



Australian
Institute of
Architects

2023 WA REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE SYMPOSIUM Program



WELCOME

The 2023 Western Australian Regional Symposium takes place on the lands of the Wadandi people in the beautiful Margaret River Region.

Regional practice requires agile and collaborative mindsets, which provides the foundations for responsive practice and innovative solutions to stakeholder engagement. Collaborations in and across regional areas encompass large, medium and small practices that readily draw on effective engagement with local governments, Traditional Owners, affiliated professionals, local communities and suppliers. Recent times have put a focus on the importance of such collaborative practice, whether we operate in a remote community, a regional centre, or a state capital.

Our recent health, economic and climate concerns such as bushfires, flooding and the pandemic highlight the need to consider new ways of designing and perceiving architecture through an intimate knowledge of community and place, regional practice offers a unique insight into architects tackling the social, cultural, economic and environmental challenges of our time.

Real stories.

Real people.

This specially curated symposium offers presentations, case studies and site visits, designed for you to explore the main themes of Sustainability, First Nations Perspectives, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Business of Architecture; and Heritage and Conservation. Featuring 12 speakers including keynote addresses from two Institute Gold Medallists, Adrian Welke and Kerstin Thompson, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

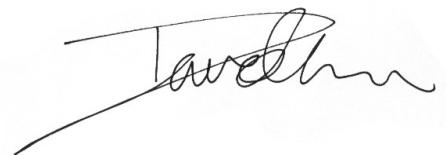
These themes will be explored through the practice of regional architecture and architects, and the possibilities these suggest beyond practice in the regions. This will provide an opportunity to learn from, celebrate and acknowledge Western Australia's Regional Architecture. This immersive knowledge sharing and learning experience takes place in Yallingup, with excursions to nearby Witchcliffe and surrounds.

We look forward to welcoming you to this event that will leave you inspired, connected, and energised.



Sandy Anghie

WA Chapter President
Australian Institute of Architects



David Gibson

WA Regional Taskforce Chair
Australian Institute of Architects



FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

9:30 am Delegate Arrival

10:00 am Symposium Opens

10:00 am Session 1

Julian Bolleter

Co-Director, Australian Urban Design
Research Centre, UWA

DESIGNING FOR ENGAGEMENT

This presentation displays findings from a national survey of lay people and planning experts that assessed future settlement pattern scenarios for a projected Australian population of 53 million by 2100. The team received 1000 responses from community members and almost 400 from experts.

Collective judgement favoured two possible settlement pattern scenarios – satellite cities orbiting the capital cities and mega-regions on the east and west coasts strung along an efficient regional rail network. Conversely, proposals to compound population growth in Melbourne and Sydney were universally loathed.

This presentation will set out the possible implications of the survey findings for Australia's current urban and regional planning.

Kieran Wong

Co-Founder, The Fulcrum Agency

Kieran will present the work undertaken by his practice, The Fulcrum Agency. Their work is underpinned by three principles:

- To ensure that Traditional Owners have the skills to make informed decisions
- To ensure that decision making processes are consistent with the tenets by which Traditional Owners make choices within their own culture
- To work in genuine partnership with First Nations-led organisations, communities, and individuals, to be open to two-way learning, and provide pathways for mentorship, training, and professional development.

In his session, Kieran will refer to a series of case studies to describe how this plays out in practice.

Jeff Thierfelder

Project Manager, Architecture and
Planning Witchcliffe Eco Village

Jeff will present a brief overview of the Witchcliffe Ecovillage project, with a particular focus on the 'big ideas' that informed the design of the innovative residential clusters (specifically from a social interaction / cohesion perspective).

The presentation will set the context by examining the 'why' humans evolved to live in tribes and the benefits we gained from that social arrangement. It then goes on to outline the significant social issues caused by the design of current standard housing developments, how these design flaws exacerbate the 'loneliness epidemic' that has become a scourge of modern life, and then critiques previous efforts to repair this frayed social fabric over the past 40 years.

The talk concludes by describing how these lessons have been incorporated into the Ecovillage layout, a new pattern that is showing great promise in helping residents connect with each other.

11:45 am **Morning Tea Break**

12:15 pm **Session 2**

DESIGNING FOR PLACE

Jennie Officer

Founding Director, Officer and Woods

Jennie's presentation will explore Officer Woods' approach to designing for place in Newman, East Pilbara, where a confluence of factors influenced the design for the East Pilbara Arts Centre. In a place largely characterised by mobility, how might the formal organisation of architecture create opportunities for informality? How might places be both found and made? Can unprogrammed, 'extra' space be useful for places and practices that are ever-changing? How can architects help to foreground precious activities in places where they are frequently overlooked? What obligations do we have to places on other peoples' country?

Dimmity Walker

space agency architects

Engaging with place as a visitor is a particular relationship. Designing with this in mind, we look for desire lines that will create meaningful connections. Our approach to designing hotels in both urban and regional contexts involves taking time to identify and harness

particular qualities of place that can inspire design responses that are specific and authentic, rather than generic.

In this session, Dimmity will discuss this designing for place strategy via illustrated case studies of completed regional hotel projects in Katanning and Northam as well as provide insight into the design process of a current project she's working on - the Margaret River Hotel.

Patrick Kosky

Kerry Hill Architects

Pat's session will take a close look at two projects which provide a lens to explore the ways that place can truly inform design - a visitor centre in an ancient landscape and a performing arts centre in a bustling regional town. The sites for these projects contrast in their climate as well as their geographical, cultural and landscape conditions. Pat will showcase the tools and principles that can be embedded across the entire design process to address place in these contrasting locations.

1:30 pm **Lunch Break**

2:30 pm **Session 3**

DESIGNING FOR COMMUNITY

Adrian Welke

Troppo Architects

Adrian Welke is the Principal of Troppo Architects, a practice he co-founded in 1980. Through his work, he has pioneered a unique approach to Australian architecture: irreverent but sophisticated, inventive with a tinge of larrikin spirit. In over 40 years of practice, he has evolved an architecture that deals with the heat, the rain, the place and the subtleties of climate, while understanding and reviving the lessons of the Top End's important history and legacy of projects.

Under Welke's leadership, Troppo has grown and diversified from its Darwin origins - with studios now in Adelaide, Townsville, Perth and Byron Bay. And though the practice has evolved, it has retained strong roots and a common ethos.

Troppo has received numerous state, national and international awards for projects spanning everything from tiny remote buildings to city design. Welke has an ability to enthuse, educate, convince and change people's views on architecture - and it is these talents, combined with his exceptional portfolio of projects and commitment to the role of the profession as an agent of change, that saw him as the outstanding recipient of the Institute's most important prize, the Gold Medal in 2014.

Kerstin Thompson

Kerstin Thompson Architects

Kerstin Thompson, the recipient of the Institute's 2023 Gold Medal, is an outstanding architect whose design practice is renowned internationally as a significant and innovative reference point in Australian architecture and urban design.

Kerstin has contributed significantly to architectural discourse through her work as a designer, educator, and highly respected keynote speaker throughout more than three decades of work. Her award-winning work also places great emphasis on sustainable principles and a multidisciplinary approach to architecture. She has set new precedents in extending the useful life of existing buildings, and her designs integrate seamlessly with their natural surroundings.

Kerstin is the creative design director at Kerstin Thompson Architects, a practice that has been recognised with numerous awards at the state, national, and international level. In 2020, the practice was the recipient of the Victorian Architecture Medal, and in 2022, it was awarded the Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Architecture.

Afternoon Tea

Session 4

4:00 pm

Marcus Browne

4:30 pm

Marcus Brown Architect

DESIGNING FOR PRACTICE

This session showcases Marcus's regional work, which has been centred around a design entity called 'mi shack,' a residential modular design system he starting developing over 10 years ago. His vision was driven by a belief that the touch of architecture elevates a home beyond pure function and practicality to something special and enriching, enabling more people to be able to enjoy these life enhancing benefits. Over 30 years of architectural evolution has enabled him to create a unique modular design system that has inbuilt within each zone the considered use of space, light, texture and massing. This ensures that a welcoming sense of sanctuary and calm can be achieved with any layout combination and has been tested, explored and continues to evolve over a quiver of built and new projects. mi shack zones evoke a soothing balance of spatial experience and cost that feels just right.

Sue Thomas

Engawa Architects

Sue's session looks at connection to the pre-existing language of a place, including the natural landscape, pre- and post-colonial vernacular, and those connections that are relevant to our daily practice in architecture.

The session will include an exploration of the natural and vernacular language of the Broome Region. Designed for architects keen to work across regional projects, or for those already doing so, this is a session not be missed.

5:45 pm

Session Close

6:00 pm

Drinks and Dinner

Join us for an extravagant three course dinner with all delegates at Caves House, proudly sponsored by Taubmans.

SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

8:30 am Cultural Walk

Zac Webb

Join Zac Webb for an interactive and fascinating cultural walk. Zac is a Wadandi-Pibulmun cultural custodian from the Noongar nation, an Aboriginal region spanning southwestern Australia along the Great Southern Reef near Margaret River, and one of the last speakers of their native language. He is also the Undalup Association Board Chairperson, an organisation which aims to share knowledge with the general community. The Wadandi people have a long association with the environment of the South West and its natural resources, utilising the Country's natural resources according to their Lore.

11:00 am Witchcliffe Eco Village Tour

Jeff Thierfelder

Led by Jeff Thierfelder, the Witchcliffe Ecovillage project focuses on the 'big ideas' that informed the design of the innovative residential clusters (specifically from a social interaction / cohesion perspective). Spend an hour getting an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the eco village leads the way for sustainable developments.

12:30 pm Symposium Concludes

SPEAKERS



Julian Bolleter

Dr Julian Bolleter is the Co-Director at the Australian Urban Design Research Centre (AUDRC) at the University of Western Australia and is the Program Director of AUDRC's Master of Urban Design course. His role at the AUDRC also includes conducting research projects for the Australian Research Council and Western Australian state government.

Julian is an experienced landscape architect and urban designer and has practised in Australia, the USA, the UK and the Middle East.



Kieran Wong

Kieran is a co-founder and Partner at TheFulcrum.Agency, a creative consultancy and Social Enterprise that leverages community and social outcomes through evidenced-based design, strategy, advocacy and research.

The Fulcrum Agency positions design thinking and community co-production at the fore of all decision-making. Kieran's career is grounded in the challenge of bringing equity, social justice and inclusion to built environment projects across Australia.

Kieran is an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at Monash University; Industry Partner for the University of Sydney's Health Habitat Incubator; Partner Investigator on the ARC project: Staying on Country: Infrastructure Needs for Remote Community Viability, Project Advisor for University Queensland's Pilot Research project into the Northern Territory's Room to Breathe Housing Program; and Chair at Shelter WA the peak body for housing and homelessness in Western Australia.



Jeff Thierfelder

Jeff has 25 years of high-level, diverse experience in urban design and architecture. Jeff's primary expertise is in the master planning of residential and mixed-use precincts, including activity centres, transit-oriented developments, and new communities. He has experience designing a variety of residential and mixed-use building types, as well as creating form based codes and design guidelines. Jeff holds graduate degrees in architecture, urban planning, and real estate development, and undergraduate degrees in international studies and economics.

Jeff's employment history includes senior level appointments with leading architecture and urban planning consulting firms and several property developers. Having worked in the US, Europe and Australia, he draws on this diverse perspective to help overcome project challenges and generate novel design solutions for clients.

At the Witchcliffe Ecovillage, Jeff is responsible for project managing all matters relating to town planning and architecture at the cutting-edge new community. This role involves testing and finalising design guidelines and local development plans, concept designs for a range of passive solar house designs that suit various lot types, and input into final designs for streets, parks, and the village square. Jeff runs the comprehensive design review process for the Ecovillage, commenting on and approving every home that is constructed. He is also responsible for initial concept design on a range of mixed-use, commercial and civic buildings within the village centre, and then managing their planning approval through the Shire.



Jennie Officer

Jennie Officer is a founding director at Officer Woods Architects and a Senior Lecturer in the School of Design at the University of Western Australia.

Jennie combines several roles in professional life: practitioner, teacher, researcher and advocate.

The built work of Officer Woods has been published and awarded at state and national level across diverse categories, and the practice is committed to flexibility in thinking about projects and their sites, cultures, context and character, delighting in the overlaps of architecture, landscape and urban design.



Dimmity Walker

Dimmity Walker is a registered Architect and Director at Spaceagency Architects with extensive experience across a diverse portfolio of award-winning projects.

Dimmity has a passion for delivering unique, project specific outcomes for clients. Her expertise in transforming design concepts into tangible and memorable spaces reflects her innate ability to balance the poetic with the pragmatic.

An active and engaged member of the profession, she has served on numerous design juries for state architecture awards and various national architectural design prizes; regularly participates in talks, exhibitions and student mentoring programs, and advocates for architecture and good design in the wider community.



Patrick Kosky

Patrick is a director at Kerry Hill Architects. He has worked on the design and delivery of a number of high profile projects including the State Theatre Centre of WA and the City of Perth Library and Plaza, both of which were won through design competitions.

Patrick was also a key member of the KHA team that was successful in winning the design competition for the recently completed Walyalup Civic Centre for the City of Fremantle. These projects have all been recognised with state and national architecture awards.

He is a member of the Fremantle Design Advisory Committee and the State Design Review Panel and has served as a juror for a number of Australian Institute of Architects' award juries.



Adrian Welke

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Marcus Browne

After graduating from Curtin University in 1991, Marcus jumped head first into residential, commercial, educational, institutional, industrial and health projects, embarking on a 15 year journey developing and honing his design skills and construction knowledge in the fast paced commercial architectural world gathering insights, knowledge and experience within the industry. He was then presented with a proposal to run a boutique property development company focusing on small lot residential projects, whereby he could source his own sites and create his own designs, uninhibited. It was during this period that he grabbed his chance to start developing a 'zone design system' that allowed him to give some surety of outcome in the aesthetics and cost of the product.

True to form at the end of this cycle, life laid before him another opportunity, allowing him to pursue 'living the dream down south' - indulging his passion for surfing and music in the idyllic seaside hamlet of Yallingup. On taking a call from a local builder who was on the look for an alternative architect designed product which represented the 'down south lifestyle' but catered to client demands for a hassle free, budget conscious architecture in a simple design and build solution, mi shack was born.



Sue Thomas

Sue graduated from Curtin University in 1992 and has worked exclusively in the Kimberley region since 1997.

An accomplished and recognised regional architect who has delivered a range of projects across the Kimberley, Sue is a Director of Engawa Architects which is based in Broome, in the far north of Western Australia.

Sue's architectural practice concentrates on delivering client focussed, regionally responsive projects. In all her work, Sue looks at connection to the pre-existing language of a place, including the natural landscape, pre- and post-colonial vernacular, and those connections that are relevant to our daily practice.



Zac Webb

Zac is a Wadandi-Pibulmun cultural custodian from the Noongar nation, an Aboriginal region spanning southwestern Australia along the Great Southern Reef near Margaret River, and one of the last speakers of their native language. He is also the Undalup Association Board Chairperson, an organisation which aims to share knowledge with the general community. The Wadandi people have a long association with the environment of the South West and its natural resources, utilising the Country's natural resources according to their Lore.



Dr Lara Mackintosh

As the moderator of our sessions at the Regional Symposium, Dr Lara Mackintosh is an early career researcher, senior lecturer and registered architect. Over 13 years in academia, Lara has supported innovative teaching practices and sustained engaging and challenging learning experiences within the Discipline of Architecture. Lara's passion for understanding how we live within and value built, social and natural environments informs her approach to learning, curriculum development, and professional practices.

Lara's research interests, teaching activities and architectural practices come together as she coordinates the programs at the Fremantle School of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame Australia, and builds the community of Notre Dame Practice Partners within the architectural profession in Perth and Fremantle.



Michael Linke

Michael Linke is the General Manager at the Institute of Architects. Based in Melbourne, he leads the Chapter teams around Australia, the Institute's National Membership team and National Corporate Partnership divisions, responsible for the effective engagement with the Institute's major stakeholders.

As an experienced event host and MC, Michael's looking forward to spending time in Western Australia with members at the Regional Symposium



ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

To assist you, here are just some recommendations for accommodation in and around the Yallingup area.

Smiths Beach Resort

Experience the ultimate beachside escape at Smiths Beach Resort.

www.smithsbeachresort.com.au

Wildwood Valley

Wildwood Valley is the ultimate place to rest and relax: enjoy magnificent ocean views, clean and comfortable accommodation in a quiet bush setting.

www.wildwoodvalley.com.au

Cape Lodge

Cape Lodge has 22 rooms, Vineyard 4 Bedroom Residence, Swimming and Tennis Court sitting on 40 acres of parkland, gardens and vineyards.

www.capelodge.com.au

Seashells Yallingup

Set in beautiful extensive gardens by Yallingup Beach, the property is adjacent to the beautifully-restored, heritage-listed Caves House.

www.seashells.com.au

Yallingup Villas

Designed and crafted with the vision of true escape, our villas reflect a fusion of contemporary and minimalist influences, providing the perfect environment for your indulgent getaway.

www.yallingupvillas.com.au

Yallingup Forest Resort

Enjoy spacious, secluded and eco-friendly chalet accommodation in this beautiful, serene part of WA.

www.yallingupforestresort.com.au

BUSSELTON

A wide range of additional accommodation can also be found in Busselton, just a 30 minute drive from the symposium venue.

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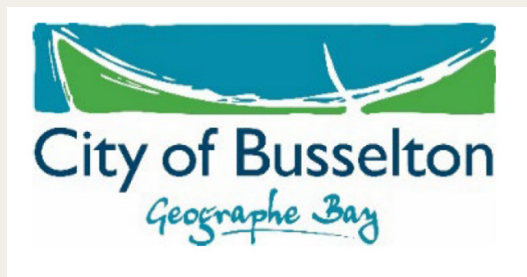
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WITCHCLIFFE

ECOVILLAGE



Proudly hosted in the City of Busselton area Events capital of WA.

Day 2 hosted in Shire of Augusta Margaret River





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Image: Ryan Murphy courtesy of margaretriver.com