

Mediated City

Annual Review 2012

Front Cover: Lumens Festival, audiences view works in Ping Jiang Road, Suzhou, China, May 11-13, 2012.
Back Cover: Building 100 Level 10 Pavilions, photograph by Tania Ivanka.

The Design Research Institute (DRI) was established in 2008. It aims to build design research's role to explore the Cities of the Future and the problems and challenges of Urbanisation.

DRI is a unique location for transdisciplinary research collaboration. We understand that many of the complex issues facing our communities and industry require more than one area of expertise and discipline to solve their complex social, environmental and industrial challenges. A transdisciplinary approach to project based research ensures a range of knowledge, expertise, creativity and innovative ideas that are focused on a topic.

DRI brings over 100 university researchers and their industry, government and community partners together to access a broad spectrum of design thinking. Researchers from architecture, fashion, aeronautical and chemical engineering, business, industrial design, art, creative writing, games, communication design and new media form teams around significant projects.

The DRI Flagship Program takes the theme of 'The Future City' as its core research area. Projects are speculative and practical initiatives, applicable to the ways we live and work, create culture and communities, plan and navigate our world.

There are three flagships within the program: Future Fabric of Cities, Urban Technology Nexus, and Mediated City, each of which commenced in 2012. Mediated City originated from the Geoplaced Knowledge research stream, established by the DRI in 2008. The Mediated City flagship develops the work of the DRI through creative projects, events and research outcomes.

To read more visit:

www.designresearch.rmit.edu.au/programs

Mediated City Research Leader

Associate Professor Laurene Vaughan

Acting Research Leaders

Yoko Akama and Jeremy Yuille

Mediated City Research Coordinator

Laetitia Shand

Annual Report Editor

Tania Ivanka

Mediated City is supported by

RMIT Design Research Institute, School of Architecture and Design, School of Media and Communication, School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences, School of Art, School of Fashion and Textiles.

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Within this report

This report documents the 2012 research activities for Mediated City including symposia, conferences, workshops, exhibitions, prototypes, and scholarly outputs including books, book chapters, conference papers, presentations, and journal articles. This report details the research of Mediated City's community of researchers and inclusion in this report is not indicative of receiving financial support from the Design Research Institute.



Mediated City Flagship



Top: Design Futures Lab workshop.
Bottom: Design:Business – Booster workshop.

Mediated City is about designing artefacts that mediate the engagement between people and places. By artefacts, we mean research networks, archives, performances, visualisations, digital media and other things. Design is the mediator that enables participation of people to co-create artefacts and experiences to make intangible things, tangible. The research projects under Mediated City explore questions that traverse through various disciplines to create new knowledge. Here, design catalyses changes in people's practices to cross boundary domains, such as art, business, geospatial science, interaction design and creative writing.

Common themes under Mediated City are:

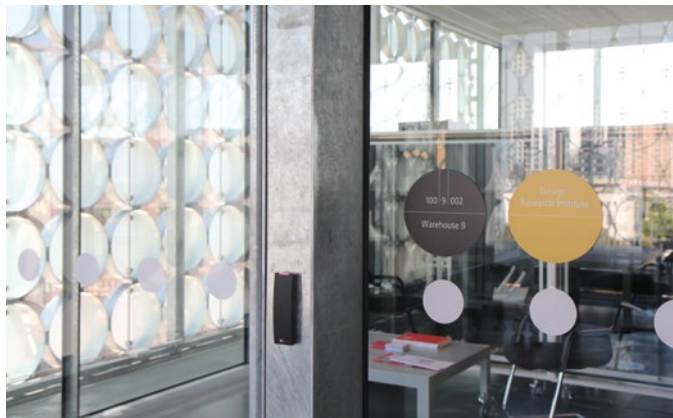
- Activating public engagement in social, environmental and political issues
- Creating spaces for dialogue and diversity
- Altering our perception and relationship of place
- Making histories accessible and meaningful in today's world.



Professor of Design (Media Ethnography) Sarah Pink

Sarah Pink joined RMIT in 2012 from Loughborough University (UK). She is working across the Design Research Institute and the School of Media and Communication at RMIT. Sarah is a global authority on digital visual and sensory ethnography methodologies.

Her work is often developed through interdisciplinary collaborations across design, engineering and arts disciplines to which she brings social and cultural research expertise. Her research combines theoretical and methodological scholarship with applied practice. She works across themes including digital media, energy, consumption, everyday life, sustainability, activism, tacit and sensory ways of knowing, safety and health and the construction industry. She researches across urban, domestic and workplace environments.



Moving to a new home in the RMIT Design Hub

In 2012 construction of the Design Hub (Building 100) was completed and DRI moved into its new home there, occupying Level 8 and Level 9. The Hub provides warehouse space for diverse and changing collaborative projects for DRI, a public gallery, longrooms, a lecture theatre, a multi-purpose room and rooftop pavilions.

Convergence: Transforming Our Future

*Exhibition Opening 2 May 2013,
RMIT Design Hub*



Above: GEElab,
Wicked Mobilities.
Right: Exertion Games Lab,
Hanging From a Bar.



The work of the DRI Flagships will be on display in the upcoming 'Convergence: Transforming our Future' exhibition. This will be the first major public exhibition in the RMIT Design Hub, showcasing world-class excellence in design research at RMIT. Mediated City will have a significant presence in the exhibition and event program.

Exhibition objectives include:

- Clearly communicating the diversity of DRI research – past, present and future
- Offering a new perspective on 'design research'
- Contextualisation through Flagship narratives – Future Fabric of Cities, Mediated City, Urban Technology Nexus
- Engaging and creating understanding through experience
- Celebrating past achievements while looking to future projects
- Having impact as the first major 'all building' exhibition at the new RMIT Design Hub
- Securing the public's interest in the Hub as a 'place' for meeting and being engaged with design ideas.

To receive exhibition information join the Mediated City mailing list. Please email: design_institute@rmit.edu.au, quoting 'Mediated City mailing list'.

Members list

Title	Name	School
Dr	Patricia Adams	Art
Dr	Yoko Akama	Media and Communication
Dr	Irene Barberis	Art
Dr	Marsha Berry	Media and Communication
Mr	John Billan	Art
A. Prof	David Carlin	Media and Communication
Prof	William Cartwright	Math and Geospatial Sciences
Ms	Jacqui Chan	Art
Dr	Stephen Clune	Centre for Design
Prof	Jennifer Craik	Fashion and Textiles
Mr	Simon Curlis	Architecture and Design
Dr	Lisa Dethridge	Media and Communication
Dr	Mick Douglas	Architecture and Design
Prof	Lesley Duxbury	Art
Prof	Harriet Edquist	Research and Innovation
Mr	Liam Fennessy	Architecture and Design
Dr	Florian Floyd Mueller	Media and Communication
Dr	Marius Foley	Media and Communication
Dr	Catherine Gomes	Media and Communication
Prof	Elizabeth Grierson	Art
Mr	Ceri Hann	Art
A. Prof	Lawrence Harvey	Architecture and Design
Dr	Neal Haslem	Media and Communication
Ms	Leah Heiss	Architecture and Design
Dr	Geoff Hogg	Art
Dr	Tammy Hulbert	Art
Ms	Tania Ivanka	Research and Innovation
Prof	Lyndal Jones	Media and Communication
Mr	Seth Keen	Media and Communication
Mr	Russell Kerr	Media and Communication
Mr	Jordan Lacey	Research and Innovation
A. Prof	Tania Lewis	Media and Communication
Research Fellow	Simon Lockrey	Centre for Design

Title	Name	School
A.Prof	Keely Macarow	Art
Mr	Chris Marmo	Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences
Dr	Maggie McCormick	Art
Adjunct Prof	Kevin Murray	Art
Dr	Sandy Ng	Economics, Finance and Marketing
Professor	Sarah Pink	Media and Communication
Ms	Rupa Ramanathan	Art
Dr	Dominic Redfern	Art
A. Prof	Francesca Rendle-Short	Media and Communication
A. Prof	Angelina Russo	Media and Communication
Dr	Philip Samartzis	Art
Dr	Kirsten Seale	Media and Communication
Ms	Laetitia Shand	Media and Communication
Dr	Kristen Sharp	Art
Dr	Patrick Snelling	Fashion and Textiles
A. Prof	David Thomas	Art
A. Prof	Cameron Tonkinwise	Carnegie Mellon University, Adjunct Professor, School Media and Communication
Dr	Caroline Vains	Architecture and Design
A. Prof	Soumitri Varadarajan	Industrial Design
A. Prof / RL	Laurene Vaughan	Media and Communication
A. Prof	Steffen Waltz	Media and Communication
Prof	Simon Watkins	Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Dr	Shaun Wilson	Media and Communication
Dr	Jeremy Yuille	Media and Communication



designing place

design for social
innovation



mediated
experiences

**Design mediates the
engagement between
people and places**



Wooriwyrite homestead,
Terang.

Colonial Pastoralism in Western Victoria: A design history 1840–1910

Research Leader: Harriet Edquist

Research Associate: Christine Reid (RMIT Design Archives)

External Associates: Belinda Probert, Timothy Hubbard

Research Assistants: Sue Wilks, Pam St Leger, Ashley Mackey,
RMIT students: Timothy Heron, Emile Clare, Michael Stowe,
Anna O'Toole, Josh Bucknall, Nicholas van Lierop, Oana Chirvase,
Alice McDonald

Organisational collaborators

Research and Innovation

Architecture and Design

Australian Garden History Society

Project description

This project aims to reveal the making of the cultural landscapes of the Western District of Victoria by examining the early history of its settler properties, the land on which they were established and their development over seventy years (1840–1910).

The methodology includes a survey (including site visits) of approximately 220 homesteads, gardens and associated designed landscapes resulting in a catalogue; digital mapping of their relationship to regional landscape formations such as volcanic cones,

rivers, lakes or lava flows; selected in-depth case studies; discursive essays; and digital visualisations of homesteads and sites. The outcome of the four-year research project will be a publication, website and exhibition.

Grant

Australian Garden History Society Grant \$6,000.

Conference paper

Edquist, H & Reid, C 2012, 'Colonial pastoralism in western Victoria. A design history 1840–1910', Paper presented at *AGHS annual conference*, Ballarat, 10 November.

Digital modelling

Digital map of homesteads completed with aid of the grant, Digital and 3D model of the homestead Chatsworth

M. Arch student research projects

By Tim Heron, Emile Clare, Michael Stowe, Anna O'Toole, Josh Bucknall, Alice MacDonald, Oana Chirvase and Nicholas van Lierop.

www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au



The Design Collective. An Approach to Practice

Editors: Harriet Edquist, Laurene Vaughan

Managing Editor: Laetitia Shand

Authors: Harriet Edquist, Laurene Vaughan, Julia Dwyer, Melanie Dodd, Karen Burns, Helen Stuckey, Angelina Russo, Katherine Moline, Robyn Healy, Lesley Whitworth, Jess Berry, Marius Foley, Sian O'Gorman

Organisational collaborators

RMIT Design Archives

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Project description

The rise of social networking and open-source technology, the return of community-focussed activities (e.g. gardens, knitting groups, food cooperatives) and creative collectives across the fields of design and the visual arts have reawakened the discourse around human capital, flat structures and collectives as a means for 'making' the things of everyday life. The essays presented in this collection illustrate an emerging field of discourse about the potential of the collective as an organising and generative community structure that links creativity, social change and politics. In this developing context there are a number of issues central to design practice, such as authorship, agency and aesthetics that are in the process of re-evaluation and critique. Bringing together views of practitioners, historians and theorists, this volume examines the etymology, boundaries and practices that the idea of the collective affords. 'The Design Collective' includes historical and contemporary accounts of design collectives from a range of disciplinary viewpoints. The book was released in September 2012 and launched at the RMIT Design Hub in December 2012.

www.c-s-p.org/flyers/The-Design-Collective-An-Approach-to-Practice1-4438-4027-0.htm



Rehearsing catastrophe: the Ark in Sydney The Avoca Project: Art, Place and Climate Change

Research Leader: Lyndal Jones

Associated Researchers: Jeph Neale (fabricator), Hilary Jackman (mask co-construction), Chris Knowles (sound design), Stephen Jones (video documentation)

Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication

Project description

This research focused on the expansion and re-contextualisation of a work created as a performance/installation addressing strategies of action through play for a catastrophe scenario for another, far more public site. Research focused on how to shift the 'action' from a house in a small town in central Victoria, with an easily identifiable community, to a massive joiner's shed on an island in Sydney Harbour with a potential audience of many thousands of people.

This research is part of *The Avoca Project: Art, Place and Climate Change at Watford House, Avoca* in central Victoria. This 10 year project works with artists, activists, scientists and townspeople to create images of resilience at the local level in order to contribute nationally and internationally to climate change adaptation.

Rehearsing catastrophe: the Ark in Sydney was shown as an installation and daily performance on Cockatoo Island, Sydney as part of All Our Relations, Biennale of Sydney 2012. The Biennale is recognised as an important international art event. Of the 110 artists invited, only 17 were Australian. The event was curated by Catherine de Zegher (Belgium) and Gerald McMaster (Canada). Over 200 volunteer performers took part.

www.avocaproject.org



Poetry 4 U

Research Leader: Marsha Berry
 Associated Researchers: William Cartwright,
 James Harland, Harriet Edquist, Sandra
 Uitdenbogerd, Catherine Gomes (January–
 July 2012)

Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication
 Research and Innovation
 Maths and Geospatial Science
 Computer Science and Information
 Technology

Project description

The Poetry 4 U project brings poetry into geographical places while at the same time occupying the floating worlds of social media (see Berry and Goodwin, 2012 in press). This allows the re-imagining of places, identity and reinvigorates our sense of place. Poetry 4 U involves community mapping of places with narratives that will help us understand how places are inscribed with narratives of identity, local references and rules governing social interactions. The mapping and spatialising processes will assist our understanding of how people's perceptions of places play out across the dimensions of physical, cultural and spiritual geographies.

In 2012 the research team was invited by the Pilbara writers' group to create poetry maps of sites in the Pilbara region that explore perceptions of place for the online Poetry 4 U site which uses Google maps to pin submitted

poems to poetry maps. The significance of this research is that it explores some implications of emergent forms of social software for literary studies and exposes how social software enables participation in creative practice communities.

Key outputs

Berry, M and Goodwin, O 2013 'Poetry 4 U: Pinning Poems under/over/through the Streets', *New Media and Society*, Published online before print December 5, 2012, doi: 10.1177/1461444812464470

Berry, M 2012 'Connecting Communities through Poetry: Pinning Poetry to Place in the Pilbara', Sotto; July 2012, *Australian Poetry* (<http://www.australianpoetry.org/blog/2012/07/25/connecting-communities-through-poetry-pinning-poetry-to-place-in-the-pilbara/>)

Berry, M and Gomes, C 2012 'Pinning Poetry to Place: Making Sense of Place in the Pilbara', paper presented at *Place and Displacement Conference*, Victoria University, City Campus, Melbourne, 21st – 23rd November.

poetry4U.org



Putting the city of literature on the map

Research Leader: Kirsten Seale
 Associated Researchers: David Carlin

Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication

Project description

'Putting the City of the Literature on the Map: Mapping Melbourne's Literary Cultures' is investigating how we can map a City of Literature by taking into account grounded, everyday practices of reading and writing as well as the established writers, institutions and texts that mobilize the public imagination. How do we augment the map with unofficial histories, counter-narratives and subjective experiences from the periphery as well as the centre? This project explores the possibilities of mobile mapping in the development of an interactive map and app where users can produce and upload literary artifacts in response to place. By bringing together place, literature and the urban in unexpected ways, the map's objective is to visualise and document the plurality of Melbourne's literary cultures.



The Stony Rises project exhibition opening at RMIT Gallery, showing work by Marion Manifold. Photograph: Lee Stapleton.

Stony Rises: Case Study for Reconciliation Victoria Aboriginal Resource Website

Curators: Lisa Byrne, Harriet Edquist, Laurene Vaughan

Project Co-ordinator: Laetitia Shand

Artists: Barbara Campbell, Lesley Duxbury, Ruth Johnstone, Gini Lee, Marion Manifold, Elizabeth Newman, Polixeni Papapetrou, Laurene Vaughan, Carmel Wallace, Kit Wise, Vicki Couzens

Organisational collaborators

NETS Victoria

Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation

Corangamite Arts

Arts Victoria

Gunditjmara Traditional Owners

RMIT Gallery

Art Gallery of Ballarat

Horsham Regional Art Gallery

Warrnambool Art Gallery

Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell

Project description

The Stony Rises project (2008–2010) has been selected as an example of best practice of arts projects that have contributed to the work of

reconciliation in Victoria. The project was selected on the basis of artistic excellence, local government support, and state government funding.

A case study of the Stony Rises project will appear on a new Arts Victoria website 'Maggolee' that is being developed by Reconciliation Victoria. The website will be used primarily by Victorian local governments and reconciliation action groups, and is going to be a 'one-stop-shop' providing information, case studies, contacts and other important information for the development of Reconciliation projects and strategies.

The outcomes from the Stony Rises project include a major touring exhibition and a book publication 'Designing Place. An Archaeology of the Western District' published by Melbourne Books.

thestonyrisesproject.com

www.melbournebooks.com.au/designing-place.html

www.reconciliationvic.org.au



The Circus Oz Living Archive: developing a model of online digital engagement for the performing arts

ARC Linkage Project 2010–2013 (LP100200118)

Lead Investigator: David Carlin

Research Team: Laurene Vaughan, Adrian Miles, Jeremy Yuille,
Laetitia Shand, Reuben Stanton, James Thom, Lukman Iwan, Peta Tait

Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication
Computer Science
La Trobe University
Circus Oz
Australian Research Council (ARC)
Deloitte Digital
Victorian Arts Centre Trust
Australia Council for the Arts

Project description

The Circus Oz Living Archive project is prototyping and evaluating a 'living archive' built from the digitised Circus Oz video collection of recordings over 30 years of performances, rehearsals, TV commercials and interviews. The Circus Oz Living Archive is conceived as a shared online space for creative dialogue on the history and artistic future of Circus Oz. The project researches how digital technologies can help the performing arts employ their documented cultural heritage to drive innovations in repertoire development, performance scholarship and audience interaction. The online 'living archive' will be released to the public in early 2013.

Invited speaker

Tait, P 2012, 'The Critique of Circus Arts' (Comment Critiquer les arts du Cirque). *Fresh Circus #2: European Seminar on Sustainable Development of Circus Arts*, Parc et Grande Halle de la Villette, Paris, 12–13 April.



Conference presentations

Carlin, D 2012, 'Autobiography of a Circus: Circus Oz Living Archive Project', *8th Biennial International Auto/Biography Association (IABA) Conference*, Canberra, 17–20 July.

Miles, A 2012, 'Affect and the Objects of Robert Croma's Web Cinema', *Beyond Slowness*, RMIT University, Melbourne, 2 July.

Miles, A 2012, 'Digital Materiality: Porousness, Granularity, Facets', *Digital Documentary Symposium*, ANU, Canberra, 18 December.

Miles, A 2012, 'Nonfiction Assemblage Engines' Paper presented at the *Nonfictionnow*, RMIT University, Melbourne, 22 November.

Miles, A 2012, 'Two Speculations on Materiality, the Digital and Allure', *Textobjecttext Symposium*, LaTrobe Uni, Melbourne, 28 November.

Miles, A 2012, 'Emerging Practices', *Visible Evidence XIX*, ANU, Canberra, 19 December.

Vaughan, L 2012, 'designing, juggling, balancing and performing: the Circus Oz Living Archive Collaboration', *Collaboration in Experimental Design Research Symposium*, in the proceedings of Red Objects – School of Design Studies, College of Fine Arts, UNSW, August 5th–6th, 2011

Major Circus Oz community events and workshops

Community Launch Event, Circus Oz Mezzanine, 2 May 2012

Champions Day, RMIT University, 18 November 2012 <http://www.circusarchive.net/blog/2012/11/champions-day/>

Circus Oz living archive site

<http://archive.circusoz.com/>

Blog

<https://sites.google.com/site/circusarchive/>

Zotero public bibliography

www.zotero.org/groups/28062



Enabling communities: community-based innovation, designing for bushfire preparedness

*Bushfire CRC 2010–2013 Effective Communication:
Communities and Bushfire*

Research Leader: Yoko Akama
Associated Researcher: Tania Ivanka

Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication
College of Business
Centre for Sustainable Organisations and Work
Bushfire CRC
Australian Emergency Management Institute (AEMI)
Ku-ring-gai Council, NSW

Project description

Assisting people to be prepared and building strength in communities is an effective way to diminish the financial costs and social impact of natural disasters. Enabling Communities has delivered innovative workshops and training programs in partnership with community, local organisations and emergency management agencies. It demonstrates excellence in collaborative, design-led process to enable residents to develop strategies that are specific to their own contexts.

Publications

Akama, Y & Light A 2012, 'A candour in reporting: designing dexterously for fire preparedness' *CHI 2012*, Austin, TX, USA, May 5–10, 2012. Proceeding published in ACM.

Akama, Y Chaplin, S Philips, S & Toh, K 2012 'Design-led strategies for bushfire preparedness', *Earth: Fire and Rain – Australian & New*

Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference, Brisbane, Australia, 16–18th April 2012.

Light, A & Akama, Y 2012, 'The Human Touch: Interrogating the Role of Design Facilitation in Working with Communities', *Participatory Design Conference*, Roskilde, Denmark, Aug 12–16, 2012. Proceeding published in ACM.

Workshops

Ku-ring-gai Council Climate Wise Community workshop.

AEMI workshops in their educational program Community in Emergency Management.

Presentations at symposia

Akama, Y 2012, 'Social networks and bushfire preparedness' at Communities and resilience: a focus on social networks for disaster preparedness symposium, RMIT University, 18th October 2012.

Akama, Y & Ivanka T 2012, 'Social networks and bushfire preparedness: understanding how bonding, bridging and linking networks perform in a community of place' at Citizen engagement to develop disaster resilience: media and communication focus symposium, RMIT University, 27th November 2012.

Award

Finalist, Victorian Premier's Design Award 2012, Department of Business and Innovation, Government of Victoria, demonstrating excellence in collaborative, design-led process in strengthening community resilience in disasters.

www.desis-lab.org/projects/1/enablingcommunitiescommunitybaseddesigninnovationbushfirepreparedness
vimeo.com/49646137



Exertion Games Lab

Research Leader: Florian 'Floyd' Mueller

Associated Researchers: Wouter Walmink, Eberhard Gräther, Cagdas 'Chad' Toprak, Joshua Platt, Jonathan Marquez, Danielle Wilde, Timothy Jeffs, Christopher 'Kit' Mackenzie, Chris Jones, Chris Berry, Alan Chatham, Harry Lee, Alexander Perrin, Atticus Bastow, Sebastiaan Pijnappel, Eric Dittloff, Ruth Sancho Hueriga, Ho Hsin Yang, Rohit Ashok Khot

Project description

Projects in the Exertion Games Lab that refer to a mediated city, include flying robots as jogging companions, games for commuters on public transport, heart rate controlled bicycle helmets, interactive basketball hoops and vibrating skateboarding obstacles.

This work exemplifies a larger research agenda of designing interactive experiences for the active human body, exploring new territories for the role of interaction design in supporting lives full of values and satisfaction. This research investigates how to design for bodily experiences such as in exertion games.

Publications

Exertion Games Lab have published 14 conference papers on research findings through 2012 including the Fun and Games 2012 and CHI 2012 conferences. The full list can be found here: exertiongameslab.org/publications

exertiongameslab.org/projects

51 Paintings

Research Leader: Shaun Wilson

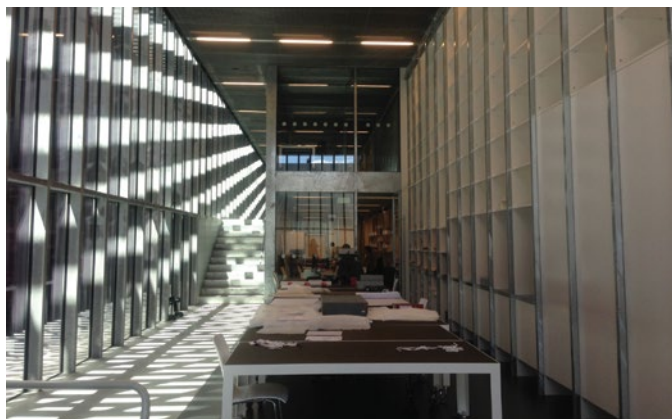
Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication

Project description

51 Paintings is a feature length experimental video work that accompanies the curated program and represents the first public screening of the movie. The film was shot between 2006-2012 in three countries with the intention of using places as a silent character, and consists of different people re-enacting the images in locations of historical note.

www.51paintings.com



The Active Archive

Research Leader: Harriet Edquist
Project Manager: Kaye Ashton

Organisational collaborators

Research and Innovation
Architecture and Design
Media and Communication
School of Art

Project description

This is the ongoing project of the RMIT Design Archives. It investigates how archives can become partners in design research, leading to innovative ways of looking at and understanding historical material and collections in relation to design practice. This project has arisen out of the Design Archives' engagement with design research across the Design Hub and is manifest in teaching, exhibition, conferences and projects. It includes the Frederick Romberg project and several other projects that are in development stage, including Public Offer, an exhibition by Kate Rhodes and Timothy Moore opening in February 2013.

Grant

Your Community Heritage grant: \$25,000

Exhibition

2011–2012 Harriet Edquist & Tansy Curtin, *The Lost Modernist*.
Michael O'Connell, Bendigo Art Gallery

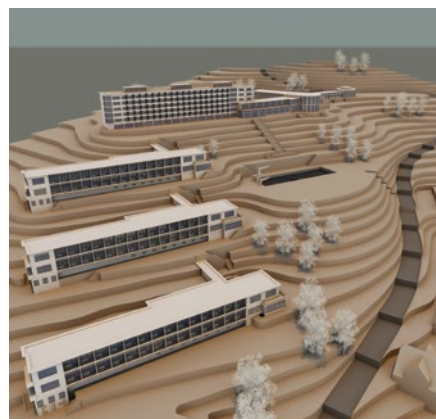
Publications

Edquist, H 2012, 'Archives as research hubs: the RMIT Design Archives, Melbourne', paper presented at ICAM16 (*International confederation of architectural museums*) Cologne, September 5 2012.

Harriet Edquist, editor, *RMIT Design Archives Journal* 2:1 2012

Edquist, H 2012, 'Joyce Coffey (1918–2001): industrial designer', *RMIT Design Archives Journal* vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 5–11.

www.rmit.edu.au/designarchives



Frederick Romberg, Grand Hotel Dolder, project 1938, render by Michael Spooner.

Disseminating Victoria's Design Heritage; A survey of Frederick Romberg

Research Leaders: Harriet Edquist, Michael Spooner,
Keith Deverell, Stephen Banham
Associated Researcher: Leto Tsolakis
Project manager: Kaye Ashton

Organisational collaborators

Research and Innovation
Architecture and Design
Media and Communication
School of Art

Project description

Funded by a Your Community Heritage grant from the Federal Government for \$25,000, this project has two aims. Firstly it will communicate architect Frederick Romberg's distinctive contribution to Australia's design heritage through analysis and re-presentation of selected archival objects, and secondly it will demonstrate the RMIT Design Archive's commitment to the concept of the 'active archive'. The project's trans-disciplinary team of researchers will produce a number of artefacts: a video presentation of Romberg's early architectural practice projected in the Archives' window gallery in Heritage Week, April 2013; a publication documenting selected Romberg buildings, and physical models of the selected buildings.

Key outputs

Acquittal of Your Community Heritage Grant 2013.

Through 2012 work has been underway on a major exhibition in 2013 'Frederick Romberg: An Architectural Survey', which will include a publication of the works featured.

www.rmit.edu.au/designarchives



Charles Nettleton, Public Library Art Exhibition 1869, courtesy State Library of Victoria.

Free, Secular and Democratic: the Melbourne Public Library 1853–1913

Curator: Harriet Edquist

State Library of Victoria research associates: Eleanor Adams, Megan Atkins, Edwina Bartlem, Ann Carew, Shane Carmody, Robert Heather, Margot Jones, Mary Lewis, Eve Sainsbury, Clare Williamson

Organisational collaborators

Research and Innovation
State Library of Victoria

Project description

An exhibition to be held at the State Library of Victoria, Keith Murdoch Gallery, opening 29 May, 2013.

The Library and the cultural institutions that shared its site – the museum, gallery and art schools – were established by a group of colonial liberals including judge Sir Redmond Barry and architect Joseph Reed. They aimed to create a civic centre that was secular, democratic and enlightened, offering free access to self-improvement through learning. *Free, secular and democratic* tells the story of this grand vision and its legacy today. It examines the building's architecture, including the beautiful Queen's Hall and domed reading room, and reveals how the Library's collection was developed. It also revisits the great Intercolonial Exhibition held at the Library site in 1866–67.

exhibitions.slv.vic.gov.au/dome100/exhibitions/free-secular-and-democratic



Booster stage 1 – design:business

Research Leader: Jeremy Yuille

Associated Researchers: Daved Barry

Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication
Copenhagen Business School, College of Business

Project description

Booster is an annual celebration of ideas exploring the role of design in framing and catalysing contemporary existence. Booster 1 (2012) addressed the hot topic of how design is changing the world of business.

Addressed through different media, Booster 1 includes a feature screening of the 2012 film *Designing & Thinking*, a two day invitation workshop to explore the topic of design and business education, and a public lecture by Nathan Shedroff, chair of the MBA in Design Strategy at California College of the Arts.

Design:Business – Booster workshop
RMIT University Design Research Institute
Design Hub (Pavilion 1),
Thursday 29th of November 2012.

Design:Business – Nathan Shedroff free public lecture
RMIT University Design Research Institute
Thursday, 29 November 2012.



Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability (DESIS) Lab Melbourne

Research Leader: Yoko Akama

Associated Researchers: Soumitri Varadarajan, Simon Curlis, Simon Lockery, Laurene Vaughan, Neal Haslem, Tania Ivanka, Carolyn Barnes and various other academic institutions and organisations

Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication
Architecture and Design
Swinburne University of Technology

Project description

DESIS explores micro, local-level experimentation to achieve sustainable macro-transformations of people and places. DESIS-Lab Melbourne is actively creating a forum where partnerships with design practitioners, academic researchers, businesses and public institutions collaborate, share ideas and generate opportunities to support social innovation and sustainability. It aims to generate knowledge and make the contribution of design and social innovation visible at a national and international platform.

Throughout 2012, in partnership with Swinburne University, DESIS-Lab Melbourne has conducted a symposium and discussion panel with invited speakers, workshops with leading designers and showcased design projects and teaching studios that are practicing social innovation and sustainability in Australia.

Workshops and presentations

DESIS-lab Melbourne 2 day workshop. Close to 30 participants

attended this event to clarify the vision and mission for DESIS-lab Melbourne, to be a network for people to connect, become a place for knowledge-sharing, knowledge generation and reflection and to be a collaborative space to support project opportunities. Key speakers included Prof. Fumi Masuda from Tokyo Zokei University; Sandhya Sharma from The Australian Centre for Social Innovation; Dianne Moy from The Green Living Centre Sydney; Justin Barrie and Mel Edwards from Design Managers Australia; Dean Parkin from Second Road; Mark Daniels from Social Traders; Kate Bissett-Johnson from Swinburne University of Technology; Soumitri Varadarajan from RMIT; Selena Griffith from COFA University of NSW. 1st-2nd March 2012.

Q&A panel discussion by Mel Edwards and Justin Barry from Design Managers Australia; A. Prof Cameron Tonkinwise from Carnegie Mellon University; Kate Archdeacon from Victorian Eco Innovation Lab; David Hood from Doing Something Good. Panel discussion on design, ethics, public services and the agency of design in enabling social innovation, 26th June 2012.

Steve Portigal, Portigal Consulting, USA: Skill Building for Design Innovators, 4 September 2012.

Chris Vanstone, TACSI (The Australian Centre for Social Innovation), 28 September 2012.

Award

Yoko Akama received a \$5,000 ECR International Travel Award in 2012 to further build bridges with several DESIS hubs in the US and Japan.

www.desis-lab.org



NonfictionNow

Team Leader: David Carlin

Organisational collaborators

The University of Iowa

Project description

NonfictionNow explores and embraces nonfiction creative practices beyond the strictly literary, also embracing the audiovisual and interdisciplinary. On 21–24 November 2012 at RMIT University, more than 400 people gathered for three days to discuss the myriad forms of nonfiction, its history and new directions in the genre. For the first time Australia hosted this internationally renowned event in Melbourne, gathering leading artists, journalists, readers, writers and publishers of nonfiction from around the world.

www.rmit.edu.au/nfn2012



PPPPP Group

Research Leader: Mick Douglas

Associated Researchers: Neal Haslem, Ceri Hann, Sebastiaan Pijnappel, Wil Campbell, Ek Teck Su

Organisational collaborators

Architecture and Design

Media and Communication

School of Art

Project description

The PPPPP project undertakes a creative Practice based exploration of how People, things and Places might summon uncertain Powers through Performance and Participation. The Project Proceeds by creating situations that Play themselves out, negotiating Paradox and Pattern whilst exploring how the openness of Pre-expertise can be maintained so as to learn of Powers at Play. The openness of non-expert knowledge and know-how is Privileged by the Project in order to develop the capacity of Participants to attentively, repeatedly and resiliently re-create modes of engaging in contemporary social, ecological, technological and Political conditions. Guided by a sense for the state of not-knowing but Presently doing, the PPPPP project serves to demonstrate cultural Practices that foster social connectivity and sustain ecologies.

Key outputs

'Superfluous Silent Men', participatory performances, the Village Festival, Melbourne 1–4 Nov 2012.



Telemodernities: lifestyle TV in Asia

Research Leader: Tania Lewis

Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication

Project description

How can we understand the recent appearance of an Indian version of MasterChef, home renovation shows like 交换空间 (Swap Places) in China, personal makeover shows like Style Doctors in Singapore, and beauty and fashion advice TV like 女人我最大 (Queen) in Taiwan? This research project sees lifestyle advice programming as a barometer of broader cultural changes currently transforming social life in Asia. In such programs, entertainment media addresses itself in a uniquely direct way to the everyday practice of ordinary social life: these programs are etiquette manuals for the 21st century. We are interested in what the rise of such programming can tell us about broader shifts in contemporary Asian societies in relation to identity, culture and citizenship.

Key outputs

Lewis, T Martin, F & Sun, W 2012, 'Lifestyling Asia? Shaping modernity and selfhood on life advice programming', *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, vol. 15, no. 6, pp. 537-566.

Lewis, T 'Lifestyle Media', in Smith Maguire, J & Matthews, J (eds.), *The Cultural Intermediaries Reader*, London: Thousand Oaks/Sage, (forthcoming 2013).

Martin, F & Lewis, T 2012, 'Lifestyling Women: Emergent Femininities on Singapore and Taiwan Television', in Kim, Y, *The Precarious Self: Women and the Media in Asia*, Palgrave MacMillan, London, pp. 53-76.

www.telemodernities.org/tele/



Seed Sensor

Research Leader: Leah Heiss

Associated Researcher: Paul Beckett

Organisational collaborators

Architecture and Design

Electrical and Computer Engineering

Project description

The Seed Sensor is a trans-disciplinary art/science/engineering project developing unique ways to harness and use medical data gathered from the body. The 'Seed Sensor' is a swallowable device that detects gas fluctuations in the body (methane, carbon dioxide etc.) that may be a symptom of undiagnosed disease. The 'seed' is a swallowable tablet that unfolds like a flower once in the small intestine deploying a sensitive membrane, which captures particles of gas as it moves through the digestive tract. The aim of the project is to achieve a less invasive biomedical application where current applications are still relatively rudimentary.

The form and user interface of the Seed Sensor are being designed through an art practice approach that utilises iterative models and workshop-style hands-on brainstorming to generate possible forms for the device.

Key outputs

Craft ACT Gallery.

Heiss, L 2012, 'Therapeutic Art Practice: How experimental art practice can radically inform the development of our therapeutic technologies'. *SMT Studies in Material Thinking*, University of Auckland. (ISSN 1177-6234).

Group exhibition: Embracing Innovation - Volume 2.



ARC Linkage Project Geoplaced knowledge: A location based service to assist decision making in natural environments

ARC Linkage Project LP0883291

Research Leader: William Cartwright

Associated Researchers: Laurene Vaughan, Colin Arrowsmith,
Jeremy Yuille, Adrian Miles, Brian Morris, Jim Whelans
(Parks Victoria)

Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication
Math and Geospatial Science
Parks Victoria

Project description

The question that has framed this research is – How can Parks Victoria better utilise the knowledge it and its staff have? Currently, valuable park specific knowledge, obtained by rangers through years of experience, is inaccessible to other rangers and vanishes completely when rangers move on. This research has explored the potential for a location based service to assist with the retention and dissemination of this knowledge, using a participatory or embedded design approach. More broadly, it has given insights into how knowledge

about a location can be effectively retained and communicated beyond the boundaries of individuals. The design explorations in this project evidence the way in which technology and social media can mediate the space between individuals, their environment and cultural contexts. This has been achieved through an interdisciplinary exploration integrating geospatial sciences with design, social media and cultural analysis.

Key outputs

Cartwright, W 2013, 'Artefacts and geospaces', in Kriz, K & Cartwright, WE (eds), *Understanding Different Geographies*, Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, pp.55-66.

Elsley, M. and Cartwright, W., 2012, 'Applying contemporary and collaborative Web concepts to the development of a geo-knowledge tool to assist park management', in Arrowsmith, C, Bellman, C, Cartwright, W, Jones, S & Shortis, M (eds), *Geospatial Science Research_1*, Melbourne: Publishing Solutions.

Marmo, C, Cartwright, W, & Yuille, J, 2012, 'Geo-placed Knowledge: Environmental knowing in mixed reality', in Arrowsmith, C, Bellman, C, Cartwright, W, Jones, S, & Shortis, M (eds) *Geospatial Science Research_1*, Melbourne: Publishing Solutions.



Photograph: Narelle Sheean.

SOS – Emergency Jewellery

Research Team: Leah Heiss, Keely Macarow

Organisational collaborators

Architecture and Design
School of Art

Project description

The SOS – Emergency Jewellery project addresses the need for well-researched and designed emergency jewellery to identify user's allergies and identity in times of medical crisis. Throughout 2012 Leah Heiss and Keely Macarow have developed a working group with St Vincent's Hospital and the Nossal Institute for Global Health. This working group is dedicated to developing new design solutions to improve human health and well-being. Through 2012 they have generated a range of additive manufactured prototypes for exhibition in 2013 and for use as proof of concept for future grant applications. The prototypes will be exhibited in seven galleries across Australia as part of CUSP – designing for the next decade, running from 2013–2015. These initial investigations provide the groundwork for a larger project that will investigate the language, symbology and semiotics of emergency jewellery, and the potential to therapeutically augment medical jewellery using nanotechnologies and microtechnologies. Confirmed exhibition in seven galleries across Australia as part of CUSP – designing for the next Decade, running from 2013–2015.



Lumens Festival: Curating the Ancient City

Research Leader: Tammy Hulbert

Associated Researchers: Shane Hulbert, Geoff Hogg & Clare Leporati

Organisational collaborators

School of Art
Suzhou Art, Design and Technology Institute
Chinese Museum
Federation Square

Project description

Lumens Festival: Curating the Ancient City was a visual arts research project held in the city of Suzhou, Jiangsu, China, May 2012. The aim of the project was to research how public based contemporary visual art enriches and transforms the experience of urban spaces and brings renewed meaning to heritage sites. The research project also aimed to encourage intercultural dialogue and relationship building between the Sisters States of Victoria, Australia and Jiangsu, China through contemporary photography and video practices. Curated works were projected as a night festival, throughout Ping Jiang Road, part of Suzhou's network of ancient canals laced throughout the city centre, evidence of Suzhou as a centre for silk production and trade.

Lumens is part of the DRI Mediated City Art in Chinatown Strategy, the Photo Imaging Research Network, supported by Arts Victoria.

www.lumensfestival.com

rmit.net.au/browse;ID=mpqhclpor1a

www.sgmart.com/dwjl/eng/index.html

www.fedsquare.com/



Photograph:
Mark Sherwood.

Polarity – Designing with next generation materials

Research Leader: Leah Heiss

Organisational collaborators

Architecture and Design
Gallery of Modern Art Queensland

Project description

Polarity was developed for the National New Media Art Award at the Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland.

The work is the latest in a series of projects using nano-engineered magnetic liquid (Ferro Fluid) as a central part of a dynamic installation. The installation involved the creation and display of a collection of 25 hand blown glass vessels containing Ferro Fluid. A layer of black magnetic fluid lies at the base of each vessel, pulsing to the presence of a concealed magnetic field. The project investigates the idea of unseen forces acting upon us and also the notion of forming empathetic connections with non-organic elements.

Key outputs

Exhibition at GOMA as part of the National New Media Artist Award, August-November 2012. Attendance 250,000–300,000.

www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/past/2012/national_new_media_art_award_2012/artists/leah_heiss

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCqvme_D-s

www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/past/2012/national_new_media_art_award_2012/videos



Slow Media

Research Leader: Shaun Wilson

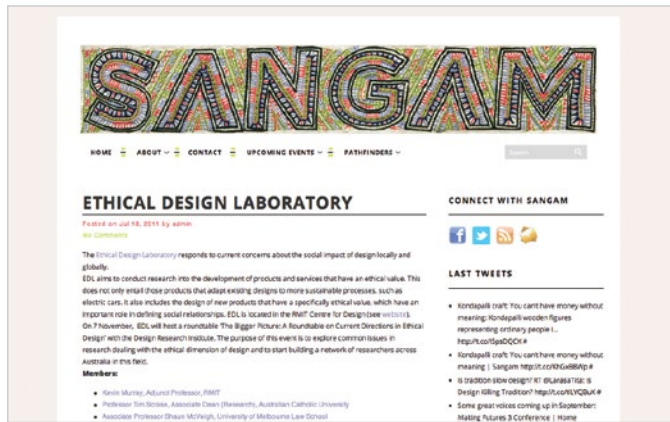
Associated Researchers: Marsha Berry, Clifton Evers

Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication
Swinburne University of Technology
Monash University
University of Tasmania

Project description

The Slow Media Symposium was held at the Green Brain on July 2nd and featured a range of papers from RMIT academics, along with academics from Swinburne, Monash and UTas. A Skype hook up from Cologne, Germany saw Dr. Sabria David, author of the Slow Media manifesto in 2010, talk and field questions. Publication of proceedings will be released in Altitude Journal co-edited by Dr. Marsha Berry (RMIT), Dr. Clifford Evers (Uni Nottingham Nigbo), and Dr. Shaun Wilson (RMIT).



SANGAM Project: Australia India Design Platform

Research Leader: Kevin Murray

Associated Researchers: Shaun McVeigh, Soumitri Varadarajan,
Jo Cramer, Liz Williamson

Organisational collaborators

Centre for Design

Industrial Design

Fashion and Textiles

University of Melbourne Law School

College of Fine Art, University of New South Wales

Project description

The Ethical Design Laboratory responds to current concerns about the social impact of design locally and globally.

The first stage in this development is the Australia India Design Platform, a three-year program of research funded by the Australia Council and Australia India Institute. The major project of the EDL is to develop a Code of Practice for Creative Collaborations in partnership with UNESCO, World Craft Council and International Council of Graphic Design Associations (ICOGRADA), and concerns the growing practice of outsourcing artisanal processes so that urban designers can have product handmade in villages or workshops, particularly in countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia and India.

DESIGN FUTURES LAB

Design Futures Lab

Research Leader: Neal Haslem

Associated Researchers: Angelina Russo, Laurene Vaughan, Yoko Akama, Marius Foley, Russell Kerr, Tania Ivanka, Reuben Stanton, Yaron Meron, Shana Agid

Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication

Project description

The Design Futures Lab (DFL) is an emergent research group within RMIT, that has a particular focus in communication design research and practice. Members are united around key questions of how design intersects with global media and how the world communicates locally, regionally and internationally. We are interested in technological, cultural, and expressive modes of communication; in industries and creative practices that support information gathering and dissemination across Australia and the world. This includes explorations into new forms of play, in the design of services, experiences and social transformation in the design matrices of the present and future. Our focus ranges from industry-oriented 'real world' problem solving, to interactive, iterative and affective expressions of new knowledge and passionate ideas.

Researchers within the DFL are active in a number of DRI affiliated projects and their outcomes can be found in this report. The aim of the DFL is to harness existing expertise and research practices in order to create new projects, collaborations and research outcomes. The activities of the DFL include public presentations, project critiques, visiting scholars and practitioners.



Nierenberg Chair, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Design

Research Leader of Mediated City Flagship, Associate Professor Laurene Vaughan has been invited to take up the role of Nierenberg Chair, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Design, in the School of Design, Carnegie Mellon University, USA, for the 2012–2013 academic year. The Nierenberg Chair of Design was established as a visiting professorship through a generous gift from the late Mr. Theodore D. Nierenberg. Nierenberg, a Carnegie Mellon alumnus (BS, Engineering Management, 1944) who also served as a Life Trustee of the university, was one of the founders of Dansk International Design. He played an important role in the development and promotion of design in the world, and it was his wish that the Nierenberg Chair be held by an outstanding individual who has achieved national or international prominence in design or a design-related field.

The role of the Nierenberg Chair in the School of Design is to contribute her areas of expertise into the School's activities, and work with members of the School on strategic change. In Laurene's case this has meant contributing to the Schools PhD renewal program, and the introduction of a practice-based PhD as a mode of study. This has included participating in work groups exploring higher degrees for design

and architecture practitioners, growing the research community and outcomes in the School of Design and mentoring peers in research dissemination. Additionally, she has been teaching into the Seniors (4th year) student studios.

In the Fall Semester (August–December 2012) she taught the *Wonderlab* – one part of a three part rotating studio call the *Agility Lab*. In this course students were introduced to design research through a framework of wonderment. By scoping the world for real world issues, students then designed methods to discover more. In the Spring (January–May 2013) she is leading another Senior Studio, *Design, Place and Social Innovation Studio*. In this course students, in collaboration with local partner *Citizens for a Safer PA* are exploring design approaches to address social change around Guns and Child Safety. She has also been working with Grad Students on design methods and strategies for completing and designing their research project.

vimeo.com/50310498



COIL Collaborative Online International Learning Project in Trans-Humanism and Robot Communication

Research Leader: Lisa Dethridge

Associated Researchers: Damian Schofield

Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication
State University of New York

Project description

COIL represents an emerging teaching and learning methodology for innovative cost-effective internationalization. The COIL team aims to explore strategies for fostering research and exchange through online and blended multicultural learning environments. Including educators, students and instructional technologists from DRI and the State University of New York, Center for Collaborative Online International Learning, the team will develop simple programs and tasks for the NAO ROBOT that connects students in the DRI with those who are logged onto the project from campuses in New York, Europe and Australia.

COIL is in preparation for a program that will take place in 2013.



Homefullness

The UNTITLED Collective: Mick Douglas, Neal Haslem, Keely Macarow, Guy Johnson, Hélène Frichot (School of Architecture, KTH, Stockholm, Sweden), Rochus Hinkel (Architect, academic and curator, Stockholm, Sweden), Margie McKay (Coordinator of Urban Design – City of Whittlesea), Mim Whiting, documentary filmmaker and artist, Melbourne.

Organisational collaborators

School of Art
Media and Communication
Architecture and Design Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)
School of Architecture, KTH, Stockholm, Sweden
City of Whittlesea

Project description

Homefullness was a finalist in the RMIT Design Research Institute Design Challenge 2011: Homelessness, exhibited at Federation Square, Melbourne from 14–21 April 2012. Projects were judged by an international panel of academic and industry experts against the criteria of Design Innovation, Impact, Practicality, Application, Team transdisciplinarity and Design Development. The Homefullness campaign also secured \$8000 funding through RMIT University's College of Design and Social Context International Research Seed Fund 2012. The project is on-going in 2013, most recently working with the City of Whittlesea on a social mapping and fictional design narratives project.

The UNTITLED collective is based in Melbourne and Stockholm and have expertise in architecture, urban design, art, housing



research and activism, philosophy and criticism, industrial design and communication design. Homefullness innovates methodologies for negotiating intractable social issues—like homelessness—and investigates how these issues can be activated and negotiated through a participative design process. It investigates how one can maintain complexity and multivocality within a socio-political campaign which aims to bring about real change. The Homefullness campaign utilises a manifesto for 'full-housing' with a graphic-novel visual language to entice engagement over a broad domain. These glimpses of provisional futures serve as disjunctive—and generative—provocations. Through this process the very tools of design conceptualisation become the tools of communication and mobilisation, enabling a transparent and inclusive discourse. The Homefullness campaign provides insights into how social campaigns and the complexities of ethical design practice that aims to change entrenched, systemic and unsustainable ways-of-being in the public realm.

Key outputs

Homefullness Roundtables organised by The UNTITLED Collective 7 December 2012 Fargfabriken Lovholmsbrinken 1 11743 Stockholm (supported by KTH, Stockholm and RMIT University, Melbourne)

Homefullness, The UNTITLED Collective, DRI Challenge: Homelessness exhibition, Federation Square, Melbourne, 14–21 April 2012

College of Design and Social Context International Research Seed Fund 2012, \$8,000.

www.homefullness.net

homefullness@gmail.com



Place Research Network

Research Leader: Shaun Wilson

Associated Researchers: Marsha Berry, Laurene Vaughan, Shaun Wilson, John A Douglas, Tammy Honey, Andrew Thomas Huang, Graham Young, and Jesse Mitchell Newman

Organisational collaborators

Media and Communication

Project description

The Place Research Network is an inter-discipline collective of philosophers, scholars, artists, writers, poets, filmmakers, and other thinkers who explore themes of place-based research.

The Network is a project committed to facilitating, communicating and undertaking transdisciplinary investigations into the designing and experience of place. In particular it aims to promote, facilitate and support innovative research and practice that draws upon or is directed towards 'place' as a central conceptual and methodological concept. Building on an already dynamic body of research across RMIT and the University of Tasmania the PRN will also further the development of place research as a new interdisciplinary field of inquiry. Thereby enabling the nature and significance of place as a key concept across the humanities, arts and social sciences to be better understood and applied in both policy and practice.



Sonic Installations for Public Space using Everyday Sounds: revoicing the striated soundscape and non-linear footsteps

Research Leader: Lawrence Harvey

Associated Researchers: Charles Anderson, Jordan Lacey

Organisational collaborators

SIAL Sound Studios – Architecture and Design

Project description

This is an ongoing project exploring soundscape design for public spaces using everyday sounds. The first iteration *Revoicing the Striated Soundscape* a public art commission with the City of Melbourne, was installed behind the RMIT bookshop and concentrated on recomposing city sounds and creating a sonic space for social transformation. The second iteration is an interactive soundscape installation using footsteps, the first stage of which was recently completed with the development of a Max/MSP patch by programmer Steve Adams. The next stage of this project is the development of an interactive trigger by Steve Adams and further sound design by Jordan Lacey. Following this will be a trial installation of the work in the Design Hub. The project explores research questions that traverse the disciplines of sound design, software development, electroacoustic installation and landscape architecture, creating new knowledge for the burgeoning domain of urban soundscape design.

Key outputs

City of Melbourne funded sound installation *Revoicing the Striated Soundscape*.

Development of an interactive Max/MSP patch for an installation tentatively titled 'non-linear footsteps'.

www.vic.gov.au/event/2012/07/revoicing-the-striated-soundscape.html
www.theage.com.au/entertainment/art-and-design/many-minds-make-light-work-20120713-22011.html



Skypetrail: Transcontinental Faces

Research Leaders: Maggie McCormick (Australia), Henning Eichinger (Germany)

Associated Researchers (Australia/Germany): Pixi Mix, Freya Pitt, Christopher Bold, Georgina Humphries, Dan Mitchell, Fiona Hillary, Uta Krauss, Annie Kurz, Christina Liadeli, Chantal Rasquin, Thea Tromsdorf, Tatjana Zhabina

Organisational collaborators

School of Art

Reutlingen University, Stuttgart Region, Germany

Art, Cities & Transformation Research Group, Presented in cooperation with the Goethe Institute Australia

Project description

Through practice-led research and reflection on outcomes, *Skypetrail: transcontinental faces* research aim is to understand more fully the nature of a 'portrait' of identity defined by an urbanized and digitalized world, through re-evaluation of the role of drawing within social media. It does this through an extension of Blind Contour Drawing and Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain techniques into the public space of Skype. The Skype screen interface reinforces the idea that when we draw we mirror ourselves as much as the other.

In this case opposites are drawn together that form the whole or Die Gestalt. In this context 'portraiture' becomes less of an interpretation of the individual as an investigation into, and a mapping of, the collective consciousness of our times.

Key outputs

Projections (Gertrude Street Projection Festival 2012); exhibitions in 2013 at RMIT Project Space/Spare Room, the City Library, Melbourne and Reutlingen City Hall, Germany; RMIT iAIR art residency and art residency at Reutlingen University; full colour, hard copy publication and on line at ARTE Creative TV (France/Germany).

creative.arte.tv/en/space/Skypetrail/messages/



The Sonic City

Research Leaders: Philip Samartzis, Kristen Sharp
 Associated Researchers: Cath Clover, Darrin Verhagen,
 Sarah Edwards

Organisational collaborators

School of Art
 Liquid Architecture Festival of Sound Art

Project description

The Sonic City is a transnational project initially developed for the Liquid Architecture Sound Art Festival. It researches how urban space can be re-imagined and mediated through mobile, temporal and improvised artistic (design) encounters. It analyses sonic, spatial and visual properties of urban space through an exploration of site-determined sonic and visual performance/installation art presentations. It is generated out of current research into urban space and the ways in which art reactivates and challenges everyday perceptions experiences of city spaces. As a series of exhibitions, performances and public workshops/talks this project creates spaces for dialogue about the social, environmental and political dimensions of the city.

The team has been developing the Liquid Architecture Sound Art Festival 14: The Sonic City, which will run in Melbourne from 29th August - 14th September 2013

www.liquidarchitecture.org.au

Mediated Cities Annual Report 2012

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