

MEDIA RELEASE

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Conference examines architecture in NSW schools

NSW school buildings and the so-called 'Sydney School' designed by architects William E Kemp and Michael Dysart are being closely examined in 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.

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.

"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," he said.

Topics covered among the 85 conference papers include:

- **SYDNEY SCHOOLS AND THE 'SYDNEY SCHOOL':** Examines the early career of Sydney architect Michael Dysart who designed a significant group of high schools while working for the NSW government in the 1960s (Cameron Logan, University of Melbourne);
- **THE OLD BARK SCHOOL IS GONE - Fitness for purpose of William E. Kemp's school buildings:** The primary records of Kemp's culturally significant school buildings of 1880-1896 are limited so this researcher has searched for scarce recorded experiences of pupils, parents, teachers and district inspectors from school histories, files and newspaper reports. These items document the dominant ideologies of education in the late 19th century – Britishness, colonial progress, patriotism, discipline and public hygiene (Kirsten Orr, University of Technology, Sydney).

MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO INTERVIEW CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

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