The launch of the Melbourne School of Design (MSD) on Thursday, 11 December 2014 heralded a new era for built environment education and research. Since the commencement of the academic year in February, we have seen the building fully occupied and activated. The MSD was purposefully designed to ‘teach’ students about the construction, design and environmental performance of a complex contemporary building; its flexibility and transparency cultivating an environment conducive to interdisciplinary investigation.

Located at the centre of campus, the new plazas the building creates provide important meeting spaces and connections. The impressive 19th Century Joseph Reed façade fronts onto the Union Lawn with theatricality and historical significance, and the eastern courtyard is revitalised as a communal gathering space.

Truly a building for the entire University, I was honoured to welcome over 3000 University staff to MSD for the Vice Chancellor’s Christmas lunch on 12 December and, later that day, over 2000 alumni and friends explored the building.

The MSD has received global critical acclaim, described as “a seriously impressive centrepiece for one of Australia’s most respected universities”, and a building whose “spatial theatricality is anchored by a profound search for meaning through making”. You can read the extensive coverage online at msd.unimelb.edu.au/new-building-media-coverage

I am delighted to welcome a number of new academic appointments to enhance our innovative research and teaching portfolio, and encouraged by the high standard of work produced by Faculty alumni and students regularly receiving professional recognition and accolades. Some of these we profile here but for all our research activities, programs, projects and events I encourage you to visit the MSD website – msd.unimelb.edu.au – or sign up for our monthly e-newsletter – msd.unimelb.edu.au/msd-e-news

It is an exciting time for the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. Early March witnessed the start of academic teaching in semester one and was the first time the building has been fully occupied by students. The study spaces and studios are fully populated and the atrium is already proving to be a popular spot. Students from many parts of campus have been setting up their laptops, studying and socialising between classes. This type of activity meets the intended purpose of the space, a place to support study and build community. The building’s exceptional gallery, auditoria and community areas have also played host to a rich program of design exhibitions, talks and events.

WELCOME PROFESSOR TOM KVAN
DEAN, FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING AND PLANNING

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ALUMNUS PROFILE

TIM WASTELL
(BEnvS 2011)

Growing up in country Victoria, Tim had always possessed a strong passion for design and after a gap year spent working and travelling, he was inspired to pursue a career in the construction industry.

Tim moved to Melbourne to undertake the Bachelor of Environments. He majored in architecture but says the extensive range of subjects offered in the program ultimately made it possible for him to make the shift from architecture to construction.

After completing his undergraduate degree, Tim spent a year working as a student architect for McBride Charles Ryan before returning to the Melbourne School of Design to commence the Master of Construction Management. While studying at the MSD, he secured a cadetship with Brookfield Multiplex on the recently completed FABP Building. He has since joined Probuild where he is working on the ‘Victoria One’ project in the Melbourne CBD. He will commence in their full graduate programme at the end of the masters degree.

Tim suggests that his background in architecture has proven highly valuable in his shift to the Construction Management profession as it involves the coordination and management of multiple disciplines. He aspires to establish himself within an industry that continues to shape our cities.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING AND PLANNING
TELEPHONE +61 3 9035 6122
WEBSITE msd.unimelb.edu.au
TWITTER twitter.com/msdsocial
FACEBOOK facebook.com/msdsocial
YOUTUBE youtube.com/user/ABPUnimelb

NEW ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The Faculty continues to expand its intellectual resources through the appointment of new academic staff across our disciplines.

Our vibrant architecture community welcomed Professor Mark Burry as Professor of Urban Futures in December 2014. Created through the Research at Melbourne Accelerator Program, this position will further develop the Faculty’s capacity in futures research by drawing together and augmenting design expertise in urban visualisation, urban analytics, and urban policy. Professor Burry’s notable career spans practice and academia on the global stage. Inspired early in his career by the life, work and theories of Antoni Gaudi, Professor Burry is the Senior Architect to one of the world’s most complex building projects, the Sagrada Familia Basilica Foundation in Barcelona, Spain. Professor Burry was also the Founding Director of the Design Research Institute at RMIT.

The Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute (MSSI) has also welcomed high-profile and respected environmentalists Professor Don Henry and Professor Tim Flannery. MSSI, a research centre hosted by ABP, supports research, projects and conversations about sustainability, in addition to exploring the human and environmental challenges created by climate change. Professor Henry has joined MSSI as a Public Policy Fellow in Environmentalism and will undertake research into climate change policy and the role of public activism. Professor Flannery, one of Australia’s best-known scientists, writers and global warming activists, has been appointed as a Professorial Fellow and will contribute to research and engagement on issues of sustainability and climate change.

The property team also welcomed two new lecturers in January 2015. Alumna Dr Georgia Warren-Myers (BPD(PC) 2002, BPC(Hons) 2004, PhD 2010) has returned to the MSD from the position of Lecturer in Property and Real Estate at Deakin University, while Dr Andy Krause comes from the University of Washington, where he held the position of Data Scientist (Consultant), Zillow Lecturer in Property. These recent appointments will complement the existing expertise within the Faculty by further strengthening our course offerings, research expertise, cross-Faculty linkages, and the development of broader industry connections.

The MSD atrium is specifically designed to encourage collaborative activities.

PICTURE: JOHN GOLLINGS
STUDENT PROFILE
NAVID VARZAGHANI (MUD 2014)

Navid Varzaghani moved to Melbourne from Tehran in Iran to study the Master of Urban Design and while studying he has sampled professional practice and enjoyed the Australian lifestyle.

He was attracted by the flexibility of the Master of Urban Design program, the travelling studio options, wide breadth of educational resources, and the opportunity to work alongside world-renowned academic staff.

His studio work has included work on concepts for the redevelopment of the Fisherman’s Bend Precinct as well as urban design frameworks for the Queen Victoria Market and Fitzroy Gasworks. Navid says he has learnt many different practical skills during his time in Melbourne but it is the ability to tackle challenges independently, present ideas clearly, debate and listen that have proven to be the most valuable.

Navid has also honed his professional experience working with different practices, including Cox Architects and Planners. He believes that such experiences have enhanced his understanding of professional approaches to architecture and urban design and how to apply theories to practice. Navid has started to practise urban design, working on different projects across Australasia. The thing he particularly enjoys about living in Melbourne is the balance between undertaking rewarding work and maintaining personal interests.

ALUMNA PROFILE
DR PIPPA SOCCIO (BPD(Arch) 2004, BArch(Hons) 2007, PhD 2014)

Over the course of 10 years and three degrees, Dr Pippa Soccio (BPD(Arch) 2004, BArch(Hons) 2007, PhD 2014) has built a strong association with the Faculty and University. It is a journey spanning architecture, sustainability and educational design that has combined academic research and professional practice.

Moving from Darwin, Pippa enrolled in the Bachelor of Planning and Design and also went on to complete the Bachelor of Architecture. She moved into professional practice, securing a graduate position with Woodhead.

Pippa continued to maintain a connection with the University, first as a subject coordinator and then as a residential tutor, and later a council member, at St Hilda’s College. But it was in professional practice, while working on projects associated with the government’s Building the Education Revolution program, that she developed an interest in the alignment between space and pedagogy.

Pippa returned to University full time to undertake a PhD in Architecture which focused on the evaluation of Indoor Environment Quality (IEQ) in learning environments. Completed in 2014, her research project involved the development of a new post occupancy evaluation tool, called EduTool:IEQ. Intended for use by design professionals, the tool assesses the indoor environment quality inside primary and middle school classrooms. It was used to evaluate the IEQ performance inside eight classrooms in different climate zones across Australia.

Pippa continues her association with the Faculty in 2015 as a Research Fellow for the Learning Environments Applied Research Network. She will continue her research on learning environments and teach on regenerating sustainability.
Melbourne School of Design recently launched a new student-edited journal, *Inflection*. Born from a desire to stimulate debate and generate ideas, it advocates the importance of the printed word and the discursive voice of MSD students, academics and professionals. Founded in 2013 and initially funded through an ABP Strategic Initiative Fund grant awarded to Dr AnnMarie Brennan (academic advisor to the journal) and MSD graduate student editors Ariani Anwar (BA 2011, DipL 2011), William Cassell (BMusPerf(Improv) 2012) and Jonathan Russell (BMusPerf(Improv) 2012), the journal is envisioned as a home for provocative writing; a place to share ideas and engage with the exciting time we are living in. The first issue was published in November 2014, and the second issue, centred upon the theme 'projection', will be available in November 2015. It is published by MSD and internationally distributed by Spurbuch/AADR – Art, Architecture and Design Research.

More information: inflectionjournal.com

**Research Update**

**Melbourne: What Next?**

An e-book published by the Sustainable Society Institute and Social Equity Institute is sparking vigorous discussion on the key challenges in Melbourne’s future planning. Edited by Professor Carolyn Whitzman, Professor Brendan Gleeson (BTRP(Hons) 1986, PhD 1993) and Master of Urban Planning student Alexander Sheko (BA 2012, DipL 2012), *Melbourne: What Next?* includes articles by practitioners, activists and researchers.

Edited extracts from the e-book published by Guardian Australia triggered wide-ranging discussions among readers on issues such as infrastructure, transport, and the challenges raised by climate change, population growth and a changing economy. Articles from the e-book also formed a key element of the Melbourne School of Government’s coverage of the Victorian state election.

The *Melbourne: What Next?* e-book is available for download at go.unimelb.edu.au/ws9n

**Temporal Cities, Provisional Citizens: Architectures of Internment**

In a first for the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, Associate Professor Anoma Pieris was recently awarded a prestigious ARC Future Fellowship. Entailing a four-year research project titled *Temporal cities, provisional citizens: architectures of internment*, A/Prof Pieris will explore how expertise in architecture and related fields was mobilised in the production of WWII internment environments, and will evaluate their legacy for histories of detention to theorise provisional forms of citizenship using comparative studies in Australia, Singapore and the USA. Of the 830 applications submitted for the ARC Future Fellowships across Australia, only 150 were successful and A/Prof Pieris was the only recipient in the built environment category.

**6-Star Green Star Rating for the Melbourne School of Design**

The new MSD building has been awarded a 6-Star Green Star Design – Education Design v1 Rating by the Green Building Council of Australia, scoring 83 points. The 6-Star Rating represents ‘World Leadership’ in environmentally sustainable building practices. Only 12 buildings in Australia have received a rating of this level, and the new MSD building becomes the largest to achieve this. Significantly, it is the only one to be awarded all 10 innovation points possible in the evaluation criteria.

A video podcast outlining the sustainable features and credentials of the Melbourne School of Design can be viewed online at visions.unimelb.edu.au/episode/building-sustainable-future

**A journal is born**

The *Inflection* editorial team with Philip Goad and Peter Malatt. From left to right: Ariani Anwar, Jonathan Russell, Philip Goad (Chair of Architecture, MSD), Peter Malatt (Six Degrees Architects) and William Cassell.