

WHAT IF? WHAT NEXT? SPECULATIONS ON HISTORY'S FUTURES

**37th Annual Conference of the
Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand (SAHANZ)**

**Hosted by The University of Western Australia School of Design
Department of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design
18-25 November 2020**



Image courtesy Hannah Levi

CALL FOR PAPERS

Challenges to the transmission of historical knowledge in architectural education today highlight a potential shift in expertise that may ultimately impact upon the production of architecture, as well as broader understanding of the built environment, which warrants interrogating. At the same time, increasing appetite for the preservation and repurposing of built fabric feeds a growing heritage sector (and associated tourism industry) that offers opportunity for architectural history's contribution insofar as its basis in inquiry informs knowledge, interpretation and evaluation of buildings and places. The 2020 SAHANZ Conference calls for broad consideration of the prospects for architectural history in relation to the endurance and/or transformation of architecture as a discipline and profession.

Under the banner of 'history's futures' we encourage speculation upon impending modes of application of critical scholarship and historical knowledge: what might be the nature, purpose or outcomes of historical inquiry? What might be the intersections with or influences upon architectural production? Upon the reception of architecture? Or what kinds of projections about the future can be discovered in the past? Questions around pedagogy, transmission, content and method all bring focus upon architectural history's role to investigate and locate architecture within the contexts, frameworks and processes informing its production and use.

Across the breadth of cultural, environmental and material concerns we invite examination of the intersections of architectural history with heritage scholarship and practice. Complex relationships exist between history and heritage, and also memory and narrative, with regard to notions of identity and authenticity as they are bound up with the past, present and future. This is nowhere more evident than in the context of global phenomena such as Brexit, or by contrast in the powerful Uluru Statement from the Heart. David Lowenthal's declaration that history may be usurped by memory and nostalgia because of the personal dimension and immediacy that they bring to matters of the past highlights an opportunity for architectural history. Buildings, landscapes and the artefacts associated with them

provide tangible material historical record through which stories are found and told. Moreover, history has benefitted from the myriad more ways of accessing, understanding and disseminating knowledge of past times, places, artefacts and cultures.

We pose the counterfactual 'what if' questions about how architectural histories – of the past or in future – might sound or look if recast from marginal points of view (indigenous, migrant, gender, class and so on); or if editorial choices responded to different criteria (what to include and what to leave out). Conjecturing 'what if' through a hypothetical recasting or negating of an event enables appraisal of its relative historical and future importance. In turn, we ask, might the 'what if' or 'what next' questions equip architectural history with additional evaluative tools to support its (future) disciplinary inquiry?

And 'what next', we wonder, post-COVID-19?

We invite submissions by individual or joint authors for Papers, Posters or Round Table sessions considering or expanding upon topics such as:

+ Modes of architectural history

Ecologies of history: histories of ecology
Architectural history through technology and material culture
Architectural history in the digital, virtual and gaming age/space

+ Routes to the Past

Critical, cultural or commercial: intersections between architectural history and heritage
Authentic? History, heritage and matters of veracity and experience
Legacy: presenting the value of the past through constructed and cultural landscapes
Pedagogy, policy and practice: education, governance and the institutions of history and/or heritage

+ Countering the canon/s

Living cultures: recovering Indigenous narratives in architectural history
Activism and agency in architectural history: migrancy, gender diversity, class
Advocacy through heritage: promoting built environment quality, conservation and sustainability

+ The counterfactual

What if? What next? So what? Exploring the historical consequences of choices
Feedback loops: architectural history's impact on architecture

+ Papers addressing topics outside of the theme may be submitted to an **Open Session**.

FORMATS

Owing to the global COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions on gatherings and travel, the SAHANZ 2020 conference format has been amended.

We are proposing a conference that will be '**slow**' and '**dispersed**'. Taking advantage of the broad cross-section of the Society's membership, it will continue to be convened by The University of Western Australia (UWA) from Perth, but will incorporate a series of localised '**satellite**' meetings in cities dispersed across Australia and New Zealand. The satellites will host forums for **physical and virtual Paper Presentations and Roundtables**, clustered in thematic groupings. Conference delegates will be able to attend these forums in person and/or by virtual means. Allowing for different time zones, the conference program will be structured to enable delegates to attend presentations and events in virtual mode at each of the satellite locations. To make this viable, the sessions will be **spread across a week**.

Through the dual modes of participation, the conference theme will continue to be explored across a range of formats: interactive thematic **Roundtables** will enable development of cross-institutional, multidisciplinary partnerships, collaborations and linkages; parallel **Paper presentations** will be streamed thematically, and the papers published in full in the Proceedings after the conference; **Poster sessions** will provide a means of making presentations visible and offer informal opportunities for presenters to engage with small groups, supporting a 'work-in-progress' forum. **All formats will be offered in both physical and virtual mode**. Delegates will be able to attend in either mode.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

+ PROPOSALS FOR ROUND TABLE SESSIONS

We invite proposals for Round Table discussions responding to the Conference provocation and aimed at facilitating future collaborations and publications. PROPOSALS for ROUND TABLE sessions related to the conference topics are to be submitted no later than Monday 18 May 2020 via email to sahanz2020-sdes@uwa.edu.au.

Please use the email subject **ROUNDTABLE-SURNAME** and use this to name your submission file as well.

Proposals should be submitted as a **two-page Word document** (.docx) including the following information:

- Page 1: Cover page listing
 - 'Proposal for Round Table: Title'
 - Name/s and affiliation/s of the Round Table Chair/s (including 100-word biographical notes)
 - Names and affiliations of all Round Table panel members. It is expected that a panel will comprise between 3 and 5 members in addition to the Chair/s.
- Page 2: Proposal including:
 - 'Proposal for Round Table: Title'
 - An abstract of no more than 300 words
- *Please do not include author identification on this page.*

+ ABSTRACTS FOR PAPERS

Abstracts for papers may address any aspect of the Conference theme, or nominate to be included in an open session. ABSTRACTS are to be submitted no later than Monday 18 May 2020 via email to sahanz2020-sdes@uwa.edu.au.

Please use the email subject **PAPER-SURNAME** and use this to name your submission file as well.

Proposals should be submitted as a **two-page Word document** (.docx) including the following information:

- Page 1: Cover page listing:
 - 'Proposal for Paper: Title'
 - Author Name/s and affiliation/s (including 100-word biographical notes)
- Page 2: Proposal including:
 - 'Proposal for Paper: Title'
 - An abstract of no more than 300 words
 - *Please do not include author identification on this page*

Once accepted, authors will be invited to prepare a full paper (no longer than 4,500 words in written form) which will be subject to peer review. All papers presented at the Conference will be published in the Conference Proceedings. On academic process, refer to the [Editorial Policy of SAHANZ](#).

+ PROPOSALS FOR POSTER SESSIONS

Poster presentations will form an exhibition of responses to the Conference topics and provide a format for interactive smaller group discussion. These will be scheduled within the Conference program and included in the published proceedings. PROPOSALS for POSTER presentations are to be submitted no later than Monday 18 May via email to sahanz2020-sdes@uwa.edu.au.

Please use the email subject **POSTER-SURNAME** and use this to name your submission file as well.

Proposals should be submitted as a **two-page Word document** (.docx) including the following information:

- Page 1: Cover page listing:
 - 'Proposal for Poster: Title'
 - Author Name/s and affiliation/s (including 100-word biographical notes)
- Page 2: Proposal including:
 - 'Proposal for Poster: Title'

- An abstract of no more than 300 words
- Notional graphics or imagery that would accompany the final submission
- *Please do not include author identification on this page.*

Upon acceptance of the abstract, authors will be invited to prepare an A0 sized poster according to the Conference template that will be provided to authors.

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Abstracts, Poster and Round Table proposals will be blind reviewed by at least two members of the Conference Academic Committee. Full papers (4500 words including Notes) will be blind peer reviewed and those accepted for presentation at the conference will be published in the Proceedings that will become available through the SAHANZ website after the conference.

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For inclusion in the Proceedings, a paper must be presented in either physical or virtual mode at the conference. Authors may only present one paper as a sole author, although they may present one additional paper as a co-author. All papers presented are to be accompanied by a unique conference registration - where a sole author of one paper is also the co-author of a second, the other co-author is required to register.

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Work submitted for review and publication in the Conference Proceedings should be original research that has not been previously published elsewhere, or work that has undergone substantial development from a prior publication.

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KEY DATES

Call for papers opens: 31 October 2019

New/revised abstracts due: 18 May 2020

Notification of acceptances sent out: 31 May 2020

Full papers due for review: 28 August 2020

Referee reports forwarded to authors: 1 October 2020

Final papers/Poster presentations due: 6 November 2020

Conference Dates: 18-25 November 2020

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

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For further information about the Conference

see Conference Website www.sahanz2020.com or email:

sahanz2020-sdes@uwa.edu.au

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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