

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Academics consider the fabulous architectural history of Australia and NZ

Architectural historians will examine Australian and New Zealand buildings, from detention centres to mining towns and the etiquette of the street, at a 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.

The 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.

"We are fortunate to have notable keynote speakers in Dr Karen Burns from the University of Melbourne and Dr Alex Bremner from the University of Edinburgh," he said.

"The conference theme is *Fabulation: Myth, Nature and Heritage*, referring to extraordinary and fanciful representations in architectural history, and how the images and stories of architectural history have been fabulated."

Topics covered among the 85 conference papers include:

- **DETENTION CENTRES:** The impermanent nature of internment sites, with a focus on Changi Prison and prison camp, and the Woomera Immigration and Processing Centre, neither of which exists any more (Anoma Pieris and Andrew Saniga (University of Melbourne)).
- **AUSTRALIAN COLONIAL PRE-FABRICATED BUILDINGS,** focussing on Peter Carey's glass church in his book *Oscar and Lucinda* (Bill Taylor, University of WA).
- **MINING AND URBANISATION IN AUSTRALIA:** The history of building and planning associated with mining, with reference to impressions of mining from popular films and recent scrutiny of problems such as fly-in fly-out work practices (Matthew Aitchison, University of Queensland).
- **ARCHITECTURAL PRINCIPLES IN THE AGE OF THE CAR AND THE BIKE:** Understanding the myth-making behind buildings for cars, and their mass appeal, is helpful in understanding what role architecture can play at this time when cities are aiming to increase their bike use (Steven Fleming, University of Newcastle).

- MODERNISM IN THE AUSTRALIAN CITY: Drawing on the work of the Housing Commissions of Sydney and Melbourne, and the work of Harry Seidler in Sydney and Yuncken Freeman in Melbourne (Philip Goad, University of Melbourne).
- HARRY SEIDLER ON TOUR 1955-1970: Travel by the Austrian émigré architect Harry Seidler and its influence on his Australian work, with the proposal that the evolution of his work in Australia is just as interesting, if not more interesting, than his pedigree on arrival (Antony Moulis, University of Qld).
- POLITENESS AND PERAMBULATION: The etiquette of the street in 19th century advice manuals (Nicole Sully, University of Queensland).

MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO INTERVIEW CONFERENCE SPEAKERS.

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