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

BLOCK

How Did I Get Here?

Sean Flanagan is Pushed and Pulled by Belich's Latest Offering

James Belich, *Replenishing the Earth – The Settler Revolution and the Rise of the Anglo-World 1783-1939* (Oxford University Press, 2009)

Doing the rounds to promote his new book *Replenishing the Earth – The Settler Revolution and the Rise of the Anglo-World 1783-1939*, the historian James Belich told National Radio's Kim Hill that he is now looking East and that his next book is going to be about China, which he sees as history's dominant superpower. His plans piqued Hill's interest because *Replenishing the Earth* outlines the hows and whys of Anglo ascendancy - exploring for example the growth of settler super-cities like Melbourne which had zero permanent inhabitants in 1835 and yet by 1891 was home to 473,000 people. Surely this was a sign of the prowess of the Anglo world? And so too was the way in which Great Britain outsourced its food and raw-material production to its settler posts and then shipped the bounty home. This freed up land in the likes of London for industry rather than agriculture, which thereby supported industrial development. The overseas settlements helped feed Londoners who numbered 2 million in the 1830s but 6.5 million by the turn of the twentieth century. Hill queried how one could write a book about the phenomenal movement of people, products and wealth between Great Britain and its colonies, delving into the complex relations between settler and mega-cities, and then propose that China is where the real oil lies? Belich acknowledged that the last 200 years had indeed witnessed an Anglo dominance but, he said, when one steps up a scale and looks at history in terms of millennia rather than centuries, then the Anglo-achievements captured in *Replenishing the Earth* appear as only a minor blip in China's long standing cultural ascendancy.

The radio interview captured something of Belich's modus operandi – continual movement. With the author having recently completed one book, he was already onto a new line of thought. *Replenishing the Earth* also carries a real sense of movement, as Belich drives through historical data in an effort to piece together a reasonable narrative of the ways and means of human settlement. The book covers a lot of territory in its efforts to provide "a new explanation for the explosive growth of English-speaking societies in the long nineteenth century." Readers are taken between London, Melbourne, New York, Chicago, New Zealand, Canada, Queensland, Beijing, Spain, Greenland, Texas, Russia and many other places as the author works to revise the dominant understandings of

explosive growth. This is a revisionist history based on a conviction that the dominant ideas about the explosion are impoverished accounts, which are readily refuted by historical data that points to a richer understanding. Historical statistics have played a central role in the book. Data - like the fact that over 200 newspapers were founded in New Zealand's first forty years or that Adelaide had 108 small manufactories by its fifteenth birthday in 1850 - is set to work to refute and replace narrow ideas about Anglo growth. At times the statistics come over as all too voluminous but they convey a sense of the rigour with which Belich (and his research assistants) poured through the likes of *International Historical Statistics* and the *Oxford History of the British Empire* to build their case. To stick with Belich though is to reap the rewards when he sets the facts and figures to work.

One revision undertaken is that of the 'push-pull' model of thought often used to categorise the forces that scattered people to far-flung places. Strangely, Michael King attributed this very model of thought to Belich and so it is interesting to watch as Belich critiques it, questioning the validity of hitherto identified forces thought responsible for pushing people out of Britain and pulling them down to our neck of the woods.

King identified the push factors as being European overpopulation, poverty, hunger, the inability of people to break out of the repressive class system and the fear of religious persecution. At the opposite end, King said that the pull factors drawing people to the 'Britain of the South' were the promises of prosperity, the advertised benefits of a healthy environment, the opportunities for social advancement without class repression and, for those with money, the opportunity to invest in the industries of settlement and thereby grow their capital. Belich critiques these forces in light of what the statistics reveal and explains how some previously persuasive push factors must now be seen as having taken effect only after mass-migration had commenced, while other forces are plainly refuted by the statistics. And so he recounts how much Catholic migration from Ireland began prior to the Great Famine of the mid-19th century, and how the records of those who did migrate indicate that many came from the richer counties of the Emerald Isle where, he points out, people had choices and were not merely pushed out. Further, he recounts how the poor depended on migration assistance schemes in order to board the ships and the records show that only 7 per cent of migrants from Britain travelled under assistance schemes. Poverty's place as a dominant push force is thereby challenged. Belich similarly critiques the pull factors and, in sum, complicates the motives for overseas settlement and demonstrates how one of the historian's favourite tools (categorisation) can lead to oversight.

Having complicated this push-pull model, Belich turns to statistics to find a richer explanation for the Anglo explosion and he does so by looking at things at a larger scale. He latches on to evidence suggesting a change in the perception of immigration in the first decades of the nineteenth century and identifies a period in which leaving one's homeland turned from being something overtly negative to something more positive. Belich traces this "somersault in British attitudes towards immigration" through newspaper statistics, utilising the fully searchable database of *The Times of London*. He observes in the press, the rise and fall of a number of descriptors for the departed – from emigrants to colonists to pioneers and ultimately to settlers. The 'emigrant' was for better or worse associated with the image of 'social excretion' that Belich says dominated the immigration debate at the turn of the nineteenth century - the pauper, fool, or outcast compulsorily ejected from the homeland. But by the early nineteenth century both the concept and the naming of those who left was changing. Belich traces this change: "Even in *The Times*, then, 'settler' moved from 7.5 per cent of the usage of 'emigrants' in the 1780s, to 23.5 per cent in the 1800s decade, and then to 58.5 per cent in the 1810s."

Continued on p.2

How Did I Get Here? Continued from p.1

Foregoing the historian's vanity of thinking he can group people in neat categories (i.e. he was pushed by poverty, she was pulled by the hope of social advancement), Belich looks for an overarching theory of the Anglo explosion that is big enough to be of relevance in understanding the hundreds of thousands who moved to the colonies whilst also being plainly evident in an ordinary cultural artefact – the daily newspaper. Belich writes that the turn from emigration to 'settlerism' "converted emigration within the Anglo-world from an act of despair that lowered your standing to an act of hope that enhanced it."

The revision of the push-pull model of thought is but one example of the types of debates that Belich enters into in this wide-ranging study of Anglo growth. Throughout he also addresses the business of growth, the progress industry, the politics and economics of settlement, the 'booster' industry that talked up the life of the settler, the rhythms of boom and bust that affected settlements, and the processes of 're-colonisation' which intertwined settler super-cities with their mega-city homelands. Pervading all of this is Belich's ability to convey rich ideas about settlement by having studied the facts and figures of everyday things – the number of newspapers in a city, the number of post-offices it had, and the tonnage of food it shipped in. Belich endeavours to understand settlers not as an abstract historical construct but as people who did ordinary things (read, wrote, ate) during an extraordinary time and in extraordinary places. Settlers, he observed, "were whining bundles of hopes and fears just like us." This may seem obvious, but it takes a careful historical methodology to convey and this is something Belich achieves in an often intriguing way. *SF*

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Awaiting Discovery

BLOCK recently stumbled upon Bookmark in Takapuna's Parkway Arcade (46-54 Hurstmere Rd). A solid collection of second-hand architecture books saw us leave with a teetering pile of original GAS (inc. the Farnsworth and Falling Water Editas) and other treasures. Worth seeking out.



The Fine Print: May

Combined Excerpts from the Reports to NZIA Auckland Branch meeting of May 2010

CHAIR'S REPORT: Harry Street

1. Guests at Branch events: I don't believe there is a major issue with this, although we need to be mindful of numbers, as the guests' attendance is funded by members. The UIG protocol is useful to remember & could be employed more widely, although it is really driven by the sensitivity around issues the UIG is likely to be dealing with & it seems unlikely that other groups will have to deal with these sorts of sensitivities.
2. Local Awards Convenor: I have spoken to Kevin Brewer & Daniel Marshall. Kevin cannot do it because he has a number of projects he wants to submit. Daniel is interested & has undertaken to call Christina to confirm his availability. I have not approached Melanie or Mario.
3. Super City CCO Boards: Letter from Committee for Auckland encouraging the best available people to put their names forward.
4. Weather tightness PI Cover: Richard Goldie agrees this is a serious concern & worth exploring as part of PIG & the NZIA Practice Series.

UNITEC REPORT: Tony Van Raat

1. Five-yearly NVP: Went well with a full 5-year accreditation without conditions. The panel was informed & constructive & they have a few recommendations that we are happy to take on board.
2. Staffing: We welcome Prof Valentin Rothmayer from Germany & Lul Teckle from Florence as guest lecturers on exchange. Valentin is an artist & Lul a specialist in design for the handicapped. Mark Mismash from 11ten Design in Arizona has started teaching in the Department with an emphasis on sustainability.

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND REPORT: Uwe Rieger

1. Dr Christian Ibenex Suau is going to join the School in June. He will be teaching in the urban design area.
2. The school held its annual prizegiving evening on 3rd May. It was a very successful & well attended event, with over 50 prizes for outstanding achievements in the architecture program.
3. In cooperation with Unitec School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture, Bill McKay organized a very successful design charrette around the SH20 extension project.
4. Lada Hrsak from the Netherlands is currently running an intensive design studio as a visiting lecturer. The School will expand its international input through a new 'International Architect in Residence' program starting in semester two with Atelier Bow-Wow from Japan.
5. NICAI is hosting an information evening on Creative Practice PhDs (18th May). This event has generated huge interest with a large number of registrations from around New Zealand.

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND STUDENT REPORT: Aishwarya Basrur & Jordon Saunders

1. The Spanish and Shanghai study trips returned and were highly successful.
2. University of Auckland hosted its first sTutes session with 50 students from Unitec & Auckland. We were lucky to have a variety of practitioners, who all kindly contributed their time. Media centre facilities have begun to be utilised by practitioners, helping to establish stronger links between practice & University. The Communiqué talks have been successful so far.
3. The first group of MArch(Prof) students graduated on 3rd May. There were a high number of students who graduated with first class honours. Prizegiving was on the same evening. We were very happy to have a large number of students with work warranting recognition.

GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: Sandy Hayward

1. We have had some quite dramatic changes to the representation of the NZIA Graduate Development Programme committee over the past month. Firstly, congratulations to James Pearce, who just after our last NZIA meeting, was swiftly snapped-up by our mates in Australia, & is now working in Brisbane. Secondly, Sarah Mackenzie has already departed for her three-month stint between Noumea & France with Rotary, & will be presenting seminars based on architectural environments, as well as staying with French Architects. We look forward to hearing about her travels upon her return.
2. In the meantime, I will endeavor to hold the reigns in both representatives absence, & after being briefed by Sarah before her departure, will look at producing the next GDP seminar over the next two months. I look forward to helping with this portfolio.

HERITAGE PORTFOLIO: Adam Wild

1. NZIA heritage: In April I gave a paper at a conference in Chile & had the privilege of meeting Gustavo Araoz, the president of ICOMOS (the International Council for Monuments & Sites). In conversation he asked about heritage management in New Zealand & particularly the role of architects in that sphere. I explained NZIA's recognition of heritage within the new manifesto & in response to his request have forwarded a copy of the draft policy from 2005 for his information. As president of ICOMOS, he sits on the American Institute of Architects heritage committee & is keen to understand where other countries (& their architects) stand.
2. EIG: Collaboration with EIG has begun to enhance the common interests of both portfolios. As Kiri Reihana points out: "for Maori, heritage is inextricably linked to environment & in our society it is not separated out". We look forward to developing NZIA policies that reflect this position.
3. Kaitiakitanga in the concrete jungle: On Thursday 6th May, Unitec hosted a lecture by Ngarimu Blair (Ngati Whatua), which alluded to some of the principles of guardianship held by Maori & now reflected in the NZIA manifesto. More local collaboration between groups should be nurtured.

COMMITTEE FOR AUCKLAND/FAL: Marianne Riley

1. On 14th April KPMG hosted the first Future Auckland Leaders Alumni evening. Shannon Joe & myself attended from NZIA. The focus of the evening was to develop five key projects for the Auckland City new

mayor, based upon the Jeff Kennett approach for Melbourne 20 years ago. Key ideas to emerge were: focus on transport initiatives; focus on creating better land use for residential in inner city sites such as Wynyard point; & conference centre on waterfront. These ideas are being developed into a paper to be presented to John Banks & Len Brown.

2. On Tuesday 20th April there was a visit to Watercare to look at "Water for World Class Cities" with talks by Chief Operating Officer, Raveen Jaduram & Chief Engineer, Jim Hodges on how to plan for secure water supply 100 years into the future. I was unable to attend due to NZTA presenting SH20 Waterview connection to UIG. Future sessions are an economics session with Rod Oram on the 13th May & an "authentic" leadership session at AUT on the 25th May.

TECHNICAL ISSUES GROUP: Nicole Tarlton

1. The seminar 'Solar Energy Technologies' was held during lunchtime on Tuesday 27th April. The seminar presented by Eric Jansseune of EWA-TEC, covered energy consumption & loss in NZ & solar technology systems & how they work. The talk was extremely well attended with every seat & spare piece of carpet filled. Some offices had their environmental teams attend.

2. On 25th May, we will have two seminars on 'Buiding wraps, Vapour Barriers, Breathable Membranes – The How To Guide'. David Eccles Hall of Roofing Industries Ltd. & Thermakraft has agreed to present these seminars. This seminar will address the following topics in relation to both walls & roofs: vapour barriers, building wraps, breathable membranes, rigid air barriers. Note this presentation will be held twice – at lunchtime & in the evening.

MAORI INTERNSHIPS/CADETSHIP UPDATE (C4C): Kiri Reihana

1. NZIA branch representatives Megan Rule & Kiri Reihana were invited to attend a newly established Committee for Auckland Maori Business Strategy Network on 13 April. Part of the vision for this committee is encouraging the development of a greater Maori presence within our own & other allied industries, including establishing a Maori cadetship/internship programme for the Auckland area in all professional areas, which Pete Bossley has recently introduced to the Auckland Branch.

2. Currently there are two internships/cadetships available through TPK to NZIA Practices who would like to take on Maori graduates or undergraduates: the first being the C4C part of the Auckland committee initiative (in Auckland), the second being run via Rau Hoskins is Te Puni Kokiri funded & seeks to ensure Maori architecture graduates (as well as design & landscape architecture graduates) are able to successfully transition into the industry. 3-4 subsidies are still available, however the scheme was only available till the end of June.

3. Nga Aho – The network of Maori Design Professionals was formalised as an incorporated society in 2009 & includes architects, landscape architects, planners, engineers & artists who seek to support each other to better serve the design aspirations of Maori communities. www.ngaaho.maori.nz

Nga Aho has formalised relationships with DINZ, is currently working with the NZILA & is keen to build a working relationship with the NZIA, so that practices can more easily connect with Maori graduates & so graduates have a strong support network.

UNITEC STUDENT REPORT: Stu Penno & Rachel Dawkins

1. SANNZ presented an Archicad workshop for students at Unitec on the 15th & 16th April. We had an overwhelming response & ran out of computers for all students that were interested so we will look at running another course later in the year.

2. The first sTutes for the year was held at UoA for both schools of architecture. Great feedback from students is circulating. A second sTutes will be held by Unitec next semester.

3. Studio sessions are well under way with interim crits starting this week. A number of senior students have been invited to guest crit to encourage more interaction between year levels.

4. Four students from Unitec have been invited to the Murcutt Master Class to be held in Sydney this July. Each year sixteen senior students from around the world are invited to help the practicing architects finalise design concepts & help in modelmaking & final presentations in what is described by Glenn Murcutt as the 'apprenticeship system'. This year there are 30+ practicing architects from Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, India, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Singapore, Spain, South Africa, USA (California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York State, Oregon) & Australia, so the students will have great exposure to a variety of architectural work.

ENVIRONMENTAL PORTFOLIO: Megan Rule

1. Talks: 27th April – A lunch time talk in conjunction with TIG was a repeat session on Solar Technologies, by Solar Engineer Eric

Jansseune. This attracted a full house indicating that there is strong demand for further daytime sessions.

2. 27th April – An evening talk about Climate Change was presented by Landcare Research Scientists Dr Kevin Tate & Alison Greenaway. They reported on the recent Copenhagen global findings & how NZ is responding on a social/media level to these issues. Landcare had seven representatives present making up an attendance of around 30. The talk generated an extended discussion around environmental policy & the architect's role & influence in addressing environmental issues. Landcare offered & welcomed further collaboration with NZIA.

3. Environmental Policy/Guideline: Since the mid March release of the NZIA Environmental Guideline for membership feedback, EIG has facilitated an email & meeting forum for interested members to engage with an Environmental Policy /Guideline discussion. There has been an excellent response from both Auckland & other NZ branches. It was originally hoped that refinement of the policy/guideline would be finished for the May NZIA Council meeting. A final EIG draft for group consultation is now likely to be available within the next couple of weeks & ready for submission to the next Council meeting in August.

The Fine Print: June

CHAIR'S REPORT: Harry Street

1. Fellows: We need to think about nominations for admission as Fellows – suggestions welcome. Note: Council may admit as a Fellow any Architect Member who has: achieved a high standing in the profession or obtained a degree of eminence therein; or given meritorious services to the profession of architecture or to the Institute; & been engaged in the practice of architecture in any capacity or sphere of endeavour for a period of at least seven years.

2. Urban Design Panel: Ludo Campbell-Reid has advised the following have been appointed to the Urban Design Panel to join Professor John Hunt (Convener of the panel & chair of Panel 1): David Mead: Chairman Panel 2, Gavin Lister: Alternate Chair, Brian Aitken: Alternate Chair, Patrick Fontein: Alternate Chair, David Mitchell: Alternate Chair

3. Auckland Branch Awards Venue: Two venues have been proposed – St Mathews & Ironbank. Are there any other possibilities?

4. Presidents Tour: PC is keen to meet as many branch members as possible. To this end National Office is prepared to fund a cocktail function. We need to propose dates in the next month or so.

5. Eden Park: Populous are keen to host a tour (limited numbers) sometime in September but happy to coordinate the tour around other events if appropriate.

6. Committee for Auckland: Rodney Hide is speaking on 9th June regarding Super City & CCO's (they are exactly that - council controlled!).

7. Correspondence: In – Ludo Campbell-Reid recognising CvB's leadership during her term as Chair.

TECHNICAL ISSUES GROUP: Nicole Tarlton

The second seminar in the Building Envelope series was held on 25th May. David Eccles Hall of Roofing Industries covered: building wraps, vapour barriers, breathable membranes & rigid air barriers. The seminar was run twice. The lunchtime seminar was attended by approximately 25 members; the evening seminar was almost a full house. The third seminar in the building envelope series will be on Insulation & will be held on 27th July.

NZIA COUNCILOR'S REPORT: Tim Melville

1. The Council : The new NZIA Council officially commenced its tenure at the AGM held on Saturday 15th May. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for 5th/6th August.

2. Environmental Policy: Patrick has asked Councilor Anne Salmond to help coordinate work on the NZIA Environmental Policy.

3. The Building Act: The two motions regarding the Building Act proposed by Roger Hay & David Launder were carried at the AGM. Patrick has subsequently written to the Minister requesting a meeting to present supplementary proposals as an addenda to the original NZIA submission. John Sutherland & I have been enlisted to help Roger & Dave put together suitable material to support the arguments proposed in the motions. We need to present intelligent, positive recommendations to the Minister that augment the submission already made. The review team who prepared the original submission will be asked to review the proposals before they are presented to the Minister.

4. NZIA Conference 2012: Patrick is keen that concept planning commence soon for the NZIA Conference proposed for February 2012. We are hoping that representatives from the Auckland branch committee & membership will be closely involved in the planning of this event.

MAORI INTERNSHIPS/CADETSHIP UPDATE (C4C): Kiri Reihana

1. "Maori in Influential Positions" vision for the future: NZIA branch representatives Megan Rule & graduate Kiri Reihana, also ex-President Richard Harris & graduate Bobby Grant-Scully, attended the second Committee for Auckland Maori Business Strategy Network on the 25 May. Part of the committees' vision is to have this meeting hosted at all participants' head offices or boardrooms. The May 25th meeting was held at AUT Business School with the main presentation speakers being from AUT. Part of the function of this committee is to share the current practices & measures leading organisations are doing to help progress the vision of 'Maori in influential positions' & discussing what can be done in the future. AUT Pro Vice Chancellor Pare Keiha spoke about the free online resources created by AUT to aid in learning Te Reo via digital medium, for industry (CEO etc.) & educative purposes. This was followed by Senior Lecturer of Business & Law, Gaye Greenwood's presentation on 'Embedding bi-cultural relationships' in the business realm.

2. The policy & framework surrounding internships & cadetships are close to being finalised & formalised. Jasmx is also looking at these opportunities & establishing these at present. If anyone has openings available for an intern/cadet, please register your interest, as there are a number of ongoing enquiries from graduates & current students looking for employment within NZIA practices.

HERITAGE PORTFOLIO: Adam Wild

1. NZIA Heritage: In comparing notes with my colleagues in Wellington & Nelson, I note the appearance of a heritage policy called "Heritage Guidelines" on the NZIA web site. This policy is not to be confused with the Practice Note 5.202 issued late last year. It will be fascinating to see how these policies will be promoted & applied.

2. EIG: Collaboration with EIG has begun to enhance the common interests of both portfolios. As Kiri Reihana points out: "for Maori, heritage is inextricably linked to environment & in our society it is not separated out". We look forward to developing NZIA policies that reflect this position.

UNITEC STUDENT REPORT: Stu Penno & Rachel Dawkins

1. The screening of Ath's documentary "Architect of Dreams" went very well with students & Ath alike very pleased with the evening.
2. Planning for *SuperStudio* is well underway. This event is to be held at Unitec on 6th & 7th August & is open to all Schools of Architecture.
3. A group of students is preparing to travel to China later this month. The group will have a fairly dense schedule including visiting Hong Kong, Shanghai (where the Expo site will be visited), Beijing visiting major historical monuments (Great Wall, Ming Tombs, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, etc.), recent projects (CCTV Tower, Bird's Nest, etc.) & some architectural practices. After Beijing the group will travel to Xi An City to see the Buried Army & the old city.
4. Unitec students have been fortunate to have the exhibition "Gazing at the contemporary world - Japanese photography from the 1970's to the present" in their main exhibition space.

EVENTS PORTFOLIO:

1. A meeting of the events branch members was held on Wednesday 2nd June. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify roles & the direction /programme of branch events for 2010 & 11. Attendees: Andrea Bell, Eva Segedin, Sam Williams, Jerome Buckwell, Andrew Barrie, CvB.

Apologies: John Balasoglou, Jonathan Gibb.

2. Andrea agreed to be the Branch Events Coordinator & will liaise with Harry about managing the events programme, requests & liaison with the Institute's Office. Sam will coordinate the annual programme calendar. There was some discussion about the monthly calendar started by Rose, but which has not been distributed by the IO in recent months - possibly due to miscommunication/change of roles. The group thought that perhaps the monthly overview is no longer needed, but request discussion at the next Branch Meeting. It was agreed that it is good to have at least one events team person to manage a particular event in consultation with Harry & Andrea.

Typical Events: Tennis Tournament - John B, On the Boards - Jerome & John B, Winter/Spring Series - ?, Architecture Weekend (2010) - Jonathan, Architecture Week (2011) TBC.

One-off Events: Miscellaneous local speakers, International Speaker Awards: Handled by the Awards Secretariat/NZIA.

3. We felt that we should be planning to bring an overseas speaker over every year as a matter of course. See note below on budget/ sponsorship. The annual planner, or perhaps two year planner will give us an indication of the spread of events & ideally enough prep/lead-in time. There was some discussion about the need or not for sponsorship for some or all events that the branch stages - is it always necessary to do cost recovery, or can some of the allocation fund a speaker or two? Coordination & liaison with John Balasoglou &

Andrew Patterson is obviously important.

4. We would welcome a discussion about the budget for the year at the next meeting. It was agreed that the events subcommittee would meet on a regular basis to work up a programme. Planning for AW 2010 is underway & planning for AW 2011 needs to be started soon. There was also some discussion about getting architectural writers into the Readers & Writers Festival programme next year (May). It was also noted that discussions are beginning about a national conference in February 2012, which may or may not be in Auckland.

GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PORTFOLIO: Sandy Hayward

1. Justine, Christine, & I have been organising the GDE calendar for a proposed GDE Study Group & an Ethics Seminar/Workshop between GDP events, with the aim of spacing GDE & GDP events apart approximately monthly. Two events for the GDE programme are planned for the rest of 2010.

Proposed Event 1: Workshop Session, Thursday 22nd July, 6-8pm, D-72 NZIA offices. This is an opportunity for prospective registrants to get together & meet potential study buddies. An email will be sent out to graduate members to get a feel of who is interested in attending.

Proposed Event 2: Ethics Seminar/Workshop, Thursday 30th September, 4-6pm (a later time in the evening on this date TBC), D-72 NZIA offices. This will focus on the broad & often mysterious subject of ethics in architectural practice. We feel it is important to address for graduates, as it crops up across all the core competencies, yet can be a difficult theory to pinpoint in practice. We will be providing insight & experience of this subject from a range of architects to include in this seminar.

Up-coming events - don't miss out! NZIA APL Graduate Development Programme 2010: Friday 11th June 2.45pm - 7.30pm & Saturday 12th June 9.30am to 1.30pm, Sky City, Epsom Rooms 1 & 2, Level 4.

Experience Area Seminar/Workshop next weekend in Auckland, will go through the new Core Competencies issued this year. Bookings are taken online until 8.30pm Thursday 10th June. A great opportunity to have the core competencies explained in depth and not to be missed.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP PORTFOLIO: Megan Rule

Talks:

1. 11th May - Sustainable homes: Designing, Building, Renovating by Lois Easton from Beacon Pathways provided an informative overview of performance outcomes from various monitored building projects including two Beacon NOW houses. Lois also introduced a soon to be released Residential Rating Tool in conjunction with NZGBC & Branz.
2. 8th June - Sustainable Habitat Challenge: Tim Bishop the national coordinator for SHAC will overview the first biannual collaborative/ experimental event held in 2009 & introduce the 2011 event which is seeking practitioners' involvement in a range of building project types.
3. 13th July - Passive House Design: Kara Rosemeier will introduce a popular European model of passive house design initiated in 1991 & based on post occupancy evaluations & performance standards that minimise energy use. Kara will also be offering a more intensive block course at Unitec on Designing Passive Houses from the end of June.
4. Future invitation: Ngarimu Blair - heritage & urban planner specialising in sustainability issues - to talk about Maori history & perspective in interpreting our Auckland region urban landscapes. This talk could run in conjunction with HIG, UIG & C4C Maori in influential positions. Possible venue might be Jasmx office.
5. Eric Jansseune, Solar Engineer, is offering a block course at AUT on Advancements in Solar Energy starting in July.
6. EIG talks are generally attracting around 30 members. Most of our speakers are providing pdfs of their talks that we forward to our broader EIG group attendees who opt on to our email list.

Environmental Policy/Guideline:

1. A final EIG draft proposal of the NZIA Environmental Policy/ Guideline for wider EIG group consultation will be ready for submission to the Council for its August meeting.
2. It is hoped that the proposal will give a local NZ focus & direction to high-level statements that the NZIA Council has recently (re)-endorsed - The UN Earth Charter & the UIA Declaration and that these will all remain readily available on the NZIA website.

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND REPORT: Uwe Rieger

1. Semester 1 finished with successful public final presentations.
2. Under the title 'architecture to go' & in cooperation with AUT's multidisciplinary unit, the School of Architecture & Planning ran a two day exhibition with student installations at Shed ^ 10.
3. In the tradition of the Barcode, Urban Spoiler & Transformers studios, the school is preparing for a new large scale production studio in semester 2.

Tangling with Hirata

Patrick Loo and Sarosh Mulla Reflect on Akihisa Hirata's Auckland Lecture



Architectural metaphor cannot often be described as delicious. However Akihisa Hirata's recent lecture, in the University of Auckland's *Communique* series, showed that a good food analogy can be surprisingly illustrative. It seems that Hirata's entire practice can be summed up in an image of a particular type of fish roe sushi, which demonstrates his central theory of 'tangling'.

Hirata is the latest architectural prodigy to emerge from Toyo Ito's office and following the establishment of his own practice, the aptly named *Akihisa Hirata Architecture Office*, has completed a series of highly thoughtful, tangled projects.

Tangled accumulation, in the way that roe tangles to seaweed in nature, finds a corollary in the salmon roe sushi. Hirata approaches his projects similarly, looking for the natural pattern that has emerged and then imposing an order and rigour that results in spaces and architecture that can be both inhabited and read as 'tangled'. The complexity of spaces that results can be seen as contemporary interpretations of Adolf Loos' *Raumplan*. Spaces can be viewed through one another, allowing glimpses of life that is contained within, but without ever giving a view of the whole.

Hirata exploits the beauty of complexity through a logical, yet often hidden, set of rules. For example, for the fabric installation "animated knot" for Canon, Hirata creates a continuous, double

curving fabric knot which is so complex at first inspection that the viewer thinks of each of its parts as being completely unique. However, the complexity of the curvature is simply achieved through some cunning arrangement of the uniform curved steel frames that form the fabric installation's skeleton.

While Hirata's spaces are not overly pragmatic in shape, at times his way of breaking down program into digestible chunks through geometry, as shown in the *Architecture Farm* projects, reinforce his intelligent engagement with rules. Even though Hirata often hides his overriding logic, it is this use of logic that places him apart from today's current set of formalists, who seem to be intent on the final result and neglect any clarity in the generation of that result.

There are many who will not be enamoured by Hirata's work. However, what must be appreciated is the approach to research that pursues an ongoing idea through both built and unbuilt work. All too often as designers we are found to be guilty of dropping concepts just because we have used them before, due to the fear of being typecast as a 'one trick pony'. So the idea languishes and an opportunity for development is missed. We also, in that true Kiwi fashion, are nervous about telling others about our lofty ideas, preferring instead to shelter behind the stable shield of pragmatics and client direction. As such, Hirata's open engagement with a consistent body of research demonstrates that a good idea often has enough depth to deflect the danger of repetition; even when you are dealing with a strong aesthetic.

Given that Hirata's work is clearly approached as research, it was interesting to see the reaction from students engaged in their own research. For once, the students thought this practicing architect's work was more experimental, more challenging, more deliberate, and just tastier than the content of their own studios. *PL / SM*



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PRINT DESIGN CLASSICS #14

Having already designed the 2010 FIFA World Cup logo (bottom right), South African design agency Switch were one of a number of agencies invited to submit two designs each of a poster for the event. A poster was then selected as one of three shortlisted, at which point the public were asked to vote for their favourite.

Switch's poster emerged as the clear winner, something they partly attribute to their strong involvement in the Cup project, and understanding of the intimate relationship between Africa and football.

While the tournament is being staged in South Africa only, the design utilises the entire continent as its central image from which the profile of an African player's head emerges – perhaps symbolic of Africa emerging as a footballing power – focused on a classic-style football above.

This is the first time in the eighty-year history of the event that it's been hosted anywhere in Africa and the vibrant colours reflect not only the South African flag but are typical of the national colours of other prominent African countries.

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