



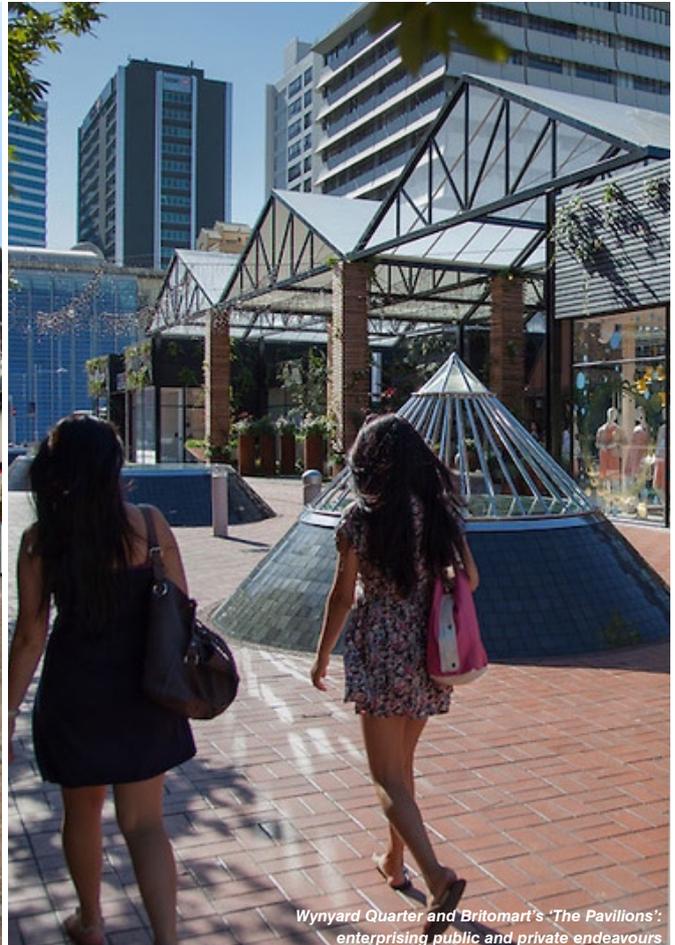
03 2013

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

BLOCK

Public-Private Partnership

Pip Cheshire on the Architect's Role in Transforming Public Space



Jasmax's Greg Boyden once lamented the absence of a Charles Jencks book to follow *The Language of Post-Modern Architecture*. It was not Jencks' laconic observations of one or another projects that was missing but the book's signalling of a dominant canon of architecture, a singular imperative and a prevailing aesthetic. Greg's observation has its parallel in the ever so slightly insecure observation of a Rolling Stone writer who observed that while Britain had begot wave upon wave of new music that had swept across the Atlantic, between styles the British musical scene was directionless, dull and dominated by self referential proto styles briefly flickering amid the entropic torpor of the popular music scene.

Well, we are clearly 'between styles' at present, no matter how much the reduction of ones herculean labours to an abbreviated descriptor of a style sticks in the craw. It is, though, unlikely that the pluralist age we find ourselves in will ever admit the dominance of a singular movement again. Even those projects which look like they belong to an unbroken way of architecting (see, I find even typing the word 'style' a challenge) carry a lot more baggage these days. So even the most faithful reworking of Neutra to be found in the local awards carries a full range of sustainability arguments, a profound engagement in bourgeois wants and yet somehow knits the kiwi concern with site, climate and outlook with the aesthetic of a modernist dogma founded on the prototypical and the general.

Continued next page...

Public-Private Partnership *Continued from previous page...*

This is not too much of a concern in main street where the city has more often been shaped by the combined forces of the balance sheet and the risk profiling of a cadre of middle management property people, all under the whip of planning mandarins. Not since internationalism – that last bowdlerised gasp of the modern movement – offered building owners a happy synchronisation of bottom line efficiency and an architectural imprimatur has architectural theory made much impact on the CBD valley. For all that architects, and architecture, are still seen, at least, to be likely to offer the city some help – witness the oft repeated request to offer a view on “what to do about the CBD, about Christchurch, about...”

I'm often a bit taken aback by the question, by its assumption of a singular quick fix, or else I am unsettled by the difficulty of gauging the complexity of answer appropriate to the questioner. Is this for example someone who needs a quick “appoint a city architect, make all urban design panels open to the public” sort of answer, or is it a prelude to a conversation concluding with the drawing up of a list of architects, planners, developers and politicians that should be strung from the light standards up and down Queen Street? That the question is asked of architects is encouraging, proof positive that we are seen as players, though I fear it betrays a naive belief in the power of design as a city shaper. If one could really get to the bottom of the means by which critical urban matters are determined I suspect one might immediately call for the noose and our trade find itself mercifully excluded from those important enough to be hoist aloft.

Aside from being an affirmation of our importance in the scheme of things, no matter how misplaced that affirmation might be, the question is indicative of an increasing focus on the quality of city life, be it here or earthquaked Christchurch. David Mitchell has said some time ago that the development of Auckland's urban life was compromised by there being so many places to escape to in the weekend, thus draining the city of life and discretionary dollars in the weekend, and damning the city to a life lived in five working days. Its a nice argument that can also be used to neatly account for Wellington's lively seven day street life courtesy of Cook Strait and the Rimutakas. It is, though, no longer true.

The holiday highways north and south are still jammed on a Friday afternoon, the Waiheke and Barrier ferries still plough laden through the Westhaven exodus, yet come Saturday there is still life – the cafes full, the roads awash in whirling lycra and the Tamaki Drive promenade crowded. Though Queen Street retail remains moribund in the weekend, much elsewhere looks and feels like a damn good city. We can thank an increased Queen Street resident population, more socially active immigrants, some critical changes in the configuration of the city's public spaces and a greater expectation of a public realm from returning expatriates for this.

Some of this is serendipitous, a confluence of, for example, distant educational policy change begetting a commercial activity (overseas students) with a concomitant increase in younger more sociable CBD valley inhabitants. Some change too, like that of the 'bricks and mortar' making up the city's public spaces, is the result of deliberate political initiative and an active local authority facilitation. The nature of this

facilitation reveals something of the machinations, power plays and ideological schisms within our local and national bureaucracies.

The imperatives of the physical and infrastructural tasks of nation building, the formation of roads, the supply of power, the making of harbours and the supply of safe drinking water and so forth are relatively clear and unequivocal goals. Similarly the provision of a nascent city's infrastructure is relatively free of controversy. It is not that way for the twenty first century supercity. The need to maintain and extend the pipes and tubes, roads and supply lines remains but contemporary local governments and their bureaucracies must balance these more traditional expectations with less measurable goals, not the least of which is the provision of a city that is safe, vibrant, sustainable, diverse, exciting, amazing, incredible, etcetera, etcetera.

The slow rate of urban change means the evolution of cities is always a delayed record of the ideological bias of those in power. Thus Auckland Council's recent engagement in the formation of public space, either by its own endeavours (North Wharf), or the facilitation of private enterprise (Britomart) is a catchup for a city left to the mercy of monetarist economics and the belief that a well ordered public realm will be the inevitable result of unfettered free enterprise. If the laissez faire economics of the last three decades of the twentieth century has failed city building, so too has local authority involvement in commercial operations which are an integral component of an active and sustainable urban realm. The vast public purse has a special ability to aggregate sites (Britomart and Wynyard Quarter) to achieve strategic urban intentions and to seed that territory with beautifully worked landscape (North Wharf) but is less successful in attempting to turn a brownfield site, or indeed almost any commercial endeavour, into a long term success.

The desire to make Auckland into one of the most liveable cities in the world presents all of us with opportunities to transform existing public and private bricks, mortar and public space. Where these projects involve aggregated sites and public open space, the City's heft is critical, and in the animation of those precincts and spaces, so too are the focussed energies of private enterprise. The challenges presented by the enlarged city's growth strategy will increasingly require a close coupling of the strategic analysis of community goals with the ruthless accountability of the balance sheet. To date we have had great success at the water's edge with somewhat basic arrangements of public and private purses, unravelling the complexities of mid town, or those of the many new growth areas on the isthmus will require a great deal more sophistication.

If architects are not the prime movers in this equation what then is their role, and what is the place of architecture? Well, its probably not as a 'directionless, dull and self referential' profession if we want to be players, though we may have to roll up our shirtsleeves and enter the commercial fray. Nick McCaw, the wunderkind of Britomart food and beverage, has pointed to the paradox of apparently chaotic but successful and visually rich retail facades being at odds with the formal clarity that is invariably the goal of architecture. Perhaps as we search for a modus operandi and a meaningful theoretical framework that is something more than the rearrangement of metaphorical deckchairs on main street we should be looking to a new publication by Robert Venturi rather than Charles Jencks. PC

NZIA Calender: March

Tue, 9th	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Jonti Valentine Auckland Art Gallery Auditorium
Wed, 10th	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) – Sara Fox Kensington Swan, 18 Viaduct Harbour Avenue, Auckland
Tue, 16th	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Rachel Shearer Auckland Art Gallery Auditorium
Tue, 30th	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Sarosh Mulla Auckland Art Gallery Auditorium

The Final Hurdle

Courtney Kitchen on Getting on with Registration

Recent articles and correspondence regarding architectural registration have got me thinking, and talking...

It would appear that there are three obvious areas causing frustration for graduates which are getting in the way of a clear path to registration. The first being obtaining sufficient experience to cover the core competency areas required to be demonstrated in the application for registration. The second being uncertainties around the requirements of the case study. Lastly, the cost of application – perhaps more importantly the cost of *re-application* in the case of a failed initial attempt. This last concern is obviously being assessed by the NZRAB and we look forward to an outcome in due course.

Gaining sufficient experience across the identified areas of competency is something most architectural graduates struggle with. The competency and experience is undoubtedly worked hard for, and the preparation of a case study and registration assessment requires a significant effort. It certainly has a lot more to do with hard work than good fortune, but there is an element of being in the right place at the right time.

There seems to be a suspicion that commentary from “long term” graduates is little more than whinging because they haven’t quite tackled the final hurdle, or they lack the motivation to just ‘get on with it’ and produce a case study and satisfy the application requirements. The process may not be unjust or unreasonably difficult but it certainly takes time, particularly in a commercial practising environment. The frustration many graduates suffer is in trying to achieve the breadth of experience required – especially in that most elusive of competency areas ... contract administration.

Contract administration is often identified as a sticking point for graduates, and Auckland appears to have been identified by the NZRAB as having a particular difficulty in this area. The commercial nature and size of many projects and practices in Auckland means the risk carried through contract administration is significant and is often managed by specialised consultants – i.e. project managers; and is therefore very difficult experience to come by.

At the recent NZIA Auckland branch graduate introductory seminar, NZRAB’s regional convenor Tony Orgias fronted up to answer questions relating to registration and to give an overview on the purpose of the case study. There was discussion about the shift in attitude around contract administration, and the input of the applicant – whether they were identified as leader, participant, or observer. It was conceded that observing the contract administration of a project by shadowing a project manager and interrogating their process – both ethical and practical and commenting on the manner and events as they

happened is acceptable case study material. While this relies on a close and trusting commercial relationship between architect and project manager it certainly facilitates the likelihood of a graduate gaining sufficient experience to compile a case study.

Also of note, was the presentation by a recently registered Architect who had used a fit-out project as one of the three projects making up her case study. Clearly the ‘complex’ building requirement is more relevant to some experience areas than others.

Presumably this is the reason graduates are able to use up to three projects to document their experience – and it is up to us to determine where and how our experience is sufficient to meet the minimum standards. A small fit-out may be perfect to cover the components of contract administration, but too simple to rely on for documentation; a complex health facility maybe ideal for documentation but a graduate might be sidelined from the contract administration aspects.

It would be nice, however if this kind of information was more widely and openly discussed. There seems to be significant anxiety amongst graduates when it comes to the requirements of the case study, and whether some of the hearsay can be relied on or not. As soon-to-be Architects the assumption is that this kind of discernment is all part of the assessment, and of course there is an element of flexibility to what is acceptable, but to what extent is the \$2081 question. There are many graduates out there who more than meet the minimum standards for registration... but do they know it? This could certainly be alleviated by a little more dialogue from the RAB.

Another point raised by recent discussion has been the introduction of the LBP scheme – are the NZRAB concerned about losing graduates or would-be-Architects to LBP - especially those who may not be as connected to the NZIA, the NZRAB and the resources available to members of the organisations. The LBP application process appears to be relatively prescriptive, removing a significant amount of pressure to interpret application requirements. Which is where part of the problem and frustration lies for those seeking architectural registration.

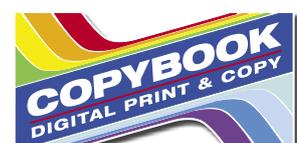
Certainly, architectural registration is something most graduates aspire to, and like most professional titles, it identifies competency and gives recognition and credibility to the individual who holds it. It takes work and dedication to achieve and maintain such a title and it is important that the profession is protected by the recognition of high standards. Perhaps graduates just need to get on with it, but ultimately we want those standards to be met and to be recognised. The pathway doesn’t need to be easier, but a little more light would go a long way to strengthening numbers.

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AGM Chair's Report

Welcome everyone, and a warm welcome to Teena Pennington our newly appointed Chief Executive. Welcome also to 2013, the year in which we celebrate the 120th anniversary of women's suffrage. More on this later.

Few of us had the chance to say goodbye to our past Chief Executive Beverley McRae, who left the Institute before Christmas. Beverley started with the Institute 14 years ago, at the time the Institute moved from Pembridge to its new premises at D72. As I understand it the Institute was not in the greatest shape, and it is Beverley who rescued us, from both financial ruin and perhaps irrelevance. For further detail about Beverley's reign, Richard Harris's article in February's *Architecture NZ* is excellent. Richard captured her well: 'And, thanks to Beverley McRae, we didn't just achieve this, we achieved it with a sense of style'. This sense of style permeated the Institute. I recall a dinner one evening last year at a Wellington restaurant, when the group assembled to undertake the National Visiting Panels' assessment of that School was asked what they would like to drink. The answer was simple: "Champagne! That's what Beverley would order!".

Finance:

We are pleased with the 2012 result, a year in which the Institute's fortunes have mirrored that of the practitioners, and of the industry more widely. Despite the improved financial outcome we are not aware that members' enjoyment of Branch activities and support has diminished.

The budget for 2013 has been set, and anticipates a return to the historic level of net expenditure of around \$60,000. The committee has agreed, however, that this level of expenditure can only be considered if we are able to make significant gains on the sponsorship front. We have been working with National Office to achieve a coordinated approach to sponsorship, and this discussion continues next week with all those interested: National Office, Branch, A+W, and Block.

The Branch has, and for 2013, will support the Friends of Futuna Trust. As Futuna is a national treasure, it is felt that perhaps funding should occur at a national level only, and we have floated this idea with Council. The Branch seeks a similar local treasure, but with funds being limited and treasure historically expensive, this ambition looks set to remain non-material.

The "Squirrel Fund" for 2013 is as yet unassigned, and worthy causes are sought. Members are invited to approach us with worthy causes - there is almost \$7,000 available.

The Branch contributed to the development of the A+W website, and a further funds were contributed from the "Squirrel Fund" at the end of 2012. We are aware that Council have recently assigned \$50,000 to this event. The Branch intends making a further contribution to A+W's 2013 events by making Architecture Week funds available to A+W. In return, these events will be incorporated into Architecture Week. A happy symmetry I suggest.

Sponsorship:

This is vital at both a National and Branch level. The Branch Committee has undertaken to expand their efforts in this area. Our existing sponsors have been superb, but please, if anyone has a new contact let us know. We will be able to match their market profile to an appropriate event.

Branch Committee:

This time last year as the incoming Chair I proposed that the Branch Committee could be ordered in a way that incorporated our previous 'Issues Groups' and aligned them with NZRAB Core Competencies - design, documentation, and practice

management. Design is further broken down into architecture, urbanism, environment' and heritage. Some roles have been combined – the position of Branch Secretary and Treasurer, for example. This seems to be working well.

Retirements and Replacements:

Shannon Joe, who ably and energetically steered the Urban Issues Group through years of submissions, has understandably retired from the position. Barry Copeland has replaced Shannon as the IIG coordinator. He's jumped right into the deep end by agitating for involvement in on the Unitary Plan, and then coordinating the Branch's feedback.

In keeping with his position as head of the architecture program at the Auckland University School, Mike Davis has taken over Uwe Reiger's position on the committee. We thank Uwe for his contribution. Welcome Mike – we look forward to your and the School's continuing involvement. Sarah Hayden has taken over as Branch Secretary and Treasurer from Jennifer Walling. Thank you for stepping up Sarah, and thank you Gregory Heap, the past Treasurer, without whom we could never be certain that "the dollars are OK". Sandy Hayward resigned earlier in the year and was replaced by Courtney Greer (now Courtney Kitchen) who has assumed the Graduate Development role and liaison with A+W. Mark Mishmash was never voted onto the Committee, but worked himself in as a keen contributor in the Technical Issues department. Brad Luke (MIA), John Anderson (MIA), Matthew Roberts have retired. I think Matthew was the only one of these characters who actually made it to a Committee meeting, attending several. His position as UoA student rep is now redundant as he's no longer a student but an employee – well done. Matthew has offered to help out in future, thank you. Matthew's position has been taken up by Adam Hunt.

We will need to formally vote these people onto the Committee later in the proceedings.

Communications:

Thanks to the Block crew who continue to publish our excellent broadsheet. One initiative we have put in place this year was to circulate Block to the other Branch Chairs.

The President, Council and Councillors:

We enjoy an excellent working relationship with Council via our Councillor, Tim Melville, immediate Past President Patrick Clifford, and Christina van Bohemen, who has been co-opted onto Council. We have through them been able to press a number of the issues forward to Council, and have made good progress. Some of the concerns we had were to do with the operations of the Institute and this resulted in Council initiating an operational review. We understand this will now take place following the assumption of the CE role by Teena Pennington. While there could be concern about the weight the Auckland membership carries in National affairs, we hope that this is balanced by the enormous contributions made by the Auckland Branch and members to National Office affairs and the benefit the entire profession gains from this.

The counting must almost be done on election of Councillors. We look forward to a cooperative and productive relationship with the new Council.

Branch Activities:

I have spoken above about the Committee formation and some of its activities, and now turn to that of the individual portfolios.

UoA and Unitec:

The presence of representatives of these institutions at both staff and student level is important to the functioning of the Institute

AGM Chair's Report *Continued from previous page...*

and Branch. The opportunity to share a type of excitement and creativity that can only happen outside of practice is a privilege. The insights that Tony and Uwe (and now Mike) bring is vital to the future of the profession. Of concern is the new limitation on Student Allowances – the numbers of student affected is currently being explored by Tony. There is a decline, at least at Unitec, in the number of students pursuing MArch(Prof) degrees. Numbers from UoA are to be advised. It may be that students are electing to pursue their interests in regional centres of excellence, or simply more exotic locations.

Graduates:

The matters arising in the academies are possibly being reflected in graduates attitudes to registration. There is a sense that registration too tough a process, and that the LBP may be more attainable. There may also be a sense that it's not worth it – salaries are too low, risks too high and it is too much of a slog. Some relief by way of the new NZRAB fees reductions is welcome. This is an ongoing discussion and an important one.

Design – Architecture:

Andrew Patterson's portfolio has included assisting with submissions to emphasise and facilitate quality architecture in the proposed Unitary Plan. Also coordination and collaboration with AAA, DINZ and NZAD.

Design – Urbanism:

This portfolio is now held by Barry Copeland, and its activities have been reported above.

Design – Environment:

This portfolio is held by Alec Couchman, who has organised a raft of activities through the year including local and international speakers. Alec has initiated discussion regarding a 'Leadership in Sustainability Prize' and has found a sponsor. Despite strong headwinds, we continue to look at ways this might be incorporated in the suite of NZIA awards. Megan Rule, the previous EIG convenor, Anne Salmond, Alec, and others have started work on updating the NZIA Environmental Policy Guidelines.

Design Heritage:

This is Adam Wild's portfolio. The NZHPT has recognised John Scott's Te Urewera National Park Visitor Centre as a Category 1 Historic Place. The future of this building remains of interest to the Branch and our support remains constant.

Discussions continue to be advanced with the NZILA and the Urban Design Forum (UDF) and the NZPI along heritage lines through a shared interest in matters of heritage. A presentation to the NZPI (with Malcolm Walker and others) certainly helped to forge stronger ties and a refreshed discussion on heritage matters and more is planned for 2013-14.

Contributions to the Branch's position on the process towards the Unitary Plan, including meetings with and presentations to the Mayor have been prepared and co-ordinated with the Branch's overall position.

A small congregation of 40 people are responsible for the two important historic buildings that comprise the Mount Eden Pacific Island Presbyterian Church, both being listed in the District Plan. The Auckland Council has closed the old Hall (1885) as a dangerous building. A tendered price of \$45,000 would see the erection of a temporary support structure to stabilise the building until funds can be sourced for its

conservation and return to use for the wider community. Any assistance in securing funds to save the hall and the church (1905) would be gratefully appreciated. Council's heritage "incentive" fund is strangely unavailable for this urgent heritage matter.

Josie McNaught is a journalist broadcasting a new weekly arts programme on Radio Ponsonby on Saturday mornings. Being keen on architecture (as an art) she has invited Adam to appear on her show and to bring a range of architects to discuss matters of local interest. This is an exciting on-going opportunity to promote and discuss architecture in a public way.

Central Government and the DBH road show on unreinforced masonry buildings has tended to gloss over the tension arising from the deadline to strengthen and the risk to heritage values represented by ill-informed solutions to strengthening. This will be a target for the upcoming year.

In the light of further reviews of the RMA by central Government, Adam is currently drafting a national heritage policy statement. It seems to me strange that, as a matter of national importance (Section 6 of the RMA), heritage has no national policy statement. It seems to me a good idea that there was one.

Practice Management:

Michael Thomson's portfolio, has attended Council's 'Consumer Advisory Group'. Michael also organises an excellent lunch.

Events:

Andrew Barrie has very successfully piloted the University through hosting an ongoing series of excellent international architects which both students and practitioners continue to enjoy. Architecture Week ran in October 2102. The line-up included Anupama Kundoo, an AAA architecture tour, a Future Proof lecture, a design charette, an On the Boards session, and the University of Auckland Thesis Show opening. The Julia Gatley-curated Athfield Architects exhibition was shown at the George Fraser Gallery, and an exhibition of French architecture hosted at the University of Auckland.

Sponsorship:

We all enjoyed John Balasoglou's excellent Spring and Autumn lecture series, as well as the Tennis Tournament.

Awards:

Thank you again to Blair Farquhar for convening the 2012 NZIA Local Awards (along with his jury of Hugh Byrd, Roy Wilson and Anna Crichton) and to Daryne, who tirelessly produces these complex events for us. Megan Rule has kindly agreed to convene the 2013 Local Awards. The selection was easy – Megan is herself a previous winner and is a prime mover in the A+W camp. Her selection seemed an appropriate choice in the year of the 120th anniversary. It is hoped that the 2013 awards may be held in the lobby of the NZIA HQ building. In doing so we should be able to seize an opportunity to promote architecture by displaying the works for a period and in a pace the public can enjoy.

Fellows:

We hope to celebrate members contributions at the awards evening by announcing new Fellows to the Institute. The criteria are simple: (iii) Fellow: Council may admit as a Fellow any Architect Member or Retired Architect Member who has: achieved a high standing in the profession or obtained a

AGM Chair's Report *Continued from previous page...*

degree of eminence therein; or given meritorious service to the profession of architecture or to the Institute; and been engaged in the practice of architecture in any capacity or sphere of endeavour for a period of at least seven years. We invite everyone to please submit nominees for fellowship to the Branch, together with a brief summary of their 'seven years'. Note that fellows must be approved by Council so the sooner the better please.

NZRRAB:

The Branch has contributed to Christina's NZRRAB initiative to give up 3rd and 5th year students at both UoA and Unitec. The intent is to see more graduates pursue a career in architecture. These events consisted of group discussions and Q&A held on the respective campuses. Both were well attended and well received. These will be continued in 2013.

Auckland Council procurement:

John Albert and I have spoken with Council Procurement and Project Management leaders with the intent of making sense of their two-stage procurement process. The various practices who expressed discontent have been heard and we have put the case, and it is now the turn of we architects' to suggest better methodologies.

Auckland Council Building Consenting:

John Albert and I have spoken with senior Building Consent staff with the intent of making sense of their seemingly ever-changing Building Consenting processes. You have seen us report on the issues behind this and anecdotally things seem to have 'settled down'. We will continue this dialogue, including around their proposed web-based communiqué about these matters.

Urban Design Panel:

Patrick Clifford and myself are ex-officio members of the Urban Design Panel Governance Board. The board met at the beginning of 2012 to reassemble the Panel after the lull caused by the establishment of Auckland Council. The Board has appointed Panel members from the contributing professions and organisations. In putting forward our nominees we sought to blend experience with freshness as well as incorporate experience in virgin urban areas. We deliberately co-hosted the relaunch of the Panel with the BEU at an event attended by the mayor and other worthies, and reinforced the vital role Architects play in the city. We will continue to do this at every opportunity.

New offices:

We were delighted when the idea of a move to the CBD was suggested. Member support was strong, with all recognising the opportunity to anchor the Institute in the city centre particularly at a time when densification, public transport and environment are forefront in our minds. We also saw an opportunity to further express the seriousness of our pursuit. The central location will, we hope, entice both members and the public to spend some time. In keeping with our wish to reinforce the vital role of Architects, we are hosting a formal opening of the offices in April. The Mayor has kindly agreed to do the honours and our list of invitees includes Councillors and local board representatives, senior management of CCO's, Council officers, allied professionals, and the media, along with past Presidents, Councillors, NZIA staff, and the great RTA team who put it all together.

Finally a big thanks to the National Office staff for their continued support, patience and generosity, and a big thanks to the Committee who have made great contributions, always with good humour.

The Fine Print: March

CHAIRS REPORT: Richard Goldie

AGM and Elections:

By the time this goes to print the Branch AGM of March 14th will have taken place. You will have learnt if my intention that the Committee members remain on the committee for two years (min?), with a member 'elect' anointed at the AGM (in 2014), was achieved. The intent of this was to achieve some continuity between committees from year to year, and theoretically thinking, involvement in projects etc. Hopefully this has come to pass! There are some retirements – Brad Luke (MIA), John Anderson (MIA), Matthew Roberts (now no longer a student, but willing to help out nonetheless) and Shannon Joe (long service medal due). So two positions/offices are available. Positions to be filled are to coordinate the Technical Issues Group (TIG), and Practice Management Group (PIG).

Council Elections:

The voting is done, the counting begins - again, by the time this goes to print it's all over. Congrats to the successful, etc.

Money:

The committee has prepared and agreed the budget for the year ahead. We have some ambitions for the year that are extra to our usual commitments. To achieve these we have determined to actively seek additional sponsorship, without which things cannot happen. The budget indicates the usual balanced outcome if we can make certain milestones. We are tracking expenditure monthly - and in the words of one sage we can confirm that "the dollars are ok". We are seeking to clarify our understanding of sponsorship across National and local initiatives, which is surprisingly hard to do. We will persevere, but suggest National Office should be the place to coordinate this (with our input). If you have any ideas regarding potential sponsors, put the half nelson on them and give me a call. We can match events to sponsors quite readily.

Please note again that we have the benefit of the NZIAs 'squirrel fund' which can distribute small sums to worthy causes. Please bring forward any ideas that might be worthy.

Auckland Council Liaison & Legislative Input Auckland Council Procurement:

The new year is well and truly underway, and so it's time to reignite the flame of discontent with Council's process.

One idea from those who have expressed concern has been received. I will convene a meeting of the agitators and put the pressure on.

Building Consents:

We have heard members' concern at the growing complexity of Building Consent applications, with more and more information being required. AC say that they have instituted a vigorous training program intended to help alleviate this. They are in the final stages of developing a web-based communication to which Architects will be able to subscribe. There appears a roaring silence on this. We will follow this up.

Unitary Plan:

We await the publication of the Draft Unitary Plan to see to what extent the good work done on the residential provisions by Barry Copeland and others has achieved. This is due for release at the end of this month.

Leaky Buildings, Restricted Building Work etc:

You last heard about my views on the RBW/LBP regime and my opinion that the promoter or developer of a project, who is often at least a contributor to the cause of the problems, remains unidentified and the RBW regime arguably meaning the industry is indemnifying the developer against any liability for their involvement.

I have raised this with some in NZACS, our conduit to the insurers, and wait to hear what action they will take. The

The Fine Print *Continued from previous page...*

sense of powerlessness is palpable. I cannot accept that we must continue to just absorb what we're given by Councils, Ministries, and others; I encourage everyone to agitate for better outcomes and share any thoughts and successes. Don't get me started on leaky schools, the MoE, and that dreadful organisation that starts with 'P'.

New NZIA Premises:

The Mayor has kindly agreed to formally open the new National offices, and this will take place the evening of April 29th. Numbers are limited so this is by invitation only, but will include various luminaries and your regional representatives of course. We hope to organise an informal 'meet your new premises' soon at the Auckland Branch 'Clubrooms'. Watch this space.

Local Awards:

We are looking at hosting these in the lobby of the new building, which may be tricky on account of numbers and functionality. More to come.

ARCHITECTURE PORTFOLIO: Andrew Patterson

Programming ideas for Architecture portfolio:

1. Submissions to emphasise and facilitate quality Architecture in the proposed Unitary Plan;
2. NZIA awarded buildings application;
3. NZIA National award winners tour;
4. Coordination and collaboration with AAA, DINZ and NZAD.

EVENTS PORTFOLIO: Andrew Barrie

The first event of the year will be held on 13 March – a lecture by Mark Burry, an RMIT Professor and executive architect on Gaudi's Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. Burry is a great speaker, and is promised to be a fascinating show. This lecture forms the Auckland leg of the 2013 Futuna Lecture Series, and follows on from Futuna's very successful 2012 series presented by Arizona architect Rick Joy.

We've met with the team from Architecture + Women, with whom the Branch Events team will be collaborating on Architecture Week this year. Key events for of the Week are an exhibition, a day long symposium, and international guest speakers. More news about this will be forthcoming as arrangements are finalized.

UNITEC REPORT: Tony van Raat

Enrolments:

BAS enrolments this year stand at about 125. March enrolments have dropped from about 50 in 2012 to about 35 this year. There are a number of factors that may have contributed to this, among them the government's withdrawal of the Student Allowance for post-graduate courses. An institutional response to the problem is under consideration. The overall number of students in the School is tracking slightly above last year and is likely to be about 425 Equivalent Full Timers – about 600 bodies.

Overseas Study Tours:

We plan trips to Shanghai and Italy this year, both in the mid-year break mid-June to mid-July. These are both associated with joint project work with overseas partner schools.

Summer School:

The collaborative summer school run in Christchurch opened last Saturday. Overall the project was a success and it is hoped it will lead to further similar collaborations in the future.

New Staff:

We welcome Julie Stout as a new Adjunct Professor on 0.4. David Mitchell is driving a project with a number of recent

graduates that may turn into a real job. One lives in hope...

Visitors:

We have a visit from a partner at Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners in LA coming in on 28 March for a lunchtime lecture. In the second quarter we will host for 3 weeks Nick Zangwill, a philosopher from the University of Durham. He'll be giving a talk on aesthetics. At the same time Alberto Foyo from Columbia University will be teaching with us and will talk on cultural sustainability. Caterina Steiner from Siena will be driving our Italy studio then too.

In the third quarter we expect Nathaniel Corum from Architecture for Humanity to be working on a build project in Christchurch and in the fourth quarter Simone Barth, a German architect working with Marmol Radziner in LA will be teaching with us. One may expect all of these people to make public presentations. They will probably want to meet local architects too.

Other Stuff:

We continue to place a considerable emphasis on build projects and are in discussion with a number of agencies for social housing projects for this year to follow the two social houses constructed for Vision West, a west Auckland housing charity, last year. Other projects in Christchurch and elsewhere are under development as is Rau Hoskins' 'Nano Whare' currently being built in the School.

COMMITTEE FOR AUCKLAND FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM: Alexandra Lee

Two updates: 1) Economic Development Strategy session at the Auckland Council, and 2) General progress on Guerrilla Playspaces (GP) project.

1) Economic Session – 21 February at Auckland Council. The session on Economic Development, hosted by Harvey Brookes, the manager of EDS team at AC – was about the Council's EDS in relation to the AC's vision to make Auckland the most livable city in the world. EDS according to Brookes is not at all about economic growth and GDP, but to do with the overall "wellbeing of Aucklanders". Their main focus in a nutshell are:

- a. To make Auckland more friendly to businesses – model: NYC;
- b. To support innovation – Wynyard Quarter Innovation Precinct;
- c. To improve connectivity – via transit upgrade & broadband;
- d. To move up 20 places in 20 years in OECD economic competitive cities index – by encouraging the export sector;
- e. To improve workforce – talent retention & skills development;
- f. To improve creativity – promote culture, diversity & improve CBD tourist as destination

2) GP general updates:

- a. Finances – GP has been shortlisted for the Auckland Council Public Arts grant – for installing/curating an "interactive play spaces in the city centre". Two other grants pending response;
- b. Partnerships – Alex attended A+W mega meeting. Positive response from attendees on collaboration at September AAW; AUT has offered to let us pitch our concept to their spatial design students where, if successful, we will work with students on a few projects; AFH members are keen to participate also;
- c. Timeline – according to scale:
 - i. Small – Co-ord. student projects via AUT spatial design – prototyping and testing ideas;
 - ii. Medium – Develop a legacy document & website – a go-to online place for the creative sector and community groups to access information and resources on how to do guerrilla play spaces;
 - iii. Large – A handful of temporary/traveling life-size projects to make underutilized public spaces – to invite public engagement, improve community resilience, and fun.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES GROUP: Alec Couchman

Working with NZGBC and NZIA to establish a NZ Sustainability Prize with a substantial cash component. Likely to be underway in 2014 now due to commercial considerations.

Confirming lecture program for 2013. Tentatively we have the following speakers lined up, including Von Trong Nghia Architects out of Vietnam who are an exciting young firm. Will confirm their sponsors and potential further speaking engagements outside of Auckland: *April 9th* Richard Naish of RTA on C3 House; *June 11th* Jerome Partington of JASMAX on Tuho Parliament, Ureweras; *July 9th* JASMAX on ASB Bank Building, Auckland; *August 13th* Jo Woods of E3BW on Zero-Energy House with update on performance/results; *September 10th* Brenna Waghorn of Waterfront Auckland on Sustainable development on Auckland waterfront (TBC); and *November 12th* Von Trong Nghia Architects on their latest work in Vietnam (TBC)

Liaising with AC to get them to expand on the environmental objectives around the Auckland Waterfront and Auckland City in general.

Continue to discuss with Anne Salmond, et al, how NZIA might promote the NZIA Environmental Charter more effectively.

URBAN ISSUES GROUP: Barry Copeland

Draft Auckland Regional Public Transport Plan:
GS and BC made a presentation to Auckland Transport at the Public Hearing on 4 February. Our message was generally in support of the RPTP but with a strong recommendation to significantly accelerate the timescale for implementation. We also emphasised the important contribution that architecture should make to this expanding infrastructure.

Auckland Design Manual:
SJ and BC attended an invited workshop at the Town Hall about the developing ADM. This is proceeding much as expected, with the initial priority of the web-based manual being placed on housing. It emerged at the workshop that the Building Environment Unit team working on the manual have some significant differences of opinion with their colleagues working on the UP. One or two members of the BEU have been invited to our next UIG meeting on 19 March, in the hope that they may be able to help polarize some of the issues.

Unitary Plan:
Auckland Council is publically launching the draft UP on Friday this week 15 March at the Viaduct Events Centre. After the opening ceremony at 11.00am there are various panel discussions that will go into the afternoon; CvB has been invited to join the discussion about Heritage and Character, BC the discussion about Urban Design. A small group from UIG has been invited to meet with John Duguid on Wednesday 13 March for a pre-briefing. This is unlikely to touch on much more than the Residential section of the Plan, as this seems the area in which they most want the approbation of the architectural community. The UP is potentially the biggest milestone that the new Super City has reached. It is important for Auckland Branch to mobilize all members to be involved and make submissions. At the next UIG meeting (19th March) it is intended to review the Draft and form a number of subgroups to deal with the key issues. It will be a very important meeting!

AUCKLAND STUDENT REPORT: Adam Hunt

The University of Auckland semester began last week with students attending digital workshops, providing insight into various programmes available at the school.

This semester has offered a wide verity of exciting and challenging design studios with a selection of studios participating in the 5th Auckland Triennial LAB at the Auckland Art Gallery. The LAB consists of projects from architecture and spatial design faculties of AUT University, the University of Auckland and Unitec. The Goal is to bring the energy and flexibility of the design process into exhibition rooms while addressing some of the major issues confronting our cities.

"In conversation with Andrew Patterson" was held last Tuesday, celebrating the School's 2013 Distinguished Alumni. This provided students with the opportunity to ask questions regarding his professional success and time at the university.

The Schools' established tradition of visiting international tutors is being offered once again, with Teddy Cruz of the research-based practice Estudio Teddy Cruz and professor of public culture and urbanism at the University of California, San Diego. In 2008 Cruz represented the US in the Venice Architecture Biennial and in 2010 he was part of the important exhibition Small Scale: Big Change New Architects of Social Engagement at the Museum of Modern Art. Cruz with members of the University staff offering a studio titled "Muddy Urbanism: Mapping the Whau". The studio will investigate the crucial role the whau waterway has played in the urbanisation of the city's west.

2013 has also seen the re-envisioning of the Computer Aided Studio as the Open Media Lab, repositioned help desks back into the studio for the benefit of struggling students.

GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION & ARCHITECTURE+WOMEN: Courtney Kitchen

GDP & GPE:
Auckland introductory seminars are taking place this week and next. I will attend to record interest for study groups and an Auckland meet-up is planned to follow. Following recently published 'registration' articles in the block, there has been a lot of discussion regarding registration, the requirements of a case-study, proposed reduction of fees, and the LBP system etc. It will be interesting to see how this is covered at the seminars. Possible/suggested GPE events in the near future include: an overview of the unitary plan; NZS3910 vs SCC 201; a revisit of LBP vs registration; and why graduates should become architects

Architecture + Women:
The first "mega" meeting was held in late Feb, with a good turn out.
For more information – architecturewomen@gmail.com

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