

Society of Architectural Historians Australia and New Zealand

President's Report 2010/11

Today, 10 July, marks the end of the current Committee and Office holders' two year appointment. Much has been achieved during this term, which leaves the Society in a strong position for the future.

Society of Architectural Historians Partner Status

As announced at the keynote lecture on 8 July, the Society of Architectural Historians has included us as members of its newly developed Partner Program. This initiative is designed to advance knowledge and understanding of the disciplines of architecture, design, landscape and urbanism among scholars and professionals, through the sharing of information and mutual participation with organisations which have similar disciplinary aims. This will provide opportunities to increase presence at one another's conferences and meetings; communicate activities; and offer certain privileges of membership. It is understood that both societies will reciprocate these arrangements whenever possible.

Saunders Founders Grant

The Saunders Grant attracted strong interest again this year. The committee met last month and awarded this year's grant to Dr Tanya Poppelreuter for her project 'The Influx of Modernism to New Zealand: Refugee Architects before 1940.' We wish Tanya all the best with her fieldwork in Europe.

As foreshadowed last year, a pro forma has been developed for the Saunders Grant awardees to report on their project outcomes. Thank you to Julia Gatley for doing this.

Constitution

The Committee have reviewed the Constitution in light of last year's AGM discussion, our status as an Incorporated Society in New Zealand and the possible prospect of external publication of *Fabrications*. The proposed amendments to the Constitution would provide: a more flexible journal publication arrangement; separate honorary memberships into two groups – Honorary Memberships (for service to architectural history) and Life Memberships (for service to the Society); clarify the period of the membership year; include provision for partner organisations; protect office holders from financial liability; and, help secure status as a Charitable Society in New Zealand.

Operating Rules

The Committee has amended the Committee and Editorial Board Operating Rules to refer to the current Constitution, and to remove contradiction, while remaining true to the Constitution.

Incorporation, the New Zealand tax system and achieving status as a Charitable Society

Some months ago, the Society's Officers became aware that because the Society has never submitted financial statements to the New Zealand Companies Office, our status as an Incorporated Society had lapsed. (This procedural slip appears to have been due to an apparent break in the communication trail.) Subsequently, we have submitted statements backdated to the 2006 incorporation date and – as of last month – have been reinstated as an Incorporated Society. We have now applied for a New Zealand tax number, and when this is issued we shall apply to become registered as a Charitable Society in New Zealand. In time, we will also apply for exemption from resident withholding tax on interest and dividends. This will give us tax-free status.

Website

The website remains our primary interface with the wider world, so over the last year we have worked to update the format of the website and the information it carries.

- The publications section now includes scans of all *Fabrications* covers, lists the contents of all back copies, acknowledges editors, and links to the first fifteen volumes of pdf files on University of Queensland Library eSpace.
- The amended conference page lists all previous conferences and logos, notes keynote speakers and includes pdf listings of all papers known to been presented. (If you hold programmes for the 1986 or 1989 conferences, these would be most gratefully received for uploading.) If anyone wants their conference paper listings linked to copies in institutional repositories, let me know directly via email robin.skinner@vuw.ac.nz.

- Changes to the website are now more promptly loaded, which better represents the activities of the Society.
- Proposed initiatives in the coming year include extending the links page to include resources for those wanting information on issues relating to architectural history and its study. This will include information on the status of architectural heritage in Christchurch following the recent earthquakes.

Indigenous names for the Society

Subsequent to the previous AGM, there has been further discussion on identifying indigenous names for the Society.

Following the suggestion by Dr Rawinia Higgins of Victoria University of Wellington, the Maori name Nga Pou Whare has received support from Society members who research architecture of Maori. The name means literally 'the posts of the house'. Where nga pou means 'the posts' and whare means 'house, houses or buildings'. Furthermore, Nga Pou Whare refers not only to physical structure, but also to depth of knowledge, history, and the structure of the Society. Pou could also refer to people, so the name can refer to the members of the Society. The possible use of this name will be a subject for further discussion later in the meeting.

Following communication with Dr Rob Amery of the University of Adelaide, the Kurna Warra Pintyandi group of the region near Adelaide also provided a name in their language: Kangkalangkalarna Wardlirnaitya, which means 'Talkers of buildings'. Since there is no pan-Australian indigenous language, this name could only be used by the Society when it meets in Adelaide, and then in consultation with the Kurna Warra Pintyandi group. I thank Dr Rob Amery and the Kurna Warra Pintyandi for their support and patient help here. Prof Paul Memmott has offered to investigate the issue of indigenous naming in Australia further.

2011 Conference

This year's conference is outstanding and I thank Antony Moulis and Deborah van der Plaat, and their team, for all they have done to make it such a success. I thank Uncle Des Sandy for his welcome to Country and gratefully acknowledge the financial support from Griffith University, QUT and the University of Queensland, the State Library of Queensland, the State Government of Queensland, the Japanese Foundation, and Inkahoots. The conference has run very smoothly: the keynotes were acute and generous; the plenary panels were pertinent and rewarding. There were two impressive initiatives this year: the first SAHANZ indigenous tour in Australia which was organised by Kelly Greenop, Paul Memmott and Alex Bond; and a keynote lecture in a language other than English by Taro Igarashi.

Special thanks

The last two years have been very fruitful for the Society and I thank the conference convenors and their teams for work to make the conferences at Auckland, Newcastle and here at Brisbane such outstanding successes. Thank you all very much. I also thank all those involved with the Society's publications especially the editors Deborah van der Plaat and Paul Walker who give an inordinate amount of time to the Society. The 'About Asia' issue of *Fabrications* guest edited by Anoma Pieris is an especially timely development, which hopefully portends further Asian-themed issues. I also thank the members of the Editorial Board for their superlative, ongoing work to identify an optimal publication strategy for the journal.

The Committee have undertaken a great deal of work over these last two years, and I thank them for all they have done. In particular, special thanks go to our Secretary, Nicole Sully, and to the Treasurer, Leonie Matthews, for their work on our behalf. Nicole has put in an extraordinary effort through the last two years, and for this I express my personal heartfelt gratitude.

Robin Skinner
10 July 2010