

EXTREME X

CONCEPT PROPOSAL

Criteria 2

The relevance and compatibility of the proposal to the overall theme of the Biennale

In keeping with the 2023 theme: 'Laboratory of the Future', and aligned to Curator, Lesley Lokko's, twin imperatives of decolonization and decarbonization, our Team's proposal for the Australian Pavilion is themed: **EXTREME eX**

Criteria 3

The relevance to contemporary architectural practice and the development of architecture culture, ideas, challenges concerns and practices in Australia

Australia is a country of extremes, and like Africa, is also at the forefront of climate change – a true laboratory of the future.

To date, Australia has had a woeful record in acknowledging and addressing our global impact on climate change, while our continued practices are rapidly accelerating GHG emissions and global warming, through: intensive resource mining, coal-fired power stations, extreme car dependency, low-density suburban sprawl, poor land-use practices, and lagging policy incentives – business-as-usual predominates.

EXTREME

Definition - Noun [Oxford Dictionary]

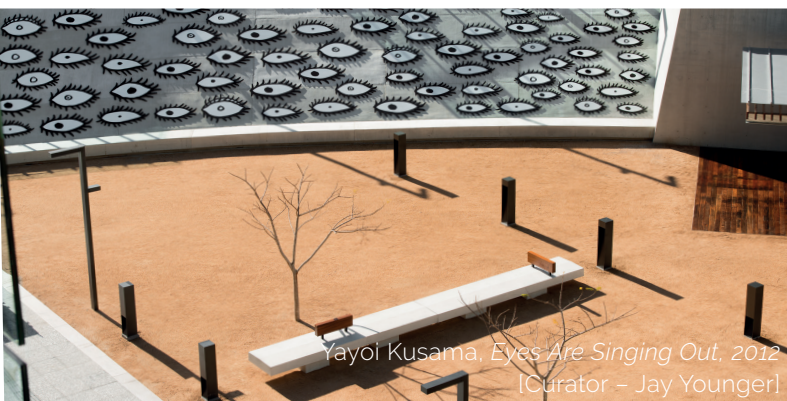
- 1. Reaching a high or the highest degree; very great – 'extreme cold'*
- 2. Furthest from the centre or a given point – 'the extreme north-west of Australia'*
- 3. Either of two abstract things that are as different from each other as possible.*
- 4. A very severe or serious measure.*

Despite this, Australian architects have been proactive in their innovative responses to climate change.

Our proposal for an Australian 'Laboratory of the Future' aims to highlight the innovative work and novel designs being explored by Australian architects, scientists, and design practitioners.

Our objective is also to bring attention to the latent potential within the industry, for leading the country in change: responsive practices, a step change in the construction industry, and impact driven policy.

EXTREME eX will showcase Australian design responses to extreme events, land practices, and socio-environmental challenges from both contemporary practice and an indigenous perspective, simultaneously.



Yayoi Kusama, *Eyes Are Singing Out*, 2012
[Curator – Jay Younger]



Mei Leng See, *Falling*, 2007/2016
[Curator – Jay Younger]

EXTREME eX

EXHIBITION DESIGN

Criteria 1

The ambition, innovation, quality, readiness and appropriateness of the proposal to represent Australia internationally and nationally

Criteria 8

Availability to meet time and travel commitments

Criteria 10

Ambition and capacity to deliver national presentations in Australia in 2023/2024.

In keeping with Lokko's ambition to offer:

'a kind of workshop...a laboratory ... that charts a path for the audience to weave through, imagining for themselves what the future can hold.'

EXTREME eX presents 4 exhibitions and 1 programme of events

1. Invited

X divides the pavilion diagonally into 4 triangular quadrants each with their own EXTREME eX challenges.

Invited contributors will be exhibited in each quadrant according to the EXTREME eX climate-driven challenges:

- Drought [agriculture, water reservoirs and ecological systems, environmental economy]
- Heat [cities]
- Fire [suburban,
- Flood [all regions]

2. EOI responses

Further EXTREME eX design responses from practitioners across Australia will be selected [EOI] and curated in a lineal exhibition on the perimeter wall of the pavilion.

3. Interactive

EXTREME eX design workshops, competitions and thought experiments will be offered to architecture students, the public, and the Biennale audience to invite further speculation on what future proofing solutions might look and feel like.

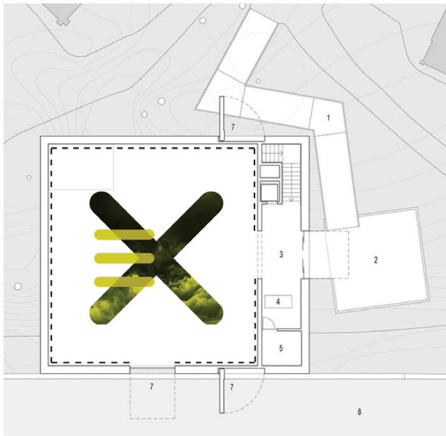
4. History

A Time-line locating EXTREME eX events will be exhibited around the perimeter, positioning key events, disasters, invasions and political history in Australia. This will be set against a timeline showing climate information - including the frequency of extreme weather events, temperature rises etc.

5. Programme of Events

EXTREME eX Films (including augmented and VR)...covering 4 main challenges on 2 internal walls, with selected videos exhibited outside the pavilion

EXTREME eX Conversations, with Urban Design Alliance [UDAL], in partnership with AIA, and Office of the Government Architect, Qld.



EXTREME X

BACKGROUND

Each year, across the country, Australia is experiencing more extreme weather events than ever recorded before. From extreme drought, through to extreme rain events, cyclones, and flooding, to extreme temperatures in cities [heat island effect] and extreme bushfires in rural areas – the likes of which have never been seen before.

AUSTRALIA A country of extremes

Extreme distances

Extreme diversity

Extreme wealth distribution

Extreme in quality of health [life expectancy]

Extreme low density in the world...the emptiest continent

Extreme length of coastline

Extreme contributor to Greenhouse Gas Emissions

ARCHITECTS Grappling with ongoing and recurring questions

Australian Architects are grappling with questions like:

1. What does a sustainable future look and feel like?
2. How can we do better with what we've got?
3. Where will we live?
4. How can we better respond to these crises?
5. How can we prepare for future disasters [future proof]?

For each response there are both contemporary, and well established but less well-known indigenous examples. Select example of invited EXTREME eX contributors:

Designing for fire [Architects without Borders; Designing with Country BVN with Kevin O'Brien and QUT]

Designing for floods [James Davidson Architects]

Designing for health and education [Billie Giles-Corti; Lyons & Congrad Gargetti]

Ambition and capacity to deliver national presentations in Australia in 2023/2024

In partnership with the Office of the Government Architect in QLD, and with City Architect's and Placemaking teams in Local Governments, we envisage the exhibition travelling to regional galleries around Australia [eg. Sunshine Coast Gallery SC Council; HOTA Gold Coast City Council; Murwillumbah Gallery, Tweed Shire Council; Geelong; and so on in each State and Territory].

The Urban Design Alliance QLD [UDAL] in partnership with the AIA will deliver 'Extreme Conversations' in Venice and Australia – engaging audiences with international practitioners and policy makers.

EXTREME X

CREATIVE DIRECTORS & TEAM

Architects

The Creative Team has a wealth of abilities and partnerships to ensure that the ideas are communicated to the widest possible audience:



Dr Kathi Holt [Contact person]
Director Nerø Holt [Brisbane & Melbourne]
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PhDs in Architecture, Public Art and Curatorial Practices.



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Marketing and Communications of Design to the Public through the media, including film and social media



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Art Direction, advertising, branding and Graphic Design

Marketing and Communication



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EXTREME eX Partners
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UDAL

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EXTREMEX

EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITIES

*Experience and Capability
Criteria 4, 5, 6 & 7
Experience, expertise and success
in mediating, communicating
and delivering exhibitions of
architecture to diverse audiences;
Experience in management of
relevant projects; Experience
in budget management;
Organisational capacity and
resources.*

The creative team has a full suite of complementary skills, extensive experience and proven capability. Additional skills include: project management, financial accountability, budgeting and building capability.

Dr Kathi Holt is an architect and strategic urban designer with a PhD, an Executive MSc in Cities, and over 30 years in academia and practice. Kathi has delivered architectural exhibitions, workshops, installations and public events at the: Melbourne Festival [1998]; Brisbane Festival [2012]; Shanghai World Expo [UBPA 2010]; Opening event for the Israeli Pavilion [Venice Biennale 2012]; as well as symposia for HEAT Architecture [Shanghai and Venice 2010]. As Chair of UDAL, she initiated *Brisbane Conversations* – a public forum for expert discussions on critical topics for best practice and a sustainable future.

Tim Hill and James Murray from Tandem, have designed and delivered many complex buildings and award-winning projects, both on time and on budget. Projects like: Yellow Earth Emporium; NGV Shop; Truth North; Kensington Lighthouse; MONA conceptual design; Federation Square with LAB.

Jay Younger has a proven track record and extensive experience with staging large-scale ambitious projects in both indoor and outdoor contexts with low budgets and restricted time. Recognised by the AIA President's award in 2012, Jay has conceptualised and delivered over 138 exhibitions in national and international contexts, with over 24 years of collaboration with architects, like: Curiosity for World Science Festival Brisbane, Qld Museum July 2022; the public art curatorship for the new QEII Courts of Law.

*Criteria 9
Reporting and editorial skills for
documentation and dissemination*



Lindy Johnson
HEAT Architecture

Lindy Johnson is the Director of Lindy Johnson Creative, the Australian leader in marketing and communications for the architecture and design sector. LJC write, brand and produce marketing collateral, publications, and web content, undertaking publicity, media and promotions for architects nationally and internationally. In her role as Creative Director for QLD State Government, she directed two successful HEAT Architecture promotional events at the Venice Architecture Biennial in 2008 and 2010; and commissioned the acclaimed PLACE MAKERS exhibition for GOMA which attracted national and international audiences and broke exhibition attendance records. <https://vimeo.com/17998944>

Peter Jacobsen is a multi-award winning Senior Art Director with extensive experience working on some of the world's most trusted brands, including IBM, American Express, and Qantas. He has a proven track record for launching products and brands, and re-branding enterprises with a focus on results, such as the iconic: 'I still call Australia Home' campaign.