Design Speaks:

Work Place/Work Life

A forum about the future of workplace design

Sydney / Tuesday 29 August 2017

Program
The annual Work Place/Work Life forum brings together Australasia’s leading practitioners. In 2017 they will gather at Eternity Playhouse in Darlinghurst to discuss the issues shaping workplace design, share their experiences and speculate on possible futures. The four keynote sessions and three case studies will be followed by a moderated panel discussion in which panel members will draw the audience into the conversation.

Venue: Eternity Playhouse, 39 Burton Street, Darlinghurst

Date: Tuesday 29 August 2017

8.45 am Arrival and seating
9.00 am Welcome from Cassie Hansen, editor, Artichoke magazine
9.15 am KEYNOTE ADDRESS
   Roberto Bannura
   Director, Steven Holl Architects (China)
   stevenholl.com
10.00 am KEYNOTE ADDRESS
   Caroline Burns
   Director, Workplace Revolution (Singapore)
   workplacerevolution.org
10.45 am Morning tea
11.15 am CASE STUDIES
   Dropbox Sydney
   Presented by Tom Owens
   Studio Director, Gensler (Sydney)
   gensler.com
   Clayton Utz offices
   Presented by Kim Vella
   Head of Premises & Procurement, Clayton Utz (Sydney)
   claytonutz.com
   WeWork Martin Place and Pyrmont
   Presented by Cushla McFadden
   Director, TomMarkHenry (Sydney)
   tommarkhenry.com
12.15 pm KEYNOTE ADDRESS
   Eric Parry
   Founder and Principal, Eric Parry Architects (UK)
   ericparryarchitects.co.uk
1.00 pm Lunch break
2.15 pm KEYNOTE ADDRESS
   Robbie Robertson
   Partner, Experience Design, Deloitte Digital (Sydney)
   deloitte.com.au
3.00 pm PANEL DISCUSSION
   Rosemary Kirkby (chair), Roberto Bannura, Caroline Burns, Eric Parry and Robbie Robertson, with questions from the audience
3.45 pm Closing comments from Cameron Bruhn, editorial director, Architecture Media
4.00 pm Event closes
5.00 pm Closing drinks
In the last two decades, Steven Holl Architects’ engagement on international urban projects of varied sizes and characteristics has been the basis of its work in micro-urbanism. Attempting to create "cities within cities," the firm’s work has been directed at the creation of vibrant and integral urban platforms. These platforms promote social interaction and community formation while responding to all demands of contemporary living, through the integration of social space, culture and arts, and complementary residential and commercial functions.

In this lecture, Roberto Bannura will explore the key examples from Steven Holl Architects’ international portfolio that best portray the firm’s inspiring work on this subject.


ABOUT ROBERTO BANNURA

Director, Steven Holl Architects (China)
stevenholl.com

Since he joined Steven Holl Architects in 2007, Roberto Bannura has spent the last nine years living and working in Beijing. In 2010, Bannura was made director of the Beijing office and has overseen a number of ongoing projects and competitions. He has been responsible for large-scale projects such as the Sliced Porosity Block mixed use (310,000m²), the Shan Shui Hangzhou mixed use (460,000m²) and several institutional projects, including Qingdao Culture and Art Center (200,000m²) and Necropolis Taiwan (54,000m²).

Prior to his move to China, Bannura spent ten years living and working in New York City, six of which he spent working with Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects as a project architect. He was responsible for a number of high-profile educational, commercial and residential projects.

Bannura received his degree of architecture and urban planning from the Universidad de Chile in 1995, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. He then continued his studies in Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile where he obtained a degree on urban economy in 1997.
CAROLINE BURNS: “THE FUTURE OF WORK IS IN ASIA”

10am – 10.45am

Caroline Burns will be talking about workplace design innovation in Asia and how that will influence and drive projects in Australia and elsewhere.

The future of work is exciting in Asia, where a mostly young and dynamic population are challenged to find solutions to major demographic, environmental and social issues. Fuelled by faster economic growth than in most of the developed world, this creates a fertile ground for collective experimentation. Diverse design responses to social and economic trends across Asia are resulting in dynamic work environments that are a unique blend of global and local influences.

This session will explore the major socio-economic drivers of workplace design innovation in Asia and explain why this will influence global best practices during the next decade.

ABOUT CAROLINE BURNS

Director, Workplace Revolution (Singapore)
workplacerevolution.org

Caroline Burns is widely recognized as a leader in the workplace and real estate profession, and her extensive experience living and working across Asia is sought out by clients and colleagues.

Caroline’s twenty years of entrepreneurial business leadership and consulting experience have led her to successfully establish and grow professional practices within multinational firms and new start-ups. Her strategic, nuanced perspectives are valued by clients and colleagues, and increasingly sought-after by the upcoming generation of young industry professionals who she enjoys coaching and guiding through their career choices.

Caroline has also served on several private company and professional boards, including currently as a non-executive board director for CoreNet Global, a professional association for corporate real estate executives.

Her client experience ranges across banking and finance, technology, pharmaceutical, energy and resources, legal and professional services, consumer goods and public sector in Asia, Australia and the Middle East.
ERIC PARRY: “JUST WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES TOMORROW’S WORKPLACE SO DIFFERENT, SO APPEALING?”

12.15pm – 1pm

Successful working spaces are defined by a spatial and haptic pleasure of the workplace environment and a place that provides the opportunity for balance between intense concentration and conviviality.

No less important is the context of the buildings themselves. The daily routines of arrival, departure and break out are vital to a sense of wellbeing; context can either deflate or reinforce a state of mind.

Eric Parry will illustrate the importance of material and tectonic choices for buildings in the contrasting social contexts of the City of Westminster, the City of London and the redevelopment of the Kings Cross quarter in North London. These qualitative decisions play a very important part in deciding where businesses locate themselves and where the future and past can be understood in the present.

Left: 10 Fenchurch Avenue by Eric Parry Architects.

ABOUT ERIC PARRY

Founder and Principal, Eric Parry Architects (UK)
ericparryarchitects.co.uk

Architect and artist Eric Parry is a Royal Academician and recipient of an honorary degree of doctor of the arts from the University of Bath. His intellectual rigour and passion for the arts has earned the practice a reputation for well-considered buildings, many enhanced with major commissions by leading artists. With Eric at the heart of every project, the practice has delivered numerous prestigious commercial and cultural projects. It has achieved over thirty awards and numerous commendations for design excellence in architecture, masterplanning and interior design. Eric contributes to and serves on several design and heritage groups, including the Mayor’s Design Advisory Panel, Kettle’s Yard Committees, Cambridge and the Fabric Advisory Committee of Canterbury Cathedral. He was also chairman of the RIBA Awards Group and president of the Architectural Association.
Keynote Address

ROBBIE ROBERTSON: “CONNECTING WORK, WORKER AND THE WORKPLACE”

2.15pm – 3pm

More than fifty percent of all jobs that exist today will not exist by 2030 due to artificial intelligence, automation and robotics. Companies are constantly having to innovate and reinvent themselves to stay relevant for their customers as well as their employees. This is having a fundamental effect on the skills people will need tomorrow; workers will need to be nimble in an ever-changing and dynamic environment. This has a critical impact on the physical office. We will explore how you connect work, worker and the workplace, underpinned by digital technology and the need to create adaptable spaces that create an emotional connection with tomorrow’s workers.

ABOUT ROBBIE ROBERTSON

Partner, Experience Design, Deloitte Digital (Sydney)
deloitte.com.au

Robbie Robertson is a global, award-winning employee experience strategist connecting work, the worker and the workplace to develop experiences that connect to business transformation programs.

With twenty-one years experience in Australia, London, New York, Singapore and throughout South East Asia, Robbie has helped brands such as ANZ, Blackberry, NAB, Coca-Cola, Caltex, Vodafone, St George, Commonwealth Bank, Bupa and Priceline develop winning consumer and employee strategies, overhaul brand identities and create innovative and immersive customer experiences. He is also an industry commentator and speaker.
With its overarching concept “workplace as home,” the new Sydney offices for global tech firm Dropbox engage the company’s employees and customers in new ways. At the heart of the space is a lounge/kitchen/dining area that is complemented by an adjacent courtyard that brings the outside in, much like a residential patio. The variety of workspaces includes open workstations and height-adjustable desks as well as small quiet rooms and booths. Signage and graphics employ natural, sometimes sculptural, materials. The space’s clean sightlines, thoughtful mix of furniture and finishes, and abundant use of plants coalesce to create a truly homey yet functional ambiance.

Left: Dropbox Sydney by Gensler. Photography: Katherine Lu

TOM OWENS

Studio Director, Gensler (Sydney)
gensler.com

Tom Owens is the studio director of the Sydney office of global design firm Gensler. A registered architect in Australia and the United States, Tom has over twenty years of experience in the design, management and delivery of projects throughout Australia, Asia and the Americas. Before moving to Australia to help establish the Sydney office, Tom spent fourteen years in Gensler’s San Francisco office. Tom is integral to projects through all phases, nurturing client relationships and mentoring staff every step of the way. Tom currently serves as the regional design management leader for Gensler’s Asia-Pacific Region.
Case Study

CLAYTON UTZ OFFICES
DESIGNED BY HASSELL

11.35am – 11.55am

The recently completed refurbishment for the Clayton Utz Melbourne office provided the firm with an opportunity to critically assess the work space planning strategy held by the firm for many years.

In this case study, Kim Vella will talk about the lessons learnt from previous moves to the iconic 1 Bligh Street in Sydney and to the Nishi development in Canberra. She will look at the different approach Clayton Utz took in establishing their new workspace design, a design that adds value to the users by creating an innovative, collaborative, flexible and sustainable workplace of the future for the firm.


KIM VELLA

Head of Premises & Procurement, Clayton Utz (Sydney)
claytonutz.com

Kim Vella is currently the head of premises and procurement at Clayton Utz, Australia’s leading commercial and pro bono law firm. Equipped with an MBA from the University of New England, Kim has enjoyed a long and varied career in the legal sector, including stints as a legal secretary through to delivering complex change management projects.

For the past twelve years, Kim has led the transformation of the Clayton Utz workplace strategy, helping to future-proof the firm. This includes managing the firm’s move to six-star rated premises in Sydney and Canberra and the recent refurbishment of their Melbourne premises in the iconic and heritage-listed 333 Collins Street building.

Kim spends her spare time managing (and even getting her hands dirty!) renovating her family home.
Case Study

WEWORK MARTIN PLACE & PYRMONT
DESIGNED BY TOMMARKHENRY WITH WEWORK

11.55am – 12.15pm

TomMarkHenry collaborated with WeWork to design their first two locations in Australia. Martin Place was the first WeWork location to open in Sydney, closely followed by Pyrmont.

It was important for the client to have their brand represented in a powerful way, being its entry into the Australian market. Providing a platform for creators is at the heart of the brand, therefore first and foremost the workspaces had to encourage collaboration and allow for flexibility.

Left: WeWork Pyrmont by TomMarkHenry and WeWork. Photography: CUSHLA MCFADDEN

CUSHLA McFADDEN

Director, TomMarkHenry (Sydney)
tommarkhenry.com

Cushla McFadden is one of the dynamic women behind the award-winning Sydney-based design trio, TomMarkHenry.

Focusing on creating design solutions that are sympathetic to each client’s individual objectives and environment, Cushla and her TomMarkHenry co-directors have a reputation for delivering high-quality award-winning work. With a diverse portfolio of local and international residential, retail, hospitality and workspace projects, TomMarkHenry’s unique and exceptional spaces push the boundaries of design and expectation.

TomMarkHenry’s work has been acknowledged through many local and international awards, most recently they were honoured with two awards at the acclaimed 2017 World Interior News Awards.
Panel Discussion Chair

ROSEMARY KIRKBY
Principal, Rosemary Kirkby Associates (Sydney)
rosemarykirkby.com

Rosemary has returned to her work environment consultancy Rosemary Kirkby and Associates following three years as head of change and sustainability for The GPT Group. Rosemary has more than thirty years’ experience in the property and financial services sectors working to identify and address the cultural shifts needed to respond to changing work and employee expectations.
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