

Graduate Research Conference

Candidate Abstracts

MASTERS AND PHD WORK IN PROGRESS REVIEWS

Research candidates from Architecture, Landscape
Architecture, Fashion, Industrial Design, Interior
Design, Communication Design, SIAL, UAL & CFD.

GUEST LECTURES

Mark Goulthorpe Fri 6:30pm, 8.11.68
Bill Fox Fri 7:30pm, 8.11.68
Ashley Schafer Mon 6:30pm, 8.11.68

June 6 -9

RMIT
Building 8
Levels 11 & 12.



Graduate Research Conference June 2008

Book launches

Friday 6th June, 5.30pm, Building 8, Lvl 11.

AD Interior Atmospheres. Author Julieanna Preston

Asian Alterity. Author William Lim

Fluctuating Borders: Speculations about memory and emergence.

Authors Rosalea Monacella and Sue Anne Ware

Candidate Abstracts

Masters Candidates		3
Elizabeth Anya-Petrivna	Master of Arts (Fashion)	3
Michael Bouteloup	Master of Architecture	3
Chaya Bratoeva	Master of Landscape Architecture	4
Roberto Bruzzese	Master of Design (Communication Design)	4
Raed A Dawood	Master of Landscape Architecture	4
Paola Di Trocchio	Master of Arts (Fashion)	5
Hang (Harry) Du	Master of Landscape Architecture	5
Alison Gwilt	Master of Arts (Fashion)	6
Winnie Ha	Master of Arts (Fashion)	6
Djurdjica Kesic	Master of Arts (Interior Design)	6
Diana Klein	Master of Arts (Fashion)	7
Garth Lien	Master of Architecture	7
Christian López Pimienta	Master of Design (Industrial design)	8
Janine Parker	Master of Architecture	8
Liam Revell	Master of Art (Fashion)	8
Lynda Roberts	Master of Architecture	9
Susan Ryan	Master of Arts (Fashion)	9
Michael Sacco		10
Heather Saltmarsh	Master of Arts (Fashion)	10
Caroline Sato	Master of Arts (Fashion)	11
Robert Simeoni	Master of Architecture	11
Hellen Sky	Master of Design (Industrial Design)	11
Adrian Stanic	Master of Architecture	12
Yukako Tomari	Master of Arts (Fashion)	12
Lin (Johnny) Zhang	Master of Landscape Architecture	13
Doctor of Philosophy Candidates		14
Charles Anderson	PhD (Architecture & Design)	14
Susan Attiwill	PhD (Interior Design)	14
Margo Barton	PhD (Fashion)	15
Ricarda Bigolin	PhD (Fashion)	15
Michael Bogle	PhD (Architecture & Design)	15
Jane Burry	PhD (Architecture & Design)	16
Peta Carlin	PhD (Architecture & Design)	17
Thomas Daniell	PhD (Architecture & Design)	17
Yvette Dumergue	PhD (Architecture & Design)	17
Miek (Michael) Dunbar	PhD (Communication)	18
Catherine Dung	PhD (Architecture & Design)	18

●RMIT SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE
& DESIGN

Dorothy Forster	PhD (Fashion)	18
Jerome Frumar	PhD (SIAL)	19
James Gardiner	PhD (Architecture & Design)	19
Beth George	PhD (Architecture & Design)	20
Neal Haslem	PhD (Communication)	20
Robyn Healy	PhD (Fashion)	21
Rochus Hinkel	PhD (Architecture & Design)	21
Dominik Holzer	PhD (SIAL)	21
Michael Hornblow	PhD (Architecture & Design)	22
Andrew Howell	PhD (Architecture & Design)	22
Russell Hughes	PhD (Architecture & Design)	23
Pia Interlandi	PhD (Fashion)	24
Elif Kendir	PhD (SIAL)	24
Gabriele Knuettel	PhD (Interior Design)	25
Anthea Van Koppen	PhD (Fashion)	25
Ngiom Lim	PhD (Architecture & Design)	25
Chelle Macnaughtan	PhD (SIAL)	26
Ross Mcleod	PhD (Interior Design)	27
Vivian Mitsogianni	PhD (Architecture & Design)	27
Nicholas Murray	PhD (Architecture & Design)	27
Tim O'Leary	PhD (Architecture & Design)	28
Jill Orr-Young	PhD (Landscape Architecture)	28
Siriporn Peters	PhD (Communication)	29
Liliana Pomazan	PhD (Architecture & Design)	29
Julieanna Preston	PhD (Architecture & Design)	30
Nurul Rahman	PhD (Communication)	30
Yael Reisner-Cook	PhD (Architecture & Design)	30
Judith Rogers	PhD (Architecture & Design)	31
Joanne Russell-Clarke	PhD (Landscape Architecture)	32
Qassim Saad	PhD (Design)	32
Tim Schork	PhD (SIAL)	33
Michael Spooner	PhD (Architecture & Design)	33
Nifeli Stewart	PhD (Communication)	34
Susan Thomas	PhD (Fashion/Textiles)	34
Cesar Torres Bustamante	PhD (Landscape Architecture)	35
Errol Tout	PhD (Architecture & Design)	35
Stephen Trathen	PhD (Architecture & Design)	36
Michael Trudgeon	PhD (Interior Design)	36
Malte Wagenfeld	PhD (Design)	36
David Wicks	PhD (Architecture & Design)	37
Drew Williamson	PhD (Architecture & Design)	37
Yun-Ju (Daphne) Shao	PhD (Communication)	38
Yao (Julia) Wang	PhD (Landscape Architecture)	38

Masters Candidates

Elizabeth Anya-Petrivna

Master of Arts (Fashion)

The Artificial Flower

This paper considers the popularity of the artificial flower in nineteenth-century colonial fashion and concentrates on its reception and manufacture in Melbourne during the economic boom of the 1880s. It will document and question the cultural fascination of 'sentimental botany' by seeking negotiations or liaisons with fashion through the wearing and making of artificial flowers. This scheme will also include an inventory of traditional European making techniques to assist with interpreting local fashion, importation and manufacture.

The making of flowers was a cultural fad and a leisure activity, a home industry and a sweated industrial practice. This research will explore the constellation of production, consumption, and design by plotting the careers of local practitioners, whose professions were reported in the fashion pages of Melbourne's 'society' newspapers, such as 'Table Talk'.

By privileging material culture, this paper will use the visual and material evidence of extant pieces in Australian public collections, historic print culture, and documentary primary sources.

Michael Bouteloup

Master of Architecture

Campus and Effect or Ways of designing incompletely, exploring architecture of the campus.

The campus as a discrete micro-urban condition of frequently varying parameters, allows only fleeting and incomplete architectural moments. This exploration is in finding ways of adding to a campus that might address a continuum, of evolving ideas and ideals, in constant operational contest.

The campus master plan is seen to be increasingly ineffectual as a contemporary architectural tool of the campus, reduced to a fiscal document, data projection, demographics and the whim of self-memorialising management. It is diminished in its capacity to remain valid as the variables are rapidly re-conceived in time frames too short for large construction phases. Hence the focus of this Masters has been towards implementation phase ('additive') projects and explores the notion that the campus remains in constant incompleteness. The research proposes strategies and tactics to uncover and engage with an architectural syntax on campus.

Chaya Bratoeva

Master of Landscape Architecture

Liminal Sites / Broadmeadows

This research explores my interest in particular kind of sites. These are places I have been drawn to when moving about. The sites I like are usually found within a bigger site. They are sites within a site. I find them in parks, old buildings, new and old industrial centres, shipyards, service spaces, amenities, shafts, tunnels, chimneys, caves and crevasses, libraries, air ports, busy streets and stations. The sites I talk of are both small and large. I have also come to understand that they are both real and abstract.

Such sites have been the subject of much discourse and have many names. I'll call them 'liminal sites' using a term coined by Nikos Pappastergiadis.²

I use film and the act of driving to translate the awareness of liminal sites into a different kind of design work for Broadmeadows, Melbourne.

Roberto Bruzzese

Master of Design (Communication Design)

Information for the graphic design educator:

The integration of research-learning environments in undergraduate curricula

This research poses the question of not what is design research and how is it useful but more importantly how are teachers adjusting to the urgent need of research integration in graphic design curricula and what may be alternatives for creating a research-learning environment? There has been much advancement towards the investigation of diverse methodologies and their relationship with practice and learning environments but there still remains a prevailing cloud on how to encourage process-led enquiries and deeper learning approaches in graphic design education. With the changing institutional environment, institutions may need now to review curricula and employ suitable methods of design research that could deliver deeper approaches to learning. These deep learning environments facilitate understanding and process in education and while they may not be directly linked to design research they provide a pathway for students to actively participate in their learning of reflection and process.

Raed A Dawood

Master of Landscape Architecture

To Develop an Approach which Appreciates and Recognise the Cultural Characteristics of Saudi Arabia at a New Seafront for the Southern Coast of Jeddah City

Saudi Arabian people are very attached to their culture and customs because of the influence of Islamic religion on the country's public rules. In Jeddah city, the second largest city of Saudi Arabia, developments need more consideration on dwellers culture to implement their demands and desires. One of these demands is the prospect of the city dweller to enjoy open spaces and utilize public activities.

For this reason, the recovering of the urban waterfronts is an opportunity to provide new recreational areas for the city dweller takes into consideration their unique culture.

This research project aims to re-develop Jeddah southern seafront by creating recreation areas and public activities respect and appreciate the Saudi social values.

Paola Di Trocchio

Master of Arts (Fashion)

BLUEPRINT FOR DESIGN: Pierre Cardin's toiles in Australia in the 1960's

Lucas & Co was a Ballarat manufacturer that formed an agreement with Pierre Cardin to purchase designs for reproduction from 1959. The toiles they received from the Pierre Cardin collections between 1960 and 1963 are stored within the National Gallery of Victoria's International Fashion and Textiles permanent collection.

This research paper will analyse the information that is captured within toiles. It will investigate the way the information was translated in the reproduction process and then distributed through the Australian market, and place this practise into an international context.

Hang (Harry) Du

Master of Landscape Architecture

Longscape ----- How can "Longtang" urban morphology be used as a tool of development of Shanghai.

In the last century, about 1920's to 1930's, Such houses appeared in Shanghai soon after the city was forced open to the West as a treaty port in the 19th century. Longtang was very popular in Shanghai city, especially in Shanghai downtown area, it used to be looked as one of main elements to guide a residential fabric of urban life and form a unique Longtang culture in Shanghai urban development. It was the most typical of the urban culture of modern Shanghai and is a precious legacy endowed to Shanghai by the history.

With the shifting context and ongoing development of Shanghai, most longtang will be replaced by new buildings such like high-rising apartments, commercial buildings, hotels...The residents in longtang will move from downtown area to suburban according to the government policy which is 'moving out policy'. This change might be make the CBD area bigger and bigger. Therefore in my research, How can longtang morphology be used as a tool of development Shanghai is becoming practically and necessary to avoid the ongoing city for its urbanization. Longtang morphology will be adjusting with its shifting contexts. After I did the research of Longtang and finally I find there is still a chance for me to use longtang morphology as a tool to create and test some ideas for the ongoing Shanghai city. That is also why I call it Long-scape.

Alison Gwilt

Master of Arts (Fashion)

Sustainable practices in fashion design: haute couture, a future model?

Sustainable fashion: can the French couture houses become the drivers of change in a move towards a responsible fashion industry?

This research investigates the issue of sustainability and the fashion industry and in particular explores the high fashion / luxury market sector. Whilst all levels of the fashion industry continue to produce market driven and disposable goods the research aims to highlight ways in which the luxury fashion producer might move towards the manufacture of responsible fashion products. A significant purpose of this research is an investigation of the impact and influence that French high fashion can have in advocating sustainable fashion practices.

Winnie Ha

Master of Arts (Fashion)

The Breathing Dress

The Breathing Dress speculates the relationship between the body and dress through sound. It traces the intimacies within the act of dressing by catching the sound between body and dress, the primacy of experience and resonance of which is as gripping as it is impalpable.

The research is unfolding through a series of interdisciplinary projects where performance, sound design, dress-making, and installation practice meet in curious and indeterminate ways, and where projects emerge and are realised depending on the constitution of elements – people, spaces, briefs, and modes of output.

The Breathing Dress dips into the evocative and almost ungraspable moments between body and dress through sound, which, like breath, are at once instantaneous and ephemeral, real and poetic, and thoroughly physical yet seemingly absent.

Djurdjica Kesic

Master of Arts (Interior Design)

Making Mobile

This research stems from questions surrounding a migrant experience in relation to home and belonging. It is attempting to observe deeper the ideas of how a migrant sees, negotiates and experiences the sense of place, belonging and the 'at home'. What does home represent in a state of migranhood?

The notion of migration uncovers a type of spatial relations that are defined by movement from a place to a place so where does 'home' and the 'at home' reside in these kinds of spatial relations?

Diana Klein

Master of Arts (Fashion)

Intimate Habitat

Imagine that fibres and clothing made from them were inexorably linked to our physiological and psychological well-being.

Is there a relationship between our physical and mental health and the clothes we wear?

Do fibres that we come into contact with daily and the fabrics made from them protect us or are they really a hostile environment?

Can we selectively use fibres to inform sustainable and inclusive design outcomes?

This research proposes that a symbiosis exists between clothing fibres and broader feelings of 'wellness'. The feel of fabric next to the skin impacts upon the sensorial eg. the 'prickle factor'. It may also have an impact on the physical health of people. Both these concepts will form part of the discourse for this paper. However, what is more interesting and little known is the proposition that the clothes we wear, may affect how we feel about ourselves and the world in which we live. How do we feel about a fabric that is sourced from non-renewable resources and can we feel this dis-ease in the clothes that we wear? This paper will investigate the different tenets of wellness and how fabrics made from textiles in common use (synthetics, non-organic cotton) compare to natural sustainable fibres (organic cotton, advanced wool technologies, food fibres). It will investigate the cumulative benefit of using natural and sustainable fibres, if only because they make us feel better about where they came from.

Proposed is that the information gained from investigating these concepts will contribute to international discourse on the relationship between fabric and wellness, giving a concrete base from which informed, sustainable and inclusive design decisions can be made.

Garth Lien

Master of Architecture

How Landscape Produces Form: Actual and Speculative Terrain

My research focus emerges from the observation, realized both in design practice and literary study, that site specificity is not a major component in the development of suburban form. Drawing on examples from my own experience, and utilizing portions of Melbourne's northern suburbs as test sites, I will analyse the potential of landscape to produce form by modelling natural and human processes and systems as actual and speculative terrain. Based on a definition of landscape as the complex interaction between human, organic and inorganic processes over time, my research will address the disconnect between landscape and form through the analysis of these terrain models. The research will then be utilized to suggest design trajectories for current proposed development on Melbourne's outer fringe.

Christian López Pimienta

Master of Design (Industrial design)

JUGUETES: playful tools for reflecting thinking

The verb *play* acts as an inherent action in every human being by perceiving life with all the senses.

Juguete is the word for toy in Spanish, it evokes the act of playing, learning, creating and enjoying.

My project seeks to emphasize the role of *juguetes* as a stimulus to creativity, as well as to invoke curiosity by playful actions that lead to the development of knowledge.

Playing with analog and digital types of *juguetes* will create new interaction models such as tangible and multisensory interaction.

Therefore I will conduct my research through the observation, design and testing of *juguetes* (playful tools) in different contexts, to understand their role as fundamental actors based in creative thinking.

Janine Parker

Master of Architecture

The 3D Textbook

Modernist architecture could in theory be placed anywhere in the world and function at a comfortable level due to mechanical cooling and heating systems. Global Warming has forced the developed world into an urgent quest to make architecture use less energy. The reaction has been to insert and attach green gadgets to make the internal environment as comfortable as the mechanical cooling and heating systems. The occupants don't have to alter their lifestyle or take notice of nature and the environment.

In traditional Japanese architecture the occupants had to adjust their lifestyles and the building skin to make the conditions more comfortable. To know how to adjust the building to create the desired effect requires one to observe nature in detail and to know how nature and architecture work together.

An understanding of natural processes is completely foreign in our contemporary, urban lives and this could be rectified through education. Designing buildings that teach students about natural processes and to engage with nature in order to create a comfortable building creates a 3D textbook of lessons that last a lifetime.

Liam Revell

Master of Art (Fashion)

Making and decorating-the wedding cake-monument as a metaphor for fashion design

Investigation of the wedding cake and its history, methods of production and decoration acts as a vehicle in which to explore the tensions between ornament and function in fashion and to open discussion regarding the 'personality' of ornament. Wedding cake decoration is used to create spectacle and desire, though the

ornamental quality of the wedding cake is bound as much to an experience of ritual as it is to aesthetic fantasy. The associations between ornament and experience, as defined by the wedding cake, will act as a platform for an enquiry into the experience of ornament in fashion and how ornament can be experienced, and to determine overlapping relationships between the wedding cake and fashion; opening channels where exploratory approaches to the production, presentation, and consumption of fashion can be instigated.

Lynda Roberts

Master of Architecture

THE EPHEMERAL LABORATORY | Part 4 : Scaffold

The aim of this investigation is to establish a robust framework or 'armature' within my practice (*architecture, installation, curation*) that encourages a range of temporal engagements within the public realm.

Applied within the 'ephemeral laboratory' – a project based studio, this framework is tested against a range of projects and investigates how this armature could change the notion of authorship and present a different model for creative collaboration.

Susan Ryan

Master of Arts (Fashion)

Stylin' Up - Fashion in Australian Music 1970 – 2006

The thesis aims to bring the value of a specifically local perspective and immersed experience to a trans-disciplinary area, using a wide variety of primary and secondary sources. Moving beyond previous studies in music dress which are UK/USA centric, and set in the context of Cultural Studies, the aim is to discover what Australian rock and pop musicians wore and why, and the role of fashion and costume designers who enabled or assisted the musicians to create their public images through dress.

If Australian music didn't exist, what would we be missing out on? The thesis aims to reveal our musicians' dress as an essential aspect of our national design heritage and consciousness. It interrogates dress as an addition to, or extension of, the musician's creative expression through music, and the role in music of dress as transformer of everyday person to semi-mythical persona.

Michael Sacco

With the availability of new technology applications available to enhance the learning experience for a widening population of prospective students in the medical field, utilizing these new tools in innovative ways opens up the opportunity to reach a greater population of health professionals for continuing educational options and to further expand their existing knowledge base.

The intent of my doctoral fellowship at The Cooper Institute, a scientific exercise research organization in Dallas, Texas, is to compare the effectiveness of different preparatory educational methods for prospective occupational health students preparing to take the NCCA-accredited Certified Personal Trainer (CI-CPT) National Certification Examination.

The first measure of this multi-year study is to compare the exam performance of the students who chose to utilize preparatory educational instruction (either in a live education instruction setting or by computer-based instruction) versus a control group of students who chose to prepare for the exam independently.

If viable statistical differentiation is determined between the three groups, a latter step of this study is to compare the exam performance of the live preparatory education instruction model versus the computer-based preparatory education model to further determine if quantifiable differences exist with regard to instructional delivery options.

Heather Saltmarsh

Master of Arts (Fashion)

“If Life Begins At Forty, What Are You Going To Wear?”

An investigation of and design response to issues affecting consumers of fashion apparel for the mid life age range (35 to 50+ years) of the Australian women’s wear market.

Few Australian fashion labels conspicuously target consumers in the mid life age range (35 to 50+ years) of the women’s wear market. The study aims to identify issues of concern to mid life consumers and investigate their fashion interests, wardrobe needs and product expectations. Garment fit and aesthetic appearance affect perceptions of body image and self esteem in female consumers and influence fashion purchase behaviour. The study also seeks to identify factors affecting the design, manufacture, marketing and retailing of fashion apparel for mid life consumers to explain the apparent ‘gap’ in the market. These factors are examined within the frame work of historical and contemporary attitudes to age and clothing. By responding to consumer issues and industry concerns the project aims to contribute to the debate on how to address the needs, interests and expectations of consumers in the mid life age range of the Australian women’s wear market.

Caroline Sato

Master of Arts (Fashion)

Trendy Traditions – In the know about dressing in kimono.

What is kimono? It may not be what you think it is. The literature in English about 20th century kimono creates a different impression to what can be found in the recycled kimono market. In addition, the perception of kimono is different between Japanese and non-Japanese. I will trace the changes in 20th century kimono. In particular I will examine the way Japanese look at wearing kimono, or more precisely *wafuku*, in order to address the misconceptions.

This Research addresses the gap in research of the evolution of kimono within the 20th century, contributing to the field of studies in Asian costume, Japanese fashion, visual research and the expanding field of fashion theory.

Robert Simeoni

Master of Architecture

My research proposal arises from a reflection on a body of work that has been deemed to demonstrate mastery of my field. My research thus commences with a reflection upon the nature of that mastery within a selection of critical frameworks, it continues with the examination of one or more specific propositions about my work, pursued in depth and it concludes with a speculation through design on the consequent nature of my future-practice.

The research is conducted through the medium of design.

Hellen Sky

Master of Design (Industrial Design)

Borderless Bodies – the Cellular Data Body

The Darker Edge of night... its about time

My practice based research is to design human computer systems for the performance project *The Darker Edge of Night.. its only a matter of time.*

The project explores the electro physical dramaturgy of data sets produced by the body: voice, movement, and remote wireless objects, and improvised and known performative scores to orchestrate the synthesis of the live and virtual realms. The communication between the performer and the audience is, spoken word, image, movement, sound, light projections, spatial design, virtual worlds, integrated through interactive responsive multi - modal performance systems. The work therefore seeks to find a dramaturgy of interconnectivity between the performance elements and the

responsive computer based systems, thereby creating *a dynamic dialogue between human and machine*.

This projects connects the field of interactive performance, computer and cognitive sciences whilst offering other ways of understanding choreography and the transference of choreographic process and practices as a distributed, physically embodied and digitally connected system, whilst simultaneously privileging the body as data-physical-knowledge.

My research is advanced through inter disciplinary research laboratories with artistic peers from performance, culture sectors and real time audio visual researchers at tertiary centres VIPre (Virtual Interactive Performance Research environment – UWS) and WASP(Western Australia Supercomputing Program – UWA)

Adrian Stanic

Master of Architecture

My research proposal arises from a reflection on a body of work that has been deemed to demonstrate mastery of my field. My research thus commences with a reflection upon the nature of that mastery within a selection of critical frameworks, it continues with the examination of one or more specific propositions about my work, pursued in depth and it concludes with a speculation through design on the consequent nature of my future-practice.

The research is conducted through the medium of design.

Yukako Tomari

Master of Arts (Fashion)

*An investigation of the tween girls fashion market segment in Melbourne:
Opportunities for expansion and adaptation.*

This research aims to investigate and identify the current situation of the tween girls fashion industry within Australia particularly in Melbourne and examines the opportunities available to the fashion industry as it attempts to expand and establish itself in the Australian in this sector. The research is set within the particular demographic 'tween' girls, which is the age group between childhood and adolescence; define in this research between the age of 8 and 14 years old.

It aims to examine and explain how marketing strategies targeting the tween girls fashion market positions and represent brands and products in Melbourne. A Japanese tween fashion brand and business model will be used as a reference point.

The analysis argues the potential to expand the tween girls fashion market in Melbourne through existing brand appearance and establishing new brands available from overseas.

Lin (Johnny) Zhang

Master of Landscape Architecture

The missing link - An intermediate seafront landscape

This research will investigate the “missing link” in the domain of seafront landscape in Sanya city. By using ‘scale’ as a tool, the research will seek the connections between seafront open space and urban context at different scales. Basing on the problems lying in each scale, relevant techniques will be utilised or generated to fix the missing link, and finally an intermediate seafront landscape will be established to adapt to the transformation of Sanya city.

Doctor of Philosophy Candidates

Charles Anderson

PhD (Architecture & Design)

Ephemeral Architectures: Towards a Process Architecture

What are the consequences of 'process thinking' on spatio-temporal practice and associated conceptual paradigms or structures of thought? What are the consequences of 'process thinking' on the production of places, on the production of things, on the practices of Design and on their fields of operation? How can the thematising of process contribute to the design of the constructed environment as well as reconfigure the practices of design? Can a kind of 'process architecture' be seen emerging from such a consideration of process?

The pursuit of this research starts from a reflection upon a particular distinctive practice and develops with the exploration, testing and refining of these questions through a series of interrelated projects. This 'ecology of projects', situated within a wider discourse of relevant theoretical discussion and material practices, develops and articulates a coherent operational method for the practices of design – particularly those that address the built environment.

Susan Attiwill

PhD (Interior Design)

An interior history

The focus of this research is interior design and the production of an interior history to provide a platform for thinking about interior design in the twenty-first century. The motivation is to open up 'the interior' from current dominant notions of container and subjectivity which posit 'it' as a given and already existing entity and/or condition. In this doctorate, interior design is posed as an adjective/verb conjunction as distinct from a noun. As an action, the potential of interior design as a process of interiorisation in the production of interiors is emphasised. Research concentrates in two fields – philosophy and exhibition practice. The writings of Deleuze, Grosz and Foucault which address questions of interior have been pursued and have become 'a box of tools' to dig up deep-rooted concepts of interior and to develop new methods for thinking and doing interior design. Dominant and dominating phenomenological and Cartesian models of interior and interiority are questioned/opened up to re-pose concepts of interior in relation to exteriors. These concerns are motivated by a desire to shift from the centrality of the subject/individual to explore the potential of collectives/groups as sites of social and cultural transformation and exhibitions as urban and civic realms. The research is conducted through exhibition practice where the focus has been on the arrangement of matter in space and time, interior/exterior and subject/object relations, questions of representation and presentation, writing, craft, design, art. The gallery becomes a site of experimentation and engagement; and exhibition as research.

Margo Barton

PhD (Fashion)

Making millinery - redefining process and object

As a designer I use technology as a thinking device, as tool, material and environment. This project tells my story of what, how and why I use 3D digital technologies as a 3D visual diary to create and capture millinery ideas. Materiality in making is questioned, and the movement between the bodily and disembodied space gives effect to a unique corporeality which cannot be found in one space alone. The project traces the evolution of this project from the point of view of the millinery practitioner. The discipline of millinery is moved from referential to differential, research has transformed practice.

Ricarda Bigolin

PhD (Fashion)

Of technology, after tradition: Realising new hybrid process models for fashion design

The proposed research aims to establish whether a hybrid of commercial and academic fashion design practice models could accelerate technological uptake. The concept of technology will be framed in these models by pinning down the divisions between 'analogue' and 'digital' technology, and also the expression of technology in the form of 'technique' or 'tools'. The interest is in determining the lineage between 'concept' and 'outcome', and to unravel a chain of influence networks related to the use of technology in fashion design practice. The priority is to find sites of extreme creative potential, where projects can be posited within the intersections, overlays or singular examples in the practice models. It is intended that these will reveal the analogy between technology and fashion and aid in resolving the conflict between craft (tradition) and technology (innovation).

Michael Bogle

PhD (Architecture & Design)

Arthur Baldwinson. A Quiet Dissenter.

Arthur Baldwinson (1908-1969) is a pioneering figure in the development of modernist domestic architecture in Sydney. He is a founding member of the aggressive MARS movement that did battle with the conservative NSW Institute of Architects (later the NSW RAI) in the late 1930s. Baldwinson is a key figure in the development of the concept of modular housing in New South Wales in the pre-war period. His wartime development of the prefabricated steel Beaufort House with the Commonwealth's Department of Aircraft Production at Fisherman's Bend, Melbourne also affirms his role as an Australian pioneer in design and production of the machine-made house.

Within the early development of domestic modernism in 1930s Sydney, Baldwinson's Collins House (1938) stands out as an early modernist expression. His Geelong education, Baldwinson's friendship with prominent Melbourne modernists and long-term residence in Victoria during wartime also establishes him as the bridging figure between the practices of the emerging generation of Victorian architects such as Best Overend, Fritz Janeba, Frederick Romberg, Mary Turner Shaw and Roy Grounds.

Baldwinson's domestic design for the "Artists' Houses" series from 1945 into the later 1950s illustrates his refinement of a regional response to Sydney's challenging terrain. His commitment to a site-adapted articulated floor plan, the modernist materials palette of white-painted rendered masonry and extensive glazing is consistent throughout his career. Baldwinson's work, always restrained and economical, was celebrated in the architectural press of the era, the contemporary anthologies of domestic architecture and the popular newsstand journals.

Baldwinson's work earns him a prominent place in the development of 20th century Australian modernism. Following his 1932-37 British experience with Raymond McGrath, Maxwell Fry and Walter Gropius where he had his "...first experience at seeing a first rate modern house...",¹ he returned to Australia in the 1930s to foster the development of "The New Architecture" in Sydney. During the war years of 1939-45 he led the design development of the first true "machine-made" house in Australia. In his postwar years, Baldwinson's architectural practice initiated, developed and refined a regional response to the unique physical character of the Sydney basin leading directly to the earliest works of the "Sydney School".

Jane Burry

PhD (Architecture & Design)

Geometries and intuition in design space

This research explores the ways in which the designer's conception of the space in which they are designing is expanded through topological and non-Euclidean approaches to spatial modeling. It looks specifically for ways of understanding the complex limits or boundaries of design space when we work with topological relations over geometry that is essentially Euclidean in nature. Topology is a development in geometry that shifts the spatial emphasis from shape and dimension to connectedness and the lexicological emphasis from measurement to place.

Peta Carlin

PhD (Architecture & Design)

'Semper's Glass Eye: The Conceptual Relationship between Mid-Twentieth Century Corporate Architecture and Harris Tweed, Generated by the Medium of Photography'

In the 1950's, with the advent of prefabrication of building profiles, the curtain wall was rendered ubiquitous and the multi-storey office tower, the skyscraper, became the icon of new-found corporate wealth and prosperity. The neutral aesthetic of the International Style was established as the urban attire in cities across the world. This research considers the surfaces of Melbourne's mid-twentieth century corporate façades in light of the latent image of the Scottish estate tweed. In returning architecture to its textile origins, this research seeks to contribute to our understanding of surface aesthetics in the generation of identity and place in the city, and the necessary role of collaborative praxes in its making.

Thomas Daniell

PhD (Architecture & Design)

Cultivating Context

How does architecture relate to context (in the widest sense)? At an abstract level, this is about generating unique architectural spaces by translating the immanent organization of a given locale into architectural form. At a more concrete level, I am interested in ways of integrating and modulating the relationships between exterior and interior spaces.

I am developing this in three parallel directions:

1. Dealing with historical physical substance (renovation, addition)
2. Architecture specifically designed to allow for change (growth, seasonal and climatic adjustment)
3. Extrapolation of new spatial organizations from cultural and physical contexts (interpretation and translation)

Yvette Dumergue

PhD (Architecture & Design)

Surface Imperfections: and the spaces in-between

This research project is stimulated by what lies beyond the surface of the subject as an essence to be grasped or sought after through attempting to represent it. Inspired by the physical, intangible and esoteric qualities of surface sensibilities within natural and urban environments. I am intrigued with the notion of surface as a concealing utility, in continuous transformation and of possessing infinite potential. It is these intimate spaces, the interstitial space, which I am particularly interested in as the place of content.

The dialect between the spatial possibility, materiality, and practice of making emerges through the abstraction of sculptural works.

Miek (Michael) Dunbar

PhD (Communication)

Beyond Skin Deep: role of communication designer in the design of digital artifacts

This research looks at the practice of communication design within interaction design projects that are designing digital artifacts. It asks: What are the relationships in theory and practice between communication design and interaction design?

It aims to understand how communication design practice can contribute to and be changed by practice in interdisciplinary interaction design projects. In particular, it looks at the role of the communication designer in contributing to the design of experiences people have with digital artifacts and the aesthetics of these artifacts.

In this GRC presentation, Miek will be discussing the structure of his exegesis.

Catherine Dung

PhD (Architecture & Design)

Public space combinations

My research investigates the design of public space in combination with other types of urban development. It looks beyond conventional 'mixed use' development to propose the physical and operational combination of public space with other urban activities (such as industry and infrastructure), with the objective of creating composite entities that cannot be disaggregated. My particular interest is in the idea of combination, both as a noun and a verb. In my research, combination is the end state to be achieved as well as the strategy that is employed to achieve it.

Public space is commonly regarded to be separate from, and often a counterpoint to, other urban activities. My research questions this conceptual segregation and investigates whether better urban outcomes could be achieved by designing public space in combination with other urban developments. Can we make "public space + other" developments that, through combination, maximise the potential of the constituent parts? Can the amenity of public space be improved by developing it in combination with other urban developments? Can the 'other' component of the combination also be improved by virtue of being combined with public space? What new situations and opportunities arise from combining?

Dorothy Forster

PhD (Fashion)

Influence of Garment Design on Elite Athlete Cooling

This project researches how garment design and construction can optimize elite athletes cooling garments across a wide number of athlete requirements including cooling efficiency, wearability (static and dynamic), comfort and aesthetic appeal.

High endurance sports in hot and humid conditions are detrimental to both performance and athletes themselves. This has led to an increasing interest in reducing thermal stresses including the use of personal cooling garments. The design of such garments requires addressing a number technical and human

interface demands. Here this project examines the design requirements for effective athlete cooling based on PCM media recognising the complex heat transport and moisture management processes required within an active cooling garment. The layout and assembly of prototype PCM garments were subsequently optimized in tests in thermally stressful environments. The final prototype PCM garment design achieved overall cooling performance comparable to conventional ice vests although containing about half their cooling capacity by avoiding the associated detrimental aspects of ice usage.

Jerome Frumar

PhD (SIAL)

Code to Craft: Finding form in the Age of Information Technology

Means of producing architecture is undergoing a radical process of redefinition and reinvention as information technologies are being utilised in a fundamentally transformative way. Contemporary western architecture inhabits a space between the sciences and the humanities; the physiological and the phenomenological. On the one hand there are mechanical and functional requirements and on the other, social, cultural and aesthetic considerations. This research considers the energies, forces and rhythms that shape the physical world and asks how they can be integrated into the process of design? What opportunities do digital tools afford architecture and can they be used to develop a holistic design approach that negotiates mechanical requirements and phenomenological conditions at an early stage of the design process?

A number of canonical structures by architect/engineers (such as Felix Candela, Heinz Isler, Antoni Gaudi and Frei Otto) illustrate that a physics-based search space supports design development that questions and extends phenomenological boundaries while necessarily conforming to the requirements of real-world constructability. A series of projects seek to relate and negotiate spatial, perceptual and cultural parameters with pattern, process and form through an iterative simulation-based approach to the modulation of forces and energy present in the physical world.

James Gardiner

PhD (Architecture & Design)

Freefab – rapid manufacturing applied to the construction industry

How can current technological developments in concrete ‘rapid manufacturing’, building Information modelling software and advanced construction technologies lead to the ‘rapid manufacture’ of a moderately priced apartment building?

This thesis will explore, by project led research, the emerging field of ‘direct manufacturing’ and its possible application to the construction industry. The research will seek to demonstrate the efficacy to the construction industry of the combination of ‘direct manufacturing’ with software based virtual prototyping and analysis with best practice off-site construction techniques. The research will be conducted in

collaboration of experts in related fields, using a series hypothetical building projects and case studies from parallel industries. Extensive background research has been conducted both in Australia and overseas to understand the current state of implementation of 'direct manufacturing' and software use. The findings of this primary research and will be used to develop a best practice strategy for implementation of these technologies and take advantage of design opportunities offered by the technique. A series of prototypes and assemblies will be fabricated, tested and analyzed by the interdisciplinary team. The research will evaluate the limitations and benefits of 'direct manufacturing' and create a foundation for future research and development.

Beth George

PhD (Architecture & Design)

scouring the thin city: an investigation into Perth through the medium of mapping

The Perth metropolitan region, one hundred kilometres in length and barely one hundred years deep, might be described as a *thin city*. A young city, and meagrely spread over low lying terrain, Perth in its outward march is a city defined by its horizon. Ten incarnations of Perth, borne variously from myth, suspicion and fact, allow for comparison between those real and perceived notions that inhabit the thin city. These are notions of Perth that seek to extract its ideals, its peculiarities; its delirium.

Mappings of the city region begin to expose variations in its structure and modes of habitation, and a prevalent preoccupation with the *reserve* – the unbuilt, the half-blue. Through an engagement with the thin city narratives, and through the collisions and frictions of site, design work conducted seeks to embrace nascent possibility and to lend to Perth the right to elaborate the terms of its own distinctiveness.

Neal Haslem

PhD (Communication)

Communication design and the other: an investigation into a socially-situated practice

This practice-led PhD research project commenced in March this year. The project aims to investigate Communication Design as a socially-situated transformative activity. Seen as a socially-situated practice, what do communication designers do when they design and how does this design activity affect the other parties involved? Do (in)consistencies exist between what communication designers say (and think) they do, and the effects they achieve? The above areas of investigation require an examination into the concept (and role) of the *other* in communication design practice. This project aims to investigate alternative models for communication design practice enabled through a repositioning of focus from the *artefact* to the *social* and from the *designer* to the *other*.

Robyn Healy

PhD (Fashion)

Striptease: Empty dress, disrobe and display

The research investigates the disembodied experience of fashion, through study, interpretation and display within the museum vernacular. Fashion is a phenomenon represented by design ideals related to newness and appearance, defined by temporal and spatial environments. The signification of fashion is interrogated through visual representation of clothing studied as objects, and associated community experiences activated via exhibition practice.

By looking at the spectacle of shedding clothes, the ritual of undressing and devices of abandonment, this enquiry interrogates the phenomenology of dress, to consider an empathic dialogue of wear in the museum trajectory. Through speculative models and the tactic of 'empty' or absented dress this research considers the notion of "worn" space.

Rochus Hinkel

PhD (Architecture & Design)

Nexus between Interior, Architecture and the Urban Field

Throughout more than a decade of experience in the field of practice, pedagogy and curation, accompanied by a practice of speculating through writing and exploring and testing concepts in a number of exhibitions, my practice has always engaged in numerous disciplines, spreading across furniture design and interior design to architecture and urban design. My practice has intertwined several of these disciplines in various projects, ignoring or overriding existing disciplinary boundaries by understanding the above design disciplines as one discipline. This research is based on the belief that a design should in the first instance reflect a thoughtful response rather than merely aligning with habitual disciplinary thinking.

Dominik Holzer

PhD (SIAL)

Integrating building performance between architects and consultants in conceptual and sketch-design stages.

There exists an information-gap in architectural design practice where work methodologies of designers and consultants are often not streamlined during the early design stages. Problems resulting from this information-gap are of social, organisational, communicational, and technical nature and they represent a severe impediment for designers to combine their efforts. The issue described above have become increasingly apparent in the past two to three decades for three main reasons:

- the increasing specialisation of professions involved in design projects
- the increment in speed and the change of the design process

- the recent move in the building industry towards performance orientated design

One fundamental underlying question in this context is if design is actually a social activity.

I examine the way building performance is currently being communicated across disciplines during the early stages of design in order to understand how architects and consultants can bring their expertise to the table in a streamlined way and make their input understood for common sense-making in teams.

Michael Hornblow

PhD (Architecture & Design)

The Body is a Wall: Diagramming the Body through Architecture and Performance

The Diagram is a powerful tool for organising content and modulating formal properties in the design process. Its use in contemporary and/or avant-garde Architecture may be found most explicitly in practices where a multiplicity of factors are given variable expression through parametric computation. In Philosophy, Deleuze and Guattari also discuss the diagram in relation to interiority and exteriority, territory, subjectivity, sensation and embodiment.

My doctoral research considers the intersection of the body and the constructed environment, as a practical and theoretical engagement between aspects of Architecture and Performance, using techniques and theories relating to the diagram. The focus is on contemporary and/or avant-garde practices that utilise diagrammatic or computational concepts and methods, as well as those concerned with states of embodiment, transformation and emergence. This project-based research is developed through several cross-platform mapping studies across Architecture and Performance, and through a series of my own performance, installation and video works.

Andrew Howell

PhD (Architecture & Design)

From Arts and Crafts to the Mediteranean – The Life and Works of Waterhouse and Lake

The Thesis covers the life and works of of the architects Waterhouse & Lake who practiced in partnership in Sydney between 1907 and 1924, mostly domestic work and mostly Arts and Crafts. (Lake died in 1924 and Waterhouse continued practicing albeit in a much reduced fashion until his own death in 1965).

Between 1908 and 1920, the architects had a considerable impact on the development of domestic architecture within Australia. Initial research on my part prior to selecting a topic for this thesis, indicated that, despite their considerable impact, there had been no real study of either their work or their impact on the development of Architecture in this country.

Russell Hughes

PhD (Architecture & Design)

Innovative Architectural Procedures that inhibit the onset of Dementia Related Disease: The Ageing of Aquarius, Alzheimer's Disease and Arakawa and Gins.

The anticipated bio-political and ecological burden produced by rapidly ageing populations in developed countries is a critical consideration in the planning of future urban spaces. With a massive increase in the rate and incidence of dementia related disease expected to accompany the ageing of the “baby boomer” demographic cohort, public and private initiatives that serve to displace this burden are of paramount importance. Laboratory research has revealed that “stimulating” environments are integral to promoting the retention of both long and short-term memory (Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2007), and the restoration and regeneration of brain tissue resulting from age related cognitive decline (Gage 1997). The architectural procedures of Arakawa and Gins, designed to yield emergent cognitive potential from the human body, offer strong therapeutic benefits to ageing populations in this context through an architecturally engineered nourishment of perceptual and somatic frontiers. This research is dedicated to producing architectural solutions that “procedurally” work to inhibit the onset of dementia related disease.

By necessity this project also examines the wider implications of therapeutic architectural technology to the wider bio-political context of society. Do we think of sustainability in terms of both ecological *and* human resources? How does Arakawa and Gins Reversible Destiny hypothesis speak to, and or is critiqued by, a variety of “crisis questions” (global warming, resource depletion and species extinction) that Reversible Destiny would appear to exacerbate? In what sense does their “*Declaration of the Right Not to Die*”/ *Making Dying Illegal* manifesto, that which seeks to initiate a legal/political “event”, come to bear upon and “cleave” with events of political significance? As architects how would they build surrounds that meaningfully make a difference to the way we understand our relationship to those less fortunate in the world, the “other” to which the best intentions of our liberal humanist ethics (and our *Making Dying Illegal* potentiality) fall pathetically short. This dimension of the research necessarily critiques Arakawa and Gins ambitions through a challenge to expand their hyper-utopian manifesto to encompass the more immediate, preventable forms of death (disease, famine and war), and to prioritise them as the only direct means or passage through which the initial Reversible Destiny claims may be made manifest. For most of the world the *Declaration of the Right Not to Die* still translates, tragically, as a project to stop the millions who die still by means of preventable disease, famine or war. This asks necessarily that Arakawa and Gins take a stand on death not as a playful, avant-garde provocation, for there is no “what if” if you don’t get the chance to make the choice “to not to die”.

Pia Interlandi

PhD (Fashion)

Dressing Death: Garments for the Grave

When a person dies and their body is prepared for burial or cremation, they are generally dressed in a textile fabric. This fabric literally and symbolically becomes a part of the body as it decomposes.

In the 21st century, funeral garments are typically not discussed until after an individual's death. Such arrangements are often rushed and unceremonious. Similarly, whilst there is growing concern for the wellbeing of our environment and those living in it, little attention has been paid to the impact of those departing from it. It would be environmentally ideal for one to exit the way one entered: naked. However, environmental interests are usually outweighed by cultural and emotional concerns related to garments and ritual.

The project investigates whether a garment can be designed to emotionally assist an individual in their own dying process, and also become beneficial to the environment once the person is interred.

Elif Kendir

PhD (SIAL)

Genealogies of Craft in Architecture: Learning from the Construction Site

In his essay "Translations from Drawing to Building", Robin Evans underlines the distinction between designing and building. Although this distinction seems to defy further explanation, the very nature of the divide between the design and the actual making of a building is a fertile area of inquiry. This research aims to come up with an argument for sustaining materiality, embodied knowledge and context awareness within the design praxis that is undergoing a substantial change in the Information Age. At this stage, it focuses on *the construction site* as an alternative domain where the opposing forces of globalisation and localisation can be observed in their full force until they are resolved in the final tectonics of the built form.

By focusing on the construction site as the locus of translation from the design to the built material artifact, it will be possible to question the area of possibilities opened up by the renewed interest in techniques and technologies, and to propose a framework for defining some tectonic strategies that might transcend the self-referentiality of the current architectural discourse. The argument is partly based on an ethnographical study of traditional stonemasonry; coupled with a historical investigation of the notion of *craft* in architecture that focuses on the impact of sociotechnical relations within the construction site on the formation of architectural knowledge. The presentation will aim to reconceptualise the act of construction as the facilitating framework for the development of an indigenous tectonics informed by the larger context of locality, materiality and relations - a site of deviation from the globalising thrust of latest technologies.

Gabriele Knueppel

PhD (Interior Design)

INTERSPACE : Spatial and temporary formation of sensory communities within interior environments

My research explores current issues of multi-sensory, spatial and temporal design in relation to social connectivity within interior architectural environments. In my presentation at the GRC I will discuss my research project titled *Kontakte* (contacts), which was recently installed in a site in Melbourne's inner city. The title of this project refers to notions of temporary connections and dynamic networks between people as well as multimodal interrelations within a site. *Kontakte* aimed to reveal, amplify and produce multi-faceted connections between people by means of changing the spatial dynamics of the site context. My investigations focus on strategies and tools that challenge interior architects/designers in their thinking and designing of social interaction, facilitated through tangible (material) as well as intangible (ephemeral) qualities.

Anthea Van Kopplen

PhD (Fashion)

SupermodernGorgeous! Approaches to the Poetics of Sustainable Fashion Design Practice

This research is by thesis and seeks to contribute greater understanding of the role of poetics in the practice of sustainable fashion design. The emphasis is on integrating prosaic sustainability directives with the poetics of intuitive sustainable practice for fashion designers in pursuit of a set of fashion design goals, two of which are social and environmental sustainability. The question this study asks is: What approaches should a fashion designer adopt in order to function within the arena of sustainable fashion design? The study explores specific understandings of engagement and place during fashion and industrial design studios, an interdisciplinary exhibition and my practice to explain the different forms of approach to Sustainable Fashion Design Practice.

Ngiom Lim

PhD (Architecture & Design)

THE STRUCTURE OF ARCHITECTURAL INNOVATION

Why do we innovate? What is the point of it?
Are innovators born? Or are they made?
Is architectural innovation an individual quest? Or must it be a collective pursuit?
Can it be born out of isolation? Or must it be an extension of a domain?
Is the structure of architectural innovation ostensive? Or is it necessarily intrinsic?

Mainly, is there a structure to architectural innovation? Or is it the result of architectural insights?

Is architectural innovation at all possible outside of context? Is it possible without the mastery of rules and activity?

These are some of the questions under inquest while testing and challenging the hypothesis that:

Architectural innovation is ostensibly meaningful. It is validated through context and launched from the mastery of language games and form of life.

Chelle Macnaughtan

PhD (SIAL)

[De]Bordering Indeterminacy

This doctorate aims to advance strategies of indeterminacy developed in music since the mid 1950s, within the context of speculative architectural projects and exegesis. Certain indeterminate works have been studied and argued in order to establish conditions in which design propositions might engage the two disciplines as concomitant fields of experimentation. It is claimed that these conditions become apparent within a comprehensive terrain of negotiated exposition, one that is not disciplinary specific to either architecture or music as conventionally understood. Furthermore, the principles with which this exposition can be identified actively engage both spatial and temporal distinction. While indeterminacy is understood and articulated in the PhD through the work of composer John Cage, parallel practices in architecture, including particular work of Daniel Libeskind, Bernard Tschumi and other architects, composers and artists, are examined as precursors for the project work of the PhD. A provisional framework for approaching the aforementioned spatio-temporal claims, and how they operate within work being addressed, has necessitated the construction of an alternative theory of use principally appropriated from Jacques Derrida. Derrida's work on time, *différance* and signature is particularly useful for the exegesis, and I treat these three areas as agencies operating across, through and within their application to my work. Additional yet alternative theoretical support to that of Derrida is provided, with requisite limitations, through Umberto Eco's writings on the 'open work' and Jean-Luc Nancy's recently translated work on listening.

Being completed in the medium of architectural design, the process of preparing this PhD involved carrying out certain experimental exercises attended to first by notation, followed by the use of representational techniques and practices shared by both fields, such as scores and drawings. In addition, processes of participation through models, soundscapes and exhibition, later performance practices, text scores, cartography through photographs, and a speculative architectural proposal, have extended the experimental corpus. Over the eight major and minor projects produced within the PhD, all have been exhibited, published and/ or presented internationally. Situated within an emerging area of research in architecture, music and sound, this PhD aims both at a particular consideration of indeterminacy and more generally to establish the grounds for further discussion and work in extending the boundaries of architectural design.

Ross Mcleod

PhD (Interior Design)

Between field and form

The research considers the forces, rhythms, periodicities, vibrations and energy fields that shape the physical world and questions how these may be identified and understood in order to inform the act of design. Investigating design methodologies that address the perception of form, materiality, sound and light as complimentary wave like phenomena, a series of design projects are being enacted that seek to elicit perceptual resonances through the manipulation of archetypal, symbolic, geometrical, physical and phenomenal qualities.

Vivian Mitsogianni

PhD (Architecture & Design)

White noise PANORAMA: process-based architectural design

This PhD by project is an examination of process-based architectural design undertaken through a reflection on my own practice and body of work. It offers an examination of one approach to undertaking process-based experimentation in architecture through which I have been able to reflect on a complex array of questions and issues that are associated with working in this way. This research enabled me to identify characteristics of my design approach that differed to the wider field of process-based architectural design. I propose that - in part - this has occurred as a result of both incorporating my critique of the field into my own practice as well as developing a series of parallel investigations which inform this practice. These parallel investigations are undertaken as projects which consider both the changing nature of the contemporary institution in Australia and the operative potential of architectural ornament.

Nicholas Murray

PhD (Architecture & Design)

"The representation and implementation of theoretical acoustic and spatial sound models for architectural environments"

With the exception of high performance listening environments, the aural experience of architecture is often mere artefact of a myriad of other design decisions, usually programmatic or visual. Furthermore, the language that acoustic practitioners give to aural space often seems limited to scientific description or the language of musical composition.

As proponents of Soundscape study and as analysts of the Acoustic Ecology, Barry Truax and R. Murray Schafer have provided us with ways of conceptualising the sonic environment in relationship to listeners. However, we still struggle to critically

position aurality within the academic and commercial practices of architecture, and the designs, built and otherwise that result. Hence, we continue to question spatial aspects of aurality.

My intention is to propose models for acoustic and electro-acoustic designs for architectural environments that might contend with these questions and potentials of aurality.

Tim O’Leary

PhD (Architecture & Design)

This PhD study will provide essential research to underpin policy enabling Australia to provide high performance urban housing within current and future economic and environmental limits.

The key objectives are to:

- Develop a greater understanding of both the up front construction cost and end user life cycle costs of modern Australian housing forms and their impact on housing affordability.
- Provide case study analysis of a range of energy and environmentally rated dwellings in order to evaluate economic costs and benefits and draw valid comparisons and develop new costing models for future benefit.
- Investigate and review, and make recommendation for improvement of Australian home building industry processes that are impacting on the market supply of sustainable yet affordable houses.
- Compare Australian house building practices and house building regulation with International experience and trends.

Jill Orr-Young

PhD (Landscape Architecture)

Inquiry, Reflection and Practice in PLACE

My research inquires into the philosophical development of the concept of PLACE, and reflects on aspects that have resonance for me as a practising landscape architect. Through Malpas, Seamon, Cameron and Abram (etc), I have found that a *phenomenological* approach to practice connects people and environment, fosters cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary dialogue, and bridges intuitive and intellectual approaches to understanding.

My research focuses on (and will respond to) 3 contemporary place-related themes: Reconciliation/Decolonisation, (Bio)diversity, & Reanimation/Reenchantment, through practice based in phenomenological inquiry.

Inquiry, Reflection and Practice are the key points in the cycle of development of my thesis. Each provides a point of entry into the continuing development.

Siriporn Peters

PhD (Communication)

Sustainable Livelihoods Approach and Developing capabilities of people with physical disabilities in Thailand.

This Ph.D. research builds on my previous research where I have worked on design based project with people with physical disabilities in the central of Thailand. These past project have had various level of success. However, It is not an enabling solution for the disabled people. Therefore, this research aims to investigate the livelihoods and the capabilities of physically disabled people in Thailand and the potential role and contribution of communication design in capability development through Sustainable livelihoods approach. The Research methodology is Participatory Reflection and Action (PRA), which focuses on Sustainable Livelihoods Approach, which enables the participants do their own appraisal, analysis, plan and action through participatory and collaborative networks. This research knowledge will be contributed to disabled communities in Thailand and other researchers in communication design fields.

Liliana Pomazan

PhD (Architecture & Design)

The Ramifications of Distance: Post World War II Australian Fashion

The research thesis will investigate and unfold the ways that the so-called "tyranny of distance" impacted upon the development of *couture* culture in post World War II Sydney. Professor Bernard Smith's contention that isolation is of little consequence will be used to show how Parisian design and the visual modes in fashion were mediated and adapted to flourish in a foreign land. What transpired was the regionalist development of local adaptation that expresses an Australian ethos and artistic code. One of the most exciting out growths of the post-war importation of Parisian design flowered in the work of the Sydney designer Beril Jents. Her collective work will be examined as a case study of the ways in which definable and distinctive visual codes, characteristics and attributes arose and developed in a localised setting. It will be established that Smith's contention may be applied to fashion design as well as the visual arts. The research thesis will give a detailed and defensible account of the ramifications of distance in post World War II Australian fashion and thereby throw a new light upon the regionalist growth of a re-emergent fashion industry.

PhD (Architecture & Design)

SHE-space: Furnishing Surfaces

My research project focuses on theorizing, conceptualizing and constructing interiors as sites inflected by feminist agency and site-specific situations. Within this context, I wish to develop an intellectual and creative position for interiors within the contemporary discourse on surface that considers furnishing as a generative principle for architectural design inclusive of building materials and technology that enable its formative and installation processes. Such intent directs my study across several knowledge and disciplinary domains such as feminist philosophy, landscape theory, geography, and interior decoration in order to address topics as diverse as “superficial”, “wilderness”, “lining” and “spatio-political activism”.

Nurul Rahman

PhD (Communication)

Looking inside/behind/through the print!

Investigating the roles of graphic designer in shaping Malaysian cultural identity through women magazine.

This PhD is exploring communication design practice through design research. It investigates and explores the designer’s involvement in shaping national cultural identity. An online forum has been used as a method for undertaking the research. I analyzed the responses to this forum in order to understand how Malaysian designers view their identity through their practices and educations. *In the search of identity*, I’m examining the collection of printed material that focuses on woman magazines cover (WANITA) and selected advertisements. Through this collection of material artifacts, I hope to identify whether there is such a thing as Malaysian cultural identity. This research intends to contribute to contemporary discussion about communication design and cultural engagement, its capacity and implication in the society and its influences on countries and local industries.

www.nurulrahman.com/blog

www.malaysianidentity.com/forum

Yael Reisner-Cook

PhD (Architecture & Design)

An Architecture of Aesthetics and Emotions

The ambition is to actively lead my design process by aesthetics and to arrive at original and emotional architecture.

My personal visual thinking and self-expression generate and lead my design process explicitly. Those create my architectural language, imagery, forms, and ambience. Arriving at an architecture with distinctive aesthetics that absorbed all circumstantial requirements implicitly though with responsibility.

I realized through the PhD study that I apply the visual thinking and spatial design to actually evoke people's emotions, so as to give them a pleasurable experience. My intention is to trigger people's memories of beauty [derived from nature], a condition I can control artificially within my design work.

As in poetry, visual poetic images might release people into reverie, the state of mind in which the eidetic memory is accessed.[as discussed by G. Bachelard.]

For architecture, I believe, aesthetics have the power to synthesise poetic images, emotional values, utility aspects, authenticity, self-expression, any circumstantial requirements , while giving coherence to the construct itself.

Judith Rogers

PhD (Architecture & Design)

Constructing the Sustainable City.

This thesis grew out of a feeling of unease with the way in which the concept 'sustainability' is spoken and written about in contemporary discourses about the future of cities. In most accounts 'progress' towards sustainability relies on individual consumers changing their 'behaviour' and learning to live within the limits of the 'planet'. The 'social' is reduced down to 'a behavioural stimulus-response mechanism' (Szerszynski, Lash and Wynne 1996, p. 4) which sits alongside increasingly technocratic, solution based, 'path of least resistance' approaches (like energy taxes) that effectively 'standardizes the problem and the human agents it encompasses' (Szerszynski, Lash and Wynne 1996, p. 5).

My aim is to examine the way in which claims about sustainable cities are constructed and then deployed. My initial focus is on the recent Australian Federal Government's House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage's Inquiry into Sustainable Cities. These documents will be analysed using an approach to discourse analysis based on positioning theory.

References

Szerszynski, B Lash, S and Wynne, B 1996 'Introduction: Ecology, Realism and the Social Sciences' pp. 1-26 in Lash, S, Szerszynski, B and Wynne, B (eds) Risk, Environment and Modernity : Towards a New Ecology Sage Publications, London, California and New Delhi

Isms of the Good Life in Greater Melbourne: Suburbanism, Utopianism and Landscape Architecture.

[U]topias are non-fictional, even though they are also non-existent.

- Fredric Jameson

This research is a collection and critique of models and modes of suburb production (their imagining, design and construction) as exemplified by Melbourne land development. The research question then is perhaps more preliminary than earlier attempts to ask how landscape architects can be better involved in design of improved suburbs. It is more accurately explained as addressing the query: How can the emerging challenges of suburban development and increasingly urgent and well-publicised contests regarding the identification and value of suburban form, be understood as design challenges in a continuum of design responses to equally contested ideas and changing circumstances for living a good life?

This research supports three related thesis claims: that the suburbs are the key environment of our times, that landscape architecture is the key discipline to approach and respond to an improved understanding of them, and that utopianism is the key attitude which must underlie any useful approach and necessarily underlies any response.

Qassim Saad

PhD (Design)

Designerly Thinking for Restructuring Social Systems in Current Iraq

Case studies have been selected to reflect designerly thinking and interaction with three socio-cultural fields in Iraqi society; those of the home, education, and industry. These fields have been the direct and indirect targets of many development strategies and programmes in Iraq over the course of the past century. Applying development programmes and activities elicits occasional local resistance to proposed changes and practices, mainly because they expose the fault lines between the traditional and modern domains. This is also a global phenomenon identifiable in many developing countries, certainly within the Arabic and Islamic world. Specific aspects of this phenomenon are:

- The politics of “development” as arising from a modern Western context;
- The intellectual crisis around modernisation in the Arabic and Islamic world; and,
- The crisis of heritage within the Arabic and Islamic context undergoing modernisation today.

Tim Schork

PhD (SIAL)

Form Follows f(x) – Re-engaging Computation

Facilitated by an ever increasing engagement with computer technology, there is currently a revival of architecture's fascination with computer programming in both the academy and in practice. When examining the past and current engagement with computer programming in architectural design, one might come to the overhasty conclusion that its only applications might be in either the automation of time intensive tasks, or in the creation of complex, or even just purely complicated, surface effects. So far the real repercussions on the architectural profession remain unclear.

Inherent to a computational approach to architectural design is the initial decomposition of a design task into discrete parts and to describe local and global relationships by explicitly defined sets of rules and parameters. In this research I try to reveal which values are lost and which ones are gained in this process of decomposition and re-composition.

By critically re-considering the relationship between the domains of architecture and computation, I attempt to explore to what extent the use of computer programming is beneficial to architectural design. I further try to examine how far it can go beyond the decorative towards a more holistic approach to architectural design, in order to contribute to innovative, novel and qualitative better design solutions.

Michael Spooner

PhD (Architecture & Design)

An Open Boat and Other Tales: A Clinic for the Exhausted

A dream play is where I come to find myself, at the edge of a reverie, between waking and awake, at once context and contextual; to find myself furthering an absurd reading of Edmond and Corrigan's Building Eight RMIT as a boat disenchanted with its ocean home; a ship as the reserve of imagination and hope; as a site of excess and the exhaustion of meaning.

What this project follows is the logic of nonsense, (a logic that takes care of the middle and hopes the rest will take care of itself) made manifest as a lucid collection of fond objects. Like the vigorous body of a sailor rendered delicate by a theft in the prose of Jean Genet, the figures at hand, are forced to touch, the result no matter how ephemeral, I exaggerate through a playful excess, filling the gaps that would have us believe that each part is unrelated, and developing its concerns into A Clinic for the Exhausted.

Resembling an alchemist who demands gold from nothing, this project poses a paradoxical genealogy that begs the question; what came first, the boat or Building Eight, the architect Peter Corrigan as a sailor or as a thief?

Nifeli Stewart

PhD (Communication)

Enabling Conversations in digital contexts

Management discourse has centered on the need for new business models with which to manage today's competitive forces, forces created from fundamental technological change and globalization. These new business models will involve greater appreciation and use of knowledge management and social software technologies enabled by the internet. This has significant ramifications to existing practices, communication skills, people's professional identities and management belief systems. As organizations increasingly rely on technology and dispersed teams to deliver their business objectives, how do we avoid the widely reported failure rate of new technology and change initiatives in general? How do human / organizational dynamics manifest through technology and how do we mitigate these when we haven't perfected co-located and face to face team work and processes? My research aims to understand these questions and to identify the systemic relationship between delivering business objectives (and sustaining new practices), developing the technological platform to support them and the use of dispersed teams. And, importantly, how the fields of interaction design, communication, and change management (etc) can inform the development of these new business models.

Susan Thomas

PhD (Fashion/Textiles)

Fashion, Sustainability and Buddhist Ethics

Do the ethics embedded in the fashion design production loop and sustainability design theory and their current applications serve the fashion industry, humanity, animals and the planet? Can Buddhist ethics offer potential guiding principles?

The thesis questions whether the current interpretation of sustainability design theory fits fashion. In addition it queries how well the current ethics serve or engage with fashion design production loop participants, or sustainability and inclusive design theory parameters.

The thesis explores the synergies Buddhist ethics share with sustainability, inclusive design, environmentalism, deep ecology, human rights, animal rights, and social justice, in this way constructing new parameters for the participants of the fashion design production loop.

These questions and propositions will be addressed and explained through a reflective analysis of the motivators and applications of sustainability design. A new reading incorporating the ethics of Socially Engaged Buddhism will be proposed for the fashion industry, from a designer's perspective

Cesar Torres Bustamante

PhD (Landscape Architecture)

Figure-ground: the temporality of landscape.

In the opening paragraph of 'The Expanded Field of Landscape Architecture', Elizabeth Meyer questions the frequent tendency of landscape architects to 'describe the world and their work in pairs of terms', such as culture and nature, city and country, public and private and so on. Binary thinking is more evident in the description and organization of 'space', where binomial relationships draw differences between inside and outside, solid and open, mass and void. It has been criticized as a tool for controlling power and making false dichotomies and hierarchies. Has the criticism of 'binary thinking' mined its capabilities as an organizational system? Has binary shifted from being a useful simplificative abstraction to simplistic?

This investigation re-formulates the relationships derived from binary thinking by using figure-ground as a medium for analysing binomial organizations. It offers an investigation into the temporality of landscape, an investigation that underpins figure-ground as a decision-making process as well as its embodiment as a drawing.

Errol Tout

PhD (Architecture & Design)

Spatial Visualization and Representation in Architecture - spatial communication through the use of sound.

This PhD commenced by researching the nature of architectural representation, how it has changed, and the manner in which it is currently undergoing change. It has examined the history of representation, and current modes of representation.

The future modes of representation indicate a compelling inclusion of technology, more specifically the use of the computer in architectural representation. In our scrutiny of current modes of practice, it can be observed how the computer can do what we could do before, only quicker. This leads to question 'what can the computer offer that we could not do before? One area of speculation is the area of sound as technology affords us many things we could not do before.

Can we use sound to tell us things about space [that images cannot]? This review presentation will present progress since the last review. The main thrust of the work deals with perception, which has been informed by reading J.J. Gibson and others. The presentation will discuss this and the idea of developing a vocabulary for understanding the aural environment.

Stephen Trathen

PhD (Architecture & Design)

Where to for Australian Industrial Design education

Industrial Design ...what do I know that I don't know

My recent research has focused on exploring the current changing and developing state of national and international industrial design practice and education while reflecting and comparing this to my own contextual environment within higher education, scholarship, and personal practice. I am developing a personal perspective of what I know and what I don't yet know within the context of understanding my own practice and the practice of industrial design and design education.

Michael Trudgeon

PhD (Interior Design)

Zukunftsmusik

This research by project explores the idea of delineating design practice through engagement with research and prototyping processes rather than by a defined fluency within a particular discipline or medium. By documenting the evolution and failures of a dynamic and unstable design approach, implemented across three projects, this research is testing the outcomes of such a strategy. Does this strategy engage with change and adaptation, both in practice and outcomes, in a beneficial or useful way?

A project review of practice and projects, historical and contemporary, has been undertaken to identify and analyze modes of operation, ideas and outcomes. This survey includes the project work and practice of Crowd Productions. From this analysis, gaps within existing practice and emerging approaches to an innovation or change driven practice have been identified. The outcomes of this exploration have been then tested in further project work.

Malte Wagenfeld

PhD (Design)

The Aesthetics of Air; The physical sensation and aesthetics of air and air movement within interior spaces and the objects or devices used to generate this

This project is an investigation into the sensual and thermal possibilities of air and air movement within interior spaces with the aim of creating improved environmental conditions for living and working.

A central premise to be tested is; would a simulation of the type of air movement encountered in a 'pleasurable' open-air environment be desirable within an interior space, and if so how this could be achieved?

The open-air environment is understood as an emergent system consisting of random high and low frequency air currents, mild turbulences, breezes and so on.

The project approaches the topic of air movement from both the phenomenological perspective; the experiential, aesthetic, sensual, poetic and philosophical, and from the physiological, scientific, and engineering perspective; the mechanics of moving air and the physical registering of this movement.

At the core of the project are a series of experiments in modulating / moving air via a system of devices within interior environments and the qualitative testing of the produced effect by individuals and groups.

David Wicks

PhD (Architecture & Design)

The Gesture is Everything

At the last GRC I suggested that new expressive possibilities should open up in my theatrical practice if I let go of rigid adherence to my usual method of analysis of plays for performance. This process of exploration has continued, and no longer do I feel bound by the 'neoclassical' model I have found so effective in the past. A new approach is emerging. The aim still is to find visual representation of dramatic structure that is useful in rehearsal and performance and that is mutually legible to actors and directors. I am at the mid-point of this process of discovery. In the current presentation I will reflect upon two recent projects that demonstrate this 'falling apart' of the representation of dramatic structure.

Drew Williamson

PhD (Architecture & Design)

QUANTITY / SINGULARITY

How can the integration of digital design and cost estimation processes facilitate the feasibility of architectural designs exploring innovative materials, technologies and geometries not readily reduced to conventional estimation?

Digital processes offer the potential for the generation, representation and delivery of non-standard architecture. A powerful motivator behind the research and implementation of digital processes in architectural practice is the suggestion that economies of scale and repetition may no longer be determining factors critical to construction economics.

However for this to occur, and consequently for singular and non-standard projects to no longer incur automatic cost penalties resulting from their inability to be reduced to simple approximations based on precedent and rules-of-thumb, advances in methods for informing the cost of projects are required.

Fundamentally, the nature of innovation in design involves the introduction of risk into an otherwise risk-averse industry. How can digital processes assist in mediating the financial risk involved in innovative design and address the question of what it costs (and how long it might take) to build something that hasn't been built before?

Yun-Ju (Daphne) Shao

PhD (Communication)

Designing the On-line Environment for Communication Design Studio Teaching

Following the development of e-learning platforms, virtual design studio (VDS) has become a new way of implementing studio-based design education in online environments. Most of the debate so far focuses on the learner's side with little investigation of the teacher's experiences or expectations. There is a need to consider the new trend of on-line activities and the integration of such trend and studio-based teaching for Communication Design discipline in higher education. The goal of this research is then to develop a set of guidelines for VDS teaching environments so that teachers' needs and experiences can be addressed. Mixed research methods will be conducted for developing the guidelines: theory analysis, observation, interview, and culture probes. Drawing on Broadfoot and Bennett's (2003) pedagogical guidelines, Donald Schön's (1985) theory of physical design studio, and Thomas Kvan's (2001) VDS theory, this research will first establish basic criteria from theory analysis. Based on the criteria, observation of teaching activities, interview with design studio teachers and culture probe into the insights of their teaching will then be conducted to investigate the current state of teaching practice. The result will be used for examining the design of on-line teaching platforms. Conceptual framework of VDS teaching environments and design guidelines will be suggested as the final outcome.

Yao (Julia) Wang

PhD (Landscape Architecture)

Our garden vision: the old, the new and future desire

The research is mainly about the previous and present park design practices in Melbourne and Beijing, focusing on the impact between different design emphasis and contemporary use in historic park.

As the development of urban open space networks, the boundary between urban park and other urban open space is becoming ambiguous. Nowadays, a single park may have many more connections with its surrounding context such as commercial, educational facilities, residential areas and entertainment. In another words, park design may involve an extensive complexity of development (economically, environmentally, educationally and socially, etc.). As a result, the park in the future might be a multifunctional area which is connected to other elements in the city physically and socially. Urban parks are convenient escape particularly for people to use. Both Chinese and Australian urban park designers and administration are concerned with people's use in the existing urban park designs. I would like to examine the previous and present urban park design practice in Melbourne and

Beijing, to compare the public perceptions, activities, uses and needs of historic urban parks in a contemporary context of these two cities. Four parks (two in Melbourne as well as in Beijing) will be selected as case studies with great details.

Furthermore, Melbourne's urban park network contributes the title 'world most livable city', I will consider Beijing's urban park network in regarding Melbourne's experience. In the end, I want to consider the characteristics of park form in the two cities, to provide constructive criticism and to explore corresponding future strategies of historic urban park for these two cities.

Notes

Notes
