History in Practice

Date : January 12, 2008

Call for Papers
The 25th annual conference of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand [SAHANZ]
Deakin University, Geelong, Victoria, 3rd – 6th July 2008
/ between critique and intervention / between analysis and creation /
/ the history of architectural practice / the practice of architectural history / the architecture of historical practice / critiquing the practice of architectural history / gaps:connections:contentions /

Founded in 1984 at a meeting in Adelaide, South Australia, the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand (SAHANZ) was conceived from the start as a forum for the open discussion of the architectural history and historiography of the region, and as a setting from which to reflect on the status of the architecture, landscape, and cities of Australia and New Zealand in the wider world. While SAHANZ has grown in size and presence, and despite changes taking place in the discipline both locally and internationally, these principles remained constant. In 2008, SAHANZ will hold its 25th annual meeting in the regional city of Geelong, Victoria, Australia, marking a milestone both in the history of the Society and in the organised development of the region's historiography.

SAHANZ website
Submissions are called for work that address any of these conference themes:
The meaning of cultural significance
• Notions of regeneration or appropriation
• The relationship between age and value
• The notion of history as salvage
• Is preservation an irrational urge?
Determining and contesting urban character
• Definitions of site analysis and design response
• The contentions of intervention
• Multiculturalism and contemporary urban character – the practice of difference
• The relationship between critical heritage and adaptive reuse
Architectural meaning and time
• Design and time – notions of the contemporary and the avant-garde in history
• Time present, time past, time future - A new architecture for a new age?
• Continuity of performance versus persistence of form
• The role of history and historians in training generations of architects
Exchanges between local and global
• Vernacular traditions in the contemporary world
• Flows of ideas, people and cultures in global heritage practice
• Place, taste and tradition

- From Far East to Near North - Australia, Asia and the Pacific
- Is heritage a Western concept?

Modernity, modernisation and regionalism in architectural cultures

- Postcolonialism and architectural culture
- Independence, nationalism and the preferred past
- The contribution of local historiography to international knowledge of arch. history
- What is modern about Modernism today?

The authentic, the salvaged and the invented

- Economic development and heritage – pressures and priorities
- Living heritage – between museums and theme parks
- How does regional history inform architectural historiography?
- Architectural heritage and Tourism

Architecture, heritage and digital culture

- The role of virtual interpretation in heritage places
- Digital interpretation, speculation and creation
- Visions of the past and future in virtual space
- Overlaps of the virtual and the real in architectural culture

Technology, technique and history

- Techniques of preservation
- Why renew? – the useful past
- Growth, weathering, decay and architectural intervention
- The importance of exactitude

Sustainable history/sustainable architecture

- The clarity of history - distinguishing between old and new
- Creating the reality of the past
- Where ecology meets culture – is adaptive reuse sustainable?
- Environmental lessons from historical architecture

Writing architecture

- Relationship of architecture to its history; of buildings to books
- Text as structure, buildings as quotation
- Recreating the course of history
- Historical discourse as an aspect of theory

History as the critique of architecture

- Teaching architectural history and theory
- The nexus between narrative and interpretation
- The architect/critic/client/historian speaks
- Looking back through different lenses – architectural history from other perspectives

Poetry and architecture

- Creative communication
- From the quotidian to the sublime
- Stories of everyday life and architecture
- The sublime ruin revisited

Whose history? Whose heritage?
• Heritage and the multiplicity of the present
• Uncanny heritage – the black armband view of architectural history?
• Indigenous architectures - history/theory/practice
• Architects in history – the noted and ignored
Exchanges between inside and outside
• Icons and iconoclasts – the canon and its discontents
• Alternative architectures - the heritage of outsider architecture
• Subcultures and space – on the street, between the gaps
• Australian vernacular? – suburban building outside the work of architects
Urban morphology and architectural identity
• City patterns past and present
• Multiculturalism and visions of the city
• Questions of origin – where things come from versus where they are
• Finding architectural culture in the suburbs
Architecture and memory – critique and creation
• Methods of historiography in practice
• Constructed identities
• Authenticity and authority in architecture and heritage
• Public heritage/private memories
History and taxonomy
• Canons, categories and practice
• Representation, documentation and intervention
• Critical contextualism
• Exchanges between conservation and architectural design
The ephemeral and the permanent
• Intangible heritage: construct or reality?
• Place, memory and form
• Architecture, heritage and the body
• Space, place, time and cultures
Abstracts of no longer than 300 words are to be submitted in a Microsoft Word document on one page, include a succinct title for the paper.
On another page, indicate your name, institutional affiliation, full contact details and a brief biographic statement (40 words or less), including details of two recent publications.
In the subject line of the email write 'ABSTRACT: paper title'
Name the Word document "yourfamilyname_titleword"
Abstracts must be submitted via the Conference Paper Management web site. Authors will need to create a Login ID and a password to allow secure uploading of your abstract. We recommend that your Login ID does not include your surname. Please also take the time to nominate the conference theme under which you wish your paper to be presented.
Abstracts can be submitted through this link: SAHANZ 2008
Final papers due Mon 25 Feb 2008

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Notification of Referees' reports Mon 31 Mar 2008
Revised papers due Mon 5 May 2008
Conference begins Thu 3 July 2008