

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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## **Homes for Samoans and New Zealand's Supreme Court buildings feature in Tasmanian conference**

A project to allow Polynesians to operate in their traditional living patterns within the fabric of suburban Auckland features in a conference paper at the four-day conference of the Society of Architectural Historians Australia and New Zealand at the University of Tasmania's School of Architecture and Design in Launceston, Tasmania.

Conference convenor and SAHANZ president, Dr Stuart King of the University of Tasmania, said around 100 academics from across Australia and NZ are attending the conference, which began yesterday.

Among the 85 papers being presented at the conference are:

- **'WITHOUT FAVOUR OR PREJUDICE'**: The New Zealand Supreme Court building in Wellington is a work of architectural significance embodying 21<sup>st</sup> century aspirations for the New Zealand judicial system – but which and whose aspirations are embodied? The court's design ostensibly aims to avoid overly specific reference to any one of the country's many cultural groups; this paper suggests that culturally blind Justice cannot and ought not be embodied in New Zealand's judicial architecture (Matthew Watson and Robin Skinner, Victoria University of Wellington);
- **ARCHIPELAGO ARCHITECTURE**: Housing for Polynesians in Auckland: Auckland often boasts it is the biggest Polynesian city in the world but there is wide agreement that the needs of Pacific Islanders are seldom being met in housing architecture. This paper describes the thinking behind a housing study for Samoan families that attempts to design for their needs (Mike Austin and Anne Milbank, Unitec Institute of Technology);
- **TE PAHI'S WHARE**: the first European house in New Zealand: The 1806 gift of New South Wales Governor Phillip Gidley King of a pre-fabricated house to Te Pahi, the tribal chief of the Bay of Islands, was supposed to embody trade relations between the two cultures / countries but it came to represent deepening class divisions among and between European traders and Northland Maori. This paper discusses the acquisition of the house and the revenge attacks on it by ships' crews (Deirdre Brown, University of Auckland).

**MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO INTERVIEW CONFERENCE SPEAKERS**

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