

Introduction

'3 Over 4 Under' is an annual forum presented by Merge, providing an opportunity for three established practices and four emerging practices to present and discuss current works.

Theme: On Technology **Forum Location:** The Bakery, James Street, Northbridge

Speakers:

Overs Simon Anderson, Taylor Robinson, GHD

Unders Paradigm Architects, MORQ, Gresley Abas, architecture.collective

'On Technology' is the theme for this year's event, the 7th in our themed series previously exploring 'On Home' 'On Site' 'On Weathering' 'On Language' 'On re-use' and 'On Idea'.

On Technology

Technology is pervading many aspects of our day-to-day lives, from communication and entertainment to advances in sciences, engineering and construction. As our society develops and becomes more connected, how do we as architects shape our future for the technology age? As research continues into new construction materials, techniques and systems, how do we utilise these developments in the design and construction of the built environment? And as our communication and problem-solving tools as architects move from napkin sketches to photo-realistic 3D rendering and prototype modeling, how do we ensure the fundamentals of architecture remain relevant to today's consumers? Technology will continue to advance in a way that we can't even conceive today. Our 30 / 4u participants tonight will reflect on their interpretations of the impact of technology on the practice of architecture (most likely with the foremost technological communication device that has made all this possible - PowerPoint.)

Merge

September 2011

'On Technology'

Consider the momentous event in architecture when the wall parted
and the column became.

Louis Kahn

Simon Anderson

Simon Anderson,
Faculty of Architecture,
Landscape & Visual Arts,
The University of
Western Australia

Name of Practice:

Simon Anderson, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape & Visual Arts,
The University of Western Australia

Name of Principal:

Simon Anderson

Date of Practice Commencement:

1989

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:

Two

Practice Statement:

Simon Anderson has taught and practiced architecture at the University of Western Australia (UWA) since 1989 and in 2010 was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape & Visual Arts. Key objectives during his appointment will be the roll out of the University's New Courses 2012 - Knowledge for a Changing World, the internationalisation of the Faculty and the creation of a significant academic-practitioner model of University tenure.

Ongoing Research:

The Metaphor Project

Current Projects: (key projects for the night)

Factory House(s), Concreto Houses, Hyper Housing, Blank House, Factories for Living In, Wherehouse



On Technology

I have an ambivalent relationship with technology and all that it entails in architecture.

It seems to me that technology plays no significant role in contemporary architecture. To see that this is the case, just compare architectural technology with medical and engineering technology in the year 1200 with the year 2011. Chartres Cathedral, life expectancy of 30, horse and cart. Any building you choose, life expectancy of 80 (in the developed world), Airbus A380.

So if technology is insignificant, or a fetish for those who long for an impossible past or for those with the means to achieve the impossible, what are the consequences for architecture?

The answer, it seems to me, lies in the history of modern art in the first decades of the twentieth century culminating in Duchamp's Fountain. Like Fountain, architecture is shifting its focus from materiality and craft to practical reality and the intellect. But unlike modern art, it is happening glacially rather than cataclysmically. So slowly we are not aware of it.

Most of my work is housing. Louis XIV created the Louvre as we know it as a house, and used his fortune to fill over 60,000 sqm of its space with art. Now Bill Gates lives in 6000 sqm and is giving his fortune away, mostly to health, third world development and education.

In the future the richest man in the world will live in 600 sqm, maybe 60 sqm, and the Catholic Church will give up building cathedrals. And architects will spend their lives building little houses, hospitals and schools rather than big houses, 'big houses' and big churches.

In the meantime I am trying through my work to hasten this future.

Simon Anderson

September 2011

Andrea Quagliola

MORQ

Name of Practice:

MORQ

Name of Principal:

Matteo Monteduro, Emiliano Roia, Andrea Quagliola

Date of Practice Commencement:

2001

Size of Office: 2 x Small

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

No of projects completed for family members:

0!

Practice Statement:

MORQ is a design practice, based in Rome, Italy and in Perth, Australia.

We are dedicated to the making of architecture: meaningful spaces within simple and thoughtful buildings.

We like spaces that engage with natural light, change throughout the day and are activated by emotive and sensorial qualities of materials.

Ongoing Research:

To find our place in the world

Current Projects: (key projects for the night)

Karri Loop House



On Technology

We are interested in technology as a way to produce an outcome. Particularly we like the challenge of creating an out - of- the- ordinary space with ordinary means. Something we had to quickly embrace since we started building in Perth. Technology we believe also needs to offer an outcome in a manner that is sustainable. We are currently working a lot with timber. We like its ability to perform structurally as well as lining material, its texture and the way it catches the light, its forgivingness - we are young after all - and the way it relates to the landscape of the South West

MORQ

September 2011

Benji Dzienciol

Taylor Robinson

Name of Practice:

Taylor Robinson

Name of Principals:

Graham Taylor and Leigh Robinson

Date of Practice Commencement:

1995

Size of Office: Extra Large

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

No of projects completed for family members:

Nil

Practice Statement:

Taylor Robinson has developed a particular expertise in education, retail and hospitality architecture since its inception. We have completed projects as far reaching as Broome in the far north, to Albany on the south coast, all undertaken with a commitment to providing exemplary, innovative and responsible design with a commercial pragmatism underpinning a desire to contribute effectively to the built environment. The results of our endeavors are hopefully functional, sustainable and inspirational for our clients and for the wider community. In the education sector, projects at the primary and secondary level have now evolved to include work on all of WA's University campuses. Our retail work includes projects for the 'majors' and for many of Australia's premier property developers and institutions. Hospitality projects have produced arguably some of our more well know and most public works over the years and have also provided excellent venues for many memorable informal staff meetings! In considering the future, we remain confident that Taylor Robinson will continue its evolution and we look forward to the challenges and opportunities that are to come.

Ongoing Research:

How to grow a business and achieve a sensible 'life-work' balance.
Research ongoing!

Current Projects: (key projects for the night)

Wanneroo Central Shopping Centre, Curtin Engineering Pavilion, The Boulevard



On Technology

- The craft of solving a problem
- Technology and its interrelation with life, society and the environment
- How do we respond to the various factors that come our way in the making of architecture?
- The adaptation of technology into the built form
- Technology as a communication tool for ideas and for resolving ideas
- Technology expressed in a building's structure as a key design 'driver'
- Modern technology and its role in creating more efficient structural systems
- Technology with respect to:
 - Physical/Material parameters
 - Immaterial/Circumstantial parameters
 - Knowledge/Process

Taylor Robinson

September 2011

Ahmad Abas

Gresley Abas

Name of Practice:

Gresley Abas

Name of Principals:

Ahmad Abas and Philip Gresley

Date of Practice Commencement:

June 2004

Size of Office: Medium

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

No of projects completed for family members:

We have completed 3 for ourselves

Practice Statement:

We consider ourselves only just 'over'. We work as a collaborative team - both within and with our clients and partners. We are concerned primarily with the built environment in the public realm. We value the act of drawing. We value the act of building. We seek depth and meaning in architecture from both a tectonic & a cultural position.

Ongoing Research:

Architecture through genuine collaboration; building as topography; patterns of dwelling - affordable housing; urban consolidation (perth metro)

Current Projects: (key projects for the night)

Heirisson Island Bridge, Wembley Golf Course Hospitality Development, Perth City Library, Malcolm Street Apartments, DHW Sustainable Housing, Holmes House, Belmont Training College, Yanget House Hostel, Donnybrook Medical Centre, Capel Sports Pavilion, Northam TAFE



On Technology

technology (tɛk'nɒl ə dʒi)

1. the application of practical sciences to industry or commerce
2. the methods, theory, and practices governing such application: a highly developed technology
3. **the total knowledge and skills available to any human society for industry, art, science, etc**

[C17: from Greek *tekhнологia* systematic treatment, from *tekhnē* art, skill]

For the purposes of this evening - we view 'technology' inclusively. It is the family of specialised skills and techniques that we deploy or engage with when we try and make buildings (all of us employ or invoke many - notwithstanding the fact that the Greek etymology of architect implies 'first technician'). Tonight we're just going to look at a few key 'techniques' that we have found play a strong role in driving the outcomes of our projects.

The drivers we'd like to talk about are:

- The technique of collaboration (you can't work everything out yourself)
- The technique of dwelling (better homes, not just bigger homes)
- The technique of metaphor (the delicate art of witty reference versus crude mimicry)
- The technique of topography (beyond flat)

Gresley Abas

September 2011

Craig Muir

GHD Architecture



Name of Practice:

GHD Architecture

Name of Principals:

Ricardo Kiperman, Peter Tilley, Jozef Panak, Craig Muir

Date of Practice Commencement:

1997

Size of Office: Extra Large

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

No of projects completed for family members:

3

Practice Statement:

GHD is an international multi-disciplinary design practice encompassing architecture, interior design, urban planning, landscape, engineering and environmental science. We appreciate that creativity is not the exclusive territory of designers, and actively embrace ideas from engineering, science, technology and fine art.

We integrate learning, experience and flair from all disciplines to develop thoughtful, informed design solutions. Our people actively collaborate, investigate and communicate to provide unique and engaging design responses that reflect an understanding of our clients, technology and the environment.

Ongoing Research:

Integrated Project Delivery, BIM and Low Energy Modular Construction

Current Projects: (key projects for the night)

Oxford Foyer, Dumas House, Perth City Link



On Technology

"On Technology" covers the "near" (the now) and "onward" (the future). Technology guides the way we conceive and deliver projects, opening up new opportunities in the sustainable use of resources and challenging the way the community sees and inhabits the built environment.

We have seen great strides over the past 25 years in the tools and technologies that enable architects to design in an increasingly complex world. We now face a new era commanding highly collaborative, multi-disciplinary design teams with diverse skill and experience. We must collectively make our interactions intensive, intuitive and rewarding. Building Information Modeling (BIM) is set to change the way we collaborate and re-write our design workflow. The days of splendid isolation are gone, the architect can no longer work this way. We must embrace the role of design visionary as the leader of our integrated design teams.

The advent of the "live" BIM model representing the "single point of truth" of the project changes forever the traditional design process. Architects must not shy away from this new world, but embrace the opportunity to be the "masters of complexity" and guide designers, clients, constructors and operators to deliver sustainable, successful projects.

Craig Muir

September 2011



Fiona Hogg

Paradigm Architects

Name of Practice:

Paradigm Architects Pty Ltd

Name of Principal:

Fiona Hogg

Date of Practice Commencement:

20 September 2000

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:

4 (can't seem to be able to say no)

Practice Statement:

Our practice is committed to furthering regionally specific, environmentally responsive architecture throughout the climatically and culturally diverse regional areas of Western Australia. Our practice is based on the premise that the Architect's role is to make the act of building an inspiring event that provides occupants and/or the local community with opportunities to develop their own Sense of Place. In each of these projects, we are committed to implement the principles of great and responsible design, keenly pushing our designs to achieve the best possible outcome for not only our Client, but the greater community as whole.

Ongoing Research:

Trying to develop an understanding of what sustainable architecture really is and exploring the notion of a regionally appropriate design and building approach

Current Projects: (key projects for the night)

Prefabricated: Cocos Islands, Toodjay, Pilbara

Not so prefabricated: Kalamunda



On Technology

Technology is the making, usage and knowledge of tools, techniques, crafts, systems or methods of organization in order to solve a problem or serve some purpose. Wikipedia

When asked to be part of this discussion I found myself asking what is really meant by technology and its application within architectural practice or the construction industry. I don't see our practice as being particularly 'technological' -yet technology at its wider definition is of course part of every aspect of architecture and construction.

I am from a curious juncture of architectural education where I remember the faculty having only 1 or 2 computers for CAD in the entire school and students employing the early technology were not necessarily rewarded for embracing this new 'technological' development. CAD in its many different forms is of course now the standard throughout the industry - however this is not the area of technology that interests me or my approach to architecture.

The technology of developing new materials and new construction approaches is what really interests me - modularization and prefabrication seem to be a common theme with architects at this time of higher construction costs and a need particularly in WA, to deliver buildings to remote and regional areas expediently and economically. This is part of an holistic approach to sustainability including climatically and regionally appropriate design which we consider a signature of our design work.

Within our practice design is developed in close parallel with considerations as to how the project might be constructed and delivered appropriately to site - the technology of construction could be seen to therefore particularly influence the architectural solutions that are developed by our practice. I believe architecture should have an honesty of expression in its built form and have generally used the structural elements as part of the architectural expression. This may clearly expressed in a prefabricated and modularised building approach and is demonstrated in our work.



Sid Thoo & Patrick Hubble architecture.collective

Name of Practice:

architecture.collective

Name of Principal:

Patrick Hubble and Sid Thoo

Date of Practice Commencement:

January 2008

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:

None! Is that a new record?

Practice Statement:

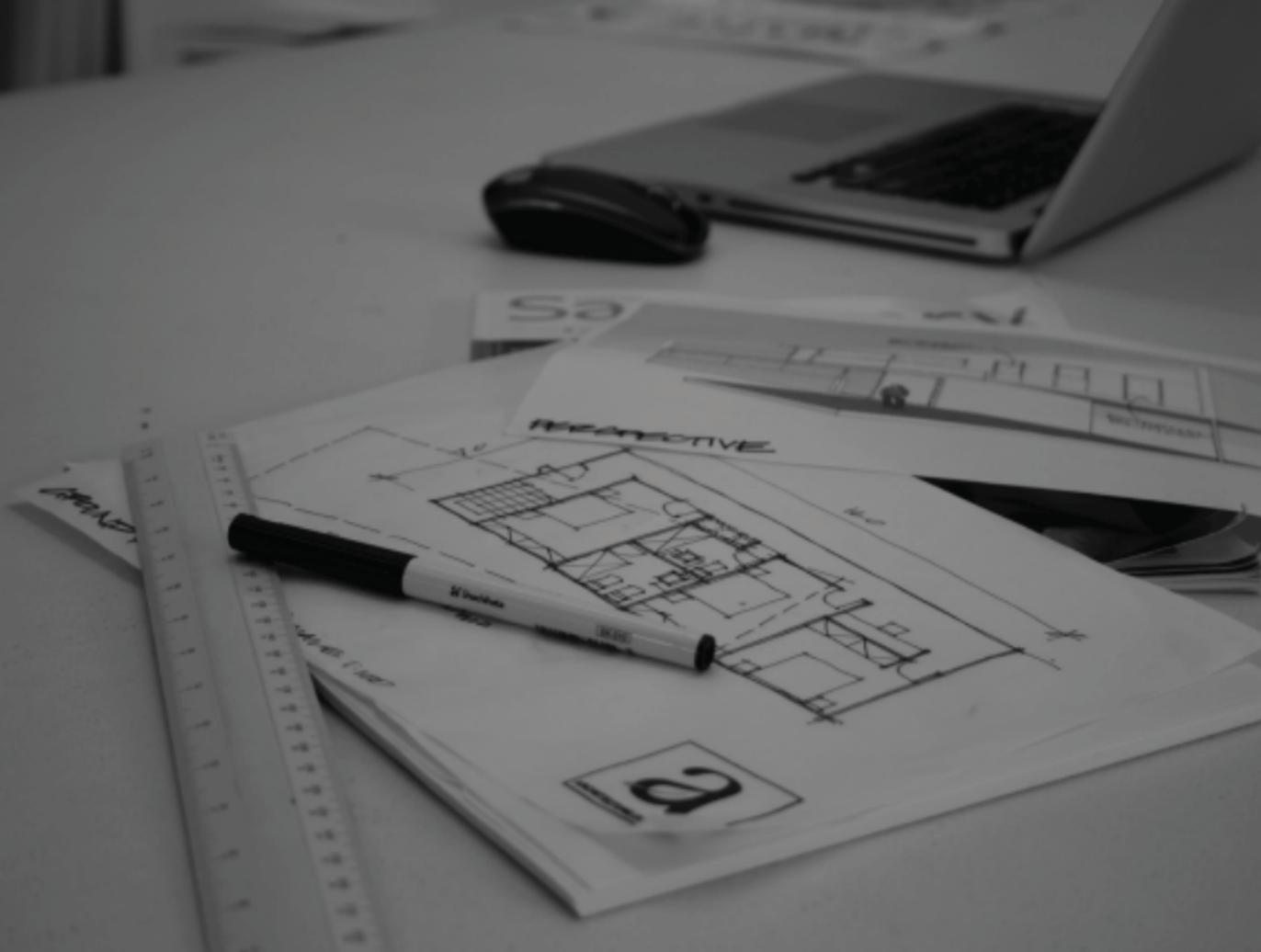
We are a small practice based in West Perth; if we had low esteem, we would also say we're "boutique". To date our practice has encompassed a diverse range of work, mainly retail and sustainability consulting. The more noble part of us strives to create eco-effective, cradle-to-cradle design solutions as advocated by William McDonough and Michael Braungart. However, at the end of the day, we simply aim to make a decent living, be proud of our work, and do our best not to ruin the Earth in the process.

Ongoing Research:

Embodied energy of buildings, "real" project homes, dealing with construction waste, BIM

Current Projects:

Atlas Pearls Claremont, Hobbs Road Residence, Waterford Plaza Bakery



On Technology

Technology can be a many-splendored thing, but it can also be a two-edged sword.

In our practice, technology is king, but it does not rule. While it is an intrinsic part of what we do - how we design, what we design - technology is but a means to an end. For all the shiny, impressive things that it has made possible - BIM, solar panels, smart wiring - without rational thinking, without critical judgment, without design, it really doesn't mean anything. For example, there are smart phones, and then there's the iPhone - you know exactly what we mean. It's a similar thing we try to achieve with the work we do.

Architects can sometimes be a bit full of themselves, and perhaps we all like to consider ourselves as innovative, pushing the boundaries and thinking "outside the square". However, we guess the proof is in the pudding, as they say...

architecture.collective

September 2011



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