“Bushfire sustainability: Strategies for reconciling bushfire and biodiversity with daily life”

Research Component

Little is known internationally on how the design disciplines – working in collaboration – might address the significant problem of reconciling two otherwise opposing management goal of biodiversity conservation and bushfire safety.

Employing the undergraduate design studio environment, herein the disciplines of landscape architecture, architecture, industrial design and interior design where brought together to develop strategies for reconciling bushfire and biodiversity and daily life. Principally the student were engaged in the design of residential inhabitations and subdivisions in known bushfire prones sites in two distinct ecosystems in Western Australia and Queensland.

This design research is significant because background research had shown that this interdisciplinary mix had not previously been employed to address this subject. Furthermore, in previous research of this kind biodiversity conservation has been a significantly lower priority than bushfire safety – here they were treated with equal importance.

The invitation to present the exhibition at the Australian Institute of Architects provides evidence of the relevance this research has to the discipline. Impact of the research can be measured by the ABC Television Stateline (WA) interview recorded at the exhibition in November 2010, which was subsequently broadcast on ABC News 24 and remains (until March 2011) on the ABC Stateline’s website (see below).