Education, Design and Practice – Understanding skills in a Complex World

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Whanaungatanga: The University, Collective Intelligence and Disciplinary Transformation

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• Abstract (300 words):

E hara tuku toa, i te toa tikitahi, engari he toa tuku tini. My strength is not from myself alone, but from the strength of many

This paper critically examines philosophical and practical implications of co-designing and developing a new School of Architecture and Emergent Environments at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) in Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand, commencing 2020.

The opportunity to establish a new curriculum in a period of perceived epochal shift is rare, challenging and timely. We address the role of the University - as both a University of Technology engaging with diverse ecologies of intelligent machines, people, environments and objects, and as an engaged bi-cultural civic institution, with a legal obligation to act as “critic and conscience” of society. Education is also critical in the construction, reproduction or transformation of individual and collective disciplinary, professional or cultural identities and skill sets. The paper outlines immersive

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1 Maori proverb
2 New Zealand Education Act 1989, 14, 160
pedagogical strategies for future praxis in the simultaneously bi-cultural and superdiverse\textsuperscript{3} multi-cultural context of Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.

We posit that, as environmental challenges become more complex and more urgent, the creation of collective architectural intelligence must necessarily go beyond what can be achieved by individual students, small studios or traditional subject streams. It becomes incumbent on institutions to foster research infrastructures, methodologies, strategic thinking and collective agency at a scale that can effect meaningful change.

The paper presents a curricular model structured around a single vertically integrated, whole-school, transdisciplinary urban project. Rather than reinforce notions of architects, academics or students as individual auteurs,\textsuperscript{4} the program, aims to build an ethos of whanaungatanga - a sense of connection and collective learning. Students, tutors, professional and community partners are seen as co-investigators and co-designers of a large-scale, outward-facing civic research platform capable of meaningfully informing, influencing and responding to environmental and disciplinary transformations.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Associate Professor Fleur Palmer (Te Rarawa/Te Aupouri) is a registered architect and academic engaged in collective spatial activism. Her work draws on kaupapa Māori thinking, social justice, participatory design methodologies and emergent technologies to address the housing of displaced peoples, environmental sustainability, and food production.

Her collaborative approach opportunistically and optimistically connects a diverse range of disciplines and cultures, to find alternative ways of educating for, inspiring and designing new ways to bring about productive and sustainable environmental change.

Fleur’s award winning Ph.D., on building sustainable papakāinga (housing on ancestral land) to support Māori aspirations for self-determination, was the first doctorate to productively critique and address the colonial displacement of Māori and the long-term implications for indigenous housing in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Her innovative collaborative practice supported the creation of an affordable housing project in Kaitaia for He Korowai Trust. The project also featured in A Place called Home (dir. Briar March, 2015), an acclaimed documentary on social housing.

\textsuperscript{3} www.superdiversity.org
Fleur is currently co-developing the curriculum for a new school of Architecture and Emergent Environments, at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) to open in March 2020.

Professor Charles Walker (Barch, M.Sc (Urban Dev, PhD has practised and taught architecture and creative technologies in the UK, Middle East, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

In 2008, he founded Colab - a nexus for “un-disciplined” collaborative, project-based research and public engagement. Based at Auckland University of Technology, Colab researchers come from diverse backgrounds, including art, design, computer science, engineering, mobile media, architecture, philosophy, and business.

In 2016, Charles was Creative Director for the New Zealand exhibition at the 15th Venice Architecture Biennale. After a brief spell as Director of Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Creative Intelligence at the University of Technology Sydney, Australia, he re-joined AUT as foundation Professor for a new school of Architecture and Emergent Environments. The new school will open in 2020.

Current teaching spans architecture, urban development and engineering. Current research focuses on cities as living labs for trans-disciplinary innovation and social transformation.