



10/11 2015

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

BLOCK

Regulators - Mount Up! David Mitchell and the War Against Architecture



Photo: Chris Maclean

Stripped out, laid bare – architecture under attack

John Scott is one of the heroes of New Zealand architecture – his standing is so high that the main NZIA award for public buildings now carries his name. All the formal, constructional, and social values we applaud in his architecture are not old-fashioned, but enduring. Most of us think John’s best work was exceptional.

Yet I very much doubt if John could score a single public commission today. I imagine him wading through the 30-odd page RFP from a public authority that I have beside me now, and wonder how his 30%-weighted ‘track record’ and 30%-weighted ‘company resources and personnel’ would stack up against many other aspirants. Would John look like a safe pair of hands, or a project manager’s nightmare?

Imagine yourself as a project manager, and ask whether your job is best served by a no-problems ethos, or by a wider architectural one.

An assured level of skill is what all expect of qualified professionals. Registration of architects demands it of them. And the NZIA – watchdog, learned society, standards setter, and protagonist for architecture- reinforces the expectation. With it comes the implication we are all equal, and save for an annual awards ceremony, we stand shoulder-to-shoulder in projecting this.

Trouble is, the best architecture is not even-handed. It deserts some architects, and over-blesses others. We struggle to advance it, against apparently benign forces. How could such a worthy cause as good management stand in the way of good architecture? Well, fine architecture is essentially risky (originality demands that), while project management is essentially risk-averse. And risk-averse project managers have a very strong influence on who gets jobs these days.


Anyone who has taught in a school of architecture will recognise some of the ways in which architecture can be subverted. They will know the student who finds that architecture is not the answer to the problem being considered. Anyone who reads architecture magazines will know the moralist who finds a cause (simplicity, cheapness, practicality, sustainability) to focus on as if it were the core of architecture. They will recognise – in enthusiasts for green walls and roofs, these days – the most virtuous escape-routes out of the aesthetic demands of design.

Never have so many prizes been given in so many architectural categories as today. Every day, architects are exhorted by publishers and manufacturers to enter some new competition. We have interior awards, wood awards, colour awards, multiple awards by magazines as prestigious as The Architectural Review, WAN awards, and a World Architecture Festival fundamentally centred around presentations to awards juries. In the age of reality television, everyone – however limited in talent – might win a prize in some byway off the central path. Now, every architect published is a ‘prize-winning architect’.

The RFP beside me is very specific about the limitations to the architect’s service being sought. These days it apparently doesn’t matter that ‘concept design’ is done by one architect, ‘preliminary and developed design’ by another, and ‘contract documentation’ by a third. Re-tendering each stage apparently ensures value for money. There is an unspoken implication that some are better at conceptual thinking, others at design, and others at practicalities. What has happened, one might ask, to the art of architecture?

Continued next page...

GIB® STANDARD.
THE NEW STANDARD
FOR BUILDING
PEACE OF MIND.



Regulators – Mount Up! Continued from prev page...

Consider Christchurch College, or the Student Union buildings designed by Warren and Mahoney. Can you imagine how those thoroughly imagined, immaculately detailed buildings might have turned out if any old nobody had put them together? Handing out bits of the task to different architects is an affront to the art of architecture.

This is now the country in which a new flag design is an all-in lottery, with no professional designers consulted – let alone paid, and the selection panel members with the best aesthetic credentials are a Saatchi director and a producer of reality television programmes that copy offshore versions. It's hardly surprising the panel musters tired emblems plucked from sport and colonialism.

We agree on what constitutes skill in professional sport, but in architecture and the arts we think personal taste rules- one person's opinion is as good as another's.

The war against architecture has always had to be resisted in our country, where pragmatism has unassailable virtue, and art is an optional extra. It is up to us to fight it: to insist on the wonderful, terrifying search for form, and its utter realization in detail against continual efforts to strip it of value, or pretend that architecture is something else. *David Mitchell*

The Fine Print: October

COUNCILLORS' REPORT: Christina van Bohemen & Tim Melville

September Council Meeting and Council Strategic Planning

Day: Key issues discussed at the August Council meeting/ Strategic Planning Day and in the weeks following included NZIA participation in Venice, the 2016 draft budget, a pilot programme to support NZIA members and their clients when projects get into difficulty, NZIA Council priorities following completion and adoption of the Strategic Plan, and Councillor Portfolios and responsibilities.

Venice: Members will be aware that the decision to go to Venice in 2016 has been made and that work is well underway with production, logistics and securing sponsorship and funding. A key issue that Council considered at the August meeting and in the weeks following was the extent to which the NZIA would support or underwrite the venture. It was agreed to underwrite the project to the sum of \$129,710, however based on continuing successful efforts in the sponsorship drive this sum continues to fall. Sponsorship partners in the Venice project include a wide range of commercial entities, some of which have not previously been involved with the Institute but want to be associated with a NZ presence in Venice. The sense is that there are new opportunities for developing commercial relationships with these sponsors which may facilitate the development of more partner programmes between the NZIA and the business community.

2016 Draft Budget and Annual Subscriptions: Notice of this was emailed to members for comment on 24 September with an explanatory note from the President Pip Cheshire and key points are noted below Pip's comments. These include the increase of individual subs by 2%, the ADS subscription is now included in the practice sub, and a new budget item to fund 50% of the cost of a new member advisory service and issues programme.

Council Priorities for the next 12 months:

- CPD – this follows recent survey and discussions amongst members and at council about the need to review what the programme is delivering. Affirm the value and importance of CPD across all membership categories.
- Marketing and communications strategy on the value of architects
- Member performance – support and development of better practice and project success
- Growing the membership
- Encourage more graduates to undertake the registration process
- Working with AGM to strengthen the content of Architecture NZ

Pilot Programme for mediation/support of members and clients: Council discussed the issues that arise through formal and informal complaints that both NZIA and NZRAB receive. The purpose of a pilot programme to be developed follows discussions with Master Builders about how they deal with errant members and unhappy clients. There is a sense that support for both clients and architects could provide a means for tensions to be resolved so as to facilitate completion of projects and to prevent escalation into complaints and legal avenues. Currently John Albert provides support in this area, but the demands on his time are too many, and it was considered that the provision of a service could be a more effective means to address issues. Work is underway on this.

Councillor Portfolios: One of the recent decisions of the NZIA Council has been to establish portfolio responsibilities for each Councillor, in addition to their governance role and the requirement for them to be a conduit between Council and the local branches. These portfolios are broken down into five areas that are the focus for the Institute's activities as identified in the Strategic Plan: Strategy (Public), Advocacy and Relationships (Leadership), Professional Support and Education (Members), Communications and Marketing (Knowledge + Innovation) and Finance/Risk/Audit (Organisation). The Auckland Councillors' portfolio responsibilities are:

- Christina: Advocacy & Relationships (along with Gerald Cogan from Western)
- Tim: Finance/Risk/Audit

The intention is that Councillors act as links between the various interest groups up and down the country and Council, such that a common understanding of the Institute's many activities is understood, even if those directly involved in an activity are not 'at the table'. Thus those members who are engaged in the activities associated with, say, sustainability, be it the evolution of Institute policy, member education or public advocacy and lobbying, will be represented by a Councillor who, at the very least is able to provide Council with an overview of those activities.

The goal is to ensure that activities are consistent with Institute policy and strategic intentions, are well supported, and that experience and knowledge is shared across the membership. It is not intended that Councillors who represent a particular activity necessarily involve themselves in that activity but that they are able to provide an overview to Council of the activities being undertaken. It is anticipated that the Councillor who has accepted responsibility for a portfolio will maintain in contact with members or groups involved in the area of activity to allow the exchange of information to and from Council.

Council Elections – Nominations for Auckland Councillor: Tim's second term on Council will end at the AGM in May 2016 and consequently the Branch needs to get underway with the process of seeking nominations as they are due by December 31st.

UOA REPORT: Michael Milojevic

While the MArch(Prof) thesis students' quick-fire crits are happening these days in preparation for final reviews a month from now, the rest of the School have geared up for the final two weeks of design before second semester final reviews. This time of the semester brings on coursework deadlines for the many other facets of the programs. As usual, many NZIA members have been and will be engaged in a variety of critical teaching, reviewing and assessing roles in the School towards the conclusion of this semester, and this will, what with ninety-odd MArch(Prof) theses, go on well into the new year. This is a reminder that all School student design reviews are public events and NZIA members are especially welcome to attend these. The 1st year D2 reviews are 9-12 October 20, the 2nd year D4 reviews are TBC, the 3rd year D6 reviews are 10-5 October 21, the 4th year Advanced Design 2 reviews are 10-5 October 23 and the MArch(Prof) thesis reviews are 10-5 November 9-11. This semester all reviews, including the MArch(Prof)s are in the School itself.

Continued on p.4...

Cultivating Leadership

Courtney Kitchen on the Future Auckland Leaders Program



Leading the way – green fingers in the kitchen garden

What is the FAL? The Future Auckland Leaders program (FAL) is run by the Committee for Auckland [a not-for-profit organization that promotes social and economic development]. It's a two-year course that involves a series of lectures on leadership by Dr. Lester Levy and Dr. Brigid Carroll [from the University of Auckland], as well as presentations from CEOs and senior leaders from local organisations like Watercare, Ports of Auckland, Auckland City, Auckland Transport, and Sistema Plastics. Having studied architecture – which is such a prescribed program that we don't get much opportunity to broaden the scope of our study – it was such a luxury to sit in front of well-respected people in the leadership field who were so open and generous with their time.

The other part of the program is to create a legacy project. We had to come up with ideas for a civic or community project, writing a full business case outlining funding, timelines, partners, and so on – that was quite a different experience for an architect who works in a big practice. The cohort voted to select five or six of the proposed projects. We then split into teams to each deliver – with zero budget – one of the projects over the course of a year. My team was mostly built environment people – a professional fundraiser for the University of Auckland, the regional manager of infrastructure from Hawkins, a landscape architect from Boffa Miskell, a sustainability manager from The Warehouse, and someone from ATEED.

The project work was, at the time, very focused on getting the job done, but by the end I'd come to realize that establishing the project was just a by-product of our learning. It was an opportunity to put our networks to use, and to be resourceful in pulling people and ideas together. It was a real experience of working in a team, of not underestimating people, and of drawing on the professional skills and strengths of people from very different backgrounds.

What was your project? It was called the 'Garden of Knowledge', and its purpose was to connect the older generation – people in aged care facilities – with people in their early teens. The goal was to allow them to come together to create relationships and share knowledge over the process of growing vegetables. We established a pilot project with Elizabeth Knox Home & Hospital, an aged care facility in Epsom. We partnered with a volunteer group from St Cuthbert's College and the Epsom Boy Scouts, designing raised garden beds with wheelchair access. We kicked off with a community day to build and plant the garden beds. There have been ongoing activities over the last few months, with the scouts coming in for activities such as planting or harvesting. The St Cuth's girls have a more regular companionship role – a couple of times a week they take residents out into the garden and do watering, pruning, fertilizing, and so on.

We've had really good feedback. There is a core group of residents who have really taken it on. We've done surveys of residents about how they use the grounds and gardens before and after we got set up, and those have informed how we'll develop the gardens and how the relationship with the St Cuth's girls can continue. Some of the St Cuth's girls are boarders who are not near their families, and therefore have very little contact with the older generation – it's nice for them to have relationships with people of different generations. But it's not without difficulties. One of key residents involved had previously been struggling with depression, and the project really lit up his life. However, he died last week, which is tough on the kids. However, the project has done as much as we could hope for – some lives have been brightened and expanded, and it's built a sense of mutual respect within the community.

Continued next page...

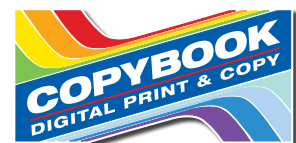
PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS PERSONALLY

But it is personal

The phrase "Personal Service" is used so much throughout advertising literature that you could be forgiven for ignoring its true meaning and expect something much less.

We believe that the 'Person' in 'Personal Service' is **YOU** and we are committed to providing **YOU** with the best service we can.

If 'Personal Service' is as important to you as it is to us please give us a call and experience its true meaning.



On Mayoral Drive in the City

Ph 303 4716 copy@copybook.co.nz www.copybook.co.nz

Pick up and delivery - Plans - Large Format Colour - Digital Printing - Binding - Laminating and more

The Fine Print Continued from p.2...

While the Fast Forward <CHINA NOW> series concludes this week with a presentation by two UoA specialists on cinema and on China reviewing the extraordinary transformation of the urban condition in the recent decades as registered in recent Chinese cinema, we may take stock of the diverse views of contemporary Chinese architecture and urbanism which this program offered. Presently next year's Communiqué program is being drafted possibly around the theme of grassroots social engagement with some of the speakers already engaged.

The School's engagement with 015 AAW was again a considerable one, engaging scores of students, recent grads and staff in many events, and the exhibitions not least the 24 Hour Design Competition, Pecha Kucha, 4Futures and 015 Studio Alfama.

Otherwise the more significant events this month, such as Spring Commencement, The Expert Series, NZIA Pathways, and an ADNZ Information Session have kept the month's calendar full.

UOA STUDENT REPORT: Sam Aislabie

24hr Competition: The SANNZ 24hr Design Competition took place last weekend, with almost 100 entrants from Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch. We told everyone from the outset that this would not be the competition they were expecting; it was not intended to be a compressed design studio. We started with a lecture from Julie Stout, who spoke about the history of Auckland's waterfront and Urban Auckland's recent protests and legal action. We then sent everyone across the road to the student bar where we locked them in a room with our favorite architects and beer where they could extrapolate ideas around the ports, the harbor and the future of Auckland. The brief was delivered late in the evening, however with a twist - the following morning they would spin the wheel-o-fortune which would decide the medium they had to present in. The options were: found image collage, performance, moving image, and 1:1.

Our judges - Pip Cheshire, Julie Stout and Sarosh Mulla - were blown away with the projects! For what was really only 7 hours of work, the projects produced were incredibly entertaining and thoughtful. We will make them available online soon. A big congratulations to the winners: Team Real Talk, MAKE WW and Oyster Studio. We received positive comments from many of those who attended, as well as from our sponsors. Sika have indicated they are interested in supporting the event again next year. A big thanks to the branch for supporting the event and making it such a success. We came in just under budget.

2015 AASA Conference - Applied collaborations: A representative from SANNZ presented at the Head of Schools meeting immediately prior to the 8th International Conference and Exhibition of the Association of Architecture Schools of Australasia. I'm told the presentation was a burst of energy in what was otherwise quite a formal meeting. We are very grateful to have been invited to present and be included in a discussion that affects us all as students of architecture.

Continued next page...

NZIA Calender: November

Wed, 11th	5:45p.m.	Auckland Branch – Practice Issues Group - Garden of Knowledge (FAL) – Courtney Kitchen NZIA Office, Level 5, Zurich House, 21 Queen Street
Fri, 13th	5:30p.m.	Auckland Branch – Exit Show – An Architectural Thesis Exhibition Ironbank, 150 Karangahape Road
Tue, 17th	5:30p.m.	Rewi Thompson Lecture – Visionary Possibilities for the Watemata, followed by the AAA Visionary Architecture Awards 2015 Auckland Art Gallery, Corner of Kitchener Street and Wellesley Street
Wed, 18th	7:30 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.	Why is Density a Dirty Word: How can we do it Better? Leys Institute Hall, Level 2, 20 St Mary's Road, Ponsonby

Cultivating Leadership Continued from prev page...

And it was transforming for you? The program gave me an insight into the difference between management, leadership, and governance. We were shown the perspectives of different businesses and organizations, and could see how they're governed and the pressures they face. The presentations provided a great understanding of how people who are very successful behave – they presented to us in a very relaxed forum, and were very candid. It was amazing to get a sense of how they approach difficult situations, when they take a hard line, what pulls at their heartstrings, and so on. It was interesting to work with other young-ish but well-respected professionals – the average age of those on the course was early forties – to see how they conduct themselves and approach things. It provided a lot of opportunity for self-reflection, and to think about how I approach situations in my professional life. It was a huge privilege.

There's a new place coming up? Yes. When I applied for the program, I didn't know much about it. Now, I'm surprised that more people don't know about it. It's not a networking event – the program gives real reasons to engage with other professionals from very different fields. The time commitment is a bit sporadic – most of the first year is just sessions to attend, but there is a bit of work in second year with the legacy project. It hasn't cost me anything but some time and energy, but what I've got out of it is unparalleled.

Call for Expressions of Interest: As outlined above, Courtney Kitchen, the NZIA Auckland Branch's current representative on the Future Auckland Leaders programme organised by the Committee for Auckland, is nearing the end of her two-year tenure. As such, the Branch is seeking expressions of interest from Members who believe they may be suitable candidates for the course. The programme is a practical world-class leadership development curriculum that offers access to city leaders and provides candidates with a rich, real-world context to develop experience and understanding of business, personal, city and civic leadership. Full programme details can be viewed here: <http://goo.gl/1d1dkq>

To apply for the position, applicants should provide a short (400 words max) biography along with a succinct explanation of why they believe they should be considered for the programme.

Applicants should have demonstrable leadership and advocacy capabilities, a commitment to Auckland, and (this should go without saying) passion and enthusiasm for the architectural profession.

Applications should be emailed to Michael Nettleship (mnettlehip@nzia.co.nz) before 5pm, 1 December 2015. The email subject line should read: Future Auckland Leaders. *Courtney Kitchen and Andrew Barrie*

Each Block is laid by a dedicated editorial team:

Andrew Barrie	a.barrie@auckland.ac.nz
Nathaniel Cheshire	nat@cheshirearchitects.com
Pip Cheshire	pip@cheshirearchitects.com
Sean Flanagan	sean.flanagan@monkmackenzie.com
Ian Scott	ian@cheshirearchitects.com

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

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

UNITEC REPORT: Tony Van Raat

The School is characterized by normal chaos as students wind up for their exams, final presentations, and so on. There have been other distractions in the last few weeks too, what with the Bungalow Festival, Glow at Art Week, and Architecture Week. As a consequence the studios look like a bomb has hit them, but we were all pleased with the contributions our people made to these events.

I went to the annual conference of the Association of Architecture Schools of Australasia a week ago and in spite of the inevitable dominance of Australian issues (the price of beer, moving expat kiwis to Christmas Island, stabbing your own Prime Minister in the back at least once every two years, the falling price of iron ore, etc.) there was a general consensus that economic pressure is increasing on architecture education everywhere and, as I sensed it at least, that changing conditions in the profession are not necessarily being reflected in education. If this is indeed the case and if education should actually be preparing people for what they will encounter 20 or more years out, there's a problem. Perhaps it's time for a new kind of architectural education...

One good thing that came out of the conference (at least I think it will emerge) is a joint project between some Australian and NZ schools and the one school in Papua New Guinea. We're trying to develop a proposal for that now with Mike Austin, ex-Head of the PNG school as he is, leading it.

Dave Strachan's Studio 19 group is finishing a build in Mangere for the Cook Island Community. It will be his last and is a modest interior renovation of a tin shed. A book of all their projects from 2007 – 2014 has just been published and I guess I could see if John B wants to sell them on.

This will be my last report as Unitec rep and I'd like to thank you all for the strength and the duration of the engagement that the Auckland Branch has had with Unitec over the years. I don't yet know who will replace me but that, like a kraken or a debt crisis or a call from Scarlett Johansen or much else will doubtless emerge in its own good time from the mists of the future. Although negotiating rush hour traffic in the wet winter mornings in order to make a 7.30am meeting is dire in prospect, in reality it's always been a pleasure.

UNITEC STUDENT REPORT: Jonnel Mamauag

UNITEC is at the tail-end of its year. Final crits are due to start in less than three weeks, and students are keen to get through the last quarter without any hitches. The Masters students are in the final leg of their respective projects, 5th years are finalising designs for end of year presentations, and 4th years are also in the final stages of their respective studios. The Vanuatu Studio in which I am involved, is aiming for fundraising this coming week, with a finalised vision document to be presented to potential financial backers. Fingers crossed on positive responses.

130 students from the BAS degree participated in Auckland Art Week, with their project GLOW@ArtWeek. The project is for a "prefabricated light pavilion installation" to be set up in and around Wynyard Quarter and Devonport. The work will be on display from the 9th to the 13th of October, and I encourage a quick night time stroll to either site. More information can be found at <artweek.co.nz>.

The SANNZ 24hr Competition was a major success. Students from the three architecture schools in New Zealand and selected students from the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology participated with gusto in the revived event. Overall reaction was of fun, delight and enthusiasm, with many that I've spoken to at the after party keen to participate again in next year's event.

GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO: Bobby Shen

The second PATHWAYS workshop went very well with over 60 people in attendance, from both Auckland University and Unitec.

Students commented that they liked the non-hierarchical, casual environment in which they could ask the 'hard questions'. Many thanks to the architect speakers: Hannah Andrew, Jo Aitken, Lynda Simmons, Adam Wild, Richard Archbold and Darryl Sang. They were able to share the story of their own pathways, each varied with many stages. Also special thanks to Sam Aislabie and Jonnel Mamauag for being great helpers in organising this event. A document has been made detailing how to put together a workshop such as this and there are photo and video records too if anyone would like to adopt the format in the future.

DESIGN ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO: Jo Aitken

Auckland Architecture Week 2015: Auckland Architecture Week - which we helped organise with Jessica Barter, Sam Aislabie, Lindley Naismith and Michael Thompson - took place last month. The week was a success, with the majority of events selling out. We attended most of the events that week, which were both insightful and entertaining, so thank you to both the wonderful speakers and the attendees.

A huge thank you goes out to the event's primary supporters: Resene, Gib, AUT and the Warren Trust. Thank you also to all the other sponsors and supporters from individual events including HOME Magazine, Interiors Magazine, Architecture New Zealand, Sika, Man O'War Vineyard, Metalcraft, Cobalt Recruiting, the University of Auckland, and 76 Small Rooms podcast team.

Auckland Architecture Week coordinated successfully with several other events, including the Albert-Eden Bungalow Festival, The University of Auckland NICAI Career Week, NZ Green Building Council's celebration of World Green Building Week, Auckland Conversation series and the Architecture+Women NZ's day of events. So, thank you to all those people involved in organising and running those events.

Open House and Waterfront Auckland: We are currently in discussion with Waterfront Auckland to assist with organising 'Open House', which is to take place in April 2016. 'Open House' is an annual event that runs worldwide in cities such as London, New York, Rome, Chicago, Dublin, Barcelona, Lisbon, Vienna and so on. It is a simple but powerful concept: showcasing outstanding architecture for all to experience, for free. It is an event that invites everyone to explore and understand the value of a well-designed environment.

Graduate Pathways and Career Advisory: Last month also involved being part of the University of Auckland Graduate Pathways Event, organised by Bobby Shen, and later the Career Pathway forum, organised by Lynda Simmons. Both events had large turn outs of 4th and 5th year university students.

DESIGN URBAN PORTFOLIO (UIG): David Gibbs

Meetings: Julie Stout organised and chaired a meeting on 15th September with Andrew Guthrie and Oliver Roberts from AC's City Centre Integration Team speaking on proposals for QE2 Square and the realignment of public space around the waterfront. The proposed development of the Downtown block by Precinct Properties, the CRL, and now more building in Britomart will see big changes to the area in the next 10 years. The meeting was useful but unfortunately the speakers weren't able to be specific about what Aucklanders will get in return for the loss of QE square. This will be followed up on to gain some clarity about this important issue.

Ports Future Study: The Stakeholder Reference Group was briefed by the Consultative Working Group at a meeting on 30 September, at which time the brief to the Consultants carrying out the study was discussed and ratified. Since then expressions of interest from Consultants have been received and a shortlist selected.

Auckland Unitary Plan: Work by NZIA members continues at pace on the Unitary Plan. Grame Scott and David Gibbs have prepared evidence for the hearings on residential policies objectives and rules and will be appearing before the panel on behalf of NZIA, UDF and Generation Zero on 20th October. David will be preparing evidence on Additional Height Overlays very soon.

The hearings on the zoning maps commence in February 2016, but already there is a call from AUIHP for nomination of people who will be preparing and delivering evidence. NZIA have made a very large number of submissions on zoning across 20 of the 21 local board areas. Covering this huge topic will require a large number of architect experts, so we are mobilising now for this.

Adam Wild has reported separately on his extensive representation of NZIA on heritage and special character at PAUP hearings

HERITAGE PORTFOLIO: Adam Wild

The PAUP: The vexed issue of special character and controls over pre-1944 buildings in Auckland continues unabated. Notwithstanding interim guidance from the Independent Hearings Panel (IHP) to the Auckland Council that proceeding with the pre-1944 demolition controls in the PAUP would not be supported by the IHP, Council remain determined to promote this control. Further work by Council may see a reduction in the extent of Auckland covered by the control and this material is due to be released later this month.

Post-1944 Heritage: Auckland Council have formally released its EOI to the market for those interested in the adaptive reuse of the former Auckland City Council Civic Administration Building and land associated with it towards Mayoral Drive. It will be interesting to see what level of interest the market has in this opportunity and the special values of this building and the regard for other modern heritage.

The Work of Sir Basil Hooper: We have been assisting the NZIA Southern Branch in establishing an exhibition of the work of Sir Basil Hooper in conjunction with Heritage NZ. If you are interested in Sir Basil's work, further information can be found online at Hoopersworld.org.

The Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill: One of the finer details contained in the recent revisions to the Bill is the targeting of strengthening to parapets and to veranda canopies. These building elements are recognised as two of the less resilient found in the 1000s of unreinforced masonry buildings and the prospect of making verandas more resilient aligns with our campaign for making veranda canopies not simply more resilient, but safe zones associated with earthquake-prone buildings.

ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO (EIG): Hannah Andrew

In September the EIG hosted an engaging discussion on the role of the Auckland Design Manual in supporting three important and interlinked areas of design within Auckland: universal design, active design, and social sustainability. The presentation included an overview of the Auckland Design Manual as well as a focus on Universal Design, including the most current and up to date research on the proposed Universal Design Hub. Auckland Council and the Auckland Design Manual also hosted a Universal Design Forum in late September (attended by myself as a representative of the NZIA) to discuss the research and content for the Universal Design Hub – and this content is currently available for review and contribution.

As part of Auckland Architecture Week, the Environmental Issues Group, in conjunction with the New Zealand Green Building Council and the Auckland Branch of the NZIA hosted a Green Architecture Walking Tour of notable CBD. This was a fantastic event on all accounts – well attended and the commentary provided by the NZGBC was second to none. Thanks to all those who made it along in the beautiful sunshine.

Discussions are underway to organise a final EIG presentation for 2015 and suggestions are welcome for any presentation topics or events for 2016.

PROCUREMENT, CONTRACT & PRACTICE PORTFOLIO: Neil Martin

PIG: On 6 October 2015 John Hawkins, an Architect from Mott Macdonald façade engineers, entertained us with the latest report on the new consenting processes in Christchurch. There was some conjecture as to how this will shape up nationwide and what to look out for. It is a developing area we should all be keeping a focus on with Auckland looking at a comprehensive makeover in the near future. The remaining session for 2015 will be held on 3 November 2015: Contract Issues– Contractor Substitutions (John Sutherland from Mott MacDonald). We are into next year in terms of planning for future talks. Again suggestions welcome: email neil.martin@jasmax.com. We have two currently in the pipeline. These are Jeff Farhenson from Auckland Council on the top ten areas for improvement when submitting applications and a session on financial planning.

Auckland Council Customer Advisory Group
An interesting meeting was held on 22 September 2015. Extended discussion was had on the importance of Architects or 'designers' during construction. It seems too many of us are signing up to processes where the client does not engage us for construction phase services. It may be that in the future Council steps in and advises in this space with pre-app information or guidelines freely available. Secondly, a PowerPoint presentation on 'Fraud in the City'. We will be hearing more about this in the media. Auckland Council have created a full time role to investigate and follow up with legal proceedings against 'shonky' operators cutting corners...Yes, there was an architect... Disturbing.

At a separate meeting, an NZIA delegation met with the Auckland Council senior group management team to discuss how processes could improve to everyone's benefit. An interesting range of views in the room but all in all a good step towards engaging further with the Building Control unit. This is particularly relevant at present while they are looking at upgrading their processes.

NZIA NZCIC Working Group: The NZIA working group met again on 23 September and 7 October. Excellent progress is being made across the entire document. Engaging with the other industry stakeholders is reportedly positive too. Of course, the challenging phase will be getting a broad range of updates over the line and into common use industry wide.

COMMITTEE FOR AUCKLAND / A+W LIAISON: Courtney Kitchen

FAL Programme: The programme is coming to an end, with Graduation to be held on November 17th. The Garden of Knowledge project has been an excellent success with garden beds established at the Elizabeth Knox care home, and youth volunteers engaging with residents on a regular basis. Please visit the facebook page for photos of the workshops etc <https://www.facebook.com/GardenOfKnowledgeNZ?fref=ts>
The final stages of handing the project over to Rotary are taking place to ensure long term success for the project. For more information on the FAL programme and participants, please visit the website at <http://www.committeeforauckland.co.nz/programmes/future-leaders>

Architecture + Women: The A+W events at Auckland Architecture Week were well attended and a great success, in particular the popular Speed Mentoring event. Architecture in an Expanded Field, published by A+W•NZ and Balasaglou Books, is a collection of essays stemming from the 2013 A+W•NZ Symposium. The book launch took place during Auckland Architecture Week, and can be purchased via Aalto Books for \$20.95. Visit the A+W.NZ website for more information. <http://www.architecturewomen.org.nz/>