Sino-Australian Dialogue on Design Practice Research

Curated by:
Professor LU Andong from Nanjing University / LanD Studio &
Dr. Marcus White from University of Melbourne / Harrison and White
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中澳设计实践与研究对话
Sino-Australian Dialogue on Design Practice Research

This international exhibition and dialogue on design practice research conducted by contemporary architectural practices in two radically different contexts. The exhibition is curated by Professor LU Andong from Nanjing University/ LanD Studio with Dr. Marcus White from University of Melbourne/ Harrison and White, both practicing academics with an interest in the role of design research within universities and practice.

The idea of bringing together design research practices to highlight their common context stems from the Investigate It workshop which took place in July 2015. The Investigate It workshop invited a group of new generation of architects, historians, theorists and critics to carry out their own focus of interest upon a common urban site. Through this form, the mutual influence between design and research is revealed. Following the workshop, an exhibition and a seminar were held at the Royal Institute of British Architects on the subject Design Research in Alternative Contexts, which tried to put the outcomes of the Investigate It workshop vis-a-vis English design researchers. The seminar not only outlined the status quo of design research in both countries, but more importantly casted light on the critical importance of practicing contexts as a localized condition in a global age.

With a similar presumption, this exhibition brings together leading and significant emerging practices with a strong design-research focus from Australia and China. The event showcases innovative projects from architectural practices in Melbourne, Australia that explore design research at a range of scales and levels of resolution. The practices include Bent Architects, Breath, Harrison and White, MVS Architects, Kerstin Thompson Architects, NORD, LAB, NAAU, Asensorio-Mah, KGA, and Searle x Waldron Architecture.

The Chinese participants include some of the most research-oriented practices nationwide: Vector Architects, Wuyang Architecture, OPEN Architecture, Atelier Li Xinggang, Iurbanus, LanD Studio, Archi-Union, Atelier Z+, AZL Architects, Team Minus, Zhu Jingxiang Architects, Archmiking. Each practice was asked to provide three key concepts to epitomize their research profile and use three projects to illustrate these concepts.

This event is a result of the ongoing partnership between University of Melbourne and Nanjing University, supported by Nanjing University, University of Melbourne's MSD and Plaspanel®.

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The research was aimed at developing design models and strategies for improving residential neighbourhoods by addressing current public health concerns and has a specific focus on China's superblock residential developments. Through the use of associative modelling, evaluation and design, the project integrated a range of important health considerations into neighbourhood block models that offered a wide sample of possible neighbourhood designs that could be analysed (offering findings on what design operations could influence health indicators) while also offering immediate design templates and knowledge for designers.
生活方式，健康和场所

Asensio-Mah (王曙光翻译)
Project: Surface Deep
Location: Quebec, Canada

Located in Quebec, Canada, hearkening to the historical presence of low profile walls in gardens, this modern expression pushes a typically mundane element into an interactive public addition. This project provides a temporary entry sequence for visitors to the grounds, the undulating form frames a procession for visitors and becomes a point for reflection before continuing onward.

The incrementally angled panels blur the unit's function, gradually transforming the wall from seating into the ground plane.

The surface's open webbing provides a framework for a variety of mosses to grow. Digital fabrication facilities allowed a majority of the construction components to be produced before reaching the site. After rapid assembly, a moss garden was planted and embedded within the structure.
Asensio-Mah

Surface Deep

Asensio-Mah (王曙光翻译)

将其嵌入到结构内。
Project: Q-house
Location: Northern Spain

The house is a conscious exercise in developing an alternative domestic environment to the surrounding villas of the new suburban neighbourhood. The solutions for the development so far have typically been compact villas located on abruptly levelled gardens, irrespective of the complex topographical condition of their sites. Our ambition for producing an alternative domestic atmosphere is developed by constructing a more explicit relationship between the house and garden with the existing conditions of the steep site.

The project benefited from an engagement with research in landscape design as well as parallel studies in the history and contemporary norms of the villa type.

Asensio-Mah

At a more specifically material level, the project also deployed digital fabrication for some of the construction components and benefited as informed academic teaching and research on the subject.
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Asensio-Mah
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Project: Surface Deep

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