

RMIT UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
PRACTICE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
APRIL 10-12, 2015

CANDIDATES ABSTRACTS & SCHEDULE



RMIT UNIVERSITY

School of Architecture + Design

PHD BY PROJECT RESEARCH THROUGH DESIGN PRACTICE

We seek out practitioners who have developed a body of work demonstrating mastery of their field, invite them to reflect upon the nature of that mastery within a critical framework, to speculate through design on the nature of their future practice and demonstrate their findings publicly.

We argue that architects and designers have a responsibility to the furtherance of their practice domain and that this examination of the nature of their mastery promotes and extends the fundamental knowledge base of their profession, and thus its ability to serve society.

CHÚNG TÔI TÌM KIẾM NHỮNG NGƯỜI HÀNH NGHỀ ĐÃ HÌNH THÀNH MỘT TỔNG THỂ CÔNG TRÌNH DỰ ÁN THỂ HIỆN SỰ TINH THÔNG TRONG LĨNH VỰC CỦA HỌ, MỜI HỌ ĐỂ DIỄN GIẢI BẢN CHẤT CỦA SỰ TINH THÔNG TRONG MỘT PHẠM VI CÓ TÍNH PHẢN BIỆN, ĐỂ SUY ĐOÁN THÔNG QUA THIẾT KẾ VỀ BẢN CHẤT HÀNH NGHỀ CÔNG VIỆC TRONG TƯƠNG LAI VÀ ĐỂ DIỄN GIẢI NHỮNG KHÁM PHÁ CỦA HỌ VỚI CÔNG CHÚNG.

RMIT SOUTH SAIGON CAMPUS
NGUYEN VAN LINH DISTRICT 7

RMIT CAMPUS, PHAM NGOC THACH
STREET , DISTRICT 3 (Building 5,
Level 1, Room 03)

CHÚNG TÔI CHO RẰNG KIẾN TRÚC SƯ VÀ CÁC NHÀ THIẾT KẾ CÓ MỘT TRÁCH NHIỆM TRONG VIỆC NÂNG CAO LĨNH VỰC HÀNH NGHỀ CỦA HỌ, VÀ VIỆC XEM XÉT BẢN CHẤT SỰ TINH THÔNG CỦA HỌ LÀ NHẰM ĐỀ CAO VÀ MỞ RỘNG KIẾN THỨC CƠ BẢN DỰA TRÊN NGHỀ NGHIỆP CỦA HỌ, VÀ TỪ ĐÂY LÀ KHẢ NĂNG ĐỂ PHỤC VỤ CỘNG ĐỒNG.

RMIT UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
PRACTICE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Friday 10 April - Sunday 12 April 2015
SCHEDULE



Friday 10 April, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Archie Pizzini Examination

Galerie Quynh

Downton Gallery – Level 2, 151/3 Dong Khoi Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnam

Friday 10 April, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Huanh Tran Examination

Galerie Quynh

Downton Gallery – Level 2, 151/3 Dong Khoi Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnam

Friday 10 April, 6.00pm – 8.00pm

PRS Exhibition Opening

Galerie Quynh

Downton Gallery – Level 2, 151/3 Dong Khoi Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnam

Friday 10 April, 8.00pm (*Invitation Only*)

PRS Dinner

Saturday 11 April, 9.30 am – 6.00 pm

PhD Progress Presentations and Review of Candidates

RMIT Campus (Building 5, Level 1, Room 03)

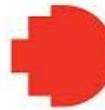
Pham Ngoc Thach Street, District 3, Hồ Chí Minh, Vietnam

Sunday 12 April, 11.00 am – 6.00 pm

Candidate Individual Reviews with Supervisors

RMIT Campus (Building 5, Level 1, Room 03)

Pham Ngoc Thach Street, District 3, Hồ Chí Minh, Vietnam



Saturday 11th April 2015

PHD PROGRESS PRESENTATIONS AND REVIEWS of CANDIDATES.

venue: RMIT Campus PHAM NGOC THACH STREET (Building 5, Level 1, Room 03)

9:30am Laurent Gutierrez
PhD Completion Seminar Review

10:30am Johny Chiu
PhD Mid -Candidate Review

11:30am -11:45am Tea & Coffee

11:45am Leanne Zilka (*Guest HDR Candidate from Australia campus*)
PhD work in progress review

12:45pm - 1:30pm Lunch

1:30pm - Francesca Carlotta Bruni
PhD work in progress review

2:30pm Rui Miguel Rebelo Leao
PhD work in progress review

3:30pm - 4:00pm tea & coffee

4.00pm Andrew Currie
PhD work in progress review

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
PRACTICE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam APRIL 10-12, 2015
CANDIDATES - Examinations

Archie PIZZINI

OBSERVATIONS and NEGOTIATIONS at the CULTURAL SHORELINE: Vietnam, Rasquachismo and an Architectural Practice

This research occurs within the framework of the architectural practice HTA + pizzini, a partnership between Hoanh Tran and myself, two U.S. trained architects, in Vietnam. I am a Hispanic American educated as a fine artist and an architect. Hoanh, born in Vietnam, grew up in America where he was educated as a chemist, a preservation architect and a design architect.

This research results from my practices of photography and architecture in the rapidly changing cultural environment of Vietnam; a place where a local culture of localized systems of individual enterprise is being quickly displaced by a system of large multinational entities operating at global scale. I research in two ways: as a photographer observing and reflecting upon the social and urban environment; and as an architect negotiating responses to my design tasks and practice environment.

Those practices have highlighted three central issues: a culture supporting local systems of individual enterprises; Rasquachismo, an opportunistic approach to seeing and making; and my changing role as a design professional.

In my research I have distilled what I have learned from my first body of research, my photo-documentation of Vietnam, and related it to my second body of research, my practice as an architect in Vietnam. I have tracked how the context of Vietnam and the mindset of Rasquachismo were incorporated into my practice of architecture, expanding my role as an architect.



OBSERVATION & NEGOTIATION at the CULTURAL SHORELINE

Vietnam, Rasquachismo
and an Architectural Practice



Archie Pizzini

for Doctor of Philosophy

**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
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Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam APRIL 10-12, 2015
CANDIDATES - Examination Biographies**

Archie PIZZINI

Archie Pizzini has lived most of his life in Houston, Texas in the United States. His education at Rice University (BA and BFA), and the University of Houston (MArch) included Fine Arts as well as Architecture. He is a licensed architect in the State of Texas whose background includes construction work and manual labour as well as art installations and photo exhibitions. His professional roles include both Project Architect and Design Architect. In 2005 following 15 years of architectural work in the USA, Archie joined Hoanh Tran as a partner in HTA+Pizzini Architects in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Together, Hoanh and Archie have designed projects that respond to their growing understanding of the changing social and physical context of Vietnam.



**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
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CANDIDATES - Examination Biographies**

Huanh V TRAN

Hoanh V Tran is a native of Saigon, now called Ho Chi Minh City. At the fall of Saigon in 1975, he immigrated to the US at the age of 12. He received his education at University of Dallas (BS Chemistry and Liberal Arts), Columbia University (MS Historic Preservation – Design Sector) and Southern California Institute of Architecture (M Arch). His professional experiences consist of art conservation science, architectural preservation and architectural design. After returning to Ho Chi Minh City and working for various foreign architectural firms, Hoanh founded Hoanh Tran Architects in 2004. A year later, the name was changed to HTA+Pizzini Architects when Archie Pizzini joined the practice. Together, Hoanh and Archie have been designing mostly architecture with emphasis on the local urban context of Ho Chi Minh City.



**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
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CANDIDATES - Examinations**

Huanh V TRAN

IN TRANSIT: A Shifting Approach toward Design and Preservation in Rapidly Changing Ho Chi Minh City

This research documents my architectural practice within the partnership of HTA+Pizzini Architects in the rapidly changing environment of Ho Chi Minh City. The practice includes an American partner, Archie Pizzini and myself, a native Saigonese who has returned from the USA with a professional background in both architectural preservation and architectural design.

This research traces three central themes which have shifted over the course of our practice: a focus on the local setting, Vietnam; an association of history with design; and an adaptation of western architectural design to the context of Vietnam.

I reflect on these themes through the designs of the projects to demonstrate: 1) an evolving stance toward the local setting changing from engagement to commitment, 2) a shifting identity of our practice changing from a commercially-focused practice to an ideas-focused practice, and 3) reconciliation with rapid and constant changes to the setting of Vietnam.

These reflections have clarified our design approaches, which encompass maintaining the accumulative nature of Ho Chi Minh City, maintaining the existing urban and social fabrics, and negotiating new design into the existing setting.



A Shifting Approach toward Design and Preservation in Rapidly Changing Ho Chi Minh City

HOANH V. TRAN

For the degree of Doctor of Philosophy



**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
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Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam APRIL 10-12, 2015
CANDIDATES**

FRANCESCA CARLOTTA BRUNI

ARCHITECTURE IN CONTEXT – DESIGNING THE VOID

Macau is a very dense, modern Asian City that has grown first within its boundaries and afterwards through successive acts of reclamation; it has more recently developed strategies of building in height what could not be built in sprawl; dealing with density is a day to day exercise for Macau people and often dealt with, creatively, by occupying the already scarce public space.

With a population of almost 600,000 and an area of 28.2 square kilometers, the Macau peninsula is the densest territory of the world with an average of over 18,500 inhabitants per square km.

The research will focus on a specific set of architectural techniques developed to deal with this high density context, where, frequently, important urban facts happen at the side of a more domestic environment, where connections need to be designed in three dimensions because space can be used vertically for different purposes, where programs are mixed and public space is always at loss.

The specific of this city has led me to focus my architectonic work on the inclusion of the very program that is always lacking in such a dense environment, which is the public space.

After reflecting on my original contribution to this context, I have come to the conclusion that the contribution I bring to my practice is to signify empty city areas, to create empty spaces within a continuum, to offer moments of pause in the city, to define hierarchies in space.

In my practice there is a definite propensity of designing voids prior to mass, as a generative core of the project; as a consequence, I have set myself to demonstrate that there are alternatives to the way the city block is being commonly occupied, interstitial spaces are developed, functions are distributed, and urban voids are reclaimed back to the city.

Since both the City and the project sites have a fixed space to work within I begin to organize the project from inside out, forming the definition of the space first and the mass subsequently.

Referring to Bruno Zevi's "Architecture as Space" as a milestone in my architectural education, and the first architecture reading I have ever done, in my research I try to dismantle the formal and the functional from my built work and concentrate on the spatial invention and all the techniques that I have refined during the years to achieve a contextualized spatial experience.

My background has given me the tools to translate Macau's recent programs into new typologies and the city and its context has demanded the transformation of old typologies into new models: the focus is to design building typologies taking into account public/ semi-public space as core to the design program; develop the public space as a flux that surrounds and enter architecture as a continuum and develops new ways of usage and complexity within architecture; reconcile the scales of the city and neighbourhood trough this process.

Nowadays trough an exercise of reinterpreting and reinventing common typologies and working with different scales I tend to design multifunctional public spaces buildings

A square can therefore be just a roundabout or a complex intersection of different traffic speeds, if you pass by car, but can transform itself in a city scale infrastructure with the stature to host food festivals, open air concerts or dragon boats races and reduce itself to the domestic scale of the day to day living as a nice place for fishing or jogging in the morning and afternoons.

ARCHITECTURE IN CONTEXT-DESIGNING THE VOIDS

PhD

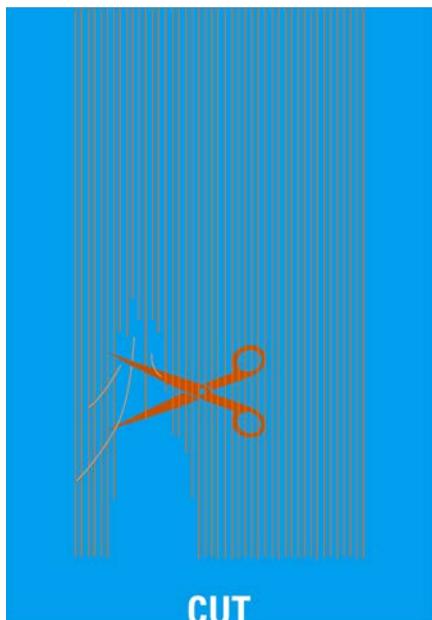
Bruni Francesca Carlotta

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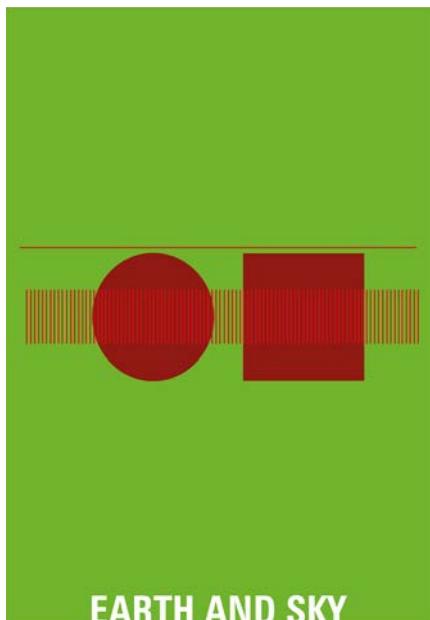
JOHNNY CHIU

BRANDING ARCHITECTURE, INDIVIDUALS AND IDENTITY

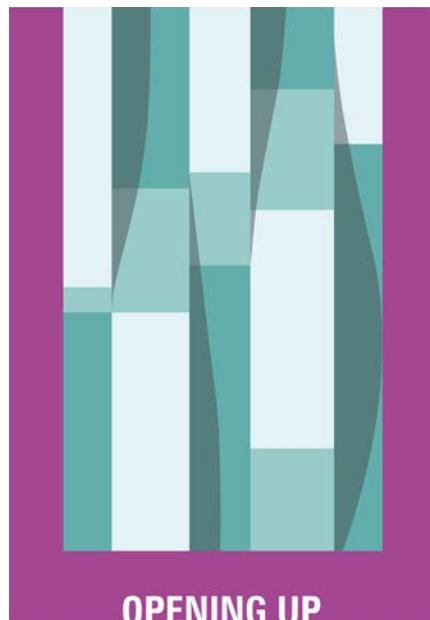
Focused on interaction and socialism through design, in doing so changes the way society and companies works. Through diversity of projects, the design philosophy of "Why" pushed us and the client to explore what is core value. The design tries to combine these different notions, through efficiency, individualism, empowerment, it evolves into a brand image. Architecture as a brand, architecture as an image begins to take course in a pure, non-decorated experience.



CUT



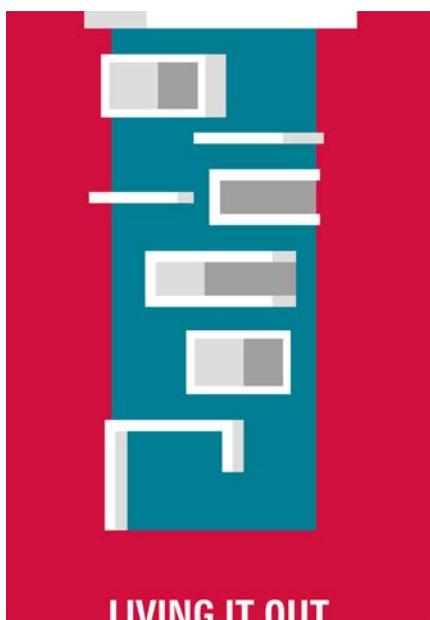
EARTH AND SKY



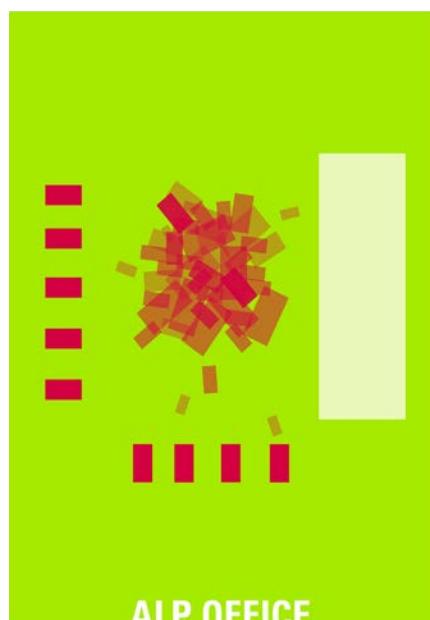
OPENING UP



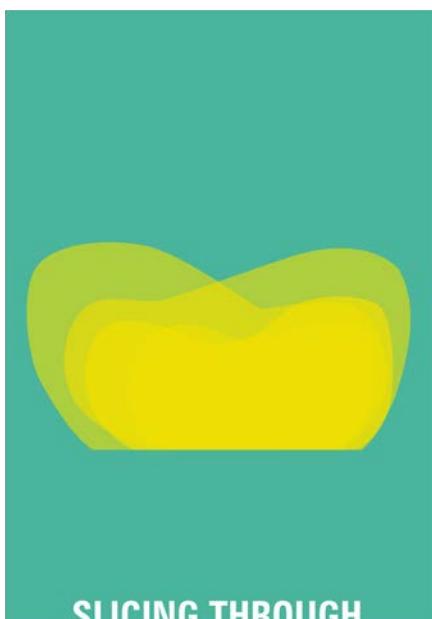
FOLDING MY CAKE



LIVING IT OUT



ALP OFFICE



SLICING THROUGH



WALKING DEER



WORK & PLAY

BRANDING ARCHITECTURE, INDIVIDUALS AND IDENTITY
PhD Candidate : Johnny Chiu

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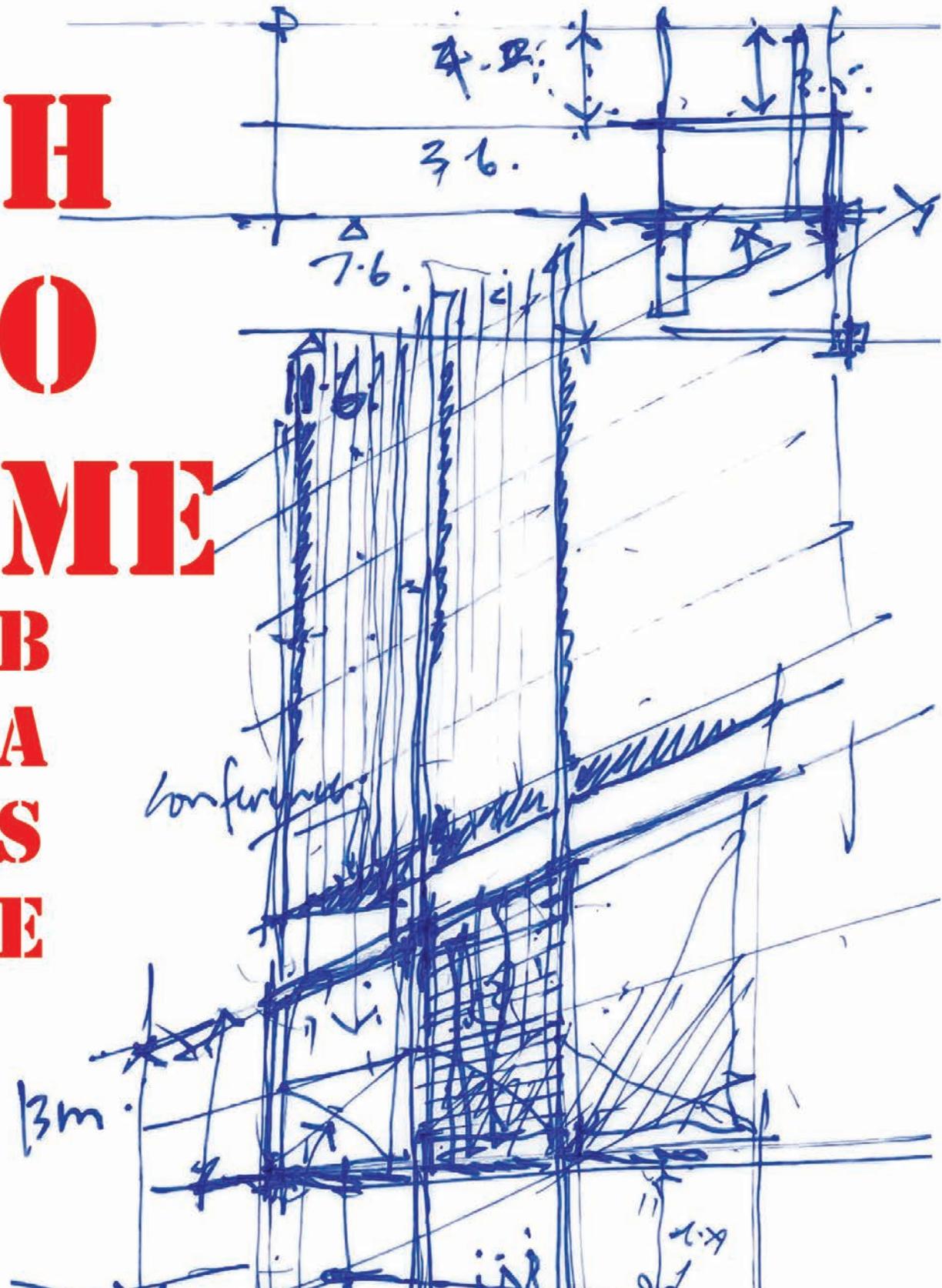
ANDREW CURRIE

The Morphology of an Alien practice: How cultural collisions and complexity inform design and practice.

My research is focussed on mapping the morphology of practice in a 3rd-Culture context as it relates to providing an 'international-standard' of design and service in a rapidly developing economy. Four key themes are currently driving my research:

1. CONTEXT: Whilst cultural diversity & displacement provides a rich creative environment that is fertile, volatile and in constant flux, the degree of adaptation and innovation required to operate effectively in this environment is extreme.
2. PROCESS: Where we have developed a design process in the form of a dialogue and exchange that is consciously directed, by us, to understand and engage with the 'mental space' of multiple project stakeholders.
3. SERVICE DELIVERY: Where we see architecture and design in a service-delivery context; where professional standards are a choice left to each individual practice.
4. ETHICAL & MORAL NAVIGATION: Where the cultural and professional context of our practice context is poorly regulated and moral and ethical standards are malleable.

H O ME B A S E



THE MORPHOLOGY OF AN ALIEN PRACTICE

HOW CULTURAL COLLISIONS
AND COMPLEXITY INFORM
DESIGN AND PRACTICE

office [ritual]

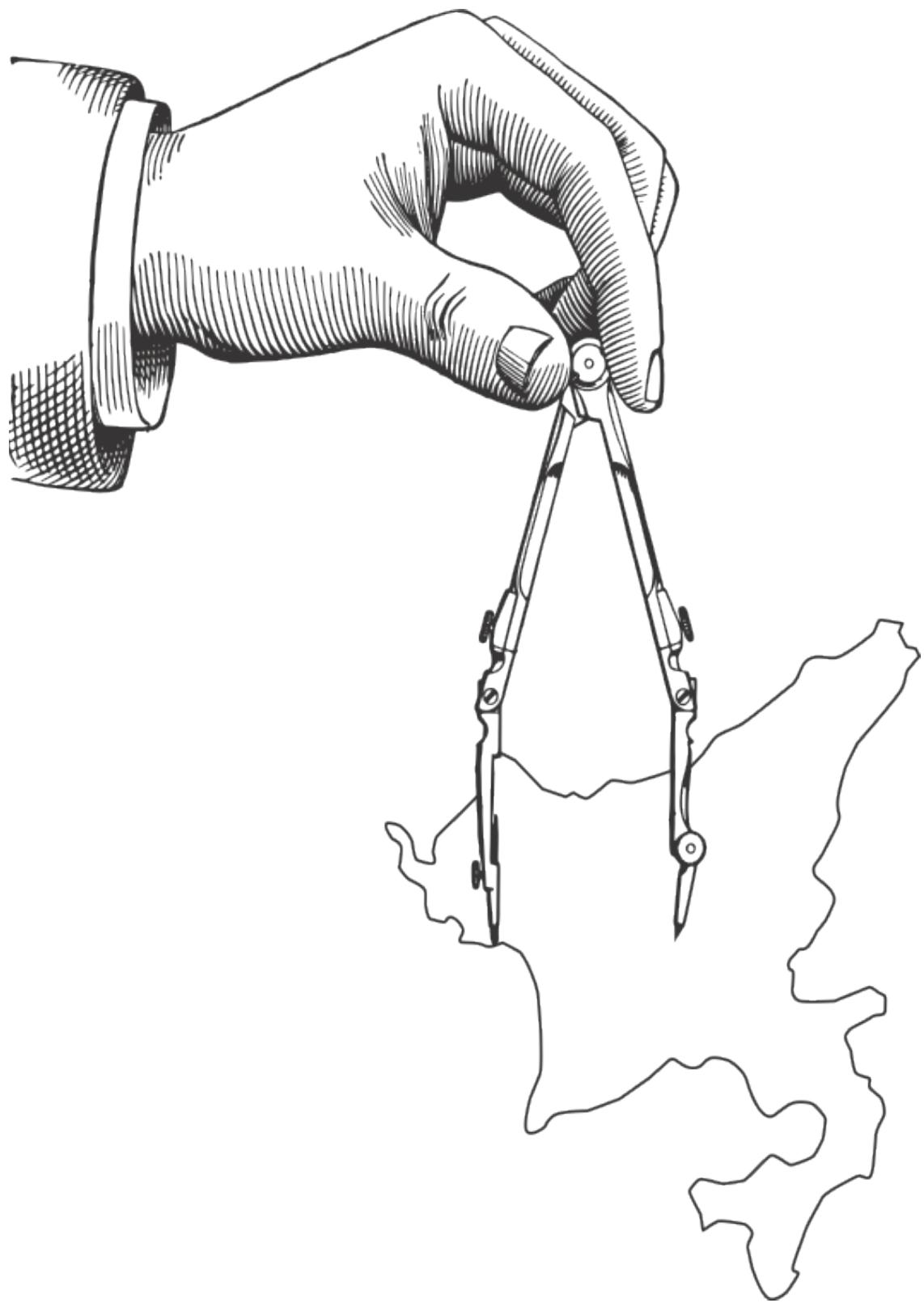
Andrew Currie PhD Architecture & Design April 2015

**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
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Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam APRIL 10-12, 2015
CANDIDATES**

LAURENT GUTIERREZ

Landmarks, Islands and other Liquid Landscapes: Atlas of a MAP Office's territories

The reflection on the contemporary issues of territory (globalization, urbanization, migration...) is the starting point of this PhD. Moving through almost 20 years of multifaceted navigations; the research-based practice of MAP Office has evolved across multiple fields and disciplines. Along the paths, the shift from medium and audience has created multiples opportunities to explore new territories in order to move away from the conventional field of architecture or urban design. In the last 5 years, a specific focus on "Islands" and "Other Liquid Territories" has been developed as a subject/object of studies. Through these investigations, the practice has been exploring the new geography of a transient, globalised environment. A series of maps and cartographies of selected past and recent projects have produced an atlas in which the new role of the designer is exploring a more narrative and fictional form of knowledge production. As an example, the latest project, Hong Kong is Land (2014), produced and exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, introduces taxonomy of spatialization that explores a new definition of landscape expanding the architectural and urban realm.



ATLAS OF MAP OFFICE'S TERRITORY LANDMARKS, ISLANDS AND OTHER LIQUID LANDSCAPE

LAURENT GUTIERREZ - PRS 04 - PENULTIMATE REVIEW
RMIT - PHD - HO CHI MINH CITY - APRIL 2015

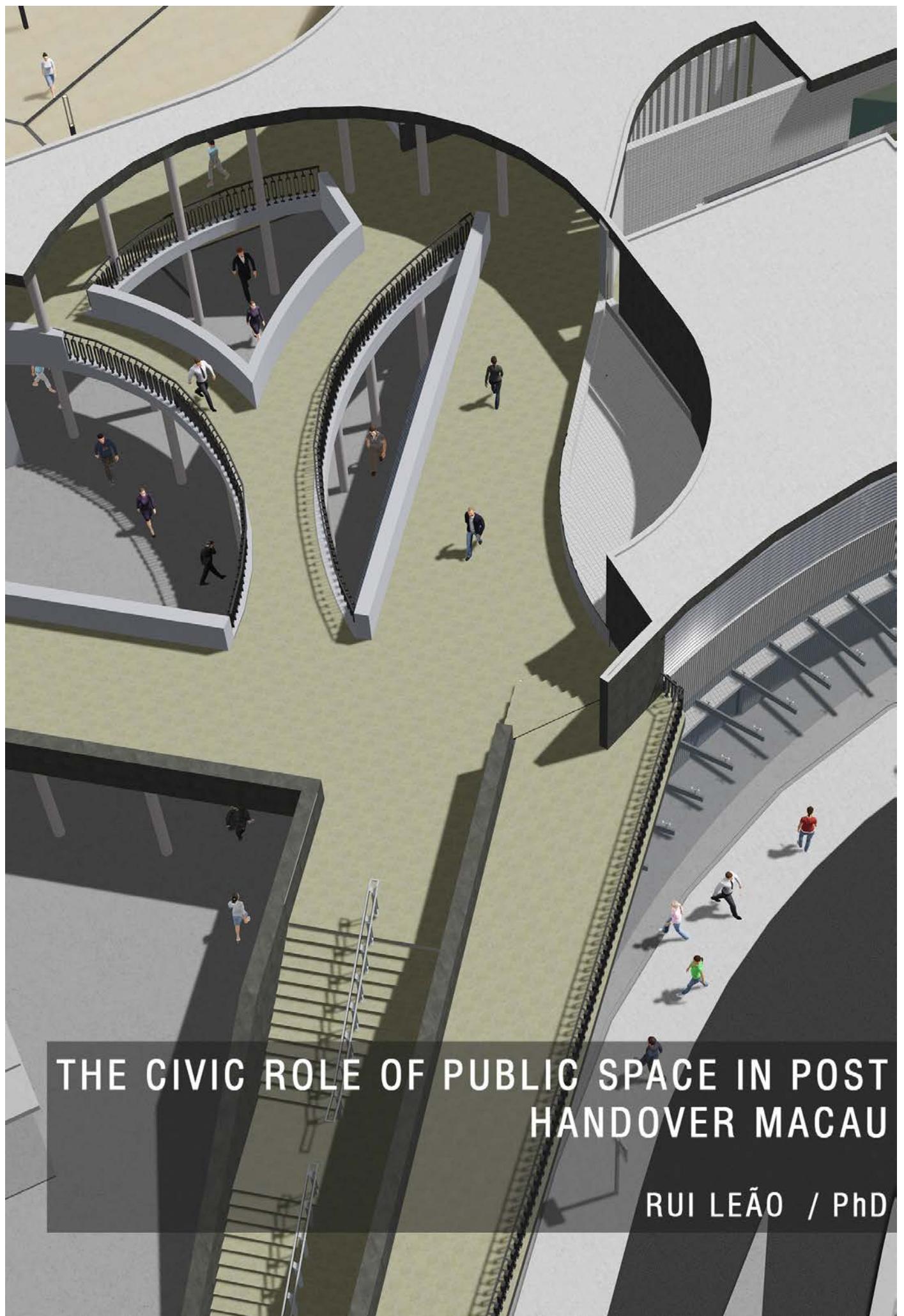
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CANDIDATES**

RUI Miguel Rebelo LEAO

The Civic Role of Public Space in Post Handover Macau

The City of Macau has grown out of an intense relationship with the water. Its location and meaning are related to water and the Portuguese seafaring history. The phenomenal urban development that the city has undertaken through time hasn't always focused on the relationship with the river and the sea. The design of the LRT line in the past couple of years has been used by designers and Government to re-think the public space and redirect the intentions of the City development towards its original flux and purpose: the surrounding water surface.

Along with our previous public space and infrastructure projects along the waterfront, including the Nam van Square and the Sai Van Park developed for the south of the Peninsula these projects have been used to rethink the relation between the city centre, its waterscape in a public space oriented strategy.



THE CIVIC ROLE OF PUBLIC SPACE IN POST HANDOVER MACAU

RUI LEÃO / PhD

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
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CANDIDATES

Leanne ZILKA

Post Material: spatial effect and a rethink of material understanding

The material discourse is not a unified one but is one made up of divergent views. My starting point in the PhD began through the exposure to practitioners and researchers building, exhibiting and practicing in early 2000 until the present time who prioritised material over other focuses in architecture. These 'materialists' reacted against the 'proliferation of virtual modes of representation, where technique is discussed only in terms of its visual representation. The aim for these practitioners was to promote 'greater understanding of materiality, tactility, and fabrication processes" to not only allow us to better employ traditional materials but also to embrace the possibilities presented by new ones. From working with 1:1 scaled materials a range of strategies, operations and techniques developed to produce an architectural scale. This development allowed for a 'shedding' of the need to start at the raw 1:1 material scale. During this process I have discovered the underlying desire to create effect, developing a push-pull relationship with the elements involved. The 'post-material' focus seeks to document and explain these ways of working as a way to enhance, add to and move past the material discourse.

post-material

spatial effect and a rethink of material understanding

The material discourse is not a unified one but is one made up of divergent views. My starting point in the PhD began through the exposure to practitioners and researchers building, exhibiting and practicing in early 2000 until the present time who prioritised material over other focuses in architecture. These 'materialists' reacted against the 'proliferation of virtual modes of representation, where technique is discussed only in terms of its visual representation. The aim for these practitioners was to promote 'greater understanding of materiality, tactility, and fabrication processes' to not only allow us to better employ traditional materials but also to embrace the possibilities presented by new ones. From working with 1:1 scaled materials a range of strategies, operations and techniques developed to produce an architectural scale. This development allowed for a 'shedding' of the need to start at the raw 1:1 material scale. During this process I have discovered the underlying desire to create effect, developing a push-pull relationship with the elements involved. The 'post-material' focus seeks to document and explain these ways of working as a way to enhance, add to and move past the material discourse.

Leanne Zilka - PhD by Project

**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
PRACTICE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam APRIL 10-12, 2015
CANDIDATES BIOGRAPHIES**

Francesca Carlotta BRUNI

I.E.D. - Diploma in Photography - 1992
Politecnico di Milano, Facoltá di Architettura - 1995
Founder of LBA. She designed a wide array of projects from master plans to interior designs. Recipient of the Arcasia Gold Medal for Architecture 2006 and UNESCO heritage award 2012, her Architectural Work has been widely published internationally. Her Design, Architecture and Urban Design works have been exhibited in the Milan's Salone del Mobile, at Lisbon Biennale, at the 10th Biennale di Architettura di Venezia and at the 7th Bienal de Arquitectura de São Paulo.



Johnny CHIU

Founder of a multidisciplinary design firm. Our works span from architecture, interior, industrial, jewelry to hospitality and service. Our award-winning projects include National Taipei University Library and Les Bebes Cupcakery. We operated as a studio think tank where we research and experiment new design possibilities. I have lived, worked and taught in more than six countries. I believe that a good design should take inspirations from the individuals, the society, and the interaction between human and brand. www.johnnyisborn.com

**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
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Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam APRIL 10-12, 2015
CANDIDATES BIOGRAPHIES**

Andrew CURRIE

Andrew Currie is an Architect with more than 25 years of experience working across South-East Asia. In 2004 Andrew established OUT-2 Design, an architecture and interior design practice with offices in Hong Kong and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Today, OUT-2 Design is focussed on projects in Vietnam and provides international-standard design services to clients in four key sectors: commercial offices, international education, bespoke hospitality, and bespoke residential. Andrew also founded and leads Workplace-Asia, a specialist division of OUT-2 Limited that providing Workplace Consulting & Design Services to multi-national clients in the Asia-Pacific region.



Laurent GUTIERREZ

Laurent Gutierrez is the co-founder of MAP Office together with Valérie Portefaix. He is an Associate Professor at the School of Design, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University where he leads the Master programs in Design Strategies as well as Urban Environments Design. His approach to cross-disciplinary practice has been exhibited in more than 100 international venues and the subject of a monograph, MAP OFFICE – Where the Map is the Territory (2011). His last project Hong Kong is Land was presented at the MoMA in New York (2014).

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CANDIDATES BIOGRAPHIES**

RUI Miguel Rebelo LEAO

Rui Leão has a rare professional combination as an architecture and urban planning practitioner, as an urban policy advisor and as an Activist on heritage conservation. His design for the Nam Van Square in the centre of the Nam Van reclamation scheme, which deals both with the vicinity to the water, and a complex road infrastructure situation, integrating all components into the design, was awarded with an Arcasia Gold Medal in 2006, has been exhibited in the 10th Mostra Internazionale di Architectura of the Biennale di Venezia and at the 7th Bienal Internacional de Arquitectura de São Paulo. The insertion of a reading room project in the modernist building of the Portuguese School of Macau has merited him a UNESCO laureate for Innovation on heritage conservation by the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards 2012. He is Vice-President of the Architects Association of Macau, Vice-President of CIALP, the International Council of Architects from Portuguese Speaking Countries and current Chair of Docomomo Macau research Centre. He is a nominated member of the CPU, the Urban Planning Committee of the Macau SAR Government.



**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
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CANDIDATES BIOGRAPHIES**

Leanne ZILKA

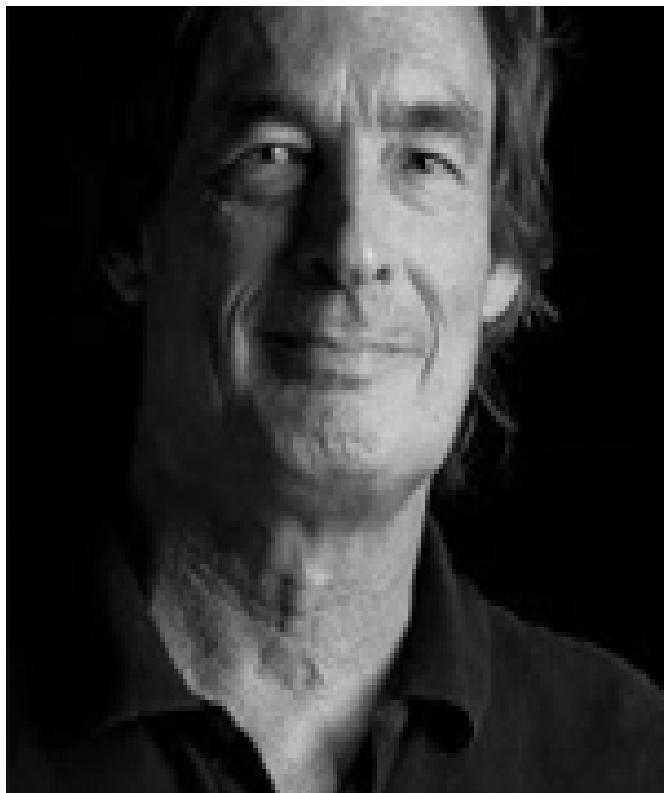
Leanne Zilka founded the architecture practice ZILKA Studio in 2005 and has been an academic at RMIT architecture since 2007. Leanne received her architecture degrees from the University of New South Wales and Harvard University. Since settling in Melbourne Leanne has worked with a range of disciplines to uncover techniques, strategies and operations unique to architecture in order to apply new or non-architectural materials to space. Her teaching, research and architecture practice also looks to connect with site, program, context through materials and material techniques.



**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
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EXAMINERS BIOGRAPHIES**

Colin FOURNIER

Colin Fournier, born in 1944, was educated at the Architectural Association in London. He is Emeritus Professor of Architecture and Urbanism at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London (UCL), where he was, for the last 15 years, Director of the Master of Architecture course in Urban Design, as well as Director of one of the Diploma Units. He is currently Visiting Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). He was an associate member of the radical experimental design group Archigram Architects and Planning Director of the Ralph Parsons Company in Pasadena, California, implementing several Urban Design projects in the Middle East, in particular the new town of Yanbu in Saudi Arabia. He was Bernard Tschumi's partner for the design of the Parc de la Villette in Paris and co-author, with Sir Peter Cook, of the Graz Kunsthause, a contemporary art museum in Austria, completed in 2003 as part of the "European Cultural Capital of the Year" programme. His recently completed project "Open Cinema", developed in collaboration with artist Marysia Lewandowska, was completed in Guimarães, Portugal, also European Cultural Capital of the Year for 2012 as well as produced in Lisbon, as a second edition, as part of the 2013 Lisbon Architecture Triennale. In 2013, he was appointed by the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority in Hong Kong as President of the Jury for the M+ Museum International Architectural Competition and he was the Chief Curator of the 2013-2014 Urbanism and Architecture Bi-city Biennale for Hong Kong and Shenzhen UABB*HK, responsible for the Hong Kong part of the Biennale. He is Partner and Chairman of Tetra X, an architectural and planning firm based in Hong Kong.



**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
PRACTICE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
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EXAMINERS BIOGRAPHIES**

Beth GEORGE

Beth George is a lecturer in Architecture at UWA. She is a teacher, practitioner and researcher in architectural design, drawing and urbanism. Her PhD, entitled "Scouring the Thin City" was completed through RMIT in 2009. Her thesis involves the careful interpretation of an urban situation through the making of maps, the comprehension of place via narrative, and the pairing of these readings to produce imaginative and distinctive urban design speculations. She is the author of two book chapters on this topic, including "Curating the City" in Leon Van Schaik and Geoffrey London's *Procuring Innovative Architecture* (Routledge, 2010). She has been teaching for ten years, between UWA and Curtin University, in architectural design, with a focus on urban and regional architecture, and in drawing, with a focus on mixed media and on drawing as an act of design. She specialises in the production of manual and digital drawings, and has curated and contributed to exhibitions in visual arts and architecture. George established Post- architecture and Spacemarket – two awarded practices engaged with architecture and urban augmentation – which she directed between 2010 and 2014. Among her built works are the Moana Chambers, a co-working space, gallery and café in a turn of the century building in the centre of Perth, and the Many project, a re-inhabitation of a defunct shopping centre in Fremantle. These projects involve an engagement with long-vacant space, the culturing of new businesses and the making of very limited architectural interventions on tiny budgets with a substantial urban impact. She is now running a sole practice.



**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN
PRACTICE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam APRIL 10-12, 2015
RMIT Archtiecture & Design STAFF BIOGRAPHIES**

Sand HELSEL

Sand Helsel is Professor of Architecture at RMIT University, and Director of the PRS Asia, RMIT's PhD program located in Ho Chi Minh City. She received her architectural qualifications from the Architectural Association School of Architecture (AA) and her MArch (by Research) and PhD from RMIT. Prior to her current academic role, Sand has been Deputy Dean International in the School of Architecture and Design and Head of the Department of Architecture at RMIT, and a Unit Master at the AA. Her design research practice ranges in scale from installations to urban design. She is a founder member of X_Field, an informal group of international practitioners who work in the margins of the disciplines of art, architecture, landscape architecture, interior, industrial and urban design. She has co-curated a suite of exhibitions of this work in Melbourne, Seoul, Beijing and Taipei; a book is in progress. Her work has been included in group shows at URS 126 in Taipei, the Seoul National University Museum of Art, and the Center for Art and Environment at the Nevada Museum of Art. The Asian city is the current focus of her international lectures, conferences, publications, exhibitions and design workshops. She is a founding member of Urban Flashes, an international group of artists, architects and educators established in Taipei in 1999, and her book, *Taipei Operations*, documents one of her collaborative design workshops with a focus on bottom-up design techniques. Recent workshops have included a collaborative studio with Laurent Gutierrez at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and as Visiting Professor at Tamkang University in Taiwan.



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Gretchen WILKINS

Gretchen Wilkins is Director of the Master of Urban Design program, Senior Lecturer in Architecture and leader of the D-Lab Cities research unit in the School of Architecture & Design at RMIT University. She received a PhD in Architecture from RMIT University in 2012 entitled Manufacturing Urbanism: architectural practice for unfinished cities, and a Master of Architecture from the University of Michigan. She is the editor of the book *Distributed Urbanism: Cities after Google Earth* (Routledge 2010) and *Entropia: Incremental Gestures Towards a Possible Urbanism* (Champ Libre, 2009). Her design work has been published and exhibited internationally, including *Architectural Design (AD)*, *Ottagono*, *Metropolis Magazine*, *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'Hui* and the *Storefront for Art & Architecture*. She has received research grants from the Japan Foundation, the James L. Knight Foundation, the Australia China Council and the Holcim Foundation. Her ongoing research explores architectural and economic relationships between manufacturing and cities, through design.



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Richard BLACK

Dr Richard Black is a registered architect and Associate Professor at RMIT University where he is head of the Bachelor of Architectural Design degree. With Michelle Black, he is a partner in Times Two Architects. Richard's teaching, practice and research activities explore overlaps and adjacencies between architecture and landscape. He has developed off-site and on-site techniques as a process to engage with complex large scale landscape systems. He has co-authored two books on his design studio teaching at RMIT University. Richard is also a founding member and contributor to the X-Field group in the School of Architecture + Design. The agenda of the X-Field project is to promote a continuing and significant discourse amongst like-minded practitioners who challenge the convention of their respective disciplines. A touring exhibition supported by symposia and collected contributions to this dialogue began in Melbourne, followed by Seoul, Beijing and Taipei before returning to Melbourne in an expanded format (<http://www.x-field.org>). Richard's mapping of the Murray River floods, fieldwork and associated design projects, have been acquired by the Centre for Art + Environment, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, USA. Richard's design projects have been nationally and internationally recognised through exhibition and publication. He has previously worked in practice in Western Australia and Austria. He obtained his B.Arch (first class honours) from Curtin University (WA), and has completed post-graduate study under Professor Peter Cook at the Städelschule Art Academy, Frankfurt, Germany. He completed an M.Arch (by project) in 1998 and a Phd (2009) both at RMIT University.



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Graham CRIST

Graham Crist is a senior lecturer in design at RMIT and a member of the design practice Antarctica. He was educated at UWA and taught there before coming to RMIT. Prior to founding Antarctica he has practiced at Donaldson Warn, and Denton Corker Marshall as well as commencing the practice of Harrison and Crist.

At RMIT he has formerly been the program director of architecture, coordinator of professional practice and coordinator of higher degrees by research. He is currently coordinator of masters design studios.



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PRACTICE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM DATES 2015

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Friday 2nd October to Sunday 4th October 2015



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