Isolated dwellings located in a vast outback interior or perched above spectacular beaches - these are the common perceptions of the Australian built environment.

In reality more than 85% of Australia's population lives on the thin coastal fringes of the continent resulting in one of the most highly urbanised societies in the world.

The Australian Pavilion focuses on the specific features of the Australian urban environment and asks what unique attributes and possibilities are to be found in Australia's peculiar combinations of low density, extreme spaciousness, cheap land, relative affluence and widespread access to technology.

Micro-macro city will show contemporary Australia as a matrix of inter-relationships between urban cores, suburban sprawl, regional centres and rural hinterland.

The Pavilion will present eight case studies of Australia's contemporary urban landscape. Significant contemporary buildings of differing scales, types and uses will illustrate these particular forms of settlement and demonstrate creative architectural responses to the Australian conditions:

1. The reinvention and post-industrial diversification of rural towns is shown in the theme **Shrinkage** and the **International Art Space Kellerberrin, in the wheat belt of Western Australia (Donaldson & Warn Architects).**
2. Diversity amidst homogeneity in the suburbs is explored through the section **Expansion** together with three houses: **Poll House (Gary Marinko Architects) and Wherehouse (Simon Anderson)** both in **Perth, Western Australia** and **D House** in **New Farm, Brisbane, QLD (Donovan Hill)**.
3. New industry, residential development and existing farms compete for the same space in the subject **Interface** presented together with **Deepwater Woolshed, Wagga Wagga, NSW (Stutchbury & Pape).**
4. The reoccupation of redundant industrial and commercial precincts with a mixture of uses and their subsequent interactions are explored in **Overlap** and the **Kaurna Building, University of South Australia, Adelaide, SA (John Wardle Architects + Hassell)**.
5. *The Micro/Health Laboratory, University of Queensland Gatton Campus, Gatton, QLD (m3architecture)* is an example of a new development targeting previously ignored spaces in the theme **Absorption** which considers the growing role of regional centres

6. **The Marion Cultural Centre, Marion, SA (Ashton Raggatt McDougall + Phillips/Pilkington Architects)** is presented with **Exchange**, which looks at the suburban shopping centre car-park as a location of social, communal and cultural exchange.
7. Two recent projects from **Sydney Olympic Park NSW: Brickpit Ring (Durbach Block Architects) and Shipwreck Lookout (Neeson Murcutt Architects),** are presented in the category **Re-use**. The Olympic venue was an industrial site, transformed as special event entertainment space and is currently undergoing a third wave of regeneration as a recreational precinct linked to the everyday life of Sydney.
8. In **Oversupply** success breeds success as one type of development attracts similar occupations resulting in an intense relationship as seen in the **QV2 apartments, Melbourne, VIC (McBride Charles Ryan + NH Architecture**) and **Riparian Plaza, Brisbane, QLD (Harry Seidler and Associates).**

The Pavilion features specially commissioned photographs of the eight themes by Australian photographers Max Creasy, Paul Knight, Matthew Sleeth and Selina Ou, videos by Richard Raber, Naomi Bishops, Danius Kesminas, Ronnie van Hout and Anna Jeffries and sound-recordings by Nicholas Murray.

Dr Shane Murray is a practising architect and Associate Professor at RMIT University. Nigel Bertram is a director of NMBW Architecture Studio and Senior Lecturer in Architecture at RMIT University. The Australian Commissioner is Lucy Turnbull.

Australia's exhibition at the Venice Architecture Biennale is an initiative of the RAIA. The RAIA thanks the following sponsors: The Victorian Government, BASSETT, ADOBE, Zip Industries, RMIT University, Architecture Media, Architecture Australia, Café Di Stasio, Australian practices sponsoring the event through Network Venice and the support of the Australia Council for the Arts for the use of the Pavilion for this exhibition.

www.architecture.com.au
http://www.labiennale.org/en/architecture

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AUSTRALIAN PAVILION VENICE ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE 2006

MICRO-MACRO CITY

The Australian Pavilion is divided into eight zones. A specially commissioned photo of each theme, together with photos, models and drawings of specific buildings, will illustrate these eight types of Australian settlement and the creative architectural responses.

1. Shrinkage
Technological transformations in agriculture bring population decline and the flight of government, commercial and retail services from small rural towns. Cultural, social and recreational activities are placed under threat.

- A small botanical reserve survives in the main street, witness to past 'boom' times – a vestige of civic pride contrasting with the fragmentation of the surrounding urban fabric.
- In a small town in outback Western Australia, a small architectural intervention is made in the main street. A vacant haberdashery shop is renovated to accommodate an international artist-in-residence program. **International Art Space Kellerberrin, Western Australia (Donaldson & Warn Architects).**

2. Expansion
A range of pressures results in new housing located in green-field sites, piecemeal infill development and subdivision of traditional house plots.

- A new affluent housing estate is located on a green-field site. The highway commercial frontage becomes the de-facto town centre.
- Three small urban houses respond to the growing diversity of client living **-** sited on conventional suburban plots, they display qualities rarely encountered in new developments. **Poll House (Gary Marinko Architects) and Wherehouse (Simon Anderson)** both in **Perth, Western Australia** and **D House** in **New Farm, Brisbane, QLD (Donovan Hill)**.

3. Interface
Industry vacates its traditional inner city locations, whilst ring roads and highways make peripheral land valuable. A patchwork of farmland, new housing and industrial estates creates abrupt juxtapositions of use, space and building types.

- A poignant equilibrium between different built occupations and traditional agrarian usage is temporarily in place. At the city's edge agriculture is usurped by industrial and residential development.
- An old shearing shed is transformed into an industrial installation near Wagga Wagga. A skilful layout allows increased productivity and improved workplace safety. The design facilitates economic survival and sustains a local specialist labour market. **Deepwater Woolshed, Wagga Wagga, NSW (Stutchbury & Pape).**

4. Overlap
An industrial precinct in inner ring suburbs, located between commercial streets and railway infrastructure attracts residential and commercial gentrification and subsequent transformation leaves remnant pockets of small scale industry operating with the new neighbours.

- A Turkish bakery expands to include a retail outlet in a small factory. Appealing to the new middle class population the business grows to occupy an adjoining warehouse building, open car park and single storey house to form an overlapping urban entity.
- Recent buildings on a university campus at the edge of the Adelaide CBD actively address and contribute to the urban street life, drawing this energy into the campus and spilling student life into the surrounding bars and commercial tenancies. **Kaurna Building, University of South Australia, Adelaide, SA (John Wardle Architects + Hassell)**.

5. Absorption
Technological change, rapid transport and affordable housing lead to a recent surge in growth in a regional centre, an hour's drive from a capital city and largely intact since the 1970s. The once detached regional town is drawn into the suburban field.

- Pressure for development and provision of services results in previously ignored or ambiguous spaces at strategic locations within the town's urban fabric becoming the focus of redevelopment ambitions.
- An agricultural university in a regional town is detached from the town centre with its purpose-built campus still largely structured by a 1960s master-plan. A new veterinary laboratory mediates between the master-plan and the rural condition beyond. **The Micro/Health Laboratory, University of Queensland Gatton Campus, Gatton, QLD (m3architecture)**.

6. Exchange
A large shopping centre on an outer suburban highway is a powerful focal point of social activity and is surrounded by an enormous car park which acts as its forecourt. Subsidiary commerce, convenience stores, big box retail and transit stations populate this space.

- The commercially driven relationship between shopping centre and car park is overlaid with the vitality of 'non-sanctioned' usage by young people: skateboarding, cycling, car maintenance, hanging out. A true public domain.
- A community theatre, library and gallery centre is inserted at the edge of a suburban car park. The design consciously acknowledges and embraces this vital public domain and celebrates it as a front door. **The Marion Cultural Centre, Marion, SA (Ashton Raggatt McDougall + Phillips/Pilkington Architects)**.

7. Re-use

The physical fabric of many parts of the city endures over time. Successive occupations appear unrelated to preceding uses but are frequently accommodated with ease.

- A traditional working class suburb experiences a wave of intensive migration. The built fabric remains unchanged but easily accommodates this distinctive cultural occupation. Vietnamese commerce spills beyond shopfronts resulting in a radically transformed street and social experience.
- The insatiable housing market transforms large industrial sites, such as Homebush Bay, into residential communities. New landscape structures highlighting remnant industrial fragments such as brick pits and shipwrecks encourage reflection of and enhance connections with past usage. **Sydney Olympic Park NSW: Brickpit Ring (Durbach Block Architects) and Shipwreck Lookout (Neeson Murcutt Architects).**

8. Oversupply

Parts of a city develop naturally into precincts of a particular function or flavour. A public space becomes overloaded with different user groups, or a particular section of street becomes saturated with one type of business, the result of arbitrary development, strategic commerce and individual foresight.

- Informal occupation of retail space hidden in Melbourne's filigree of laneways, transforms from a furtive sub-cultural fashion network to highly desirable mainstream commerce.
- A formal grassed forecourt of a 19th century library is 'borrowed' by library visitors, city workers, university students, protesters and new apartment dwellers. **QV2 apartments, Melbourne, VIC (McBride Charles Ryan + NH Architecture).** Brisbane's river edge has been transformed into a recreational promenade. Demand both induces and utilises this oversupply of a particular provision and generates similar development. **Riparian Plaza, Brisbane, QLD (Harry Seidler and Associates).**

THE VENICE ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE

A HISTORY

The Architecture section of the Venice Biennale was established in 1980, although a few exhibitions had taken place since 1975 within the Art section. They have been irregular with only nine exhibitions since 1980. The Biennale comprises a curated show and national pavilion representations.

2004 – 'Metamorph', director: Kurt W. Forster
2002 - 'Next', director: Deyan Sudjic
2000 – 'Less Aesthetics, More Ethics', director: Massimiliano Fuksas
1996 – 'Sensing the Future', director: Hans Hollein
1991 – 'Forty Architects for the 90s', director: Francesco Dal Co
1986 – 'Hendrik Petrus Berlage – Drawings', director: Aldo Rossi
1985 – 'Venice Project', director: Aldo Rossi
1982 – 'Architecture in Islamic Countries', director: Paolo Portoghesi
1980 – 'The presence of the Past', director: Paolo Portoghesi

The 2004 show 'Metamorph', directed by Kurt W. Forster, presented more than 200 projects and over 170 architecture studios as well as 43 national pavilions (36 in 2002). It attracted 115,000 people with a daily average of 2,000 visitors.

THE 2006 BIENNALE
The 10th International Architecture Exhibition directed by Richard Burdett takes place from 10 September to 19 November 2006. Dedicated to 'Cities, architecture and society', this edition focuses on the key factors facing large-scale metropolitan areas around the world: from migration to mobility, from social integration to sustainable growth. In particular, it will examine the role of architects and architecture in the construction of democratic and sustainable urban communities, and their relationship to good urban governance and lasting social cohesion. Fifty countries will take part in the 10th International Architecture Exhibition.

Two collateral sections, the 'Cities of Stone' project in Venice, and 'City-Port' in Palermo will complement and expand the theme of the international exhibition by exploring specific urban themes and conditions in southern Italy.

The Leoni d'Oro awards for best city, best national pavilion and best urban project will be announced in November 2006.
http://www.labiennale.org

AUSTRALIA AT THE 2006 VENICE ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE

Australia's presence at the 2006 Venice Architecture Biennale is an initiative of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. The RAIA has committed funding for Australia's presence at the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2006, 2008 and 2010. Former Sydney Lord Mayor and businesswoman Lucy Turnbull is Australia's 2006 Commissioner. Shane Murray and Nigel Bertram are Australia's Creative Directors.

The following sponsors have enabled this 2006 presentation: The Victorian Government, BASSETT, Zip Industries, RMIT University, Adobe, Architecture Media, Architecture Australia and Café Di Stasio. A large number of Australian practices have supported the event through Network Venice and the Australia Council for the Arts has provided the use of the Pavilion for the exhibition.

History of Australia's representation
The Australian Pavilion was designed by Philip Cox and it opened in 1988. It is owned and managed by the Australia Council for the Arts.

Australia has been officially represented twice before in the Pavilion – in 1991 and 2000. In 1991 eleven architects were shown by the Commissioner Professor Neville Quarry in the Australia Pavilion. In 2000 the Melbourne firm Lyons architects took over the Australian Pavilion for a 'City of Fiction' display of brick-shaped removable postcards.

Australian architects have also been selected to feature in the main curated shows. Three Australian projects were included in the director's show in 2004 - Amatruda Penthouse in Melbourne, designed by Tom Kovac; the BMW Plant in Leipzig, Germany, by Lab architecture studio; and the national swimming centre in Beijing by PTW Architects, which won a special award in the Atmosphere section.

Australian architects represented in the 2002 curated show include: Wood Marsh Architecture Tower V Mirvac, Melbourne; Denton Corker Marshall, Stonehenge Visitor Centre, UK; Tom Kovac Architecture, Digital Design Gallery, RMIT University; Ashton Raggatt McDougal, Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance; Lab Architecture Studio, Federation Square Melbourne; 'City of Towers', Denton Corker Marshall; and 'Alessi Prototypes', Tom Kovac Architecture.

CREATIVE DIRECTORS

Dr Shane Murray is a practicing architect and Associate Professor of Design in the Architecture Program at RMIT University. Nigel Bertram is a director of NMBW Architecture Studio and Senior Lecturer in the Architecture Program at RMIT University.

Shane Murray and Nigel Bertram have extensive experience in the interrogation of the Australian urban condition through architectural and urban design, teaching, research and analysis, publication and exhibition.

In 2002, they established the Urban Architecture Laboratory (UAL) at RMIT University, a research unit devoted to a direct engagement with contemporary urbanism and an ongoing inquiry into the diversity of forces which shape the contemporary metropolis. This work and its subsequent dissemination has been a leading voice in the articulation of models for applied architectural and urban design research. The UAL focuses on the relationships between architecture and the detailed urban conditions in which it takes place, and interrogates the links between research and design practice.

Recently published books include *Division and Multiplication: Building and Inhabitation in Inner Melbourne* (Nigel Bertram and Kim Halik, 2002), and *By-Product-Tokyo* (Nigel Bertram, Shane Murray and Marika Neustupny, 2003).

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSIONER

Lucy Turnbull is an investor and company director with interests in the information technology and financial services sectors. Lucy is an Administrator of the Tweed Shire Council, a board member of the Redfern Waterloo Authority, and Deputy Chair of the Committee for Sydney. From 2003 -2004 she was Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney, having served as Deputy Lord Mayor from 1999-2003. In 1999 she published *Sydney - Biography of a City* (Random House).

Lucy is a member of the boards of the Museum of Contemporary Art and the National Portrait Gallery. She is also a board member of the Sydney Cancer Centre Foundation and Woolcock Research Institute for Medical Research.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Australia's Pavilion in 2006 is an initiative of The Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA). The RAIA is a national body consisting of 9000 members across Australia and overseas. The Institute was formed in 1930 with the following aims:
- To advance architecture
- To maintain the integrity and standing of the profession
- To promote the profession's views nationally and internationally, and
- To encourage the study of architecture

By promoting better, responsible and environmental design, the Institute actively lobbies to maintain and improve the quality of our built environment. Raising design standards in our cities, urban areas, commercial and residential buildings, architects and the RAIA have a major role in shaping Australia's future.