



10 2008

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

**BLOCK**

## DoCoMoMo & The Case of The Vanishing Ideal

DOCOMOMO, don't you love that sound? Could be a nightclub in mid town were it not for those last repeating syllables that roll through the lips and instantly conjure up a catwalk of temples to early twentieth century modernism. But while MOMA and MOCA strut their stuff on main street DOCOMOMO hangs back in the university library, not quite free of ICOMOS it's stern and ungainly stepfather.

I think the reticence is born of a poignant self-consciousness arising from the knowledge that in documenting the buildings made in the modern spirit one is implicitly sealing forever the end of modernism. It is as if the organised recording of the modern movement's artifacts suggests we may no longer challenge the way of seeing and doing things quite so comprehensively as during the full flowering of modernity.

Where DOCOMOMO, or DoCoMoMo as she likes to be called, is starting to find its feet with publications such as Julia Gatley's, our trade seems not to have noticed that a half century has passed since the full flowering of modern house building best exemplified by the Case Study project. There was a good take up in New Zealand of post World War Two ideas for living played out in prototypical houses of John Entenza's inspired program. A similar climate and history of lightweight stick building combined with the social dislocations of the war generated a similar audience here, albeit on a much smaller scale.

From our current perspective, bobbing around like corks in the confused waters of intellectual and architectural pluralism, beset by world woes of biblical proportions, the singular thrust and optimism of modernism seems like an idealistic and golden age. The application of social and physical sciences to prevail over and change the environment that is a basic characteristic of modernism still has great appeal to architects. Though ideas of environmental determinism have been thoroughly critiqued in post modern theory they still reside deep in the architectural psyche as proof positive of our importance in the scheme of things. Architectural theory and practice have thrown up a number of design strategies including throwing the i ching and the full gamut of French social theory, yet at a phenomenological level the power to affect human response with our work remains a basic tenet for most.

It is thus a bit odd that much of contemporary architecture around the place looks like modern stuff yet plays out, without question or challenge, a suburban domestic program laid down in the middle of last century. The look of the moderns has calcified yet the enquiry and challenge no longer resides there; they are as if shells of ideas that have moved on. In the place of utopian propositions are self-referential programs of materiality and sensuality, of delight and excess. Perhaps this is a dilemma arising from our focus on the single unit dwelling - that the suburban model has been so honed and

refined within the operating parameters of the last six decades that experimentation is no longer meaningful - everything about it has been discovered. This is possible but seems unlikely in a society like ours, with a significant proportion made up of those for whom extended family living is the norm and for whom few housing models yet exist. Perhaps too it is the inevitable consequence of the architecture, and architects, of the intelligentsia being captured by the bourgeoisie - the corruption of idealism by yet bigger budgets.

Whatever, the parameters are about to change under the duress of one or another of the waves of biblical pestilence coming our way. Whether it be global warming, the collapse of capital or the price of gas the single unit house has become irrelevant as a field of research and we in New Zealand must focus our attention on issues that also preoccupied the moderns: the ordering and housing of an urbanised mass society.

In a cruel ironic twist the most obvious efforts at mass housing popping up around our town are the bastard offspring of modern architecture's utopian visions. Unleashed by laissez faire monetarism the slab blocks of upper Hobson Street are mute testimony of how far from the heady days of social engineering to achieve the 'great society' we are. Perhaps, in the current absence of capital to grease the wheels of our trade, we will take some of the surplus time coming our way to reignite the fires of idealism.

### ARCHITECTURE WEEKEND

Friday 17th, 5.30pm

**Long Live the Modern Book Launch & Exhibition Opening**  
Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

Friday 17th, 8.20pm (doors open 7:30)

**Pecha Kucha Night AKL\_10**

Ellen Melville Hall, 2 Freyberg Place  
10 CPD points, \$10

Saturday 18th, October 1-4pm

**CCANZ/NZIA Long Live the Modern Conversations**  
Ted McCoy with Linda Tyler, Jim Beard with Dorita Hannah,

Peter Beaven with Ian Lochhead

Gus Fisher Gallery - 10 CPD points each conversation

Sunday 19th October

**Exhibition Tour with Julia Gatley** 10am

**Bus Tour of Modern Buildings** 11am - 4pm \$20

Bus tour bookings: gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

This issue of BLOCK comes with a *Long Live the Modern* map. Many thanks to GIB and Copybook for their generous support.

## If it was Good Enough for Mies...

"Don't enter awards competitions," says Bruce Mau, "Just don't. It's not good for you." He might be right that it isn't good for you – but it just might be invaluable for everyone else.

Every practice has a top shelf of dusty models, a network folder of abandoned renderings, a graveyard pile of projects that started promisingly, but for whatever reason never quite made it to execution. Projects that should have been built, opportunities missed. Every practice also has projects, probably only a handful, that it feels really embody its values, its deeply-held beliefs about architecture. And hopefully every practice has on its boards a few projects still in the optimistic flush of their youth.

The AAA Cavalier Bremworth Awards, now in their 28th year, are Auckland's only awards for unbuilt works. The Auckland Architecture Association believes it is vital to put unbuilt projects into the public arena for discussion. It is the position of the AAA that there is immense vitality and architectural insight in Auckland, and it hopes to release some of this latent energy through the awards.

The competition is judged by a panel of practicing architects and academics. This year's judges are Lawrence Nield (a prominent Australian architect and principal of Blich Voller Nield), Ivan Mercep (an NZIA Gold Medal winner), and Jeanette Budgett (whose teaching work at Unitec's SCALA has recently focussed on digital fabrication). For the first time this year, a substantial cash prize accompanies the trophies.

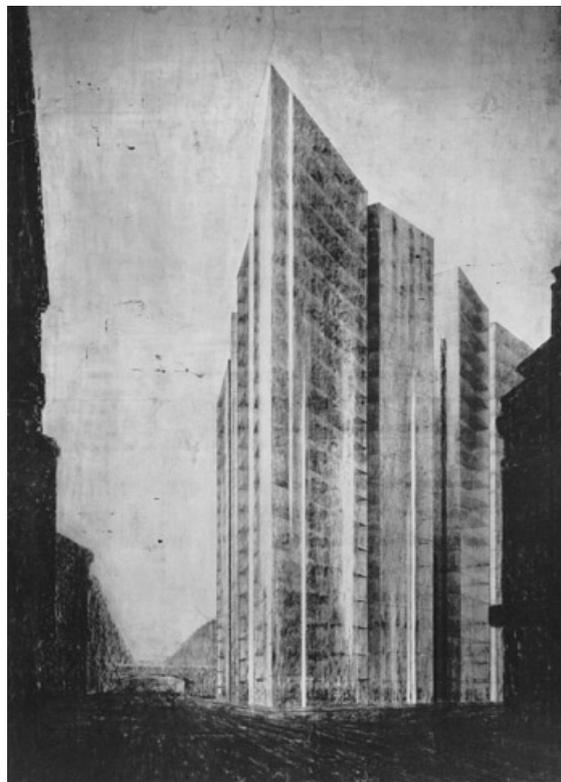
The Cavalier Bremworth Awards seek to recognise the best in unbuilt work from both students and practice. In his remarks at last year's awards, judge Gerald Melling suggested that the competition highlights a disconnect between the experience of students and practice. He observed that students often suffer from the lack of constraints in their projects: "an illusory advantage offering too much freedom and too few signposts"; while practitioners are often stifled by external exigencies. The negotiation of constraints is an essential element of architectural production: knowing how to respect them, and when they need to be challenged. The design process could arguably be described as a protracted engagement with many kinds of constraint.

In 2005, Herzog and de Meuron's exhibition 'Archaeology of the Mind' put on display the accumulated by-products of the Swiss practice's design process. Instead of exhibiting photographs of models of completed works, they gathered together a thousand or so exploratory models, design sketches, notes on details, conceptual photographs and other miscellanea, in order to foreground the importance of the incomplete, unresolved, and unrealised parts of their work. Unbuilt projects are not simply projects that failed. Often ideas and strategies that are developed in proposals which never left the office have ramifications down the line. The most important projects aren't necessarily the built ones: one thinks of the influence of Mies van der Rohe's glass skyscraper project, Adolf Loos' house for Josephine Baker, or Zaha Hadid's Peaks, for example.

The Auckland Architecture Association and Cavalier Bremworth are keen this year to promote discussion of public projects. Auckland faces important challenges over its public spaces: the Art Gallery Extension, the refurbishment of Aotea Square, the opening up of the Wynyard Quarter with the new Te Wero bridge, additions to the rail network, and the continuing growth of the stifling motorway system. Last year's very public stadium debate brought architectural questions to the front pages of newspapers, and the headlines of the TV news.

What ever happened to your stadium proposal? Was your proposal for Te Wero better than the one that won? Has your practice been working on equally important, but less widely appreciated architectural problems? Sometimes the most small-scale projects encourage the most ingenious solutions. Can something be resurrected from your graveyard file? Public or not, some of your unfinished or unpolished projects deserve to be seen. And perhaps they even deserve to be recognised for the as-yet-unbuilt masterpieces they are. *Carl Douglas, for the Auckland Architecture Association.*

**Registrations for the AAA Cavalier Bremworth Awards for 2008 close on 6 November. More information can be found at [www.aaa.org.nz](http://www.aaa.org.nz)**



Mies van der Rohe's earth-shaking 1734mm high Friedrichstrasse Skyscraper Project

## PRINT DESIGN CLASSICS #8



Don Quixote. J. & W. Beggarstaff. c.1895.

Brothers-in-law William Nicholson (English) and James Pryde (Scottish) teamed up between 1894 and 1899 rejuvenating certain aspects of illustration and poster design. They went under the pseudonym J. & W. Beggarstaff – coming across the name Beggarstaff one day on a sack of fodder in an old stable. They were also sometimes referred to as the Beggarstaff Brothers.

This was perhaps their finest work, created – although not used – for a stage production and later released for a limited edition.

Abandoning ornamental designs of the period,

it displays innovative silhouettes along with simplified shapes, large areas of flat colour, economy of lettering and avoidance of outlines where possible, all brought together inside a thick black border.

Note how Don Quixote's lower body is silhouetted against the white horse, silhouetted against the windmill, which in turn is silhouetted against the sky.

Despite the originality of their work, or probably because of it, they received relatively few commissions and some of their designs never achieved exposure on the hoardings.



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## A Letter to the Editors

PC's commentaries in Block are never pc, which makes them all the more readable. But the September issue ("In Praise of Clarity") has even more food for thought than usual. Let's start with Maya Lin's Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and the words she has used to describe (and defend) it. What makes her rhetoric "flawless" is that it goes straight to the heart of architecture's core concerns. Everything that Lin has said about her project serves to remind us that architecture must be measured by the experience it offers, and not (as her critics assumed) by metaphorical readings of it. The post-competition success of the memorial design (which silenced its critics overnight) is testament to this. The fact that Lin has been spare with her words is secondary. In fact, the power of her big idea has been articulated in detail by others (notably Jeffrey Ochsner in his illuminating and lengthy essay "A Space of Loss: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial", in *Journal of Architectural Education* 50/3). Ochsner's commentary, because of its experiential focus, could have been written by Lin herself. (And by her own admission, Lin often commences her projects by writing an essay.)

Lin's project and her words describing it should serve to remind that it is not for each of us to attempt (consciously or otherwise) a reworking of architecture's necessary focus when we turn to explaining our own work (be it with or without any big ideas). Yet years of reading or listening to architects' explanations of their designs suggests to me that this is not widely appreciated. Architecture, too often, becomes what individual architects would like it to be.

How did these architects acquire such subversive thinking habits? Suspect # 1 needs to be the design studios in schools of architecture. The practices of the design studio have traditionally been insufficiently grounded in good old (or new) disciplinary knowledge. Relativism (fuelled by a culture of individualism and mistaken notions of "creativity") was, and still is, alive and well. Perhaps the legacy of the "good keen kiwi bloke" (refer PC) still lurks somewhere in all this, despite kiwi blokes now being very much in the minority in the design studio. Again Lin and her Washington project are instructive. Despite its sculptural presence,

it is grounded in an understanding of the architectural traditions associated with commemorative structures, and a critical stance towards these traditions.

PC then makes a giant leap from obscurity via the language architects frequently use to describe their work, to the decline of "Auckland's architecture school" (presumably the University school). I am not sure that they are closely linked but I am willing to take the same risky leap in order to make a similar change of tack. The chatlist 'lottery' on when this decline began is interesting, and I could proffer my own date (and won't). But if the profession is genuinely concerned then it needs to understand that the University has a formidable momentum in the pursuit of its institutional definition of "excellence", and that this is at odds with many of the hallmarks of excellent schools of architecture. As we also now know, not even a meeting of the president of the NZIA with the Vice Chancellor managed to achieve the smallest of deflections to this institutional trajectory. (And please do not imagine that the processes of professional accreditation review will be any more effective.) If the profession wishes to see this situation change it will need to propose solutions as arresting as Maya Lin's Washington memorial, and to show the same degree of resolve in seeing them implemented. *John Hunt*



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# The Fine Print

CHAIR'S REPORT: Christina van Bohemen

It's been a busy month, mainly with organisation of this year's Architecture Weekend Event - *Long Live the Modern Conversations* - both sponsorship, programme and bookings. (John Balasoglou to report on the detail), and Plan Change 163. I chaired PC 163 meetings with a working group of Auckland Architects to review new criteria for demolition, new buildings and additions and alterations to existing houses in Res 2. This working group made minor amendments to criteria drafted by Jeremy Salmond (who has been engaged by ACC to chair the Mayor's working group). Jeremy also attended our meetings. Following acceptance of our the draft criteria by the Mayor's working group, Jeremy prepared a report to the Mayoral Forum on PC163. This was discussed at the Mayoral Forum on Monday 29 September. There is general agreement on the new criteria by those participating in the working group, other parties who did not attend the working group (Parnell Heritage attended only 1 of the 3 meetings) have raised some issues. The matters still under debate are the criteria for deciding which buildings will be exempt from the demolition clause, and defined in maps. There is also some discussion about process. A further subgroup is working through this. The NZIA is not part of this new group, which is reporting back in two weeks time, although Jeremy Salmond is going to keep me posted and will request attendance if he thinks it would be helpful.

There is still a question of whether the Environment Court will decide if the current redraft and proposed changes constitutes a preliminary issue, and whether they will direct re-notification. We have written to Penny Pirrit noting that we think the draft criteria are workable, but that we continue to have concerns about the process within Council - the speed and cost. We have proposed some sort of fast track process for minor complying proposals within both Residential 1 + 2.

I met with Ludo Campbell Reid for a general catch up. He has requested names for nominations to both the Urban Design Panel and the Mayoral Task force. I have met with Richard Harris and the Mayoral Task force. Richard Harris and Gordon Moller have recently been to see Council officers at North Shore City Council to express support for an Urban Design Panel. They are meeting with some politicians soon too. Ludo Campbell Reid has been canvassing the idea of an Urban Design Week in March '09 and hosted a lunch meeting before the launch to explore ideas. Other attendees included Alex Swney (Heart of the City) who volunteered to put a proposal together. I confirmed that Auckland Branch is supportive of the idea of a city initiative, but that we would not bring Architecture Week forward for inclusion in a March event as there is not enough time. A number of others attending the meeting supported the idea of activities throughout the year rather than putting all efforts into a single week.

The Urban Design Forum was launched at the town hall on 25 September. There was a good turnout - 230 people, with architects well represented. Bob Simcox, Mayor of Hamilton was a guest speaker and talked about how the city is transforming itself and that urban design underlies all strategies in the city. I represented

the profession on a panel of each of the disciplines that make up the UDF (landscape architecture, planning, surveying and engineering). Panel presentations included a miscellany of thoughts about what urban design is about, the potential for misunderstanding concepts and the need for dialogue between all of us involved in the design and construction of the built environment. The NZIA is now officially part of the UDF and individuals are also encouraged to sign up and partake in events - and volunteer to assist. Keep an eye out for events on the website [www.urbandesignforum.org.nz](http://www.urbandesignforum.org.nz). Richard Harris is to host a meeting later this week to discuss the relationships between NZIA as a national organization, UDF and UIG and representation on those bodies.

Architecture Week 09 was discussed with a small group at the beginning of the month. See John Balasoglou's report.

Last Friday, Lindley, Beverley, John and I went up to Whangarei to meet with northern members. We invited members from Warkworth north to attend. Apart from giving an update on Branch activities and matters that Council and National Office are preoccupied with, we talked about Branch events and opportunities for continuing professional development, and how we might be able to provide more support. Beverley gave an update on the CPD programme being developed for smaller centres next year, so Whangarei should see the benefit of that. There are various logistical issues with locating CPD events in Whangarei - not least of which is cost, and in the light of that the members of the group were encouraged to apply to us for allocation of funds. We should make some provision in the preparation of our budget next year. Consideration should also be given to including a weekend trip to the north to speakers coming to Auckland. We also discussed the possibility of having education events in Albany which might make it easier for our northern members to attend. Beverley will follow up on this. After the business part was done Lindley gave a presentation from the Trenta Casa Series about the houses at Middleton Rd.

COMITTEE FOR AUCKLAND REPORT: Gary Lawson

September included a session at the Auckland City Mission for a sobering presentation from Dianne Robertson about the Homeless, Child Poverty and other major social problems.

The group has also begun working on our project ideas for next year. So far there are plenty of great ideas looking to engage with Auckland and try to improve things in some way.

*Fine Print continued overleaf...*

Each Block is laid by a dedicated editorial team, all of whom happen to work at Cheshire Architects: Andrew Barrie, Pip Cheshire, Nathaniel Cheshire & Sean Flanagan.

[nat@cheshirearchitects.com](mailto:nat@cheshirearchitects.com) for a colour pdf or back issues

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## PRACTICE ISSUES GROUP: Charissa Snijders & Richard Goldie

The Practice Issues Group briefly reviewed the success of the Joint ventures presentation and discussed possible speakers for the third topic – Special Contracts, to be held on the 15 October 2008.

At the meeting we scoped the range of Special Contracts from Alliancing to the NZIA 'bolt ons' currently being worked on. It was decided that Charissa will give a brief overview of why there is a need for architects to be aware of special contracts, plus she will review Collaborative Working Arrangements. Norrie Johnson will discuss the work he is involved in regarding 'bolt on' modules to NZIA SCC1 series and will discuss when they are appropriate to be used. Each presentation will be around 10-12 minutes and the format of the presentations will address the purpose, the principles, the practices and procedures, and the policies of each of the contracts.

We have also invited Shane Brealey, from NZ Strong to provide feedback and opinion as to the advantages and disadvantages of each of the contracts from a Contractor's point of view.

## TECHNICAL ISSUES PORTFOLIO: Michael Middlebrook

Extension of Building Work not requiring a Building Consent from 16 October 2008 (announced by Shane Jones)

- Changing existing household plumbing, including minor drainage work, as long as the work is done or signed off by a licensed plumber or drainlayer.
- Building a small cabin near an existing home, as long as the cabin < 10 m<sup>2</sup> and does not have cooking or sanitary facilities.
- Removing or changing a non load-bearing wall
- Building awnings, pergolas or verandas over a deck
- Installing/replacing windows/exterior doors, provided there have not been weathertightness problems and there is no change to structure
- Making a home more accessible by widening doorways and building access ramps
- Fitting out shop or office interiors where the work does not modify certain important building features, such as fire escapes
- Erecting tents or marquees, as long as they are smaller than 100 m<sup>2</sup> (for private use) and 50 m<sup>2</sup> (for public use) and will not be used for more than a month.

*Architect Self Certification:* The TIG met again on this issue early in September. This is proving to be a tough issue. The consensus was that the TIG should come up with a unified proposal and present this to the Auckland Branch members. We felt that a wide ranging discussion would not be productive. However the TIG is some way off from a consensus. One view is that all architects should be free to judge for themselves whether to self certify or not and the industry would self correct any problems with this. Another view is that architects are generally not in a good position to make this judgment and that there needs to be controls on self certification probably from the NZRAB. If it is left to the architects any problems could cause an overreaction from the government which could end self certification (The NYC example). Either way there needs to be more technical CPD and work on how this should be best delivered. Our current CPD faire still lacks suitable technical education which was the main reason for mandatory CPD.

*Key issue for Auckland Branch discussion: Development of an Auckland Technical CPD program:* We have technical expertise amongst the members and consultants that can be shared in much the same way as the PIG meetings. Topics could be risk based and complementary to the product talks. Are the Architectural Schools/Universities interested in (or capable of) providing short papers and less formal continuing education classes in advanced facade engineering, building technology, physics, conservation etc?

## ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORT: Carolyn Savage

Albercht Stoecklein and Craig Prentice of Right House were the guest speakers for the September Environmental Group meeting. Albercht first gave an outline of the role that Right House carried out and a general view of how they operated. It function is to provide a 'One Stop Shop' with different suppliers/products that can meet different design and budget requirements. Their function is to work with architects and their clients in providing a

product that bests meet their needs and be most energy efficient.

Then Albercht proceeded to present the Right House Designer Workshop, Compliance with Clause H1 outlining how the Compliance works, the difference between the calculated and schedule methods and the use of NZS 4218 Schedule Method or ALF. He explained how you may review different construction items which can be used to boost up different R-values, for example higher flooring and roofing insulation may mean the need not to have double glazing.

Albercht then mentioned that under the Building Code the minimum requirements under E3 in relation to thermal and moisture values must also be meet. Under the requirements for both calculated and schedule methods these would be meet or exceeded easily.

Craig Prentice then outlined the role that Right House perform, for example in preparation of reports, either in the simple form (approx \$350) which covers Energy Performance Calculations, thermal requirements to design recommendations and costing of the installation of the products. This price is not charged if the clients purchase the specified products. Right House also provide a full thermal image for a Home Energy Audit and can show the heat gains/losses for every room of a house for \$2k to \$3k. They specialise in providing the product data, manufacturer's information, specification, qualified installers and commissioning of the systems.

## ACTIVITIES PORTFOLIO: John Balasoglou

*Stevenson Spring Lecture Series:* The turnout has been very satisfactory and the lectures well received. 100-120 people each Tuesday and good question-and-answer sessions. The only mild disappointment has been the obvious lack of people from the larger practices like Jasmax, Warren & Mahoney, and Architectus. We need to find a way of changing this.

*Long Live the Modern launch/Architecture Weekend:* After a great deal of work we have been able to procure sponsorship for this event. This means that rather than using Branch funds we will be able to make a profit which can be set aside for future Branch events. Activities are:

Friday 17th October:

5.30pm at Gus Fisher Gallery Shortland St  
Book launch and refreshments - all Auckland architects are welcome

8.20pm (doors open 7:30) at Ellen Melville Hall, 2 Freyberg Place  
Pecha Kucha Night AKL\_10

Saturday 18 October "conversations":

1.00pm Linda Tyler in conversation with Ted McCoy  
2.00pm Dorita Hannah in conversation with Jim Beard  
3.00pm Ian Lochhead in conversation with Peter Beaven

Sunday 19 October

11.00am bus tour with Linda Tyler.

*Architecture Week 2009:* A group is in the early stages of developing ideas but would appreciate some others putting up their hands to help. Christina has had an early discussion with Auckland City and John Balasoglou has approached Auckland University, Unitec and AAA about being involved and has received a positive response.

## HERITAGE PORTFOLIO: Adam Wild

*Working Collaboratively:* The Heritage group is keen to explore and promote the overlap between other Branch portfolios (e.g. environmental and urban issues), working groups (the Committee for Auckland and the Urban Design Panel) and other NZIA branches.

*Auckland City Plan Change 163* This issue has been around for a while. Hearings have been heard and a decision version can be found on the Auckland City website. The decision is however subject to appeal before the Environment Court. Council has been reconsidering the criteria in the residential 2 activity zone and this has brought about a new wave of concern and appeal (refer the Branch Chair's report). The Mayoral task group may be expanded to bring in further expertise.

*Long Live The Modern:* The Gus Fisher Gallery has organised an exhibition entitled *Long Live the Modern: New Zealand's New Architecture, 1904-1984* to coincide with the release of the book *Long Live the Modern: New Zealand's New Architecture, 1904-1984* (AUP), edited by Julia Gatley, this exhibition looks at New Zealand's increasingly valued heritage of modern architecture. It concentrates on the post-World War II period, which saw enormous government expenditure on housing, public buildings and infrastructure projects, and a concurrent wave of private and commercial developments. The book and exhibition show how international ideas were both pursued and adapted to New Zealand concerns, climates and conditions. Admission free, 17 October-22 November 2008, The Gus Fisher Gallery 74 Shortland Street, Auckland Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-5pm; Saturday, 12-4pm; closed Public Holidays Phone: 9 373 7599 ext 86646 Email: gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz Website: www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

*IPENZ Heritage:* We have been asked to review and provide feedback on the IPENZ Heritage Assessment Programme.

SPONSORSHIP PORTFOLIO: Stephen Martin

*NZIA Auckland Branch – Stevenson Spring Lecture Series:* Stevenson are thrilled with the turnout by Auckland architects to the Spring Lecture Series. The Stevenson Life Outside showroom on Gillies Avenue is accessible and the right size for this type of branch event, and of course offers the sponsor great product visibility. The success of this event proves that branch members respond keenly to fellow members pontificating about the apparent issues of the day and that format change is revitalising. Well done to John Balasoglou for organising a stimulating programme at short notice.

*Block advertising:* The editors of BLOCK are seeking advertising leads to support the expanding literal and physical weight of their monthly - please forward any to Nat Cheshire at nat@cheshirearchitects.com

UNITEC STUDENTS REPORT:

*Wellington/South Island Tour:* Nine Unitec Architecture students took a 12-day tour of the South Island and Wellington accompanied by lecturer Christoph Schnoor. The tour was proposed as an elective by a group of students in response to the number of overseas study tours on offer. They spent time in Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Queenstown and met numerous members of the architectural community including Mark Southcombe and Robin Skinner from Victoria University's Architecture Department, Ian Athfield, John Gray, Gerard Melling, Thom Craig, Sir Miles Warren and Anna-Marie Chin, all of whom acted as superb tour guides through their cities, offices and/or homes. A big thank you.

*Rangitoto Design/Document/Building Project:* This semester another Design/Build has been offered to students. 10 2nd Year BAS students have been involved in the research, design and build/install alterations, additions and alternative energy and waste systems for a bach on Rangitoto Island. The project is run by tutors Rau Hoskins and Miles Heine as a part of Maori Studio and received funding from the Sustainable Habitats Challenge. A new outhouse with fully working composting toilet has been designed and built, along with restorative work to the existing bach.

*Unitec/ Kidscan Bach Project:* Update on the bach being built by 16 Masters students at Unitec. The bach is close to being weather-tight, however students have had to start a new studio design project so building is now limited to spare time. We hope to have it complete for public viewing in time for the Unitec end of year exhibition on 26th of November and encourage all to come check it out. For more info on the project see the following share architecture website. <http://www.sharearchitecture.co.nz/unitec-kidscan-building-project-p-178.html>

UoA STUDENTS REPORT: James Pearce

*Crit Week:* This semester crits for 1st - 4th years are being held from 20th – 24th of October, with 5th year presenting their projects the following Tuesday and Wednesday (28th/29th). I encourage anyone to come along and see what the students have been working on this semester.

*SANNZ:* SANNZ is the new name for SONANZ. It was changed after market research was carried out and found people thought the old name to cumbersome.

*SuperStudio08:* The Superstudio08 finalists were judge recently and sadly none of the New Zealand teams placed anywhere. Hopefully the hype created by this year's event will lead to more success in Superstudio09.

*Simon Devitt Photography Prize:* The entries are currently on display in the Level 3 Exhibition studio of the Architecture Building at Auckland University. There is some amazing work and the finalists have been selected. Anyone is able to view the collection which is displayed toward entrance walkway.

UNITEC REPORT: Tony van Raat

ScALA staff have just completed the first of their two annual trips to teach our courses in China. We have some 250+ students enrolled there and the teaching is going well. The first cohort of students who came to us to finish their degrees in NZ are working at A-level already so, as they become acclimatized, we may confidently expect really excellent work from them. A nice bunch too. This is successful and very profitable business for Unitec with the benefit of adding students of high ability to our cohorts.

Just back from the AASA conference of regional heads of architecture schools. The only really significant issue which affects us is the emergence of the new architecture students' association in NZ - I trust you will get a separate full report on SANNZ - Student Architecture Network NZ. The NZIA is offering what looks like good support but you all need to be aware of it.

The NZ Architectural Publications Trust continues with work in hand. We have four books on Crosson Clarke Carnachan, Beard/Alington/Toomath/ Wilson, John Blair and Holmes Group (yes, I know they're not architects, but...). We are also talking to Andrew Patterson about a book. This represents a good level of activity and we're pleased the model seems to be working. The recent book on SPA/Architecture + and Herriot Melhuish seems to be selling well too.

Restructuring at Unitec has taken an unexpected turn. The Chief Executive released a proposal for comment a month or so ago which indicated a structure of 8 schools one of which was ScALA - unchanged from its present state. He has now decided, however, to abandon the model of schools altogether and instead to form about 28 Departments, of which architecture and landscape architecture will be two in a new faculty of business, accounting, computing, communication, design, performing and screen arts, landscape and architecture. All the present heads of schools lose their positions but may apply for new roles as heads of the new departments. The effects of these changes are as yet difficult to ascertain, but none of this need have any negative effect on students, who will continue to be taught the same courses by the same staff, more or less. I think they need to feel confident about Unitec's future in architectural education, as I most certainly do.

UoA REPORT: Prof. Jenny Dixon

This month has been busy at the School and there are only a few weeks left before teaching concludes for the semester. There was a very successful launch on 11th September at St Paul Street Gallery of Uwe Reiger's exhibition → [arc/sec] Reactive Architecture → which incorporated staff and student work from the School. Michael Milojevic and 41 students returned from Italy following a five week study tour and joint studio with students at the University of Palermo. Julia Gatley's book *Long Live the Modern* is about to be released by the University of Auckland Press. Dr Sarah Treadwell, Deputy Head of Professional Programmes, attended the recent Heads of School meeting in Canberra on behalf of the School.

Staff are preparing for the commencement of the MArch (Prof) next year and finalizing requirements for the thesis and other courses. We will be seeking assistance from practitioners with supervision and examination of theses. An external panel has just completed a review of teaching and learning practices with a set of recommendations which will be actioned in time for the beginning of 2009 academic year. Recruitment of several positions in Architecture should shortly reach conclusions.