



New Year Greetings from all of us at Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd, and Happy Year of the Horse. We trust that you enjoyed some time off over the end-of-year break. In this issue, we focus on Research as well as sharing project, VDD Studio and other news updates with you. We would love to catch up with you at Calendar events (page 2) and look forward to working together with you for an equitable accessible world. And, if we haven't seen or spoken with you personally since the start of 2014, we wish you a great year.

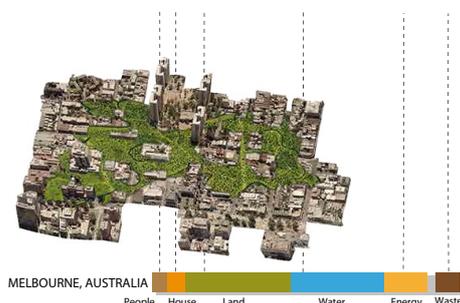
## PROPOSE and PRACTICE

### FEATURED PROJECT

Architectural competition submission: a structured 'practice-led research' tool designed to deepen knowledge and enhance real-world applicability.

Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd is very honoured to announce that the latest iteration of our Restorative Community concept has been selected for publication in a book showcasing the best submissions entered in Self Sufficient Habitat, an international competition organised by the Catalonia Institute for Advanced Architecture. Excellent work by the VDD Studio competition team: Claudia Sepulveda, Narval Ansaldo, Camila Loader and Alex Concha, all Chilean students studying in Melbourne. International and local recognition for this project includes:

- published: Self Sufficient Habitat international competition, book, 2014
- published: Architecture of Necessity international competition, book, 2013
- exhibited: finalist, Architecture of Necessity international competition exhibition, WOOD Virserum Art Museum, Sweden, 2013
- awarded: Highly Commended, ArchiTeam Awards, Unbuilt Category, 2012, and
- shortlisted: HOME international competition, 2012.



## WHY RESEARCH MATTERS (continued from October 2012)

Research can be considered as a continuum. Learn and Investigate, Propose and Practice, Teach and Review, Learn ....

Research includes any gathering of data, information and facts for the advancement of knowledge, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications. It pursues, captures, creates and transmits knowledge. Research is used to establish or confirm facts, reaffirm the results of previous work, solve new or existing problems, support theorems, or develop new theories. Good research must be based on quality data, thorough analysis, and properly reasoned interpretation, rejecting doctrinal, political, or ecclesiastical investments.

Visionary Design Development is at the forefront of research developing new and innovative ways of capturing and analysing data regarding the multifactorial phenomenon of the interaction of 'Disability, Society and the Built Environment'. Focussing on these cross-cutting themes we utilise various methods to compile and manage our in-house research resources electronically. These include: building relational databases to enable instant data recall and analysis; employing search filter technology to index, analyse and display documents; using specialist software to handle bibliographies, citations and references and searching academic databases.

These capabilities have been recognised locally by working with councils, internationally by peer reviewed publications and regionally by the Victorian G21 Regional Alliance adopting Access G21 as a priority project in the G21 Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017. A major component of Access G21 is a multi-site trial of our Universal Mobility Index (UMI).

Targetting cost-effective housing and disaster response and focussing on accessibility and sustainability, Visionary Design Development's research within the realm of 'humanitarian architecture' via the medium of architectural competition submission also includes:

### • Wet + Dry House: 2013

Cambodia Sustainable Flood-resistant Housing, Winner, constructed and now in use as shophousing.



- School for Burmese Refugees: 2011, Commendation.
- Tropical Housing for Weddell, Northern Territory, 2011.

### • Emotional Shelter, the CAT, aka Meowhaus:

2013, In conjunction with Here Studio., Emergency Shelter Exhibition Competition Melbourne Winner, constructed and now in use at The Venny adventure playground.



- COCO: 2010, Affordable, Bushfire-resistant Housing (BAL 40, 6 stars, \$150K), Winner, constructed and now in use as social housing.

We look forward to bringing you news of our current competition endeavour in our next newsletter.

## PROJECTS UPDATE

Stay tuned for Projects Update next issue

Please contact Mary Ann, Ralph or Nick to discuss potential research collaborations or how our research may enhance your next building project



## LEARN and INVESTIGATE

Healthy Spaces and Places is a collaborative research endeavour between the National Heart Foundation of Australia, the Planning Institute of Australia and the Australian Local Government Association. Case studies illustrated on the website, including our Kensington UMI pilot, highlight built environment policies, programs and projects aiming to encourage physical activity and mental health.



Access G21 adopted as a priority project in the G21 Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017. A major component of Access G21 is a multi-site trial of our Universal Mobility Index (UMI).



## TEAM NEWS

**Congratulations** to Mary Ann Jackson, recipient of 2013 Archicentre John Barker Memorial Award

We look forward to Nick Shearman sitting his **architects registration** exams later in the year.

CALENDAR	
<b>March</b>	
7-9	Utzon Symposium: What would Utzon do now?, Sydney Opera House (NSW)
9-12	Active Living Research Annual Conference, San Diego, CA (USA)
26-28	2014 AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference, Canberra (ACT)
<b>April</b>	
5-11	World Urban Forum, Urban Equity in Development – Cities for Life, Medellin, Colombia (SAm)
7	Symposium – Dementia and Disability: The Facts, Strategies and Implications, NSW Parliament House
11-12	Construction History Society: First National Conference, University of Cambridge (UK)
<b>May</b>	
5-7	Disaster and Emergency Management Conference, Gold Coast (QLD)
28-30	'Borders without Boundaries', Canadian Disability Studies Annual Conference, Ontario, Canada
<b>July</b>	
16-18	8th Australasian Housing Researchers Conference, Brisbane (QLD)

## TEACH and REVIEW

Visionary Design Development in-house training program 'Disability and Society' Part 2.



In this session, Mariana Sugai (right) and Saumya Kaushik (left) present on the second half of the prescribed readings to Rachel (seated left) member VDD Studio and Ralph (seated right) Director of Research, Visionary Design Development. Readings include: 'Models of disablement, universalism and the international classification of impairments, disabilities and handicaps', (known as the ICIDH) by Bickenbach et al, 1999; 'From disablement to enablement - conceptual models of disability in the 20th century' by Masala & Petretto, 2008; 'Developing a framework for political disability identity' by Putnam, 2005 and 'Developing Issues in the Classification of Mental and Physical Disabilities' by Gross & Hahn, 2004. The Disability and Society component of the training program culminates in a 1500 word assessment task on 1) Models of Disability and their relationship to the WHO's ICF, and 2) 'Universalism' versus 'Rights-based Approach': achieving inclusive environments.



Nathalie

Deakin University students research projects support. Dennisse Luna recently completed an Investigation into the Accessibility of the NGV. Rachel Carew's current research is in the field of cost-effective housing.

Nathalie Wood, our inaugural Brasil Science without Borders intern is now back in Brasil to resume her studies there. Mariana, refer above, is our current Brasil Science without Borders intern.

**THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR** .....and beyond, Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd looks forward to collaborating with you in accessibility, architecture, research, community development and sustainability. Come and visit us in our office, or at a location of your choice.

Suite 8/ 204 Dryburgh Street,  
North Melbourne 3051 Australia  
Tel +61 3 9329 7887  
Fax +61 3 9376 6020

- @ majarch@vdd.com.au
- f VisionaryDesignDevelopment
- t VisDesDev
- s majvdd
- in Mary Ann Jackson



..... for an equitably accessible world