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

BLOCK

An Evolving Experiment

Tony van Raat on Architectural Education



Photo: Jane Ussher

the education provider. How people develop their lives through education is more than a matter of economic supply and demand. The core Enlightenment beliefs of freedom, equality and the value of diverse rational enquiry always come at some opportunity cost. Beneficial objectives may well be in conflict with each other and the goal of making students completely 'work-ready', even if it was achievable in an educational setting, may diverge from no-less valuable goals of intellectual freedom, diversity of opinion and a sense of inquiry. People create their own values in a remarkable number of ways and because no one model of activity can ever be secure against failure it follows that the adoption of models which are diverse and open to criticism is likely to favour the development of the most robust practices.

Anyway, what does the future hold for architecture at Unitec? For many years now it has been policy there, initiated and pursued at the level of the Department but with support from a succession of managements, to create a hybrid model of education in which professional academics (now about 24 of them) mix with practitioners to deliver an education which will develop both skills in practice and insights about it. This can only be done with the involvement of the very best people who can be found in the practice community and Unitec has been fortunate enough to have had active support from the likes of Pete Bossley, Patrick Clifford, Dave Mitchell, Lindley Naismith, Andrew Patterson, Jane Aimer, Richard Naish, Nicholas Stevens, Dave Strachan, Marsh Cook, Adam Wild, Gary Lawson, Julie Stout and many others in an attempt to develop a model of education which is different from but complimentary to that offered elsewhere. There is no plan to change this, nor to reduce the numbers of academics whose understandings of educational practice, research skills and insights developed over long experience of students mix fruitfully with the expertise delivered by people like those listed above.

For a number of years BLOCK has been doing a great job of putting before the local architectural community articles of interest. SF's piece in 01 2014 on recent layoffs in Unitec's Department of Design and Visual Arts was one of these. This short piece is neither a defence nor an explanation of what happened in Design and Visual Arts - that is a task for others - but what happened there is an opportunity to think about the relationship between higher education and job training and how the recent events might roll-over into the Department of Architecture at Unitec or elsewhere.

Architecture is an applied discipline and the society in which it is applied pays a significant amount to get something out of the education system that it can value. That product will include jobs but is not limited to them. There is a higher purpose to education than just meeting the fluctuating demands of the job market and it includes providing people the ability to improve themselves, to develop their interests and to meet the important aspiration of gaining deeper and more complex understandings in areas of their choice - in short, to pursue the arts of life. Education should enable most people to become more than just contributors to an economic system but as well to be critical and reflective members of a functioning democracy. There is a good chance that a broad education will assist in developing critical and insightful responses to a range of issues and will therefore assist people to become effective workers in a variety of ways beyond the compass of

Education is a complex thing and divergent views about how it should be carried out are inevitable and welcome. Almost any experiment might be justifiable, although not at any cost. It may be that pragmatic and progressive experiment rather than radical displacement provides an opportunity to test and explore new ways of working. Whether the changes implemented in Design and Visual Arts at Unitec will lead to better outcomes for students will not be known for a number of years. Meanwhile the Department of Architecture proceeds by a process of gradual evolution. That may be slow but the testing of new models in small, controlled experiments does make it possible to observe and adjust processes and expectations in response to outcomes as they actually arise. It provides staff and students (managements too, one assumes) with the security of knowing that if a tentative experiment fails it can easily be abandoned or modified and at a low social cost or none at all. Above all it provides some protection from that most punitive of all laws - that of unintended consequences. TvR



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Beginning a New Chapter

Librarian Bruce Howie Retires



Thirty-seven years ago Bruce joined the staff of the Architecture Library at the University of Auckland, as an Assistant Librarian, and on 31st January 2014 he retired. During this period Bruce was synonymous with the Architecture Library. He had a passion for architecture and an incredible depth of knowledge covering all its periods, styles, guises and trends. Widely read in the subject he was able to easily impart his enthusiasm

and knowledge to the students. Whatever the queries they put forward, there was always an answer, along with instruction on accessing information, using the catalogue, printed indices and latterly the electronic databases.

He enjoyed the various study tours that he went on, and made lasting friendships from these. An entertaining, intelligent and enthusiastic colleague to those who have worked with him over the years, he leaves a gap in our workroom and our lives.

– Wendy Garvey, Architecture & Planning Librarian

I became a close friend of recently retired senior architectural librarian Bruce Howie at Auckland University. His vast knowledge and companionship on many study tours with large groups of students to Europe and USA was fantastic. Bruce pre-read most acquisitions, journals, and texts before they hit the desk copy or overnight loan desks, so I could always get some inside information to keep one step ahead of students.

It seems to me that librarians move on, but the team of Wendy Garvey and Bruce Howie were to many an "institution" in the many disciplines of architecture. Bruce offered that personalized

service because he knew his stuff and he will remain one of the most influential university librarians in New Zealand. Bon voyage mate and enjoy your retirement.

– Kerry Morrow, Retired Senior Lecturer

Bruce guided several generations of architects through their education. Like most readers of Block, I was a beneficiary of his gentle wit, intelligent advice, and seemingly inexhaustible enthusiasm. I still have a vivid memory of standing in the library one night at two minutes to closing time as a panicked second year student. Bruce put the book I'd been searching for in my hands and, presumably seeing the overwhelmed, "all-nighter-required" look I carried through much of my education, calmly offered, "You're a worker. You'll be fine."

Our "education" in architecture goes on for many years, and I've had many occasions to recall Bruce's coolheaded encouragement. I am sure many, many others had similar experiences of his good-natured guidance. I'm grateful for all he has given to the profession, and wish him a rewarding retirement.

– Andrew Barrie, Professor

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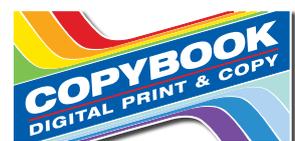
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Chair's AGM Report

Last year we bid goodbye, in absentia, to Beverley McRae and welcomed Teena Pennington as our new Chief Executive. It seems to me that just as Beverley was the right person for the time, so too is Teena. Her willingness and confidence in engaging at the highest levels on issues that affect Architects is, I believe, timely.

I am encouraged by a new sense of professionalism emerging across the Institute in which I believe the Branch has shown good leadership. We have forged excellent working relationships with the Mayor and his office, and senior Council officers that directly and indirectly affect our work as Architects.

On this subject - and perhaps this is out of order but its importance demands it - I would like to acknowledge the great 'donation' made by a large and industrious group of members: the considerable time spent on the Proposed Unitary Plan submission. On behalf of all the members of the Auckland Branch, I thank you. That the contributors were able to align themselves in a common direction is a credit both to themselves and to the leadership provided by Barry Copeland, David Gibbs, Christina van Bohemian, and Graeme Scott. We were also able to benefit from the generosity of those in allied professions who gave their time to the Branch submission. Thank you then to Stuart Bracey (Senior Planner), John McKay, Russell Bartlett, Brian Putt, and Kevin Brewer. Thank you to Kirsten Zink who worked indefatigably on the Branch's submission and was pivotal in developing a submission of the highest professional standards. Kirsten now has a 'proper' Architectural job and we wish her well with that, but what a start!

Finance: We are pleased with the year's result, which had the small underspend typical of previous years. The budget for 2014 will be set soon, following the election of the new committee, and preliminary discussion about this has been had. This year's budget will need to include a good amount to provide necessary resource to support the Branch's submission through the next stages of the Proposed Unitary Plan process. The squirrel fund is available annually, and worthy causes are sought. Members are invited to approach with demonstrably worthy causes.

The Branch followed its 2012 contribution to the development of the A+W website with a further \$10,000 for the 2013 A+W symposium. We made a further contribution to the 2013 symposium by assigning the Architecture Week funds to A+W. In return, A+W incorporated Architecture Week into the symposium - it was an outstanding event achieved only by great contributions from all involved. The insights gained are increasingly relevant to all as our work styles evolve to engage greater gender mix in tasks both domestic and professional, along with our evolving needs and expectations. Thank you A+W. In 2013 the Branch contribute to the Friends of Futuna Trust, as it has in the past. It is felt that as this is a national treasure, perhaps funding should be at a national level only, and we have floated this idea with Council. I would like to see the Branch seek a similar local treasure. Considerable effort and resource will be required in the next phase of the PUP submission process, and I know the incoming Chair and Treasurer are conscious of the need to establish a good sum to provide necessary support.

Sponsorship: Always needed.

Branch Committee

In 2012 as the incoming Chair I proposed the Branch Committee could be ordered in a way that incorporated our previous 'Issues Groups' and align them with NZRAB Experience Area Competencies (previously Core Competencies), which now align better with the NZIA

scope stages. Design, that huge beast, is further broken down into Architecture, Urbanism, Environment, and Heritage. Some roles were combined - for example the position of Branch Secretary and Treasurer. This seems to be working well, and has been further honed with the proposed 2014 committee.

Barry Copeland jumped in at the mid-term point to coordinate the Urban Issues Group as Shannon's replacement. His crowning achievement was to collar the Mayor at the NZIA opening event and challenge him on his commitment to a quality built environment, without which our now strong relationship with the Mayor and his senior staff would never have developed. Another remarkable achievement was Barry's ability to marshal the historically baroquely divergent views of the UIG into a cohesive submission on the Draft Unitary Plan. David Gibbs now boldly takes on this role, for which his cornerstone position within the moderating group on the Proposed Unitary Plan submission has prepared, and, surprisingly, not deterred him. Thank you David and good luck!

That busy man Mike Davis, Deputy Head at the Auckland School, has nominated Michael Milojevic in his place. Unbeknown to us all Michael has been holidaying in Jim Hackshaw's charming bach at Whangapoua Beach for the last 20 years, so there's a pedigree. There are stories to be told too. Welcome Michael - we look forward to your and the School's continuing involvement.

Sarah Hayden is passing the baton of Branch Secretary and Treasurer over to Michael Thompson. Thank you for your steadfast contribution Sarah. Sarah proves that a part time career as a Senior Architect, plus time-and-a-half motherhood duties can be combined with a selfless contribution to our good! Big thanks to you.

Michael Thompson organised an excellent dinner, and also enjoyed some excellent mini pies courtesy of the Auckland Council Consumer Advisory Panel in his position coordinating 'Procurement/Admin and Observation'. Neil Martin is taking over his role. The emerging challenge which I know the NZIA are already working on is in the area of Risk Based Consenting (self-certification). I would encourage Neil to join the National Office working group. I wish him luck. Mike will no doubt prove an outstanding mentor.

Courtney Kitchen has moved onto greater things, being the Branch's Future Auckland Leader for 2014-15. She's a natural. She retains the liaison with A+W, and hands over the Graduate Development role to Bobby Shen. Welcome Bobby - we hope your additional position on the committee - 'Asian Liaison' - will encourage increased engagement by Asian practitioners and students in the Branch and Institute's activities.

Mark Mishmash was never voted on to the Committee, but insinuated himself in as a keen contributor in the Technical Issues department. His role is being formally handed to Mike Middlebrook, with Mark, keen as ever, offering a helping hand.

Thank you to Stu Penno for his energy and enthusiasm as the Unitec Student rep. His legacy is the Branch Facebook page that has gone live today - well done Stu! Jonnel Mamaug takes over from Stu, welcome to you. In addition to hanging round, consuming the Branch's beer and pizza in the finest tradition of tertiary students, Jonnel will join the UoA rep Adam Hunt in maintaining the Facebook page.

The tireless Andrew Barrie is passing his Events portfolio to Jess Barter and Maggie Carroll (job sharing like we should) under a new banner I have for the moment called 'Social', which in my view is a Core Competency only gained by having experience in that area. They will also moderate the Facebook page, so behave.

Another new face, Hannah Pennington, takes over the Environmental portfolio from Alec Couchman. Thank you Alec for your enthusiasm through this less ambitious post-GFC phase. Good luck Hannah. Andrew Patterson retires as the coordinator of the Design-Architecture portfolio. We will miss Andrew's clear and sometimes challenging views.

NZIA Calender: May

Thu, 1st	12pm – 1pm	Larry Murphy - The Politics of Housing Affordability: Is Housing Supply the Answer? Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds Street, Building 423
Tue, 6th	6.30pm – 7.30pm	Alejandro Kaiek Coll - Public Machinery Engineering Lecture Theatre 439, Building 401, 20 Symonds Street
Thu, 8th	12pm – 1pm	Ann Dupuis and Penny Lysnar - Housing Choice: The Human Dimension Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds Street, Building 423
Tue, 13th – Wed, 14th	8am – 5pm	NZ Facilities Management Summit Villa Maria, 118 Montgomerie Rd, Mangere
Thu, 15th	12pm – 1pm	Scott Figenshow - Achieving 20 Percent by 2020: How is it Going to Happen? Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds Street, Building 423

My enduring memory was his humorous outburst during a Committee meeting when the news of Len Brown's 'outing' was released. Jo Aitken, who works with Andrew, is taking over this portfolio and affiliations.

John Balasoglou remains on the committee organising his excellent events - thanks John. Can you get the architects' yacht race moved to a Thursday please?

Importantly, those retiring have agreed to maintain a connection, at least in the short term, with those new, as mentors.

We will need to formally vote for the proposed Committee later in the proceedings. I would like those remaining, in whatever position, to consider your tenure and likely future successors (you all have jobs!), which I believe will bring a freshness of view and new energy to the Branch and its members. Naturally I thank everyone who has contributed to the Branch, in particular the Committee, members retiring and present, and wish the future committee every success.

Communications: Thanks to the Block crew who continue to publish this excellent Broadsheet. The initiative we put in place in 2012 to circulate Block to the other Branch Chairs continues.

Times are busy and communication demands our attention. In keeping with the times, not fashion, we have developed and will, shortly display the Branch's new Facebook page. This is part newsletter, events calendar, and (dare I say it) 'chatlist' rolled into one. Importantly, it will 'push' information to us, unlike traditional media, including websites, from which we 'take' information. I hope it will attract a far wider group of 'friends' to the architectural conversation, increasing the Branch's exposure to students, the public and debate.

The President, Council and Councillors: We enjoy an excellent working relationship with Council via our Councillor, Tim Melville, 'distant' David Sheppard, past president Patrick Clifford, and Christina van Bohemen. We have been able to press a number of issues forward to Council through them, and have made good progress. Some of the concerns we had were to do with the operation of the Institute and this resulted in Council initiating a review, the outcomes from which will be shared at the NZIA AGM. Welcome again to Pip, the President Elect.

Branch Activities: I have spoken above about the Committee and their contributions and will not go into this further here. The excellent Block details the activities within the portfolios and I direct you to there for the details.

Awards: Thank you to Megan Rule for convening the 2013 NZIA Local Awards, along with her jury of Jane Rooney, Rachel Rush, and Linda Tyler (lay juror). Thanks to Daryne again for her great coordination and organisation. The event in that half heritage shed on Queens Wharf was a successful one - attendance was great.

Fellows: We celebrated members' contributions at the Awards evening by announcing new Fellows to the Institute. The criteria is 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 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 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.

NZRAB: The Branch has contributed to Christina's NZRAB initiative to gee up of third and fifth years at both UoA and Unitec. The intent is to see more graduates pursue a career in architecture. The sessions consisted of group discussions and Q&A held on the respective campuses. Both were well attended and well received. These will be continued in 2014 with the net widened at Unitec to actually include the third year BAS cohort, some of whom may benefit from the encouragement to continue to full Architectural Qualification and career.

Auckland Council procurement: John Albert with Brendon Rawson and Alec Couchman have finally made progress with Council Procurement over the vexing matter of how they procure capital projects. The current two-stage process more often than not dumps the concept architect in favour of another who got the price right. Council aren't fully to blame - concept design does not mean developed design, guys. The problem may lie in emotional investment. A clear

list of concept or feasibility design deliverables might help too. That respected architects have willingly participated in the dumping of their colleagues in the problematic second stage is at best unfortunate, at worst the clearest example of just how craven architects can be.

Auckland Council Building Consenting: John Albert and I have spoken with Senior Building Consent Staff to try to make 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'. Neil Martin with John will need to continue this dialogue.

Urban Design Panel: Patrick Clifford and I 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. I would encourage more events and functions to be held to cement its place in the city. Finally, a big thank you to the National Office Staff for their continued support, patience and generosity, and big thanks to the Committee who have made great contributions, always with good humour. *Richard Goldie*

The Open Hand Symposium

16-17th May 2014, Keynote Speakers: Vikramaditya Prakash & Stephen Zepke

Addressing the legacy of Brutalist architecture, this symposium asks: from today's perspectives, how do we relate to the ethics and aims of Brutalism, within and beyond architecture? How do we represent the inhabitation of 'Brutalist' modernism? Does the aging 'body' of modernist work call for preservation? How can we present a utopian projection of a 'people to come' as a political imperative for our horizontal futures? Keynote speaker Vikramaditya Prakash, Professor of Architecture at the University of Washington in Seattle, is specialist on Le Corbusier's Chandigarh project and on Post-colonial history and theory.

Vikramaditya Prakash Keynote, 6pm Friday 16th May, AUT WG126. For more info: www.stpaulst.aut.ac.nz
The Open Hand: A Call for Civic Debate is programmed alongside the exhibition Leisure Valley by Gavin Hipkins at ST PAUL St Gallery, AUT University, 4 April - 17 May 2014.

NZIA Awards Book

With the help of Resene, NZIA HQ has produced a handsome publication documenting the 2103 Architecture Awards (local and national). Award winners have received copies, as have government departments, city councils and media. If you aren't a member of one of those august groups and would like a copy (or know any individuals or organisations that would benefit from a copy), a stack of books has been made available for Branch members. If you'd like a copy, contact John Walsh: jwalsh@nzia.co.nz.

The University of Auckland School of Architecture and Planning wishes to advise of a mistake on their insert in the last issue, on the front of the Communique 2014 lecture series poster the dates after Ngarimu Blair read as '04 April' where as they should be '05 May'. Their apologies for any confusion caused by this.