

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
RMIT CAMPUS
PHAM NGOC THACH STREET
DISTRICT 3
Building 5, Level 2, Rooms 02 & 03

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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.

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 NHẪM ĐỂ CAO VÀ MỞ RỘNG KIẾN THỨC CƠ BẢN DỰA TRÊN NGHỀ NGHIỆP CỦA HỌ, VÀ TỪ ĐẤY LÀ KHẢ NĂNG ĐỂ PHỤC VỤ CỘNG ĐỒNG.

The School of Architecture and Design and the School of Media and Communication welcome you to PRS Asia. The youngest PRS in the RMIT University PhD program has been growing steadily over the years, as has the richness and breadth of the research. The program is based on peer review—the dialogue between candidates, supervisors, visiting critics and candidates, and interested local and international visitors—in the formal presentations as well as the informal gatherings over lunches, dinners and lectures. We look forward to the contributions of our new candidates and additions to the supervisory team, and anticipate that the conversations will continue to be stimulating.

Professor Sand Helsel
Director, Architecture and Design PRS Asia

Dr Adam Nash
Director, Media and Communication PRS Asia

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61	Jessica L. Wilkinson	Supervisor, School of Media and Communication

Visiting Critic's Talk

Gurjit Singh Matharoo

Eat Love Play Discourse

Matharoo Associates' has recently moved into their self-designed and built studio, 'Pool'. This presentation will chart the generation, incorporation and growth of ideas, seen through their origin in various projects and culminating in the construction of Pool – a representative sample of what has become the core philosophy, and has embodied the practice over the last 25 years.

"Matharoo's own building is the best space to reflect on his architectural worldview. Certain ideas are examined repeatedly, certain practices are preferred, pared down, removing all that can be removed.

...In his practice, there is always continuing research and in-house development of working details, the fabrication of moving parts and innovative hardware. They allow constantly changing light to animate spaces on either side of the studio. It is here, in the residual spaces, that the delight of the building can be experienced."

- *Architectural Review*, July 2016



Overview of Events



Friday 7 April

5:30 to 6:30pm PRS Asia Welcome Drinks
6:30 to 7:30pm Visiting Critic's Talk
7:30pm Drinks

Propaganda Vietnamese Bistro
21 Han Thuyen. Q1,
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Saturday 8 April, 9:00am - 5:30pm

PhD Progress Review and Milestone Review Presentations (by prior arrangement)
RMIT Campus, 21 Pham Ngoc Thach Street, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

PRS Dinner (by invitation only)

Sunday 9 April, 9:15am - 5:00pm

PhD Progress Review and Milestone Review Presentations (by prior arrangement)
RMIT Campus, 21 Pham Ngoc Thach Street, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Media and Communication



Saturday 8 April

Building 5, Level 1, Room 3

9:30 - 10:25	Jhoanna Lynn B. CRUZ Confirmation of Candidature AN, DC, JW
10:30 - 11:25	Observation Information Session
11:30 - 12:25	Alvin PANG Confirmation of Candidature AN, MAT, FR-S
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 14:25	Laurel FLORES FANTAUZZO Confirmation of Candidature AN, DC, JW
14:30 - 15:25	Observation Information Session
15:30 - 16:00	Tea & coffee
16:00 - 16:55	Ravi SHANKAR Confirmation of Candidature AN, DC, FR-S

AN=Adam Nash
DC=David Carlin
FR-S=Francesca Rendle-Short
JW=Jessica Wilkinson
MAT=Michelle Aung Thin



Saturday 8 April

Building 5, Level 2, Room 2 & 3

- 9:00 - 9:15 Tea & coffee
- 9:15 - 9:30 Welcome
- 9:30 - 10:25 **Tobias KLEIN**
PhD Progress Review
SH©, AJ, RBla, SV, GM, RK
- 10:30 - 11:25 **Olivier OTTEVAERE**
PhD Progress Review
SH©, RBla, AJ, SV, GM, RK
- 11:30 - 12:25 **Jean-Paul ROLLO** (PRS AU candidate)
PhD Progress Review
GC©, RBla, GM, GW, PM
- 12:30 - 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 - 14:25 **Neville MARS**
Milestone 3 Review
PM©, GC*, SH*, GW, GM
- 14:30 - 15:25 **John LIN**
Confirmation of Candidature
GC©, SH*, AJ, GM, RK, SV
- 15:30 - 16:00 Tea & coffee
- 16:00 - 16:55 **G eraldyne BORIO**
Confirmation of Candidature
RBla©, SH*, AJ, RK, GM, SV
- 17:00 - 17:25 **Michael BUDIG**
Pre-Application Presentation
SH©, PM, GC, RBla, AJ

AJ=Anna Johnson
AP=Archie Pizzini
GC=Graham Crist
GM=Gurjit Matharoo
GW=Gretchen Wilkins
PM=Paul Minifie
RBla=Richard Black
RK=Roger Kemp
SH=Sand Helsing
SV=Soumitri Varadarajan

Sunday 9 April

Building 5, Level 2, Room 2 & 3

Building 5, Level 1, Room 3

9:15 - 9:30 Tea & coffee

9:30 - 10:25 **Tom VEREBES**
Milestone 3 Review
GW©, PM*, GC, AJ

10:30 - 11:25 **Andrew STIFF**
PhD Progress Review
GC©, GW, AP, RK, SH

11:30 - 12:25 **Johnny CHIU**
PhD Progress Review
GC©, SH, GW, GM, RBlA, RK

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch

13:30 - 14:25 **Rui LEAO**
Milestone 3 Review
RBlA©, SH*, AJ, GM, RK

Andrew CURRIE
PhD Progress Review
GC©*, GW*, PM, AP, SV

14:30 - 15:25 **Carlotta BRUNI**
Milestone 3 Review
AJ©, SH*, RBlA, GM, RK

Christian J. LANGE
PhD Progress Review
PM©, GW, GC, SV

15:30 - 16:00 Tea & coffee

16:00 - 16:55 **Inch LIM**
Milestone 3 Review
SH©, RBlA, AJ, GM, RK

Holger KEHNE
PhD Progress Review
PM©, GC, GW, SV

Progress Reviews



**April
2017**



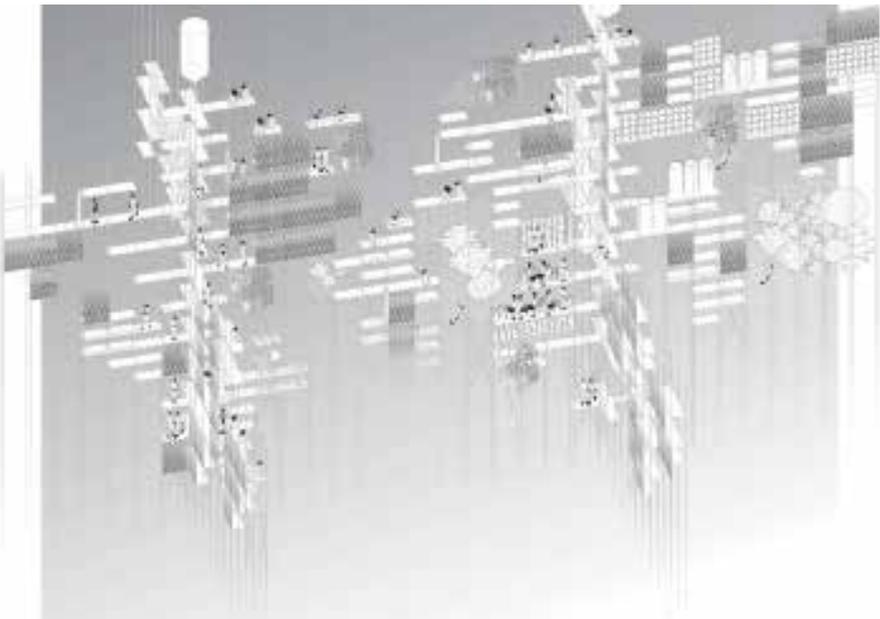
Parallel Works: Looking for the In-Betweens

The narrow back lanes of Hong Kong and leftover spaces under Bangkok's expressways have been the entry points to understanding urban environment's mechanisms. Less regulated and less sterile than official public spaces, these accidental spaces – unplanned and appropriated by the inhabitants – function as important buffer zones across the city.

By observing people's interactions with these in-betweens, in both physical and metaphorical ways I have learned from their

strategies to overtake the harsh context, transforming constraints into opportunities. From observer, I have become an actor and through artistic and research projects, I have been engaging city users to experience urban space differently.

The 'in-between' condition has become a quest and I am now looking for a design methodology that can transpose the teaching from the streets to the design of architecture. For that, I am researching on the invisible rules behind the appropriation of space.



Taking Place in Mindanao

This paper aims to map my writing journey so far, from my beginnings as a young lesbian struggling to give voice to the lesbian experience and resisting the invisibility imposed by the patriarchy as well as my own internalized homophobia, to my six-year period of not-writing, and to my current struggle to come back to life as a writer, particularly in Mindanao. Through the methodology of reflective practice, I aim to discover the various roles the forbidden (what cannot be said) plays in my writing voice. Guided by Helene Cixous and *écriture feminine*, I explore the impact of death, remembering, family, and sexuality on my writing of poetry and prose.

I posit that my move to Mindanao is an exile that impinged upon my writing, allowing me to find a new voice through which I continue to explore various ways of resistance to assert what I imagine is my emergent identity as 'Mindanawon'. Being a migrant, what makes me a Mindanawon writer? How does this new identity connect to the old? What is the nature of the gap between the two? This emergence takes place physically in Mindanao, but is also my way of taking my place in Philippine literature.



LOCAL +

Thirteen years of architectural practice in the rapidly changing, sometimes chaotic context of emerging Vietnam has shifted our practice's principles, value and focus. That shift is away from our imported foreign knowledge and skills, towards a local permutation, informed by the context and inflected by the collective intelligence of our chosen urban environment.

This research examines how that transformation has occurred in the design projects, and what it may tell us about the orthodoxies of conventional architectural practice, as well as the provocations offered by a culture like Vietnam's.

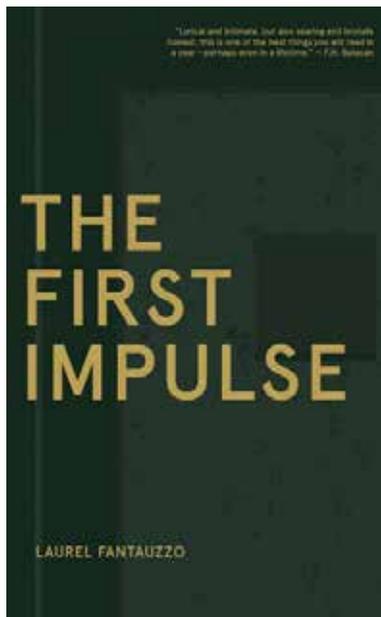
These design projects occupy both the world of global capital and local craft culture. This PhD will culminate in a speculative project in Australia, away from the cultural and client constraints of Vietnam, testing both the methods learned here, and the now foreign context of Sydney, Australia.



***Archipelagic:
Between Stillness and Movement in a Creative Nonfiction Writing Practice***

This PhD investigates and reflects upon a past, present, and future practice, focusing on the genre of nonfiction within the realm of creative writing. 'Archipelagic' explores the author's attempts at traditional nonfiction methods, such as journalism, and her movement to alternate ways of expression within the discipline. This milestone focuses on three ongoing components of a nonfiction practice: reporting and drafting a traditional

newspaper opinion editorial, public responses to the publication of a nonfiction book, and the creation process of a new memoir. The work in this chapter examines transnational subjectivity, the pressures of the global market and volatile politics on an individual creative nonfiction practice, and various audience replies to an ethics of nonfiction.

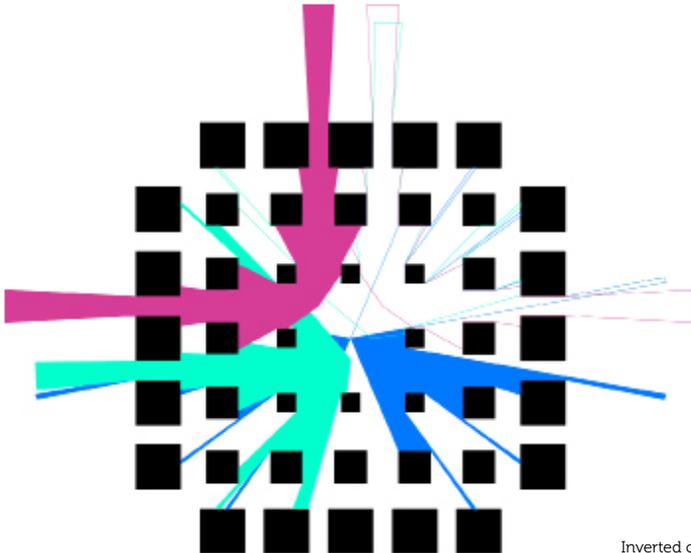


The systemic basis for complexity in contemporary architecture

This project proposal sets out to analyze and situate the work by Holger Kehne and practice Plasma Studio in a two-fold manner: 1. It will reverse-engineer from design work undertaken by the practice sets of underlying aims, drivers and influences, and align, compare and contrast these with the wider cultural and social context. 2. It will seek how to expand the repertory and grammar towards Holger Kehne's personal interests in rationalist, structuralist and pattern practice. The focus will be on unearthing fundamental concepts and diagrams that are shared among a variety of applications to further an understanding

of architecture as a systemic organizational praxis, mediating and indexing internal and external parameters and forces as opposed to expressive and representational means.

The research will interrogate the pluralist and iconic appearance of current architectural culture by highlighting commonalities, inherent linkages and shared systemic underpinnings and drivers that can be found within actual contemporary architectural design processes by Plasma Studio, predecessors and contemporaries.



Inverted centre-edge porosity;
drawn by Holger Kehne

Digital Handmade: Craftsmanship in Digital Environments as an alternative Computer Aided Design Practice

The global discourse on the advantages and pitfalls of contemporary digital design tools offers a plethora of views on the applicable terminology. Digital bravado, parametric assembly, optimization in form and efficiency of construction and digital craftsmanship are some. Yet, beginning with industrialization and fueled by the ubiquitous widespread Computer Aided Design tools, the separation between form making and material condition has opposed craft production. Sennet's definition of a process in which the practitioner is deeply invested in the outcome and takes care to do excellent work seems, at first, to be at odds in the context of a CAD environment.

In clear opposition to CAD as a design optimization tool, this research develops transfer methods from analogue craftsmanship to contemporary CAD/CAM design environments. Using the unique craftsmanship led period of the Rococo as role-model, the research will design six artefacts, articulating the potentials of the new digital handmade as an alternative and potential counter-point to the otherwise optimisation driven medium of the digital.



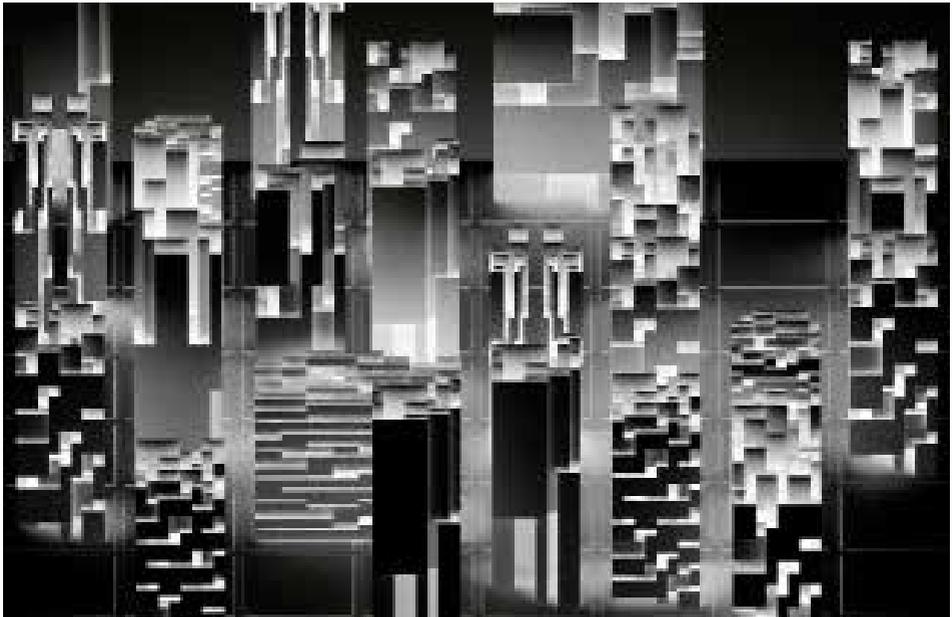
***Serial Architectures, Systems of Multiplicities and Singularities –
Towards an Architecture of progressive heterogeneity***

In the last two decades, the use of computation has significantly informed and changed the conceptualization and production of architecture. Today, by using calculus-based software, architecture can be realized as algorithmic prototypes first. As a result, it is possible to generate many different versions out of the same information.

With this approach and computer aided manufacturing procedures at hand, the conception of modularized architecture as proposed by modernism has been challenged. We are now witnessing a shift from the architecture of modularity towards an architecture of variability and adaptability. The fundamental question that forms the basis for

this Ph.D. is straight forward: Can Architecture through computational methods of design and making overcome the modernist concept of standardization? Can Architecture be thought as species, proposing multiplicities and singularities within same typologies simultaneously?

The Ph.D. will reflect on previous and current explorations and strategies examined in my practice and unfold, contextualize and theorize the methods of production that has been developed successively over time. The research will further explore the anomalies, opportunities and constraints in this field of digital production and speculate on future trajectories.



DESIGNING BY AGENCY: Bridging Procurement Gaps

Macau is built on two track logic. The culture is imbibed in the notion that there is a Chinese perception and a Portuguese (or western) perception for every issue. There is a subtle game of slide-tracking, and that is the art of communicating between the two spheres: in many instances, through one of this logic an agenda becomes unviable, but there is always a possible alternation.

This creative process, which is not field-specific, but rather a colonial innuendo, allows for common ground between actors in the design process. By subverting the brief and finding a hidden agenda in each project, I am coming to understand how my work is identifying the gaps left within the colonial

period, leading me to build a postcolonial hybrid grid of architectural statements and typologies.

In Macau we have a deficit in policy and regulation that has to do with the scale of the city and a historic predominance of the entrepreneurs, who prefer a loose system to better navigate.

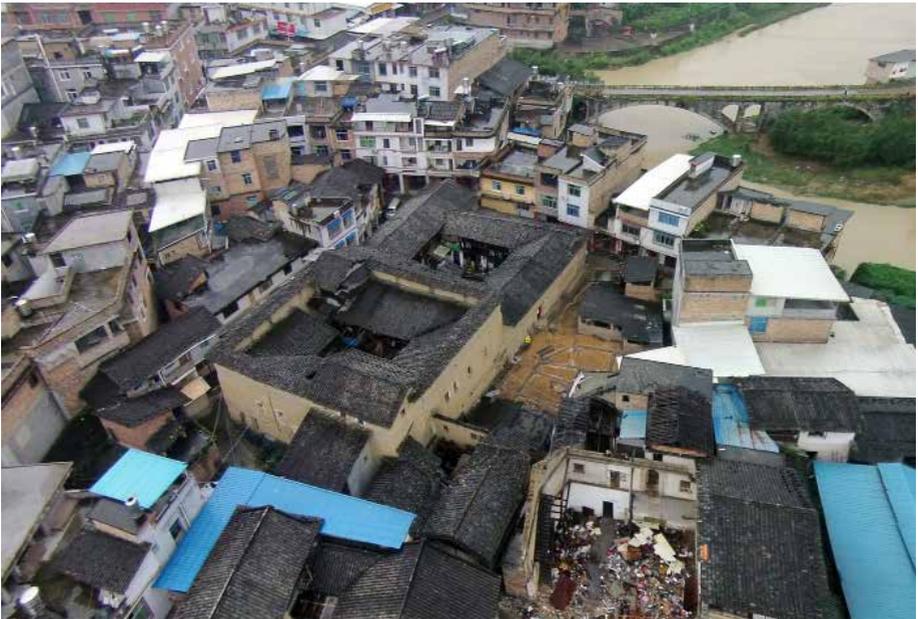
This PhD is about reclamation and the opportunities that the reclamation process offers to architecture. The scope of the architect and the design of the urban realm should know no boundaries.



Making Architecture in a Place Without Architects

In villages throughout China, a building boom coupled with a lack of regulation has led to densities more often found in urban areas. Traditional vernacular dwellings are no longer suitable for residents who demand the conveniences of modern life. On the other hand, the current house building model is a generic system of concrete frame and brick infill whose main advantage is speed and cheapness of construction. However this method is so efficient that it is used for all kinds of buildings -- from houses, to schools and hospitals -- rendering these different functions nearly indistinguishable. The thesis will engage the issue of housing within the context of rural to urban transformation in China. After centuries of successful evolution and adaptation, collective

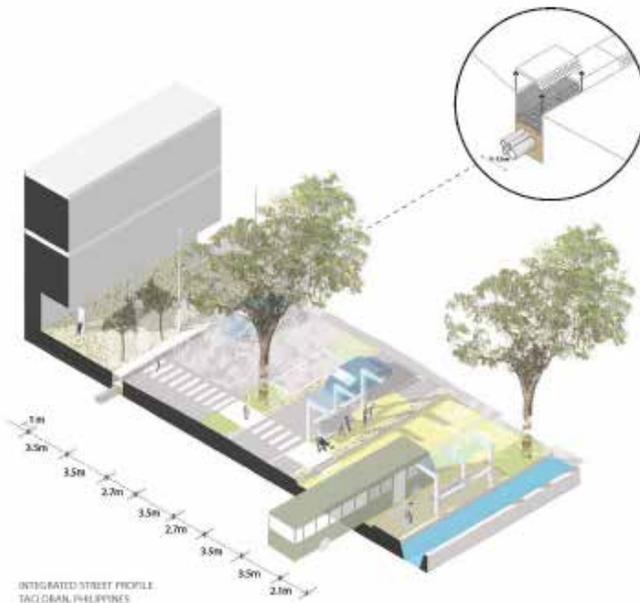
housing typologies are gradually replaced by individual houses. At the same time, the context has gradually transformed from an agrarian landscape into a contested territory; dense, speculative, commercial, abandoned. Surviving examples of vernacular housing are often surrounded by sprawling proto-urban fabric. How do we contend with these spatial changes? Is it possible to learn from, and refashion a new housing typology out of existing traditional ones? For the most part, economic development has led to a shift away from security and agricultural production as a common necessity; from collective to individual interests. Can the design of collective housing conceive of other reasons for living together? Can the rural inform the urban?



CHINA BACK-UP
Towards an Evolutionary Planning System for pressured urban landscapes

Asia's urban revolution is unique. Characterized by expansion at an unseen scale and rolled out under tremendous pressure, the new landscape manifest itself as a rural-urban amalgamation. This harsh and complex hybrid typology leaves planners floundering without the methods to objectively plan healthy new cityscape. The widening gap between urban theory and commercial planning culture demands the discipline to recalibrate even its most basic notions, and ask what is urban or rural and how can their codependent and

intertwined condition be guided? Asia Back Up investigates these questions through case studies that follow alternative models not based on new town planning or even outward expansion, but on upgrading, densifying, and diversifying Asia's established cityscapes. Understanding urban growth as fundamentally organic, in these experiments the planner is a mediator of the ongoing clash between top-down forces and bottom-up urbanization, whose goal is to streamline growth inward and upward.



Concrete approximations: Responsive falsework at incremental scales

Through the lens of specific materials and the interaction with their active properties, the research focuses on alternative procedures of construction that challenge typical generic forms of building.

In developing unique methods of fabrication, the aim is to create designs that have the potential to impact and influence the monotony of mainstream construction systems. Each design is considered as a prototype that adheres to the limitations of material and structural logics, exploiting the gap between digital inputs and physical outputs as a productive space for design-research innovations.

The practice work involves laboratory experiments with materials such as concrete, applies knowledge gained from different types of material experiments to site-specific design-build structures and investigates the economic feasibility of realizing larger scale architectural projects through the specific industrial production practices found in the Pearl River Delta.

How some of the conducted material experiments and invented prototyping techniques inform the making of architecture at larger building scales, constitutes the main research question.



HOW TO SOUND THESE UNDULATIONS?

Pang's Prose Poems Ping Past, Present & Perhaps to be in Place and the Personal

After two decades of literary practice spanning several genres and modes of activity in more than twenty languages worldwide, I have become interested in researching approaches to actively and meaningfully engage with the pluralistic possibilities available to me -- as a practitioner in my cultural, historical and literary context -- in order to identify and explore fresh creative terrain, perhaps in new ways.

To ground my initial investigations into this broad area, I discuss a selection of my recent prose poems that enfold, combine and rework multiple cultural, linguistic and stylistic conventions and strategies so as to sound

out interlocking landscapes of place, history and family. I examine how these techniques, new to my writing, may allow access to a greater range of perspectives than are usually afforded, or articulate concerns that have not been widely voiced. I discuss how these experiments relate to the overall trajectory of my past practice and future development, and make early connections to ideas by some other thinkers and practitioners in similar areas of interest.



Scalelessness: The bigness of small projects

Architects are often faced with working on multiple projects across a range of scales. Regularly the domestic project is a laboratory for experimentation beyond an intrinsic interest in the House as a dwelling. This research speculates on the composition of small projects and the conception of an architecture that is monumental – small buildings doing big things, amplified through the experience of large practice and the relationship of the domestic and the public.

Through an examination and reflection of my practice and using a series of built, unbuilt and speculative works as the vehicle,

it will attempt to interrogate this condition of size; unpacking the process of design and investigate the juncture of a backlog of personal experience, memory and the observed.

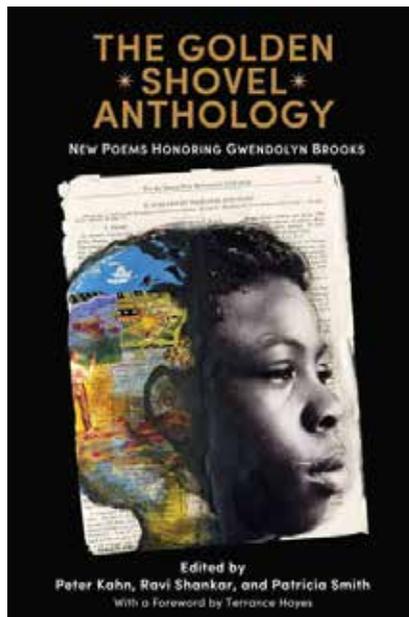
This inquiry into design situates itself inside a theoretical framework of architects that have sought to interrogate the medium of design itself and question how architects work.



Digging for Ore with a Golden Shovel: On the Curatorial Impulse as Relates to Personal Creativity

Synchronous with my work as a poet and memoirist, I have embarked upon the project of anthologizing over the years, beginning with starting an online journal, editing a wide-reaching anthology of contemporary South Asian, East Asian and Middle Eastern poetry, one of Singaporean and digital literature, and most recently, one dedicated to a new poetic form (the golden shovel). Additionally, I've been asked to curate an anthology of contemporary South Asian literature for a small press in the near future. My investigations into this impulse aim to situate the related notions of flower-gathering (etymologically, the word anthology comes

from the Greek *anthos* or 'flower' and *logia* or 'collection') to planting and germinating seeds into fruiting trees (or one lens through which the art of writing literature can be viewed). What is it about creating a methodological frame to contain disparate works that is related to the challenge of finding a representative voice and authorial signature? Towards this end, I will analyze my own efforts at creating alternative canons to my own poetic and writerly production, trying to tease out the connections and disjunctions that exist between the two practices.



The archive as a catalyst for creative observation

This research takes the form of a detailed reflection, through design practice, on the process(es) of collecting, archiving and (re) producing physical and ephemeral data from the urban realm, with a specific focus on Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. This design practice is rooted in the discipline of Architecture and Urban Design, which define the processes of collecting spatial, experiential and material information, archiving this material, and incorporating various types of urban data into a series of spatial design experiments with moving image, still images and digital installations.

The urban landscape of Ho Chi Minh City is currently being radically impacted by

economic, social and environmental change. The urban infrastructure of Ho Chi Minh City is a unique window into the lived experience of the city. Change in the city is important, but not all of those changes will preserve discrete heritage sites. The challenge for the city is to allow new development to occur without erasing important cultural heritage.

Using observation, and the development of custom archival platforms, this project will fuse an architectural discourse of the 'ordinary' with the urban habitats of Ho Chi Minh City and an archival system to explore unique digital outcomes such as 'augmented' installations.



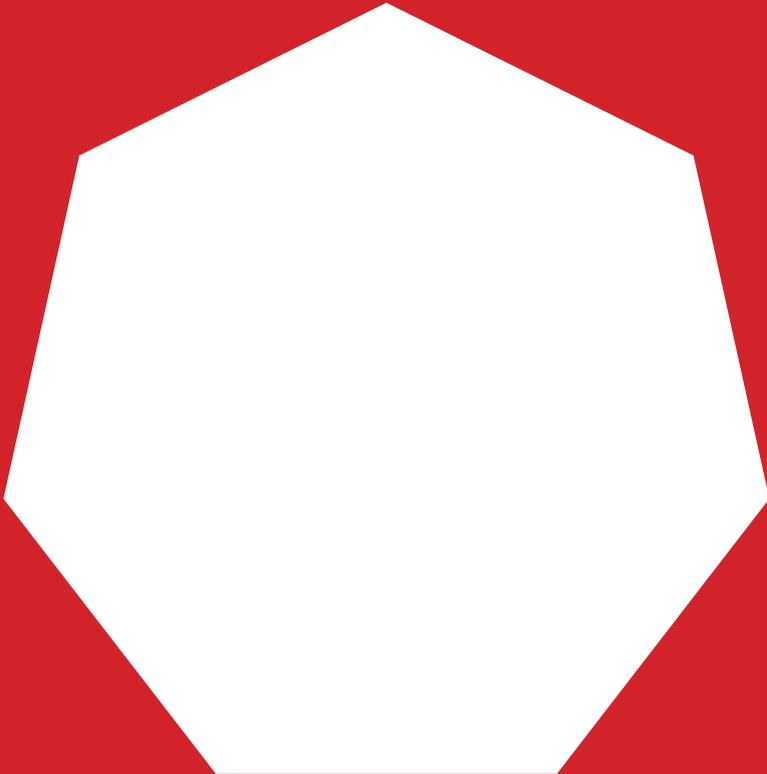
UrbanISMS: Paradigmatic Practice and its Multifarious Platforms

This PhD exposes a model of design practice with complex reciprocities between design propositions within my practice, OCEAN CN, and a series of editorial and curatorial projects. Understood to create and respond to platforms and audiences, this form of practice is a basis from which to conceive and debate paradigmatic formulations of urbanism. It is within and between the flows and exchanges between the making of design projects and editorial and curatorial practices, that a research problematic has been sustained on the limitations of urban masterplanning. The dilemmas of innovation and/versus positivism (Utopianism or Not in Urbanism) have arisen, posited with an alternative set of narratives and instruments, both mutually substantiating

components of a practice searching for consolidations of paradigmatic moments. This PhD has queried the relation of conceptual paradigms as ontologies for urbanism, to their associated experimental design approaches and methodologies. As such, this body of work oscillates between imagination and computation, between projection and calculation. *Parametric Urbanism*, *The Adaptive City*, and *Mass-Customised Cities*, are understood to be inter-dependent, rather than independent ontologies with discreet methods. My contribution to knowledge is the proposition of an interactive, intelligent urban model, and its repercussions for the emerging discourses and methods of the *Smart City*.



Candidate Biographies





**April
2017**

Géraldine Borio

Géraldine Borio is a Swiss Registered Architect and co-founder of Parallel Lab, an architectural office and laboratory for urban research based in Hong Kong. She is currently teaching at the School of Design, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Prior to that she has been working with various firms in Tokyo, Beijing and Hong Kong and has taught architecture at the Hong Kong University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her work has been exhibited at the Vitra Museum; Rotterdam Architecture Biennale; St-Etienne Design Biennale; Beijing Design Week; Zurich University of the Arts and ICI Curatorial Hub, New York. She is the co-author of the book "Hong Kong In Between" (MCCM | Park Books, 2015).



Carlotta Bruni

I. E.D. - Diploma in Photography - 1992
 Politecnico di Milano, Facoltà di Architettura
 - 1995
 Founder of LBA. Based in Macau

Carlotta has 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 JC Architecture. Their works span from architecture, interior, industrial, jewelry to hospitality and service. The award winning projects include National Taipei University Library and Les Bebes Cupcakery. They operated as a studio think tank where they research and experiment new design possibilities. JC has lived, worked and taught in NZ, Australia, Sweden, Japan and the US and believes that a good design should take inspirations from the individuals, the society, and the interaction between human and brand. Johnny is also the founder of OUTscholarship, daring Taiwanese students to dream far and travel far, and Room 144, a exchange platform for disciplines to share their professional knowledge.

www.johnnyisborn.com



Jhoanna Lynn B. Cruz

Jhoanna Lynn B. Cruz is the author of *Women Loving* (2010), the first sole-author anthology of lesbian stories in the Philippines, also available as an eBook entitled *Women on Fire* (2015). She is Associate Professor of creative writing at University of the Philippines Mindanao. She is president of the Davao Writers Guild. She represents Eastern and Southern Mindanao in the National Committee on Literary Arts. Her work has been published extensively in the Philippines. She has presented her work in literary events in Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, Vietnam, Australia, and Tokyo. Her recent work appears in the "New Asia Now" issue of *Griffith Review*.



Andrew Currie

Andrew Currie is an Australian-born architect who has lived and worked across South-East Asia for more than 30 years.

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 primarily focussed on projects in Vietnam, working with both international and local clients in four main areas: commercial offices, international education, bespoke hospitality, and multi-residential communities.

www.OUT-2.com



Laurel Flores Fantauzzo

Laurel Flores Fantauzzo was a 2016 finalist for the PEN/Fusion Award in nonfiction. She is the author of *The First Impulse* (Anvil Publishing 2017) and teaches in the Writers' Centre at Yale-NUS College.

Holger Kehne

Holger Kehne is an architect trained in Germany and the UK. He aims at engaging practice and academic research in unison, beginning in London where he gained extensive academic experience as unit master in the Diploma School of the Architectural Association while setting up and developing the architectural practice Plasma Studio, winning numerous accolades such as BD/Corus' Young Architect of the Year Award and Architectural Record's Design Vanguard in 2002 and 2004 respectively. He relocated to Hong Kong, where he has been teaching at the University of Hong Kong since 2011. His academic research is context- and material driven and explores the systemic relationships between urbanism and architecture.



Tobias Klein

Tobias Klein works in the fields of Architecture, Art, Design and interactive Media Installation. His work generates a syncretism of contemporary CAD/CAM technologies with site and culturally specific design narratives, intuitive non-linear design processes, and historical cultural references. Before joining City University Hong Kong in the role as interdisciplinary Assistant Professor in the School of Creative Media and the Architectural Department, he was employed at the Architectural Association (2008-2014) and the Royal College of Art, (2007-2010), teaching students at the postgraduate level. Examples of his work are in the collection of the Antwerp Fashion Museum, the London Science Museum, the V&A, the Bellevue Arts Museum, Museum of Moscow and Vancouver. www.kleintobias.com
www.facebook.com/studiotobiasklein



Christian J. Lange

Christian J. Lange is a founding partner of Rocker-Lange Architects, a research and design practice based in Hong Kong and Boston. He is a registered German architect and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Architecture at the University of Hong Kong, where he teaches architectural design and classes in advanced digital modeling. A strong emphasis in his work is the implementation of computation in the design and construction process. His work and research has been published internationally and featured in over 30 exhibitions, including the Venice Biennale 2010 and the Hong Kong & Shenzhen Bi city Biennale 2012 and 2014.



Rui Leao

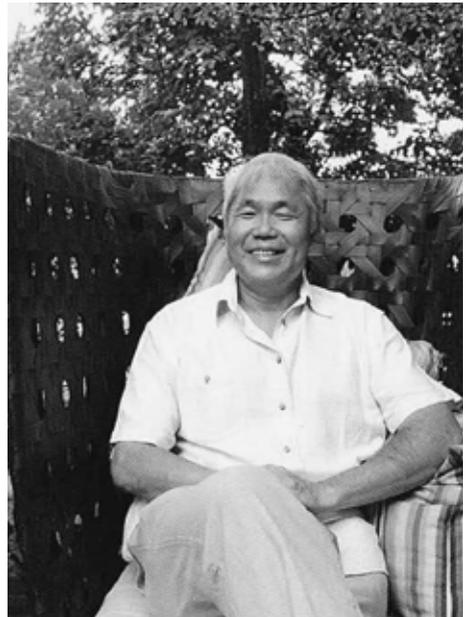
Rui Leao's practice ranges from architectural and urban design to art/furniture installation and editorial activity. His built work features awarded projects, namely the Nam Van Square (Arcasia Gold Medal for Architecture 2005-06), the Sai Van Urban Park (AAM Gold Medal & Arcasia Honourable Mention) and the Reading Room at the Macau Portuguese School (UNESCO Award Commendation for Heritage Innovation 2012). He is an active opinion-maker on urban planning and heritage in Macau, as chair of Docomomo Macau and as member of the Urban Planning Committee of the Macau SAR government. Rui is also President of CIALP (International Council of Architects of Portuguese Speaking Language).



Inch Lim

Lim In Chong, a Malaysian designer whose friends know him as Inch, was born in year 1955, in a small village called Batu Pahat. He studied in United World College in Singapore and graduated his Bachelor of Arts degree from Trent University in Canada and is undergoing his Master Degree in Architecture at RMIT. Inch's design skills have been honed through many years of practical experience and he sees architecture, interior and landscape as part of the same continuum. Inch's works have achieved international success and numerous awards in Japan, USA, UK, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Malaysia. Inch works at Inchscape Sdn Bhd and currently lives in Kuala Lumpur.

www.facebook.com/InchscapeSdnBhd



John Lin

In 2005 the Chinese government announced its plan to urbanize half of the remaining 700 million rural citizens by 2030. At the same time, Joshua Bolchover and John Lin set up Rural Urban Framework (RUF), a research and design collaborative based at The University of Hong Kong. Conducted as a non-profit organization providing design services to charities and NGOs, RUF has built or is currently engaged in various projects in diverse villages throughout China and Mongolia. As a result of this active engagement, RUF has been able to research the links between social, economic, political processes and the physical transformation of each village.



Neville Mars

Neville Mars is the principal of MARS Architects Shanghai and director of the urban research platform Dynamic City Foundation. MARS Architects is an award winning firm with projects in Asia, Europe and Latin America. The office focusses on progressive public buildings and sustainable planning, such as Shanghai 2040, the Sino-Dutch Ecocity Shenzhen, Beijing 798, Caofeidian, and future vision Mumbai for BMW Guggenheim. Currently MARS is developing the masterplan for UN HABITAT in Tacloban, the city ravaged by typhoon Haiyan. Mars is an INK fellow and the author of *The Chinese Dream* - a society under construction (010 Publishers, 2008) and the upcoming ecocities planning manual *Manifesto of Mistakes* (NAi 010 Publishers, 2017).

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foundation www.BURB.tv



Olivier Ottevaere

Olivier Ottevaere is an architect and educator whose work investigates new procedures of construction that seek greater structural logic and more active participation of material, through prototyping. Since 2012, he is the founding principal of Double(o) Studio, an architecture practice based in Hong Kong. He is the recipient of several international awards and his built work has been exhibited and published widely. Prior to teaching at the University of Hong Kong, Olivier has taught design studios at various universities such as the AA in London, SUTD in Singapore, EPFL in Switzerland and at the Royal Academy in Copenhagen. He graduated from the Cooper Union and from the Bartlett School of Architecture.



Alvin Pang

Alvin Pang is a poet, author, editor and translator. He has over a dozen books to his name, and has been translated into over fifteen languages. He is Editor-in-Chief of a public policy journal, *ETHOS*, and has taught creative writing at Yale-NUS College. He was Singapore's 2005 Young Artist of the Year for Literature, and was conferred the 2007 Singapore Youth Award (Arts and Culture). Recent publications include *Tumasik: Contemporary Writing from Singapore* (2010), *Other Things and Other Poems* (2012), *When The Barbarians Arrive* (2012), and *UNION: 15 Years of Drunken Boat / 50 Years of Writing from Singapore* (2015).



Jean-Paul Rollo

Jean-Paul Rollo is a registered architect and educator living and working in Melbourne, Australia. He is the foundation Head for the Bachelor of the Built Environment at Melbourne Polytechnic and has taught extensively at RMIT University's School of Architecture and Design, and University of Melbourne's MSD. He graduated with 1st Class Honours in Architecture from RMIT University in 2002 following a scholarship to complete his pre-major research at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Prior to founding Jean-Paul Rollo Architects, in 2007, he practiced at Lyons and Elenberg Fraser. He is the recipient of several awards and his built work has been exhibited and published widely.

<http://www.jprollo.com.au/>



Ravi Shankar

Ravi Shankar is author, editor or translator of 13 books, including most recently 'The Golden Shovel: New Poems Honoring Gwendolyn Brooks' (University of Arkansas Press, 2017) and 'Andal: The Autobiography of A Goddess' (Zubaan Books, 2016). He has won a Pushcart Prize, a Glenna Luschei Award from Prairie Schooner, appeared on NPR, PBS, the BBC and in such publications as *The New York Times*, and *The Paris Review*. His fellowships include from the MacDowell Colony and the Corporation of Yaddo. He founded *Drunken Boat*, one of the world's oldest online journals, and he teaches and performs around the world.



Andrew Stiff

Andrew Stiff's design practice investigates the process of collecting, archiving and (re) producing physical and ephemeral data from an urban realm. Using and exploring the possibilities of digital tools, his practice employs moving image media. His work has been shown Internationally from the US, Hong Kong, Japan and in South East Asia, as well as a number of venues in Europe.

Andrew Stiff is an Associate Lecturer at RMIT University Vietnam. His other roles include Research Coordinator for CoCD [Centre of Communication and Design], with particular interest to including more practice based outcomes within the university.



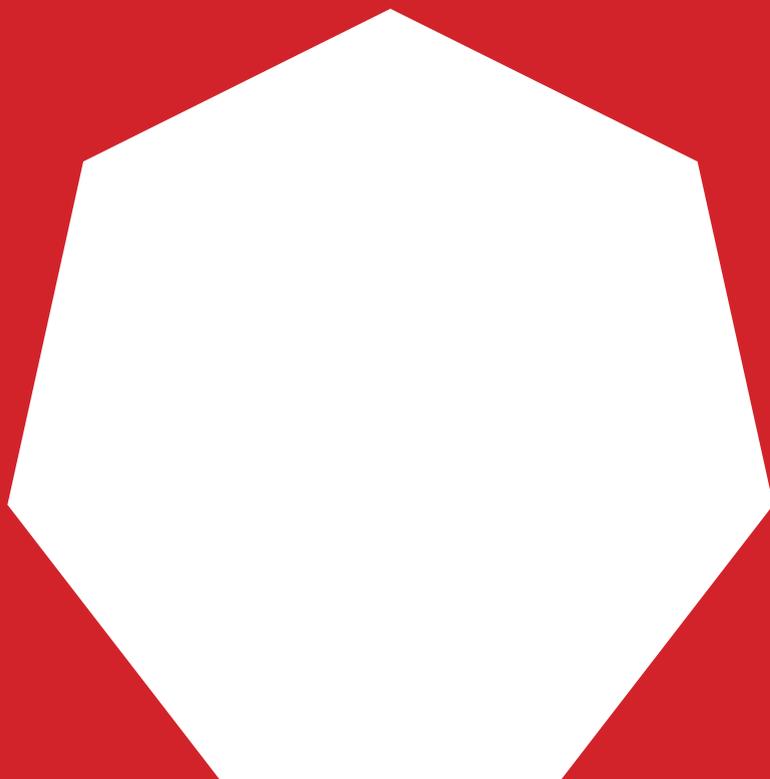
Tom Verebes

Tom Verebes is the Provost of Turenscape Academy and the Director of OCEAN CN, within Turenscape in Beijing and in Hong Kong. Director of AA VS Shanghai (2007-2017), AA Visiting School Xixinan (2017). Visiting Professor roles in 2016 included: University of Pennsylvania, RMIT, SUTD and University of Tokyo. Former roles include: Associate Dean for Teaching & Learning (2011-2014), and Associate Professor at HKU (2009-2016); Co-Director of the DRL at the AA, where he had taught (1996-2009); Guest Professor, ABK Stuttgart (2004-2006). Among over 150 publications, Verebes' work has been exhibited in over 50 venues worldwide, and he has lectured extensively in Asia, Europe, North America, Australia, Africa and the Middle East.

ocean-cn.org



Visiting Critic & Supervisor Biographies





**April
2017**

Gurjit Singh Matharoo is the principal at Matharoo Associates, that began operations in Ahmedabad, India in 1992. They have since been involved in a diverse range of projects that have brought International and Domestic recognition.

Some recent achievements include:

2013:Conferred International Fellow, Royal Institute of British Architects

2012:Nominated for the Aga Khan Award, subsequent to nominations in 2009 and 2007

2011:Winner International Architecture Award, Chicago Athenaeum

2010:Winner AR House Award, Architectural Review

2009:Winner AR Emerging Architecture Award, Architectural Review

The studio calls themselves romantics-governed by emotion over calculation, and affected by beauty more than gain. However,

their high standards are adhered to by an in house team of dedicated personnel in the field of Architecture, Structural design, Interior design and Product design, leading to a holistic design approach coupled with innovation and acute attention to functionality and detail.

Besides his professional practice, Gurjit Singh Matharoo is also actively involved in academic work is currently Chair for Architectural Design at his alma mater CEPT University, Ahmedabad where he has been teaching since 1992.

He is also the founder and mentor for a new initiative PITStudio – a rigorous 4 week long Architectural Design and Travel program, outside the realm of formal institutions, bringing together eminent professionals and committed students from around the world.



Michelle Aung Thin

Supervisor, School of Media and Communication

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Michelle began her writing life as an Advertising Copywriter in London, England. Her novel, *The Monsoon Bride* (Text 2011), was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards as an unpublished manuscript and received a Readings Foundation/Wheeler Centre Fellowship. She was the first Asialink resident to Myanmar in 2014 (funded by Arts Victoria), where she researched her current project - a story that traces the parallels between contemporary Yangon and historical Rangoon and addresses questions of home and belonging. Other research interests include how Myanmar's writers are using mobile and smartphones in their practice. Michelle holds a PhD from The University of Adelaide and teaches both creative writing and copywriting for advertising. Michelle is the 2017 National Library of Australia Creative Arts Fellowship for Australian Writing (supported by the Eva Kollsman and Ray Mathew Trust).



Richard Black

Supervisor, School of Architecture and Design

Dr Richard Black is a registered architect and Associate Professor at RMIT University where he is director of the Bachelor of Architectural Design degree. Richard's design practice, teaching and research activities explore overlaps and adjacencies between architecture and landscape. His practice includes installations, built works and speculative projects that have been nationally and internationally recognised through exhibition and publication. Mappings of the Murray River floods, fieldwork and associated design projects (part of his PhD) were exhibited at the Aedes Gallery Berlin and have been acquired by the Centre for Art + Environment, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, USA. As an architectural writer he has also co-authored two books on his RMIT design studio teaching. His current book to be published by Thames & Hudson and co-authored with Dr Anna Johnson looks at the

critical relationship between landscape and houses in non-urban settings. Richard is also a founding member and contributor to the X-Field group in the School of Architecture and Design – 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. Prior to his position at RMIT, Richard 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 Sir Peter Cook at the Städelschule Art Academy, Frankfurt, Germany. He completed an M.Arch (by Research) in 1998 and a PhD (2009) both at RMIT University.

<https://xfieldexhibit.wordpress.com/>



David Carlin

Supervisor, School of Media and Communication

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Associate Professor David Carlin, co-director of the NonfictionLab research group, is a writer and creative artist. He works on questions of memory, narrative, design and collaboration, and in nonfiction forms including essay, memoir and biography. As co-director of the NonfictionLab, David leads a multidisciplinary team of researchers. His field of research connects creative writing, cultural studies and digital media under the umbrella of nonfiction studies. The common thread is examination of the politics, poetics and practices of nonfiction, attempting to trace and analyse the network of connections between memory, the archive, observation and desire. David has a professional background as a writer, director and producer in film, theatre and circus. His essays and articles have appeared in *Griffith Review*, *Overland*, *TEXT*, *Newswrite*, *Continuum* and other journals. David is co-chair of the international NonfictionNOW Conference.



Supervisor, School of Architecture and Design

Graham Crist is an Australian registered architect and associate professor of architecture at RMIT in Vietnam where he is head of the new Master of Architecture program in Saigon.

He is the founding director of the design practice Antarctica, which leans toward socially engaged public architecture and speculations for the wider population. Antarctica is the recipient of AIA Architecture awards, published projects in *Architecture Australia*, *Architecture Review* and *Monument*. It has participated in a number of large scale exhibitions including Melbourne Now and the Australian Venice Biennale show 'Abundance'.

Graham writes frequently for professional journals *Architecture Review Australia* and *Architecture Australia*. Prior to founding his design practice he has worked in the offices

of Donaldson Warn in Perth, and Denton Corker Marshall in Melbourne. He has formerly been the program director of architecture at RMIT in Melbourne, and coordinator of its masters program and coordinator of its design studios.

Graham's bachelor and masters education was completed at the University of Western Australia where he taught before coming to RMIT. His PhD was completed at RMIT and supervised by Professor Leon van Schaik. Entitled *Sheds for Antarctica: the Environment for Architectural Design and Practice*, it aimed to bridge the space between everyday contingencies and architectural form-making.

<http://antarc.com.au/>



Sand Hesel

Supervisor, School of Architecture and Design

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Sand Hesel 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.



Anna Johnson

Supervisor, School of Architecture and Design

Dr Anna Johnson is a senior lecturer in the School of Architecture and Design at RMIT University. She is Asian Architecture and Urbanism coordinator in the Masters of Architecture, and International Student Coordinator. She completed her PhD in 2014 which focused on the critical and generative relationship between writing and drawing as explored through her practice. Her design work has been speculative and engaged in potential relationships between generative drawing, allegory, narrative and the strategic employment of writing as a design driver equal to drawing.

She is an established architectural writer with over 10 published books on Australian contemporary residential architecture, South East Asian architecture and design practice research. Her current book to be published by Thames & Hudson, co-authored with

Associate Professor Richard Black, looks at the critical relationship between landscape and houses in non-urban settings. This book explores contemporary architectural strategies and thinking concerning site - the landscape - and what that now means in Australia and New Zealand. The term landscape itself is interrogated for its scenic, picturesque associations that, by default, establish a particular distance and indeed hierarchy between land and building. Johnson and Black propose a more immersive, qualitative and engaged relationship with landscape that draws on a spectrum of influences from indigenous patterns of occupation and use, to climactic and historical readings as well as looking to broader cultural, artistic and architectural trajectories that inform our reading and hence landscape/architectural relationships.



Dr. Roger Kemp is the Program Manager of the Bachelor of Interior Design (Hons) at RMIT University. His background in commercial and hospitality design has informed his interest in the way in which interiors form a significant spatial and social contribution to the workings of a contemporary city.

He has extensive teaching experience in a range of settings in Interior Design. He has lead teaching workshops in a numbers of institutions including VCU in Doha, Qatar, Konkuk University in Seoul, South Korea and La Salle in Singapore.

Roger's active interdisciplinary design research practice, 'Making Distance', in collaboration with Anthony Fryatt, utilises a

range of media including film, installation, exhibition, drawings, models, montage and text to explore interiors beyond the restrictive parameter of interior space as a condition of enclosure. His work has been shown at Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI); Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha; Brighton University, UK; Form Gallery, State of Design Festival; Bus Projects; Forty five downstairs; Pinup Gallery; Federation Square, Channel 31 and AFTRS. It has also been shortlisted for the Australian Interior Design Awards.

Roger is an executive director of IDEA - Interior Design / Interior Architecture Educators Association. <http://idea-edu.com>



Paul Minifie

Supervisor, School of Architecture and Design

Associate Professor Paul Minifie is Director of RMIT School of Architecture and Design's Centre for Design Practice Research, called d__Lab, and is a Senior Lecturer in the Architecture program. He directs the firm MvS Architects (started in 2000 as Minifie Nixon Architects) with Jan van Schaik. Constructed projects include the Victoria College of the Arts Centre for Ideas, the Healesville Wildlife Health Centre and the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Discovery Centre. MvS is also known for their unbuilt and theoretical projects which have been widely published and exhibited in Australia and overseas.

Prior to MVS Architects, Paul worked at Ashton Raggatt McDougall for ten years. He was a design architect under Howard Raggatt's direction on various notable projects

including RMIT's Storey Hall, the St Kilda Town Hall and the National Museum of Australia.

Paul has taught at RMIT in an ongoing capacity since graduating in 2001. He is a leader of the 'Advanced Architecture' stream of design practice, which places emphasis on speculative modes of practice, often engaging with technological, social and economic drivers of architectural and urban transformation. Most recently, his research projects examine connectedness, exchange and differentiation - properties that can be tested by modelling - as fundamental drivers of urban morphology.

<http://www.mvsarchitects.com.au/doku.php>



Adam Nash

Supervisor, School of Media and Communication

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Adam Nash is an artist, composer, programmer, performer and researcher in digital virtual environments as audiovisual performance spaces, data/motion/affect capture sites, artificially intelligent, evolutionary and generative platforms. His work has been exhibited in prestigious galleries, festivals and online worldwide. He is director of the *Playable Media Lab* in the *Centre for Game Design Research*, and program manager of the *Bachelor of Design (Digital Media)*, both at RMIT University.



Archie Pizzini has practiced architecture and design for twenty five years. He was educated in fine arts and architecture at Rice University and the University of Houston in the U.S. and in 2014, he earned his PhD in architecture from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology with research into how the social, economic and urban fabric of Ho Chi Minh City are intertwined and how that understanding can enhance contemporary design. Since 2005 he has been a Design Principal (with Hoanh Tran) in the partnership of HTA + pizzini architecture based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. During that time, the partnership has designed and seen constructed apartment towers, fine

arts galleries, design offices, penthouses, residences, hotels, a fashion boutique and a chocolaterie. Since 2013, he has been teaching in the Master of Architecture and Master of Urban Design studios of RMIT Melbourne. In addition to design work, he has increasingly focused on photography, which formed a large part of his research in Vietnam. His work has appeared in several publications including Cite, Art4D and Arch+. He has shown work in exhibitions in the U.S., France, and most recently in Vietnam and Japan.



Supervisor, School of Media and Communication

Dr Francesca Rendle-Short is an award winning novelist, memoirist and essayist based in Melbourne, Australia. She is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing in the School of Media and Communication at RMIT University, Deputy Dean, Communication, co-director of non/fictionLab and WrICE (Writers Immersion and Cultural Exchange). Her books include the critically acclaimed memoir-cum-novel *Bite Your Tongue*, *Imago*, and *The Near and The Far* (co-edited with David Carlin); also the forthcoming *No Notes (This is writing)* (co-authored with Martina Copley) and *100 Love Letters* (co-edited with Laurel Fantauzzo, University of Philippines Press). Her work has appeared in anthologies, literary journals,

online and in exhibitions including *Best Australian Science Writing*, *Killing the Buddha*, *Just Between Us* (Pan Macmillan), *Overland*, *Bumf, Rabbit*, *Margaret Lawrence Gallery*, *Queensland Historical Atlas*, *New Writing*, *Life Writing* and *The Essay Review* (Iowa). Her artwork is in the collection of the State Library of Queensland. She has a Doctor of Creative Arts from the University of Wollongong, was the recipient of an International Nonfiction Writers' Fellowship at the University of Iowa, USA, and was showcased in the Outstanding Field at Victoria College of Arts, University of Melbourne.



Associate Professor Soumitri Varadarajan, is Deputy Dean of Industrial Design, Interior Design and Master of Design Innovation and Technology, RMIT University. Varadarajan is also Senior Lecturer (Hon) at Austin Health focussed upon Health CoDesign to improve patient experiences and develop new digital affordances. He is currently the Editor (South and South East Asia) for the Encyclopedia of Asian Design (Bloomsbury). He has worked at Hitachi in Japan and directed studios in Israel, India, Netherlands, China, Turkey, Portugal and France. He has held positions at Universities in New Zealand, China and India.

In his practice, Studio Soumitri, he works to realize new services through prototyping them in communities. Over the past decade he has supervised PhD candidates in the areas of Industrial Design, Fashion Design, Art, Interaction Design and Communication Design. His teaching within design focuses upon sustainability, service design, Asia (focused upon traditional culture, aesthetics and contemporary design) and the contemporary sharing economy looking at - collaborative consumption, collaborative production, and peer to peer production.



Gretchen Wilkins

Supervisor, School of Architecture and Design

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Associate Professor Gretchen Wilkins is Head of Department, Design at RMIT University Vietnam. Previously she was Director of the Master of Urban Design program at RMIT Melbourne, and an Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Michigan. Her design practice and research focus on industry in the city and rapid urbanisation, most recently exploring high-rise agriculture in Hong Kong.



Jessica L. Wilkinson

Supervisor, School of Media and Communication

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Jessica L. Wilkinson is a poet, critic and editor, who has published two poetic biographies - *marionette: a biography of miss marion davies* was published by Vagabond Press in 2012 and shortlisted for the Kenneth Slessor Poetry Prize in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards; *Suite for Percy Grainger* was published in 2014, a poem from which won the 2014 *Peter Porter Poetry Prize*. She is working on a third book, on the life and work of choreographer George Balanchine, with a side section on Australian prima-ballerina Lucette Aldous. In 2011, Jessica founded *Rabbit*: a journal

for nonfiction poetry, which will celebrate its 20th issue in 2016. *Rabbit* also publishes small single-author collections in the *Rabbit Poets Series*, which supports work by new Australian poets. She has recently co-edited the *Contemporary Australian Feminist Poetry* anthology (Hunter Publishers, 2016) with Bonny Cassidy. She has a PhD in Creative Writing and Literary Studies from the University of Melbourne and is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at RMIT University, Melbourne.



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Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
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