

Design Speaks.

# The Architecture Symposium, Brisbane

Architecture, design and  
urbanism from the Asia Pacific

Friday 13 March 2020

MAJOR PARTNERS



PART OF

ASIA  
PACIFIC  
ARCHITECTURE  
FESTIVAL

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## Details.

### When

Friday 13 March 2020  
8.30 am – 5.00 pm

### Where

Auditorium 1 and Queensland  
Terrace, State Library of Queensland  
Stanley Place  
Brisbane Queensland

### Program Info

Explore the innovative thinking and transformative projects creating new world cities for the emerging Asian Century.

### Partners

#### MAJOR PARTNERS

Cement Concrete and Aggregates  
Australia  
Planned Cover

#### PART OF

Asia Pacific Architecture Festival

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## Program.

8:30 am	<i>Attendee arrival</i>
9:00 am	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY</b> Georgia Birks, co-curator, Asia Pacific Architecture Festival
9:10 am	<i>Opening comments from Katelin Butler, editorial director, Architecture Media</i>
9:15 am	<b>KEYNOTE</b> Realrich Sjarief, RAW Architecture (Jakarta, Indonesia)
9:55 am	<b>KEYNOTE: PRACTISING IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE</b> Kotchakorn Vorkaakhom, Landprocess (Bangkok, Thailand)
10:35 am	<i>Morning tea</i>
11:00 am	<b>KEYNOTE: PEOPLE AND WATER: A "PLACE TO RETURN"</b> Takeshi Komada, Komada Architects (Tokyo, Japan)
11:40 am	<b>KEYNOTE: ARCHITECTURAL ACUPUNCTURE</b> Xu Tiantian, DnA Design and Architecture (Beijing, China)
12:20 pm	<b>KEYNOTE</b> Philip Cox, Cox Architecture (Sydney, Australia)
1:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
2:00 pm	<b>KEYNOTE</b> Erik L'Heureux, Pencil Office (Singapore)
2:40 pm	<b>KEYNOTE: WATER AS CONTESTABLE SPACE</b> Julie Stout, Mitchell Stout Dodd Architects / Urban Auckland (Auckland, New Zealand)
3:20 pm	<b>KEYNOTE: BETWEEN THE WATERS</b> Gurjit Singh Matharoo, Matharoo Associates (Ahmedabad, India)
4:00 pm	<i>Closing comments from Katelin Butler, editorial director, Architecture Media</i>
4:10 pm	<i>Closing drinks</i>
5:00 pm	<i>Event concludes</i>

## Keynote Addresses.

### Practising in a changing landscape



Presented by Kotchakorn Vorrakhom, CEO and Founder, Landprocess

Climate change has the biggest impact on densely populated delta cities that are sinking across the world like Tokyo, New York, London, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Shanghai and many more. Today, Bangkok, a city of 15 million people living, working and commuting on a shifting, muddy river delta, is sinking more than a centimetre every year, or four times faster than the rate of predicted sea level rise.

“Our way of living with water is reflected through architecture and landscape. This was once called amphibious. We lived both on land and water. But now our relationship with water has changed. Our modern city infrastructure no longer allows our amphibious nature to flourish.” Kotchakorn discusses what we can do as architects practising in this changing landscape. “Aspirations in how the city can choose to address its threatened future while allowing new architecture with landscape strategies to emerge are what we need.”

### People and water: A “place to return”



Presented by Takeshi Komada, Director, Komada Architects' Office

“People” and “water” are both constantly flowing and circulating. Like every stream has its source, each of us has our own place to return. In his presentation, Takeshi Komada examines the form of these sources and the way that they flow into streams. The source might be a pond or a lake. If so, people may recognize their neighbourhood as a “place to return,” but if the source is just a single point in a spring what would it be then? The velocity at which people flow is rising and the streams that they make are getting extremely complex. Our “place to return” might be isolated and connected directly to the very fast flow of the stream. Therefore, we may have to think of the springs that make small streams and a small gatherings of water.

## Keynote Addresses.

### Architectural acupuncture



Presented by Xu Tiantian,  
Founding Principal, DnA Design and  
Architecture

Xu Tiantian has initiated "Architectural Acupuncture" as a systematic and sustainable rural strategy in Songyang County to generate a new "rural self-confidence." With a minimal intervention approach, multifunctional public programs are introduced to different villages and rural region tailored to the complexity of respective cultural heritage and context. Applied with vernacular material and construction technique, architectural acupuncture integrates nature back to the villages, restoring their rural identity, as well as stimulating rural economic development.

Like acupuncture releases the trapped energy at various meridian points on the body, Architectural Acupuncture is an approach aimed at motivating and inspiring villages and communities to initiate their own self-regeneration and further development.

### Water as contestable space



Presented by Julie Stout,  
Partner, Mitchell Stout Dodd Architects

Aotearoa/New Zealand is immersed in the Pacific. Water is our world; the connection between us all. However, for those in charge of developing our cities, water is to be controlled – drained away, filled in and monetized. For the last 180 years in Tamaki Makaurau/Auckland, the harbour edge has been up for grabs, as the city developed around its port. Now that situation is being challenged.

For the last 5 years Julie Stout has led a campaign that questioned the Ports of Auckland's right to even be in the centre of a rapidly growing central city area. She will discuss the historical cultural attitudes of both the M ori and colonizing Europeans to the water, and how an evolving cultural and environmental debate is influencing people's relationship to their city. As an architect and urbanist, Julie will discuss what opportunities the gradual transformation of this strategic space could have on the city and its harbour.

## Keynote Addresses.

### Between the waters

Presented by Gurjit Singh

Matharoo, Principal

Architect, Matharoo Associates



Indian culture ascribes rivers to goddesses, where taking a dip is symbolic of purifying the soul. Traditionally, in the more arid regions, rain is celebrated with song and dance as an essential respite from the scorching heat. Ancient storage systems in the form of stepwells, tanks and ghats dot the area, and collection is an important community activity. Besides providing easy access to water, they are important functional landmarks that vary from leisure to cremation.

Matharoo Associates functioned for over 20 years from a space overlooking the river Sabarmati in Ahmedabad. So strong was their bond with water, that when the time came to move to another part of the city, a swimming pool was placed along the entire length of their self-designed and built studio also named "Pool."

Trickling into Matharoo Associates' work – public buildings, residences and retreats – connections are established with waterbodies in a variety of ways, attempting to capture the aspirational value of water sometimes even in its absence.

# Design Speaks.

## Contact Us.

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