



05 2008

THE BROADSHEET OF THE AUCKLAND BRANCH OF THE NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

BLOCK

Boy in a Bubble

Sean Flanagan Anticipates the Arrival of the Bubble-Mad Bosse

I am looking forward to Chris Bosse's presentation at this month's 'Stand and Deliver' conference. Bosse is the young German-born Sydney-based architect accredited with a leading role in the design of the Water Cube; China's National Swimming Centre that stands ready for the arrival of fans and competitors for August's Beijing Olympics. The azure glow of the building's PTFE façade will, in tandem with Herzog & de Meuron's Bird's Nest stadium, form an iconic image of the Games that will be broadcast to billions around the world. Bosse is clearly proud of the building and the way it manifests his favoured theme of buildings as organic forms; their structural logic bearing a metaphoric relation to coral, foam and skeletons. Follow the link from Bosses web-site through to his FlickrR page and there you will find some of the architect's own site photos. Viewing these, one gets a sense of his pride in composing a scene that includes his Water Cube in the foreground and the Bird's Nest beyond.

My curiosity in Bosse stems from the fact that I saw him present at a conference a year ago, and so the question in my mind is 'what's new?' How does a young architect (37) who has just completed a high profile public work move on to the next challenge. And more importantly, what direction, if any, does the architecture take? This question is pertinent to Bosse because the bubble-boy has had a long standing fascination with "packing different sized bubbles in a volume and then slicing it into a structural cage." The Water Cube is a significant realisation of this approach to building. Its success as a concept is arguably still to be determined as the building has not been fully tested in operation, and with Olympic facilities there is always the reality-check of the post-Games period. Enric Miralles learnt of this reality as he watched his Olympic Archery Range in Barcelona slowly transform into a ruin. There also remain questions of the success of the building on the inside. Again, follow Bosse's link through to FlickrR and you will note that only 3 of his 34 photographs are from within. Given the technology set to work in the structure, one would hope that the interior was as rich an experience as that suggested by the conceptual design images, though some

of these are strangely devoid of stadium seating. Still, the first two weeks of August will give us plenty of time to judge, and the Beijing Olympics is shaping to be an external relations affair, so the dominance of the façade may be entirely appropriate.

To my mind, the question of 'what's new' appears as a sub-theme to that of 'Stand and Deliver.' After all, the conference sees the resurrection of Peggy Deamer, who I understand has been given a return-ticket to Auckland to redeliver her 'final' New Zealand lecture, which is in turn a interpretation of Doc Toy's 'final' lecture, all of which has been recently published in Interstices. This presentation will give punters from around the country an opportunity to hear her talk from last year's Architecture Week, which was poorly attended (due to its time slot) and difficult to hear (again due to its time slot and the rush of buses that tends to occur around Britomart at 5pm). Deamer has likely revised the lecture and she is participating in several other events, but her inclusion seems slightly strange. Perhaps now with some distance between herself and the University she is more able to 'stand and deliver' and in this way she could be the surprise package of the conference. *SF*



Beijing's Water Cube in all its PTFE glory



THREE SCHOOLS

*An Exhibition of Student Work from
NICAI at the University of Auckland,
UNITEC's School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture
& AUT's Department of Spatial Design*

Liston House
30-32 Hobson Street, City
12 noon - 7pm, May 22nd & 23rd

The Fine Print

Excerpts from the reports to NZIA Auckland Branch meeting held May 6th, 2008.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Christina van Bohemen

I met with Richard Harris and Pete Bossley. This was an opportunity to meet Richard as President Elect and appraise him of some current issues at Branch level – specifically:

- a) Marketing/publicity (Branch interest in the national strategy, development of a Branch strategy which could compliment the national strategy).
- b) Continued existence of the UIG, request for consideration of NZIA membership or endorsement of the Urban Design Forum.
- c) Branch concern about the need for NZIA engagement with/support of students – response to the CtrlShift 07 letter. (Branch reps to present lunch time seminars at the schools about architecture in general, rather than specifically NZIA promotion).
- d) Auckland Branch, representing the majority of NZIA members, is keen to participate in and be consulted on issues that National Office is considering or developing (e.g. the Conference).

FUTURE AUCKLAND LEADERS PORTFOLIO: Gary Lawson

The 2008 Future Auckland Leaders group had a busy month producing a submission to the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance. Our report has been received and a sub-group has been formed to appear before the Commission. During April we also made a visit to Mighty River Power / Vector for a presentation on their business, and their views on the issues Auckland faces. This visit also included a trip to the Southdown gas-fuelled power station. We also had a trip to Glidpath in Glen Eden to hear owner Ken Stevens present to us his story of creating a massively successful global business and his trials, tribulations, challenges and learnings. This was followed by a talk from Bob Fill founder of Volastic, another hugely successful Auckland business that is taking on - and leading the world in - injection moulding technology. These two speakers were very inspirational, and really got everyone thinking about how to overcome some of the challenges of doing business with the world from Auckland – and how real the potential is for Auckland business on the world front.

COMMITTEE FOR AUCKLAND PORTFOLIO: Pete Bossley

I attended lunch with C4A hosted by the Vice Chancellor of AUT, Sir Ron Carter. The main point of discussion was Auckland

Governance. I was able to supply feedback from them to the UIG next evening. C4A submission has pushed for a replacement for ARC (can't change it, culture too embedded), and 'empowered leadership'. I subsequently had breakfast with Karen Goodall re Governance. She is also very interested in assisting with an exhibition of Auckland, as we had earlier discussed for AW08.

PUBLICITY PORTFOLIO: Stephen Martin

The publicity portfolio will be a joint effort between Gary Lawson, as his Committee for Auckland FAL commitments allow, and myself, with opportunity and need for input from others. Here's a stock take of the current situation. There are two parallel initiatives in play concerning publicity that affect NZIA Auckland Branch: (1) the 'NZIA National Marketing Strategy'; and (2) Dock Street Group Communications Strategy proposal to NZIA Auckland Branch in November 2007. The NZIA National Strategy is currently being formulated by a strategic marketing consultant and National Office. A report to the NZIA Council from National Office is expected later this month. Our intention is to review both documents, and report back to the Branch committee next month with our findings and thoughts for further action. The consultant's document may be a strategic plan only, so it may not cover implementation.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP PORTFOLIO: Carolyn Savage

The meeting featuring Roman Jaques was well attended and the sharing of facilities with the UIG did not prevent some interesting discussion. RJ informed the group of the proposed changes and schemes that are currently being implemented. There will be four NZ-specific tools: ALF 3.2, will be web-based, will be free, and has moisture performance in the assessment; the schedule method for assessing buildings and materials (Council is currently using this form); Green Star Residential Rating (expected to be released in December 08); HEERs Home Energy Rating Scheme, that assess the year-round thermal heating and cooling of a building. In the future HEERs will be linked into the Green Star domestic building rating system but can also be used as an independent tool. Currently assessment of residential buildings is voluntary but it is expected that within 2-3 years it will be compulsory to have an assessment report included within the consent documentation.

Upcoming meetings:

Site meeting, Landcare. Speaker to be confirmed.

10th June, 4:00pm, Tamaki, 231 Morrin Road, St Johns. The meeting will be split into two parts: (i) tour and discussion of the Landcare building, and (ii) speaker from Landcare to present the

Exquisite folding door hardware that is robust and dependable

- Max panel weight- up to 120kg
- Max panel height- up to 4m
- Max panel width- up to 1.1m
- Max # of panels- 8 each way
- Concealed channel option

Auckland: Ph 09 579 0367 Fax 09 579 2511
Wellington: Ph 04 568 7086 Fax 04 586 0974
Christchurch: Ph 03 379 9364 Fax 03 379 9380

CENTABUILD



ECLIPSE

Please send a brochure to:

<small>AUC08</small>
Firepro Centabuild Ltd P.O.Box 12 636, Penrose, Auckland

Calder Stewart Roofing



carboNZero programme small business certification scheme.
Albrecht Stoecklein, Technical Marketing Executive, Right House
Ltd. 8th July, 5:45pm at D72.

PRACTICE ISSUES GROUP: Richard Goldie

The first meeting of the Practice Issues Group (PIG) was well attended. The invitation to the meeting read: 'The Practice Issues Group, officially launched at the AGM has been formed to explore issues that are common to all practices - that is, those that fall outside the norm of NZIA 'accepted' practice. Areas of exploration may include experiences with special agreements, alternative forms of procurement, insurances, novation, education and core competencies, and how all these and more are related. The inaugural meeting will focus on defining the range of issues practitioners have experienced, the commonalities between them, and establishing condensed areas of interest which can then be effectively explored'. At the meeting, the following was discussed:
Intro: The PIG initiative was broadly endorsed by those attending. Matters regarding the formation of the Group were discussed and these included the name (PIG) which was supported, that the Group's focus is 'common' rather than NZIA 'standard' practice, and the Group deals with many issues formerly addressed by the Institute's now defunct 'Practice Board'. The status of the Group was queried as well as the method for delivering recommendations or inputting into policy at Branch or National level - RG to request answers to these at next Auckland Branch meeting.

Avoiding double ups: the principle of establishing links with other Groups was endorsed to avoid duplication of endeavors and allow cross-fertilization. Existing members suggested for attendance were Malcolm Bowes - NZACS, Mike Middlebrook - Technical Issues Group, Norrie Johnson/Russell Hawkin - Joint Contracts Committee, Norrie Johnson - NZIA Assessor. Others to be suggested/co-opted if possible. NJ suggested attendance or membership of the Society of Construction Law.

Scope: 'standard' practice, meaning other than NZIA standard. It was agreed that a myriad of issues could be discussed, but these can be grouped under the following 'interest areas': employment; joint ventures; special contracts; ethics, copyright; mediation; project and design management.

The format for the PIG was agreed as follows: on alternate months

the Group will discuss one interest area, with a view to setting up a presentation by an appropriate panel or individual addressing that area of interest. These presentations will occur every other month, i.e. six areas of interest covered in reasonable depth through the year.

Housekeeping/Notices: CPD - RG to investigate with Joe Grayland. Notes from the PIG meeting will be published in BLOCK each month, not sent directly to attendees. Meeting times - monthly, second Wednesday evening.

TECHNICAL ISSUES PORTFOLIO: Michael Middlebrook

Technical Issues Group: We had a good meeting of the new larger TIG on 3 April, and our next is on Thursday 8 May. At the April Meeting, we discussed Self Certification, Architects' responsibilities in the leaky building crisis, and the possibility of holding another Building Industry Summit to review the successes and failures of the steps taken to solve the problem.

Meeting with Waitakere City: Twan Peters of Graham and Keys Architects organised a meeting with Mark Abbott of Waitakere City and many of the Building Consent team there to discuss building consent issues. The main outcomes were:

- Pre-lodgement meetings are vital for large or complex projects and are money well spent for projects with tight programs or that are using alternative solutions.
- DBH audits keep raising the bar for documentation for projects with recent requirements including calculations for gutters and downpipe sizes for all projects.
- Any projects where a building processing officer's demands seem excessive can be referred to the Building Consents Team Leader, Quentin Dagger.
- Mark Abbott confirmed that it is Waitakere's aim to get Building Consents out in 20 working days or less, but that quality was the most important issue and the process can often take longer if there are unresolved issues. He confirmed that if there is a hold put on a project for additional information, the clock is stopped and then restarted from the same place when the information is received.

We will be following up on the additional requirements being made by DBH, asking for more transparency and the opportunity to feedback on the risks and costs around additional requirements.



Vector Arena

System A specially designed system was used to allow for venting of hot air and moisture from a 12,000-person capacity crowd

Applicator Mohan Waterproofing

For four decades, Nuralite systems have been used on many of New Zealand's most important buildings.

Flat roof. Consult the experts

NURALITE
THE FLAT ROOF EXPERTS

nuralite.co.nz

Nuralite Waterproofing Systems
Unit 4, 10 Olive Road, Penrose, Auckland
T (+64 9) 579 2046 F (+64 9) 579 5136

The Fine Print, cont.

STUDENT REPORT (UoA): James Pearce

Presentation to Students: UoA student representatives have accepted Auckland Branch's offer to have a spokesperson visit the School to discuss the NZIA's role and answer students' questions. *NZIA Conference 2008 student admission / seminar recording:* Students would appreciate the chance to hear the conference speakers. While preferring to see them in person, they accept that this is not always possible and would value access to a live feed or recording. It is also queried whether, if seats remain available, if students could be allowed access to individual presentations rather than the full conference, as students are unlikely to be able to take full advantage of the entire proceedings at a time so close to the end of semester. *Student access to SVP report:* Students are planning to request a copy of the recent SVP report on the School and ask if the NZIA would support their being given access to this information, as it seems highly relevant to the students. It has so far been kept private by the School and NZRAB.

HERITAGE PORTFOLIO: Adam Wild

Cross Section: Ath's "dialogue" in the latest *Cross Section* (May 2008) includes a number of objectives the Institute has targeted since the Heritage Task Group was "relinquished". One is to re-establish a place for an architect on the Board of the Historic Places Trust. The Institute formerly had a permanent position on the Board, but since restructuring the composition and role of the Board has changed and so too has its membership. Ath's call for a "pragmatic and realistic advocate amongst historians and archaeologists" fails to recognise local skills within the NZIA membership to provide professional and practical advocacy of our built heritage and the practice of architecture in harmony with it.

Richard Keals: We have made contact with English Heritage and further communication has resulted in a clearer understanding of the site, its significance and those responsible for its care. The graveyard has been recognised as an important natural landscape and the balancing of these values has been taken on board by those responsible for these layers of significance. The NZ family have been copied the correspondence.

GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO: Sarah MacKenzie

Upcoming Seminars: Two Auckland Branch events have been organised to help graduates preparing for registration: a Contracts Seminar (Brendan Rawson & Norrie Johnson) to be held on Monday 26 May, 6pm @ ALR3, School of Architecture and Planning, University of Auckland, and an Insurances Seminar (Graham Strez & Norrie Johnson) to be held on Monday 9 June at 6pm at D72. Also upcoming are the APL Graduate Development Seminars. This weekend seminar will be held from 4-5 July covering competencies (experience areas) and case study preparation.

CPD PORTFOLIO: Nicole Tarlton

As a result of the meeting with Joe Grayland on April 1st, the NZIA National Office has bought the Auckland Branch a scanner which we can use at CPD events. In order to input the data, a laptop and access to the internet will be required at the venue. The result we hope is to make it a faster and easier process for our members to get their points.

Each Block is laid by a dedicated editorial team, all of whom happen to work at Cheshire Architects:

Pip Cheshire
Andrew Barrie
Sean Flanagan
Nathaniel Cheshire

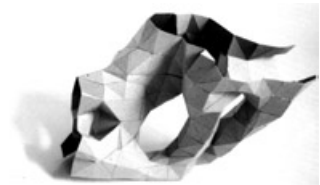
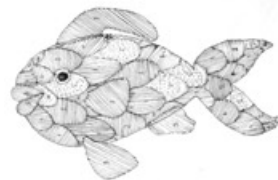
pip@cheshirearchitects.com
andrew@cheshirearchitects.com
sean@cheshirearchitects.com
nat@cheshirearchitects.com

Ph +64 9 358 2770 PO Box 90952 AMSC
Email us for a full-colour pdf or back issues

What Are You Doing?

WAYD is a suitably unsettling little periodical. Published by a small group of University of Auckland School of Architecture (what a mouthful - where's the catchy acronym?) students, it is a sort of driftnet for those interesting ideas that float around in smelly studios at two in the morning, as well as a showcase for the more enigmatic bits of student design documentation. It presents a perplexing mix of content that is - of course - largely unexplained and unsigned: poetry, conjecture, reflection, and homily all appear alongside a swag of diagrams, isometrics, models, photographs, abstractions, and - as of this latest issue - steel roofing temperature expansion tables.

But of course; the hardy WAYD staffers have drummed up some very generous support from New Zealand Steel, and turned their humble but always intelligent black-and-white 'zine into a spiffy little A5-er jam-packed full of technicolour dreams. It even has a heavyweight cover and Urbis-quality paper stock. We at BLOCK are looking over our shoulders.



Random Sampling: *Hatchy Fish* and *Best of Scratch*

WAYD is an acronym of What Are You Doing, and for those dear readers who think they're still kids, we urge you to accept the fact that even though you wear sneakers with your blazer you're already well over the hill, and ought get your hands on a copy of WAYD to find out just what those kids really are doing. BLOCK has ten copies of the latest issue to give away. First ten emails to reach nat@cheshirearchitects.com - replete with postal address - will receive a free copy. Otherwise, you can obtain copies by emailing wayd.editor@gmail.com.



**FORGET THE
DOOM & GLOOM...**

Be Happy!

Copybook Copycentre: proudly sponsoring the Auckland branch of the NZIA



**Specialists in Copying,
Printing and Finishing**

Phone (09) 303 4716
copy@copybook.co.nz
www.copybook.co.nz
Chamber of Commerce Building
Cnr Mayoral Drive & Greys Ave
Auckland City