

Competition:

UQUAPS 2016 "Pitching Research" Competition

Submission id:

UQUAPS-2016-047

Date submitted:

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Faculty or Institute:

**UQ Engineering, Architecture & Information
Technology**

School:

School of Architecture

Programme:

PhD

Load:

Full-time

Level:

7-9 months

Name:

Lisa Daunt

(A) Working Title:

Communities of Faith: Modern church architecture in Queensland 1950-1980

Word count: **1076 words**

(A) Working Title	Communities of Faith: Modern church architecture in Queensland 1950-1980
(B) Basic Research Question	My research will critically analyse context, influences, trends and exemplars of Queensland post-war church design to examine how Queensland's post-war churches contributed to building modern community in Queensland.
(C) Key paper(s)	Buggeln, Gretchen. <i>The Suburban Church: Modernism and Community in Post-war America</i> . Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2015. Proctor, Robert, and Eamonn Canniffe. <i>Building the Modern Church: Roman Catholic Church Architecture in Britain, 1955 to 1975</i> . Farnham: Ashgate Publishing Ltd, 2014. Sterken, Sven 'A House for God or a Home for His People? The Church-Building Activity of Domus Dei in the Belgian Archbishopric (1952-82)' <i>Architectural History</i> , Volume 56, January 2013, pp 387-425. These 3 well published academics provide precursor overseas research, for Mid-west America, Great Britain and Belgium.
(D) Motivation / Puzzle	In the mid-twentieth century the liturgical movement set out to rethink the forms and practices of Christian belief, which prompted a reappraisal of church design. In Australia, as elsewhere, the modern church played an important role in (re)shaping the country's civic realm. Its influence has, however, not been studied systematically. Using Queensland as an Australian case study, my research addresses this dearth and considers the influence of modern churches in (quite literally) building community in cities, suburbs, towns and township in Queensland.
THREE	Three core aspects of any empirical research project i.e. the "IDioTs" guide
(E) Idea	The post-war church buildings built in Queensland were influenced by modern church designs emanating from Europe, Great Britain and the Americas - However, I hypothesise, Queensland's context (religious, political, social and architectural) resulted in a narrative of church building design changes, often rhyming with overseas (and the other states of Australia), but still unique to Queensland.
(F) Data	My research method starts with a mapping of post-war churches in Queensland. Preliminary results suggest that approximately 800 churches were built in Queensland between 1950 and 1980. Once the geographical mapping is complete, I will select a limited number of representative case-studies, including approximately 20 individual buildings, the work of 5 leading architectural architects/practices, the collection of churches in 1 township and one larger city suburb. The selection of case-studies will be informed by overall themes are identified through the literature study of both primary and secondary sources, which is carried out in parallel with the mapping. Data on these case-studies will be collected through literature review, archival research, site-visits and interviews with privileged witnesses.
(G) Tools	The research methods used - literature review, archival research, drawing review, site-visits, interviews with privileged witnesses and digital mapping of building locations - will be recorded as reference (access, excel and/or word) datasets.
TWO	Two key questions
	By providing research on an area of architectural history and criticism rarely written about, my doctoral research seeks to not just fill a gap in the

<p>(H) What's New?</p>	<p>geographical net of modern post-war church design research, but to establish how Queensland's churches contributed to Queensland Community. To date I have observed the following socio-political and architectural 'new' themes to research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In most Queensland locations, having various denominations within their community, resulted in a unique combination of competition and comradeship (for some denominations); • The Church's diminishing role in the post-war welfare state impacted the built programme (of some denominations) and forced church buildings to re-focus to maintain relevant in modern society; • Increased ethnic diversity was reflected in Queensland's church designs. Some of the most significant buildings were designed by immigrant architects (evidenced by the only two currently state listed church buildings in the period being the designs of immigrants), but this also resulted in further buildings being built; • The numerous exemplar architectural responses (worthy of academic review) were created, which were regionally focused, climatically response and economically inventive church buildings;
<p>(I) So What?</p>	<p>By exploring what is different about Queensland churches, my thesis will identify significant Queensland church buildings - so they can be recognized and protected by heritage listings and included in international studies on modern church design.</p> <p>By identifying the distinguishing features of Queensland modern church design, my doctoral research will also enable considered sympathetic maintenance, renovations and adaptive re-use projects.</p>
<p>ONE</p>	<p>One bottom line</p>
<p>(J) Contribution?</p>	<p>A collated study of Queensland Post war church buildings - filling a gap in local modern architecture's historical research. Addressing the need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For greater knowledge on the history of post-war churches; • For better documentation of post-war churches; • For greater awareness of the social significance of modern churches in shaping communities; • To generate awareness about the architectural relevance of post-war churches; and • To create a digital database on post-war churches. <p>My research will enable the above to be available for use through public libraries, Queensland State Department of Heritage and Environment Protection, and the Church bodies.</p>
	<p>Target Journals: Fabrications: Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians Australia New Zealand, Journal of Architecture, Journal of Urban History, Environment and Planning: Space and Society.</p> <p>Target Local Conferences: 2016 AAANZ (Art Association of Australia and New Zealand), 2017 SAHANZ (Society of Architectural Historians Australia New Zealand).</p> <p>Target Overseas Conferences: EAHN (European Architectural History Network), SAH (Society of Architectural Historians).</p> <p>These targets are considered achievable, but they are highly competitive opportunities so my research plan includes early and continued writing to increase the likelihood of success.</p> <p>Achieved to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland Review Symposium 10 February 2016 - presented at. • Queensland Review Special Issue 'Modern Queensland' double blind peer

**(K) Other
Considerations**

reviewed article accepted (with minor revisions done).

Risk assessment (to be reviewed ahead of milestones, to limit affects of each risks)

- Time to collect and collate data on all church buildings in the state - so sure got majority in period
- Extent of travel to review significant examples and to be sure not missing any significant ones - Queensland and Overseas.
- Obtaining drawings - costs and availability
- Availability of privileged witnesses (if alive and well enough to be interviewed).
- Ethical clearance is pending for the projects proposed interviews.
- I will need to be mindful of international trends not effecting here, so not distracted by irrelevant overseas exemplars.

Collaboration opportunities (desirable, but not needed):

- Potential to link into other research being done in other states (University of Melbourne and UNSW)
- Potential to discuss and liaise with overseas studies: Sven Sterken in Belgium, Robert Proctor in the UK, Buggeln in the US.
- Proposed School of Architecture Arc-linkage grant project (grant approval pending) - Building Communities of Faith: Modern Church Architecture in Australia, 1950-1980 - my PhD research to inform the Queensland component of, travel exhibition and book publication
- Potential to liaise with UQ School of History - they maybe proposing a project looking at post-war Queensland religious history