



Architecture Workshop: Oriental Bay Enhancement, Wellington, 2003

Photo: Christoph Schnoor

Modernity, Materials, Materiality

Exploring the history of materiality and architecture in Australia and New Zealand

A symposium jointly presented by AASA and Unitec School of Architecture
Hosted by AUT University

Open to all, no registration required

Friday, 3 October 2025, 9am-5pm

Auckland University of Technology
WZ Building, Room WG308 Te Iringa
6 St Paul Street
Auckland
New Zealand

Convened by
Christoph Schnoor
Isabel Rousset

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8.30 *Sign in*

9.00 *Introductions*

9.15 - 10.30 Session 1: Materials on the move

Chair: Isabel Rousset

9.15	John Ting	Melbourne's N4 Singapore Cottage: interrogating pan-colonial networks
9.30	Tobias Danielmeier	From Christchurch to Dunedin: material displacements and the uprooting of architecture
9.45	Elizabeth Musgrave	Pre-cut construction systems: John Dalton's 'budget houses' in Queensland
10.00	Christoph Schnoor	A timber house on a journey
10.15	Q&A	

10.30 - 11.00 *Morning tea*

11.00 - 12.45 Sessions 2 & 3: Material experiments

Chair: Christoph Schnoor

11.00	Renee Miller-Yeaman	Modelling the steel house: displays of industry and nation-building
11.15	Jasper Ludewig et al.	Lean and cream: a material history of Australia's first prefabricated plywood house
11.30	Luciano Cardellicchio	Thin skins, thick histories: plywood and post-war architectural transformation
11.45	Q&A	
12.00	Nathan Pauletto & Sally Farrah	Prefabrication: Ian McKay and Partner's Guardian House for Canberra's NCDC (1968-69)
12.15	Min Hall	Christchurch Modern: the earth version
12.30	Q&A	

12.45 - 1.30 *Lunch*

1.30	Memories of materiality: Graeme McConchie	Concrete blockwork: a post-office design for Martinborough
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1.45 - 2.30 Session 4: Concrete expressions

Chair: Antony Moulis

1.45	Ann Cleary	Spare parts – Commonwealth Motors, Braddon and its 'brise soleil' frontispiece
2.00	Megan Rule	Telesis: a house in Otatara by Monica Barham, 1947
2.15	Q&A	

2.30 - 3.30 Session 5: Aesthetic innovations

Chair: Ann Cleary

2.30	Catherine Howell	'Rose and plum and brown': J.A.V. Nisbet and the evolution of modernist materiality
2.45	Gina Hochstein & Annabel Pretty	Textures of innovation: crushed glass terrazzo, and digital trace: Tibor Donner Studio
3.00	Isabel Rousset	Concrete meets onyx: the ARCA showroom, 1999–2000
3.15	Q&A	

3.30 *Afternoon tea*

4.00 - 5.00 Session 6: Organic and toxic materiality

Chair: Deborah Barnstone

4.00	Silvia Micheli & Antony Moulis	Conceptualising organic and inert materials: Robin Gibson's Queensland Art Gallery
4.15	Jennifer Ferng	Friable histories of asbestos at the Reserve Bank of Australia
4.30	Deborah Barnstone	Toxic modernity: shattering the fibro romance
4.45	Q&A and wrap-up	