Introduction

3 Over 4 Under is an annual exhibition presented by the Young Architects of WA, providing an opportunity for three established practices and four emerging practices to present and discuss current works.

Architects are encouraged to voice their concepts, design strategies and histories through the exploration of the physical, the contextual and the experiences of site.

Theme:  
On Site

Location:  
Pallas Hotel - Corner of Lake St and James St, Northbridge

Speakers:  
Overs  
David Hillam, Gary Marinko, Stephen Neille

Unders  
Simon Pendal; Marc Karol; Kieran Wong; Jessika Hames, Brook McGowan, Mason Harrison
‘On Site’
In architectural design, the demands of relating a building to a physical location are necessary and inevitable; the site is initially construed and finally achieved in the architectural work.

Drawing Building Text, Carol J. Burns, On Site: Architectural Preoccupations
Simon Pendal

Simon Pendal Architect
Name of Practice:
Simon Pendal Architect

Name of Principals:
Simon Pendal

Date of Practice Commencement:
February 2005

Size of Office: Small
Small = 1-5, Medium = 6-15, Large =16-25, Extra Large = 26 and up

No. of projects completed for family members:
0.5

Ongoing Research:
The complex or rich interior of architecture
The core essence of architecture
Project-based orders, systems and stories
Precedent and tradition

Key projects for the night:
Toodyay House
Offices of Allies + Morrison Architects
Reservior House + Gardner’s Residence, Bodallin
Fremantle House

Current Projects:
1 House
4 House Additions
2 Interiors
4 projects on Hold
1. Walled Site

2. Single-storey House

3. Skinny Garden

4. Internal Order

5. Light Corridors / Discrete Rooms

6. Central (courtyard) room

7. Light ‘thresholds’

8. Penetrating Views

9. Material Order
On Site

For me architecture needs to be conceived so as to possess a potent kind of beauty, underpinned by the finding of a project-based order or system. This attitude to seeking beauty and order partly involves a comprehension of or reading of a site. In the case of the ‘house on a walled site’ currently under construction in Fremantle the site was loaded with possibility for two principle reasons. Firstly because it was so ordinary - a piece of flat land that used to be someone else’s backyard, and secondly because of its dimension—fifteen by fifteen metres. I have often considered that the most ordinary of sites possess the greatest potential. Like all suburban sites it is fenced on all sides. Because of the minute nature of the block these fences delivered an immediate intensity. This enclosed space was unfamiliar to us as inhabitants of Perth. Rather than simply reading this site as being ‘small’, we sought to pursue this intensity along similar lines to that of the ancient enclosed garden, where the garden walls contained an intense inner realm whose complexity and order were representative of the richness of the wider world and cosmos. While being a near impossible task, the core quality of this as an idea hopefully found its place within the project. In these places architecture can be made so as to construct an entire inner world.

Simon Pendal
October 2005
Marc Karol

Design Inc
Name of Practice: 
DesignInc (Perth)

Name of Principals: 
Peter Christou, Ron Jee

Date of Practice Commencement: 
1996 (as CCJ)

Size of Office: Large 
Small = 1-5, Medium = 6-15, Large =16-25, Extra Large = 26 and up

Practice Statement: 
DesignInc is an Australian based design company committed to an integrated approach to Architecture, Interior and Urban Design. DesignInc focus on creating quality environments that reconcile natural, social, and economic imperatives. We recognize that design is more than just the planning of spaces; a single building is only the midpoint in a spectrum that spans from the quality and texture of materials, to the vitality and identity of a successful precinct.

No. of projects completed for family members: 
0

Ongoing Research: 
Continued commitment to the development and implementation of sustainability principles within architectural practice.

Current Projects: 
Fremantle Mausoleum, Pier St Eco Housing
On Site

Surveyed patches of dirt are meaningless in a vacuum. A house extracted from a Greek village has limited meaning in isolation and only when placed within its context does it speak as part of a greater whole. Relations between the individual elements of such a place are mannered and polite, safe in the knowledge that a greater whole does exist.

If all sites are potentially part of a greater whole, it is DesignInc’s view that we should cultivate these patches of dirt to respect and contribute to the value of this whole.

On a fundamental level this relates strongly to the concept of sustainability in both an environmental and social context. What we do on one site affects our neighbour, our neighbours neighbour and so on, whether directly or indirectly, positively or otherwise. Hence the appropriateness of the seeds we sow becomes crucial.

Marc Karol
October 2005
Name of Practice: Hames Sharley
Name of Principals: William Hames
Date of Practice Commencement: 1973
Size of Office: Extra Large
Small = 1-5, Medium = 6-15, Large = 16-25, Extra Large = 26 and up
Practice Statement: “To develop with skill and integrity the ideas and aspirations of our clients, and to create solutions that excel”
No. of projects completed for family members: 0
Current Projects: Mandurah War Memorial
On Site

As short listed members of a design competition with a limited after hours timeframe the Mandurah War Memorial project was a hasty union of research, site and intuition.

Our exposure to war had been only through the media, so research was undertaken to formulate our own understanding of this history and its related traditions.

The site, a vast green wedge surrounded on two sides by water and connected to the city centre only by view, had an apparent sense of stillness that requested a complimentary response.

The challenge was to inhabit this large and disconnected space with a memorial that could have presence beyond its immediate siting and a scale that was comfortable within the site.

With no true sense or memory of the realities of war, our index became the sense of loss felt as an outcome of war, an acknowledgement of the absent.

In the resultant design intersecting paths are laid across the site, one for the ANZACS still with us, the other a representation of the cycle of life, ongoing and eternal.

Jessika Hames, Brook Mc Gowan and Mason Harrison
October 2005
Name of Practice: CODA

Name of Principals: Kieran Wong

Date of Practice Commencement: 1999

Size of Office: Small
   Small = 1-5, Medium = 6-15, Large =16-25, Extra Large = 26 and up

Practice Statement:
CODA is an architectural practice based in Fremantle, Western Australia. The practice is committed to the craft of architecture and inter-disciplinary design as an intellectual construct within a local and global culture. CODA proposes an architecture, which is confident, and self-conscious about its cultural origins and which embodies the complexities of invention, ideas and identity. (kind of like Lyons Architects do)
As architects we develop and problem solve, in a poetic manner, complex briefs as presented by clients and their sites.
A tailor-made solution is crafted around each particular clients own desires, aspirations and the site’s maximum potential.
The final project is located with great care within the finite constructs of budget, brief and site, but also within a larger context of neighbourhood and culture.
We celebrate the light of Perth, embrace its diverse seasons, and strive to always produce projects of spatial delight with an economy of means.

No. of projects completed for family members:
One too many

Ongoing Research:
Pattern, ornament, profitability

Current Projects: (key projects for the night)
Orondo Farmhouse, Dwellingup
Solomon St House, Beaconsfield
A Natural Site: ORONDO, Dwellingup.

The site is very large, a constructed garden amongst orchards and vineyards. The landscape is picturesque. The brief was to re-make the house so that it sat comfortably within the garden, a natural house, responsive to the beauty of the site. The existing farmhouse we are replacing is constructed in a grid/module system, closed and constrictive.

The modernist grid is a deceptive artifice, and our house responds to such a natural/unnatural site by exposing the flaws in this “natural logical” system of construction.

Columns grids slip across window bays, highly manufactured timber cladding rigidly follows it’s own logic of placement in isolation to the roof structure (which has its own logic determined by its self supporting span length). Window and door openings slide past one another in differing heights dependant upon a localised response to an adjacent wall, or floor connection.

We hope the project exposes the complexity and beauty of it’s site

CODA
October 2005
David Hillam

Hillam Architects
Name of Practice: Hillam Architects

Name of Principals: David Hillam

Date of Practice Commencement: 1996

Size of Office: Medium
Small = 1-5, Medium = 6-15, Large =16-25, Extra Large = 26 and up

Practice Statement:
Hillam Architects were established following the construction of two small inner city residences, which generated significant enquiry, resulting in commissions of a similar nature. The practice initially focused on small lot design including “townhouse” projects though now undertakes larger residential houses, apartment buildings and mixed use projects. Clients are encouraged to reflect on function and lifestyle rather than simply style. The practice involves itself in the development process allowing greater control over design outcomes. An active interest is maintained in the planning process through consultation to Redevelopment Authorities and lobbying against and participation in policy change.

No. of projects completed for family members:
One too many

No. of projects completed for family members:
Six projects including own houses and development projects.

Ongoing Research:
Study trips to Europe & USA

Current Projects: (key projects for the night)
Glendower Street – Own house / Duplex development
Cazzolli Residence – Client: Sandy 7 Ivan Cazzolli.
Artplace – Client: Brigitta Braun.
On Site

Study of traditional and contemporary Japanese architecture whilst working in Japan revealed new values and meaning in design for me. Tado Ando and Shin Takamatsu were particularly influential. Their work, found in the cluttered urban context was a delight. The exuberant reinterpretation of traditional elements in Takamatsu’s designs, and the classic tranquillity amongst chaos reflected in Ando’s work appeared equally valid responses.

Three of our early works, Glendower Street, Coral Tree Avenue and Artplace set in a similar “hemmed in” urban context reflect the Japanese experience. Maximising the potential of the sites required devices such as using volume or vertical integration, “left over” space for feature areas, exploitation of light and limited aspect and flexibility of spaces.

A simplified composition in a cluttered or narrow context assists street “presence” and amplifies perception of space. Some projects have an introspective focus, achieving tranquil internal aspects for lack of external vistas. Glendower Street and Artplace are set in varied surroundings, as are examples of the work of Ando and Takamatsu. Not all fit with current trends concerned with street rhythm and consistency. However, my belief is that “site”, regulation should remain concerned with amenity, allowing appropriate and innovative utilisation of site and free expression of form.

David Hillam
October 2005
Stephen Neille
**Name of Practice:**
Stephen Neille

**Size of Office:** Small
Small = 1-5, Medium = 6-15, Large =16-25, Extra Large = 26 and up

**Practice Statement:**
Stephen Neille is Head of the Department of Architecture and Interior Architecture at Curtin University. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Sydney and a Masters of Architecture from RMIT University. He is currently completing PhD research in the field of Architecture and Landscape with a particular emphasis on perceptual changes advanced when architecture is considered to be a part of a constructed landscape that is demonstrating states of advanced fatigue. Stephen is a partner in the art/architecture practice SURF together with Jurek Wybraniec.
On Site and Wonder

_that dances in the peripheral vision of a focussed view of architecture

My current research begins in wonder [fisher, 1998]; with a sense that something imminent lies in the shadows of ‘the world as found’ and that something still remains unclear about the physical context (the site) in which architecture operates. This vagueness needs to be described and illustrated so that we can make new intelligible beginnings. What is it about site – ‘the world as found’ – that could be revealed so as to provide a closer approximation to truth, that may affect our experience of architecture and its relationship to site in such a way as to affect our imagining of new architectural work?

Stephen Neille
October 2005
Name of practice:  
Gary Marinko Architects

Name of principals:  
Gary Marinko

Date of practice commencement:  
1993

Size of office: Small  
Small = 1-5, Medium = 6-15, Large = 16-25, Extra Large = 26 and up

No. of projects completed for family members:  
1

Ongoing Research:  
Teaching, timber furniture design

Current Projects:  
Christian House x3; additions to Poll Margaret River.
On Site

Architecture is an act of refoundation: the remaking of a site

It situates the observer in a new position

Don’t ‘touch the earth lightly’ but instead have a ‘light touch’

In the country the site is obvious there is no surprise

In the city the site has to be discovered

Greater control needs to be exerted over a city site than for a country one

The foreground to the building is important

The extent of a building includes the immediate landscape

The interior is a newly created site

The interior should be both inside and outside

Orchestrate light not views

To absent the site is sometimes the most powerful move

Gary Marinko
October 2005
The 3 Over 4 Under Exhibition was brought to you by the Young Architects Committee Kai Peng Chong, Paul Edwards, Nigel Smith and Nicky Brennan in collaboration with us.