

NEWSLETTER



DEAR FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES, PAST AND FUTURE CLIENTS,

It seems that we have made our way to Spring again, the most glorious time of the year in South East Queensland, hopefully with the weather to match. However, with contradictory predictions from many "in the know" as to when we will see the end of this economic downturn, the economy is not looking as peachy....

In the most recent issue of the magazine "Wired", there was an interesting article which spoke of the positive effects of an economic down turn, how job cuts, bankruptcies, and the continuous threat of job loss in California's Silicon valley, has created an unanticipated recombination of talent, knowledge, technology and skill within the labour sector, which in turn is expected to create some surprising advancements.

Comparing this with the world of architecture, the Guardian's Jonathan Glancey reported in March how in history these downturns have always allowed architecture the respite it has needed after boom times to regroup, refine and strengthen, like a professional athlete after any meet. As in the 1930's following the great depression "form follows function" was the catch cry of an era of modernist architects, so too now, a modesty to style and aesthetic is to be expected, as budgets drop and cost cutting measures are employed. With less pressing deadlines and more time available to pay attention to detail and design, expect the quality of design responses to improve. However, in time optimism will return to both the industry and the economy, and the wheel of fortune will again turn, as it has done before, with new forms of architecture, currently in development, emerging from the cocoon of this global recession.

I personally look forward to the possibilities and the outcomes, as it seems our first steps into the new millennium have caught us repeating the "safe" aesthetic responses from eras gone by, intimidated by the enormity of the milestone and unsure as to our identity or what the future holds.

Maybe this downturn is exactly what the doctor ordered?

Our latest registered Architect, Kerri Eckert, has added her thoughts and research to this season's newsletter, unravelling and responding to a selection of commonly held misconceptions about the field of Architecture and Architects...

Just to clarify...

In Australia, the title of **ARCHITECT** is legally protected. Only professionals who successfully sit an extensive examination process and possess the required experience and education can register through state boards, to be allowed to call themselves Architects. These boards are affiliated through the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA). The AACA also provides accreditation for schools and assessments for Architects with overseas qualifications for the purposes of migration.

Fallacy 1: Architects are just designers...

Architects can be so much more than just building designers; and they often act in many different roles on a daily basis, depending on size of firm and type of clients, to deal with both some Architects must possess the skills of business managers, real estate developers, general contractors, and negotiators.

Architects can and have for centuries coordinated and overseen the multidisciplinary works involved in producing a building from concept to full occupational use.

In fact in Egyptian times, Architects were so well respected for the role they played as coordinator, and project manager, that they too were provided with a pyramid,

much more modest in size and construction, but usually in close proximity to the pyramid for which they were responsible...

Fallacy 2: Architects only design buildings...

Architects not only design residential and commercial buildings, but also design hotels and civil buildings; parks, landscapes, bridges and urban designs. Occasionally they will also design furniture and fittings, or like Frank Gehry, most notable for his design of the Bilbao Guggenheim; some may be fortunate enough to design a jewelry collection for Tiffany's.

Fallacy 3: Draftsman and building designers do the same thing as Architects but for a fraction of the cost...

This is one of the most common misconceptions.

Registered Architects differ greatly from building designers, draftsmen, or technicians, unlike these other professionals, they are required to have a minimum of six years university training in traditional design theory, structure, and building materials. Their designs must meet strict Australian Standards, and comply with current Building codes and good practice. However saying this, there are always good and bad in all professions, but remember time costs, and in the end you always get what you pay for.

cont'd

Fallacy 4: Architects are only hired for designing new structures from the ground up...

Despite popular beliefs, Architects are very practical and skilled professionals. Regardless of the job entailed, whether it's a new building or an addition or renovation, an architect can turn your dreams into reality, while taking into account the current structure, scale, style and your needs.

It is the Architect's job to design a building that complies with the building code and meet specific structural demands whilst striking a aesthetic balance.

Architects have the ability to 'troubleshoot' when problem arise during construction, achieving a structural solution that won't compromise the design or vice versa.

Architects are flexible in service and can be hired for as little or as much of the project as you need.

They can be hired to produce only schematic designs; or document a building to obtain quotes or achieve a development approval; or hired to follow the project from initial concept through to an occupied building, ensuring the clients' expectations are met.

A surgeon and an architect, both English, were joined by an Irish politician, and all fell to arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon, "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation." "Maybe," said the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job." "Shure now," interrupted the politician, "but somebody created the chaos first."

...Okay so we need a little help with our jokes...
 If you have a good joke, you would like to share;
 We would love to hear from you...

Ever wished you had that word to throw into dinner party conversation which would make you sound worldly...

We have the word for you....

Didactic [dahy-dak-tik]

Buildings that overtly teach are considered didactic. Examples of didactic architecture include Daniel Libeskind's Jewish Museum in Berlin, Peter Eisenman's Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, the Parthenon, St Peter's Basilica Rome, and the Arc de Triomphe. Contemporary Office buildings are also acting as instructor, transformed into moving chalkboards, through the application of mammoth plasmas, e.g Time Square, New York.

Recently I attended one of the Green Building Council of Australia's Future Green Leaders seminars; this particular evening included the screening of the documentary "The Greening of Southie".

Set on the border of South Boston and Boston the documentary shows the development and construction of the first residential development in the South Boston area to achieve a gold star rating in the American LEED green building rating system. The documentary illustrated as much as it was a challenge to market a green building to the purchasers that it was an even harder process educating the contractors.

If you get the time it is worth watching and even good for a laugh <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1W2UP2GfGp8>

Watching this documentary has made me realize I had been talking about the Green Building Council of Australia, Green Star Ratings and being a Green Star Professional, but maybe I had just taken for granted you knew what I was talking about...to explain myself a little clearer....

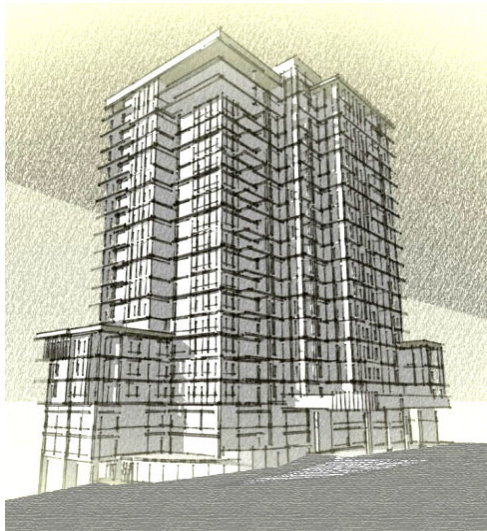
The Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) was established in 2002 to develop a sustainable property industry in Australia and drive the adoption of green building. As of August 2009, the GBCA has more than 800 member companies representing a diverse range of public and private, owner, developer, client, consultant and contractor groups. The GBCA operates Australia's only national voluntary comprehensive environmental rating system for buildings, Green Star, and has certified more than 170 buildings. Green Star covers a number of categories that assess the environmental impact that is a direct consequence of a projects site selection, design, construction and maintenance. These categories are divided into credits, each of which addresses an initiative that improves or has the potential to improve environmental performance. Buildings currently can achieve two different ratings in their lifespan, as designed and as built.

A rating of 4, demonstrates 'Best Practice', a rating of 5, demonstrates 'Australian Excellence', and a rating of 6, currently the highest rating awarded, demonstrates 'World Leadership' in environmentally sustainable design and/or construction.

The GBCA is also a leading provider of sustainable building education, running Green Star Accredited Professional courses throughout Australia to expand industry knowledge about Green Star and green building practices.

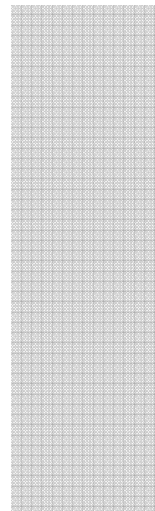
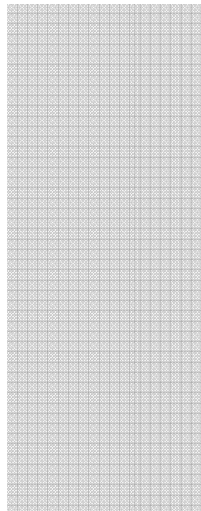
NEWSLETTER

C O N T I N U E D



screen capture

Just a quick look at what was found on our screens in the last few days...



If you have already turned on your fans or air-conditioning, you are not alone, but the difference between the recent winter heat wave and the looming drag of the humid summer months, is less about the temperature, and more about the duration of the temperatures. A "time lag" effect, where a dwelling or structure is designed to capture heat, is great for colder climates or climates with great temperature ranges from day to night, but is a big problem in many dwellings in Brisbane. A combination of relentlessly high temperatures and high humidity, require buildings aiming to minimize running costs to carefully consider aspects of sun shading, ventilation and insulation. So please do make sure before the summer temperatures hit and while the government incentives are available, you address these issues to reduce your costs and increase the livability of your home.

If there are any aspects of our Newsletter you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact us.

KIND REGARDS
BROOKE KILDEY
ARCHITECT & ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



TO HELP US IN REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, SUBSCRIBE TO AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF OUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAILING - SUBSCRIBE@ARCHITECTSAUSTRALIA.COM.AU

ABN: 12 010 362 937

DIRECTOR: G. T. KILDEY

Our WEBSITE....

- ♦ VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AND TELL US WHAT YOU LIKE AND WHERE WE CAN MAKE IMPROVEMENTS
www.architectsaustralia.com.au

Find us on TWITTER

- ♦ WE ARE NOT AS REGULAR AS SOME OF THE CELEBRITIES LIKE ASHTON KUTCHER, BUT WHEN WE HAVE SOMETHING INTERESTING TO SAY WE LIKE TO SHARE...
<http://twitter.com/koorbarch>

Our BLOG....
architectsaustralia.blogspot.com