

Society of Architectural Historians Australia and New Zealand President's Report 2016

1. First of all, I'd like to propose a **huge vote of thanks to AnnMarie Brennan and Philip Goad** for organising this sterling conference.
2. The Asian Architecture symposium in Melbourne was connected to this conference and created most welcome synergies. I'd like to invite AMBrennan to say a word on this in her conference report.
3. PhD symposium 2015:

The 2015 Inaugural PhD Symposium on Architectural History was held on November 27 and brought together 22 presenters and 4 invited speakers (Julia Gatley, Andrew Leach, Inger Mewburn and Charles Rice) from Australia and NZ.

The convenors received 28 abstracts. The majority of abstracts received were from Australian institutions (with 1 from NZ and 2 other international applicants)

24 abstracts were accepted after review, with 4 rejections. 23 were presented.

Alex Brown says:

“Because of the positive response to the call for papers, we ran three parallel sessions throughout the day, with roundtable discussions and presentations from invited speakers taking place in between the paper sessions. An informal symposium dinner was held the evening prior to the symposium sessions. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. The chance to discuss work with established researchers outside participants' PhD supervisory teams and immediate institutional contacts, the size of the gathering and the opportunity to meet and establish networks with other PhD candidates working in architectural history and theory were all listed as successful aspects of the event by those who took part.”

A vote of thanks to Antony Moulis and Alex Brown

4. A vote of thanks to **Robin Skinner** for maintaining the website

In more general: we see SAHANZ expanding on the one side, with more and more activities – which is great. On the other hand a perhaps not growing group of people who can do all this – work situation for historians not as good as in the golden times in the 1990s, for example, and some of our senior members in University admin jobs with little time to devote to research. So the future will need to show where this is going.

5. The growing activities with its partner organisations SAH and EAHN are visible through: very successful SAHANZ sessions at SAH Pasadena in April 16, convened Naomi Stead and Janina Gosseye), at EAHN Dublin in June this year, convened by Robin Skinner and Antony Moulis, and Karen Burns and Paul Walker's SAHANZ endorse session up and running for SAH in Glasgow 2017. Attendance by SAHANZ members outside these sessions are also considerable – at each of both conferences there were about a dozen participants from down under.
For the future, conversations with SAH and EAHN are being held for further collaboration. In particular, a bid for the EAHN themed conference 2019 to be hosted in Sydney will be submitted later in the year.
6. For the committee, this was not an easy year with the handover of Treasurer who had been in place for many years. We thank **Leonie Matthews** for her work. However, we also had to deal with a late submission of tax returns - which unfortunately contributed to **Julia Gatley's** decision to give up her seat on the committee. We thank her for her work and welcome **Bill McKay** from the University of Auckland as being co-opted for her.
Also, regrettably the Society's Secretary, Janina Gosseye, has resigned. We thank her for her great work. Since we are between elections, a new Secretary cannot be elected yet. In the interim, **Amit Srivastava** has kindly accepted to step up to fulfil the Secretary's duties. Also, **Nigel Westbrook** has kindly accepted to be co-opted into the committee.
7. Conference Guidelines are under development in a sub-committee. These are more than a few rules; instead they will be more like a handbook for conference organisers – the idea being that everything a conference convenor and organiser might want to think about is written down so that not every new convenor needs to reinvent what has become good SAHANZ practice over the many years. But they will also contain clear guidelines about paper presentation – see our item 7.1.
8. Finally, for the **Saunders Grant** the committee received 4 applications. From these, the Saunders Grant 2016 goes to **Renee Miller-Yeaman** for her project entitled **Domestic projections of hospitality in Australia's migrant hostels in the 1960s**. We congratulate her.

Christoph Schnoor

SAHANZ President 2015/2017