When we stood in front of the new Tin Sheds Gallery on opening night, many of us had mixed feelings realising that the Hot Tin Roof of the old Sheds was coming down. The original site of the Tin Sheds Gallery and Art Workshops, with its vibrant history of creativity, its passion and its politics, had to make way for a major new University building, the result of an international design competition. While we lament the loss of the old Sheds, it is my fervent hope that bringing the fine arts under one roof with the other design, technical, social and digital disciplines of the Faculty will enrich the dialogue on future directions for the designed and built environment in our society.

The Wilkinson Building Renovations would not be possible were it not for the support and generosity of many people. We acknowledged our major donors up to 2003 in the Faculty Honour Roll in the final issue of archetype last year. Since then many new donors have contributed
hanging all around the Faculty

- The Architecture Alumni Association, under the leadership of Michael Neustein (BArch ’71), for their 2003 end-of-year campaign
- Wilkinson Society Members Susan Rothwell (BArch ’72) and Penelope Seidler (BArch ’64)
- Friends of the Faculty major contributors to date in 2004, including Rodger Bartlett (BArch ’68), Robert Clark (BArch ’67, DipTCP ’76), Clive Goodwin (BArch ’67), Marr Grounds (MArch ’85), Masaaki Ikeda (MTCP ’78), Lea Ferris (MTCP ’88), Emile Jansen (BArch ’70), Winston Leung (BArch ’63), Margaret Petrykowski (MUrbdEs ’92), Frank Stanisic (BSc(Arch) ’75, BArch ’78), Timothy Sun (BArch ’70), Howard Tanner (BArch ’70), Ross Thorne (BArch ’55, MArch ’71, PhD ’97), David Turner (BArch ’71, MDesSc ’97) and many others who have given generously to the Wilkinson Building Development Fund to support the renovations and in particular the Tin Sheds Gallery.

We greatly appreciate your generosity, and we invite others of our alumni and friends to help us finish the Tin Sheds Gallery – we are still $50,000 short of our target. We also invite you to help us move on to Stage 3, which, with your generosity can include the Faculty Hearth – exhibition space, small AA-type café and new Student Common Room – and a bold new entry with audio-visual displays to showcase the many dimensions of the new Faculty of Architecture and all its related disciplines.

Professor Gary Moore, Dean

The Alumni Association has decided to focus its 2004-2005 activities in two areas – fundraising in support of the Faculty and creating links between alumni and students. Along the way, we want to create social and professional networks amongst alumni and to provide a range of social functions to strengthen the bonds among us.

Fundraising must remain the central focus of most activities. No longer does the federal government provide all of the funding to run the Faculty. Capital works, such as the recently opened Stage 2 Wilkinson Building improvements, now require the support of alumni. On our “to do” list are further stages of improvements and façade maintenance. Our target for the next few years is well over $1 million – a brave but necessary goal if we are to ensure acceptable facilities for our students in the short term.

To kick off the new round of fund raising activities, the Association is holding a series of evening drinks at the offices of members. If you would like to participate, please call Michael Neustein (9387 1333 or mn@nrp.net.au) for an invitation.

The expertise and experience of members will shortly be called upon with invited alumni being asked to provide a mentoring service for BArch students completing their
major integrative final year project towards the end of Semester 2 this year. The mentoring program, devised with Faculty staff, will supplement the normal teaching program. Mentors will be available beyond the normal hours so that students can get answers to urgent questions when they need them – even late at night.

Graduate and student employment is as important an issue for the profession as for students themselves. To create opportunities for Association members and other interested employers to meet graduates and students, a Jobs Market Day is to be held on 24 August 2004. If your firm has not received an invitation to participate, please email Varoujan Bedrossian at varoujan@shavar.com.au.

Presenting firms will each have a stall at which they can display material advertising their work. Our hope is to establish the market day as an annual event.

To help us increase the level of communication between members and the Association, we ask all members to advise us of their preferred email address (alumniWnrp.net.au and to lisa@arch.usyd.edu.au). As printing costs remain our largest expense, we are keen to change over to an email newsletter for better and more frequent communications.

Michael Neustein, BArch '71, President

Alumni Association JAL Prize

From left to right: Mr Michael Neustein (BArch '71), AAA President, Mr Raymond & Ms Fran Hudson, Mr Yoichiro Oda, Regional Sales & Marketing Manager, Japan Airlines, The Dean, Professor Gary Moore, Mr Masaaki Ikeda, AAA Vice President (MTCP '78), Professor Tom Heneghan and Ms Sharon Toohey, Supervisor, Marketing, Japan Airlines.

On 13 January 2004 the President of the Architecture Alumni Association, Mr Michael Neustein (BArch ’71) presented our alumnus, Mr Raymond Hudson [BSc(Arch) ’75, BArch ’78], with the Alumni Association Prize of one return ticket to Japan. Raymond Hudson was the recipient of the JAL draw of all contributors to the 2003 Wilkinson Building Development Fund. We thank Japan Airlines for donating the prize.

Congratulations to our alumnus, Mr John Curdie OAM (Dip TCP '67) who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the recent Australia Day Honours List for service to the surveying profession as an administrator and educator and to the community.

We invite all alumni of the Faculty – domestic and international – architecture, planning, design computing and our many other newer degrees – to submit information of interest about yourselves and about your alumni friends or colleagues. Please address all information to the Editor at the Faculty (address on back cover).

In Memoriam

The Faculty and the Alumni Association extend our sincere condolences to family and friends of the following alumni who have sadly passed away:

- Philomena Elizabeth Murphy, BSc(Arch) ’78 – passed away 2004.
2004 Wilkinson Lecture

The sixth Wilkinson Lecture will be delivered by Peter Wilson in the Great Hall at a time to be announced in October 2004.

Peter Wilson was born in Melbourne, graduated from London’s Architectural Association School of Architecture, and currently practises in Munster, Germany, with his wife and partner Julia Bolles. The practice Bolles-Wilson was established in the early 1980s when they were awarded first prize in the competition for the new Central Library of Munster, and the practice has subsequently developed with innumerable other competition wins, including, most recently, for the new Luxor Theatre in Rotterdam. Peter Wilson is one of the AA generation that produced Zaha Hadid, Will Alsop, Rem Koolhaas, Ron Arad and also Professor Tom Heneghan, who considers Wilson to be perhaps the most enduringly significant architect of this group.

Thursday Night Lectures 2004

March

Now in their tenth year, the 2004 Thursday Night Lectures have been dedicated to celebrating the Year of the Built Environment: Imagining the Future. During the March semester there were seven public lectures. Alumnus Andrew Andersons (BArch ’64) began with an excellent discussion of theatre design and the new Sydney Theatre. Other speakers included this year’s RAIA Gold Medallist, Greg Burgess, co-hosted with the RAIA, Space Syntax’s Martin Butterworth, Belgian planner Louis Albrechts and Californian architect and writer Lisa Findley.

Winter

This semester’s Thursday Night Lectures will profile academic and professional thinking about directions in research, teaching and practice and address the Year of the Built Environment’s goal of Imagining the Future. The aim of the series is to stimulate debate amongst academics, students, professionals and the wider community about our fields and their futures.

August 19

Contact Zone: The Biennale and Architecture
Dr. Charles Merewether, 2006 Sydney Biennale Director

August 26

Computers and Design Creativity
Professor John Gero, Faculty of Architecture

September 2

Smart Buildings and the Digital World
Professor Mary Lou Maher, Dr Andrew Vande Moere and Dr Kirsty Beilharz, Faculty of Architecture

September 9

The Culture of Building
John McAslan, John McAslan + Partners, UK

September 23

Ancient Rome in the Eyes of the Beholder:
Professor Diane Favro, Architecture & Urban Design, UCLA

Virtual Reality Models and Academia
Professor Gary Moore, Associate Professor Anna Rubbo, and Dr Duanfang Lu, Faculty of Architecture

October 7

Future House: Imagining the Future
Chris Johnson, Adjunct Professor and NSW Government Architect

October 14

Society, Behaviour and the Built Environment: Environment. Behaviour and Society
Professor Gary Moore, Associate Professor Anna Rubbo, and Dr Duanfang Lu, Faculty of Architecture

Alumni wishing to be on the TNL mailing list should email Lisa Campano at lisa@arch.usyd.edu.au Short summaries of lectures and information about the speakers are emailed the week before lectures.

No Charge

Time: 6-8pm

Place: Lecture Theatre 1, level 2
Wilkinson Building, 148 City Rd
Inquiries: 9351 2771 or http://www.arch.usyd.edu.au see Alumni, News & Coming Events.

Series coordinator: Associate Professor Anna Rubbo.

Tuesday Flicks Plus
Events

Second Semester 2004
3 August – Film
Gaudi’s Shadows
10 August – Film
Fallingwater: A Conversation with Edgar Kaufmann Jnr.
17 August – Film
Mies
24 August – Film
Aalto: Technology & Nature
31 August – Film
Le Corbusier
7 September – Film
Louis Kahn – Silence & Light
14 September – Film
Peter Eisenman: Making Architecture Move
21 September – Film
Steven Holl: The Body in Space
5 October – Film
Bernard Tschumi: Architect & Theorist
12 October – Film
Renz Piano – Piece by Piece
19 October – Film
Tadao Ando
26 October – Film
Touch the Earth Lightly: The Life & Work of Glenn Murcutt
No Charge

Time and Place: 1:00pm-2pm (unless otherwise stated)
Architecture Lecture Theatre 1, Level 2
Wilkinson Building, 148 City Rd

Exhibitions

Second Semester 2004
9-31 July
Astrid Spielman
Thinking of Venice and Other Videos

6-28 August
Elizabeth Day
‘Notes on the Castle’
Installation and Media Art

3-25 September
Margaret Seymour
Virginia Hilyard
‘Corridor Project’
Multi-media installation

1-23 October
Charles Cooper
Nicole Ellis
Paintings and Sculptural Installation

The Tin Sheds Gallery

Frank Lloyd Wright Portfolios

Selected drawings from the three volumes of the recently acquired Frank Lloyd Wright Portfolios containing drawings of projects and built work (1890-1959) will be on display in the level 3 display cases in Fisher Library until November 5, 2004.

TIN SHEDS GALLERY
148 City Road
11-5pm Tuesday to Saturday
tinsheds@arch.uysd.edu.au

Director: Ms. Jan Fieldsend
Alumni Change of Address/Details:

Please let us know if you have changed address, telephone number or e-mail, so that we can keep in contact and advise you of upcoming alumni events, lectures and other information. We especially need your current email address.

Please complete the following information and return to:
Lisa Campano, Alumni Coordinator
Faculty of Architecture
Wilkinson Building G04, Room 458
University of Sydney NSW 2006
Tel:(02) 9351 5906  Fax:(02) 9351 5665  E-mail:lisa@arch.usyd.edu.au

Name: 
Degree & Year: 
New Address: 
Tel:  Fax:  E-mail:  

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Lisa Campano, Editor
Ricardo Gutierrez, Designer
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