



**& PREFAB
PRECUT**

SYMPOSIUM

Affordable Housing Options in Postwar Australia

1945 —
1975

KEYNOTE



MILES LEWIS AM
University of Melbourne

SESSION ONE

SESSION CHAIR



HANNAH LEWI
University of Melbourne



DANIEL J RYAN
University of Sydney



RENEE MILLER-YEAMAN
University of Melbourne



SCOTT ROBERTSON
Robertson & Hindmarsh

SESSION TWO

SESSION CHAIR



GIORGIO MARFELLA
University of Melbourne



PHILIP GOAD
University of Melbourne



JULIE COLLINS
University of South Australia



MARYIA RUSAK
ETH Zürich

SESSION THREE

SESSION CHAIR



HANNAH ROBERTSON
University of Melbourne



ANOMA PIERIS
University of Melbourne



LAURA GRECO
Università della Calabria



TIMOTHY O'ROURKE
University of Queensland



ANDREW SANIGA
University of Melbourne

CLOSING REMARKS

SESSION CHAIR



PHILIP GOAD
University of Melbourne



PAUL WALKER
University of Melbourne



ALAN PERT
University of Melbourne

The story of housing provision in post-war Australia has frequently been described through accounts of speculative house providers, project home builders and one-off architect-designed houses – stories drawn largely by the private sector’s shaping of market demand and suburban domestic taste.

Missing is the story of the search for affordable housing options required in times of special need and unusual demand as Australia’s urban, regional, and remote communities grew after World War II. Housing shortages, national and state-based infrastructure projects, social housing, the influx of a migrant labour force, mining and extraction, Cold War defence projects and housing for First Nations peoples were just some of the circumstances that demanded different solutions, often with the caveat of cost control, high production numbers and speed of erection. One tactic to meet these demands was to turn to an alternative method of delivery: the machine-made house, either fully prefabricated or precut as a kit of parts, produced in significant numbers, and transported across the country.

At a time when Australia faces an acute shortage of housing across urban, regional, and remote communities, it is time to critically reflect on the successes and the failures of the machine-made house in post-war Australia.

Hosted by ACAHUCH at the University of Melbourne, Prefab and Precut is a one-day symposium that features papers from scholars and heritage practitioners from across Australia that address this issue. Invariably modest in scale, carefully planned for solar orientation, and above all conceived with affordability in mind, these houses offer potential lessons on what might be possible for the future of Australian housing.

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting today, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to their elders’ past, present and emerging who have been and continue to be the custodians of these lands. This land was stolen, and sovereignty of this land has never been ceded. This is especially important to keep in the front of our minds as we listen to stories of place today.

PROGRAMME

- | | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|--|
| 11:00-11:15 | <p>WELCOME
Professor Julie Willis, Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne</p> | 15:45-16:45 | <p>SESSION THREE REMOTE SOLUTIONS
Chair: Dr Hannah Robertson</p> <p><i>Transnational Contributions to Australia's Post-War Housing: Legnami Pasotti SA</i>
Professor Anoma Pieris and A/Professor Laura Greco</p> <p><i>Prefab Indigenous Housing: Experiments in Remote Labour</i>
Dr Timothy O'Rourke</p> <p><i>Houses for the Cold War</i>
A/Professor Andrew Saniga</p> |
| 11:15-11:30 | <p>INTRODUCTION
<i>Prefab and Pre-cut: Affordable Housing Options in Post-War Australia, 1945-1975</i>
Professor Philip Goad</p> | 16:45-17:15 | <p>CLOSING REMARKS
Professor Alan Pert, Professor Philip Goad, Professor Paul Walker</p> |
| 11:30-12:30 | <p>KEYNOTE ONE
<i>The Post-War Housing Solution</i>
Emeritus Professor Miles Lewis AM</p> | 17:15-18:15 | <p><i>Closing Drinks</i></p> |
| 12:30-13:15 | <p><i>Lunch</i></p> | | |
| 13:15-14:15 | <p>SESSION ONE COMMONWEALTH SOLUTIONS
Chair: Professor Hannah Lewi</p> <p><i>Tropicalizing Prefab: 1943-1954</i>
Dr Daniel J. Ryan</p> <p><i>Suburban Prototyping: Commonwealth Research into Housing Production and Architectural Technologies</i>
Dr Renee Miller-Yeaman</p> <p><i>Post-War Swedish Prefabricated Houses in Australia by Amåls Sägverks Aktiebolag (ASA)</i>
Dr Scott Robertson</p> | | |
| 14:15-14:30 | <p><i>Afternoon Tea I</i></p> | | |
| 14:30-15:30 | <p>SESSION TWO STATE SOLUTIONS
Chair: Dr Giorgio Marfella</p> <p><i>Homes on Their Backs: 'Operation Snail' and The Victorian Pre-Cut Housing Project, 1948-1952</i>
Professor Philip Goad</p> <p><i>The South Australian Housing Trust's Post-War Experiments with Prefabricated Housing Systems</i>
Dr Julie Collins</p> <p><i>Inala: Prefabricated Town in the Tropics</i>
Dr Maryia Rusak</p> | | |
| 15:30-15:45 | <p><i>Afternoon Tea II</i></p> | | |

KEYNOTE

The Post-War Housing Solution

EMERITUS PROFESSOR MILES LEWIS AM

The housing crisis after World War II lasted for over a decade and was solved by the intervention of State and Commonwealth governments, as well as by a number of private initiatives.

It is generally and correctly understood that a large part of this solution consisted in the importation of prefabricated houses and the development of a local prefabrication industry, but the situation was more complex than this would suggest. Australian prefabricators already established before the war, one of which had received significant international recognition, continued, and expanded their operations.

The war itself left a triple legacy - numbers of recyclable buildings (though most were not houses); the industrial capacity which was now released from munitions and other wartime factories; and some individual servicemen who had acquired skills which they now applied to house production. The importation of buildings was also more complex. At first there was little thought that war-ravaged Europe would have the capacity to supply buildings for Australia, and the Chifley Government was suspicious of prefabrication in principle.

The first European buildings imported were merely specimens intended to inform the development of a local prefabrication industry - but this changed rapidly, in three ways. The Europeans, desperate for currency, quickly tooled up to export houses, even at the expense of their own houseless citizens. The Australian states, or in many cases individual state instrumentalities, entered into their own negotiations with European manufacturers. After the Menzies Liberal Government came into power, there was less concern about the effects upon Australian workers, and active investigation into potential suppliers by sending a fact-finding mission to Europe.

Professor Miles Lewis is an architectural historian specialising in the interaction of technology and culture – in how technical developments are accepted or modified, in the dynamics of vernacular architecture, and in the effects of environmental constraints. His research in these areas has embraced topics such as the international spread of lehmwickel, the evolution of the bark roof, prefabrication in the nineteenth century, iron lighthouses, and the prehistory of doors and locks. His book Architectura was published internationally in 2009 in five languages, uniquely for an Australian work in this field.

Lewis is an honorary life member of the Comité International d'Architecture Vernaculaire (CIAV), has been a UNESCO referee for about twenty World Heritage sites, and has delivered public or invited lectures in Al Ain, Cambridge, Chicago, Christchurch, Glasgow, Nicosia, Santiago, Tabriz, Valencia and Zagreb. About six hundred items from his collection of books on the history of building technology have been scanned and made publicly available through the Building Technology Heritage Library (USA).

Lewis was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities in 1988. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2002 for service to architectural history, heritage protection and urban planning, particularly through policy development and professional organisations, and he received the Centenary Medal in 2003 for service to Australian society and the humanities in the study of architectural history. He is an honorary life member of Australia ICOMOS, the Society of Architectural Historians Australia and New Zealand, and the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

SESSION ONE | COMMONWEALTH SOLUTIONS

CHAIR: PROFESSOR HANNAH LEWI

NOTES

Tropicalizing Prefab: 1943-1954
DR DANIEL J RYAN

This paper looks at the trials, tribulations and tensions in promoting and adapting prefabricated houses in Northern Australia as World War II came to an end. While architects are generally thought to have been some of the prime advocates of prefabrication, this was not always the case in Queensland, where some leading architects, such as EJA Weller in 1943, questioned the quality and adaptability of prefab to local conditions and popular preferences. Yet at the same time, promoters of tropical housing, claimed to have found instant solutions to housing and labour shortages and overheating that would not diminish local industrial capacity. By looking at how various actors attempted to tropicalize or resist the prefabricated house during this period, the paper wishes to look at how the debate around the possibility of prefabricated dwellings opened up questions about morality, predictability, and domesticity, calling into question norms around what was economically, politically, and environmentally familiar and what was foreign.

*Dr Daniel J. Ryan is an architectural historian, environmental designer, and scholar whose research and teaching look at the changing meaning of climate for architecture. He is program director of the Master of Architectural Science at the University of Sydney, Australia. His recent work explores the history of architectural science, architecture, and its media, with a focus on Australasia and the Pacific. With Jennifer Ferng and Erik L'Heureux, he co-edited the book *Drawing Climate: Visualizing Invisible Elements of Architecture*, published by Birkhäuser Verlag in 2021.*

Suburban Prototyping: Commonwealth Research into Housing Production and Architectural Technologies

DR RENEE MILLER-YEAMAN

Post-war, the detached, suburban house built with climate considerations adapted to local environments gained traction as the model housing type for the Australian population. This paper examines housing construction research carried out by the Commonwealth Experimental Building Station (CEBS) in the context of national housing strategies and agendas of the 1940s and 1950s. Set up to propel immediate solutions for the post-war housing shortage, the CEBS investigated cost-effective housing fabrication and experimented with new construction technologies in collaboration with industry partners. Drawing on political and economic histories of the period, the paper asks how the persistent trope of the suburban house ownership as a method of individual or family securitisation became ingrained in the political vocabulary and conceivably influenced the type and range of research conducted into housing production. How housing research was framed and funded by the Commonwealth Government, particularly the establishment of the Commonwealth Housing Commission (CHC), is considered to interrogate how the nation-state frames housing through conceptions of sovereignty and citizenship. Through the lens of architecture, the paper explores how Commonwealth-sponsored housing research is informed by the colonial underpinning of housing histories and the political apparatuses that influence housing provision. During the post-war period, Australia emerged as a property-owning democracy that was spatialised through the suburbs. Commonwealth instigated housing strategies, research and prototyping was carried out while the suburbs were rapidly expanding, offering a platform to explore the ideals and models of house and home that the post-war period propagated.

Dr Renee Miller-Yeamans research looks at design histories of housing and institutions, examining the intersections between government policy, social histories, and architecture. She completed her doctorate in architectural history and theory at the University of Melbourne in 2023. Previously she graduated with a Master of Architecture from the University of Melbourne and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Victorian College of the Arts. She has taught extensively across undergraduate and postgraduate programs in subjects ranging from architectural histories of the Asia-Pacific to the intersection of film and urban planning.

Post-War Swedish Prefabricated Houses in Australia by Åmåls Sågverks Aktiebolag (ASA)

DR SCOTT ROBERTSON

After World War II the Commonwealth and State governments imported thousands of prefabricated and precut house kits from Europe (UK, Germany, Austria, and Sweden) to attempt to meet the estimated 50% shortfall in post-war housing supply that was unable to be met by the traditional on-site building industry. The Commonwealth Government imported thousands of Hawksley and Riley-Newsum precut/prefabricated houses from Britain and prefabricated ASA houses from Sweden to be erected by both private contractors and army engineers for defence personnel. The Swedish prefabricated houses were manufactured by Åmåls Sågverks Aktiebolag (ASA) and were erected at military bases and Commonwealth Government enterprises, such as the armaments factory at Lithgow and an unspecified site in central South Australia (probably Woomera). The “Naval Cottages” at Georges Heights in Mosman, Sydney were erected for married Navy personnel at Georges Heights, which is now administered by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT) as one of its former Commonwealth Government military sites around Sydney Harbour. Robertson & Hindmarsh Pty Ltd was engaged in mid-2003 to identify the origin of the SHFT Naval Cottages in Mosman and to assess their significance within the context of the soon-to-be-approved SHFT Comprehensive Plan that required the demolition of all but two of the houses and the retention of the two remaining houses only if it could be justified

Dr Scott Robertson is an architect in private practice in Sydney. He has lectured and tutored at Sydney universities, undertaken statewide studies for the National Trust (1996 – interwar housing), and the Heritage Council of NSW (2006 – World War 2 buildings and sites; 2022 – architecture of the last quarter of the 20th century), and is now preparing a study on post-war buildings for Ku-ring-gai Council in Sydney. He has authored and co-authored articles in books and journals and was chair of the content committee for the 2009 Australia ICOMOS conference “(Un)loved Modern.” He is a member of the Docomomo International Advisory Board, was Docomomo Australia’s founding President in 2000, and continued in that role for most of the following 24 years.

SESSION TWO | STATE SOLUTIONS

CHAIR: DR GIORGIO MARFELLA

NOTES

Homes on Their Backs: 'Operation Snail' and The Victorian Pre-Cut Housing Project 1948-1952
PROF PHILIP GOAD

In 1948, Colonel W.S. Kent Hughes, Victorian Minister of Transport, proposed a scheme for attracting 1000 urgently needed British migrants for employment by the Victorian Railways. In order to house such large numbers and compensate for the inability locally to supply housing in such numbers, it was decided to look abroad. In late 1948, the search for a suitable pre-cut or prefabricated timber house began: proposals were invited from firms in England, Sweden, and Austria from which, Simms Sons and Cooke of Nottingham were appointed as principal contractors for a pre-cut house yet to be designed. In January 1949, Yuncken, Freeman Bros., Griffiths & Simpson in association with Baxter Cox & Associates were appointed as architects and mass importation commenced under the title of the 'Victorian Pre-cut Housing Project'. Taken up by other agencies – Victoria's State Electricity Commission (SEC) and State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (SRWSC) – as well as interstate, over the space of just four years, nearly 5000 houses were constructed. This paper explores the design, construction, details, and mixed political fortunes of what came to be known as 'Operation Snail'. Like a military exercise and drawing criticism as such, 'Operation Snail' came at a moment in Australia's post-WWII history, when the desire, nationally, for improved infrastructures of defence, power, transport, and water coincided with dire shortages in labour, materials, and housing. It exemplifies one case among many at that time of a government agency stepping in and acting decisively to relieve a crisis in housing access and affordability.

Philip Goad is Chair of Architecture, Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor, and co-Director of the Australian Centre for Architectural History, Urban and Cultural Heritage (ACAHUCH) at the University of Melbourne. His research focuses on the diverse strands of twentieth century Australian architecture. Recent publications include Architecture and the Modern Hospital (with Julie Willis and Cameron Logan, 2019); Bauhaus Diaspora and Beyond (with Ann Stephen, Andrew McNamara, Harriet Edquist, and Isabel Wünsche, 2019) and Australia Modern: architecture, landscape, and design, 1925-1975 (2019), edited with Hannah Lewi. His next book, edited with Alan Pert, is Merchant Builders: The Total Environment (2024).

The South Australian Housing Trust's Post-War Experiments with Prefabricated Housing Systems

DR JULIE COLLINS

Following World War II, South Australian Premier, Thomas Playford's focus was on industrialisation, something he saw as extending to housing provision, particularly through the South Australian Housing Trust (SAHT). On his 1948 tour to the UK and Europe he took meetings with representatives of Orlit Ltd., a company known for its wartime prefabricated concrete hutments and post-war prefabricated housing, flats, and schools, having built 10,000 homes across the UK. The following year, SAHT architect Eric Dallwitz embarked on a research tour to investigate concrete as a building material for housing, including no-fines, aerated, and pre-stressed systems. On his return, he pronounced housing using non-traditional construction methods and materials to be uneconomical in SA. Yet despite this finding, the SAHT contracted Orlit to provide prefabricated concrete housing, with the company establishing a branch in Adelaide. In 1951, Orlit (SA) constructed a two-storey block of four homes using prefabricated concrete panels as a demonstration project, with another twelve concrete homes also handed over to the SAHT. Yet, this concrete prefabrication project would go no further, with Orlit (SA) changing focus to timber framed traditional construction, and the SAHT importing fully prefabricated timber homes from suppliers in the UK and Europe as part of the housing solution. This paper will examine the impetus behind the introduction of ideas around prefabricated building to SA by the SAHT. It will explore the prefabricated concrete Orlit homes and reasons behind the failure to realise their original plan for building more of these. It will also introduce the fully imported prefabricated homes which were adopted as part of the SAHT's solution to the housing shortage in the post-war years.

*Dr Julie Collins is Research Fellow and Curator in the Architecture Museum, UniSA Creative at the University of South Australia. Her interests range from the architectural history of health settings to the study of architectural drawing collections, and heritage. She has written on owner builders in the post-war period, the Small Homes Service of SA, the architecture of department stores, and on the relationship between buildings and health in her book, *The Architecture and Landscape of Health* (Routledge 2020).*

Inala: Prefabricated Town in the Tropics

DR MARYIA RUSAK

"Set on broad, high, gently sloping ridges, eleven miles south of the Brisbane General Post Office and just out of sight of the main Ipswich Road, lies the Commission's greatest venture in housing, the Satellite town of Inala"—communicated a report on the 1950s suburb in Brisbane, Australia. At the cost of 20\$ million, it was initially planned according to the garden-city principles by Hennessy, Hennessy & Co for returning World War II veterans. The 17,000-inhabitants town was envisioned as a contained model city, with factories, theatres, schools, playgrounds, shops, parks, swimming baths, child care centres and libraries. The grand entrance framed the intricate landscaping with preserved bushland and green parks. In this cooperative development, each shareholder would choose their house design. The reality, however, was less rosy. When the Queensland Housing Commission took over the project, the scale increased dramatically, adversely affecting "beauty and convenience." To speed up the construction, the commission planners went on a "shopping" trip to Europe, where they purchased prefabricated type house designs in Sweden, France, and Italy. The houses were shipped with construction workers and their families, turning Inala into a vibrant multicultural cluster far from the envisioned tranquil sanctuary. Respectively, house designs resembled an international fair of how French, Italian, and Swedish architects envisioned Australian building morphologies. Model amenities were sourced out to a local-Italian contractor that improvised much of the construction on the go. Through the case study of Inala, the paper proposes to investigate the international osmosis of ideas, the way imported prefabricated housing types were rethought and adapted to the conditions of the Australian climate and post-war urbanism. The history of this model suburb offers a cross-disciplinary history of construction, bridging studies of materials, technology and labour, social and landscape histories beyond the conventional framework of architectural history.

Dr Maryia Rusak is a Postdoctoral Fellow (2022-24) at the Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture (gta) at ETH Zurich. Her postdoctoral project investigates the Nordic architecture of foreign aid in postcolonial Africa, focusing on the pragmatic economic rationale behind architectural production. Maryia completed her PhD at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design (2022). She holds an M.Arch. in Sustainable Urban Planning and Design from KTH, Stockholm, and a BA in Architecture from Princeton University. In 2023, she was a Visiting Fellow at the Architectural Theory Criticism and History (ATCH) Research Centre at the University of Queensland.

SESSION THREE | REMOTE SOLUTIONS

CHAIR: DR HANNAH ROBERTSON

NOTES

Transnational Contributions to Australia's Post-War Housing: Legnami Pasotti SAPROF ANOMA PIERIS AND A/PROF LAURA GRECO

Australia's post-war period, feted for its industrial impetus, increased immigration and suburban expansion, placing extraordinary pressures on its construction industry which lacked the requisite materials and workforce. Prefabrication and importation of a range of building types, including housing, met the growing need. Transnational contracting companies that had built their reputations on colonial and wartime projects turned to Australia, working alongside other foreign and local contractors under the purview of government agencies. Imported modular houses, foreign experts and immigrant workers infused the construction industry with culturally inflected technologies, since subsumed into a catalogue of 'Australian' post-war achievements. This paper parses out the poorly acknowledged contribution of foreign contractors to Australia's construction industry focussing on the trajectory of Italian contracting firm Legnami Pasotti SA. Renowned for its timber prefabrication technologies under Italy's Fascist government (and African colonies), Pasotti arrived in Australia as a major housing contractor for the Snowy Hydro Scheme followed by Brisbane's Carina Heights development, importing prefabricated components and Italian workers into Australia. Using postcolonial interventions as its starting point, this paper links Pasotti's Australian work to its colonial projects, constructing a back story that transcends nation-building.

Anoma Pieris is a Professor of Architecture in the Melbourne School of Design at the University of Melbourne. Recent publications include Architecture on the Borderline: Boundary Politics and Built Space (2019) and The Architecture of Confinement: Incarceration Camps of the Pacific War (2022), co-authored with Lynne Horiuchi. Anoma, with Martino Stierli, Sean Anderson and Evangelos Kotsioris guest-curated the 2022 MoMA exhibition, The Project of Independence: Architectures of Decolonization in South Asia, 1947-1985. This paper is based on research for the ARC DP190101531 Architecture and Industry: The migrant contribution to nation-building, 2019-2022, with a forthcoming co-authored publication by Pieris, Lozanovska, Dellios, Saniga and Beynon, titled Immigrant Industry: Building Post War Australia (Berghahn Books).

Laura Greco, architect, PhD, is Associate Professor of Architectural Engineering at the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Calabria. In 2021 she obtained the National Scientific Qualification to function as Full Professor. A member of the Construction History Society and the Association Francophone d'Histoire de la Construction, her studies concern modern construction history referencing Italian twentieth century architectural heritage. Key publications include Case a catalogo. Temi, progetti e prototipi italiani (2023), Modern dwellings after World War II: An Italian experience of wooden prefabrication by Legnami Pasotti (2021), Italian temporary prefabricated constructions (2021), Architetture Eni in Italia 1953-1962 (2018), La torre Galfa di Melchiorre Bega (2012), Architetture autostradali in Italia (2010).

Prefab Indigenous Housing: Experiments in Remote Labour

DR TIMOTHY O'ROURKE

Until the 1950s, Australian governments had largely neglected the design and procurement of Indigenous housing despite their interest in the house as an instrument of assimilation policy. The consequences of this neglect were most apparent in remote and regional areas, where the different states began to explore a wide variety of dwelling types designed to ease the crisis in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander housing. The question was not just about what type of house to provide but how to deliver housing quickly and cheaply. In a 1967 issue of *Architecture in Australia*, Balwant Saini described the logistical and technical challenges of building Aboriginal housing in remote Australia. He recommended an approach that considered the people's cultural and social needs in a broader context of economic development. Saini revisited remote housing procurement two years later in an issue of the same journal devoted to "industrialised or system building", in which he described the widespread use of prefabricated housing for mining settlements in northern Australia. Two themes united begged the question: could prefabricated housing assembled by Indigenous labour solve the "Aboriginal housing problem"? This paper examines contrasting approaches to prefabricated Indigenous housing projects delivered during 1960s and 1970s. These prefab architectural solutions oscillated between the conventional and the experimental, with local employment a common rationale for diverse construction systems. When schemes were thoroughly evaluated, they offered valuable design lessons that were either limited in circulation or ignored by successive administrations.

Dr Tim O'Rourke is a senior lecturer in the School of Architecture, Design and Planning at The University of Queensland. Tim's research is broadly concerned with past and present applications of cross-cultural design across different building types and settings. His interest in recent histories of housing for Indigenous Australians explores policies and architectural projects that might inform current design practice. Tim has contributed to research and architectural projects related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander buildings, settlements, and landscapes.

Houses for the Cold War

A/PROF ANDREW SANIGA

Woomera is the pre-eminent physical manifestation of the Cold War in Australia. Sited on a treeless plateau more than 500km northwest of Adelaide and at the remote verge of the Great Victorian Desert, Woomera Village was designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works and Housing (CDWH) to service a military and civilian workforce sent to construct and operate the joint UK-Australian Long-Range Weapons Establishment (LRWE). Prefabrication played a critical role, especially in terms of housing. This paper charts the roll-out of various forms of accommodation during the early years from 1947 to 1960. Thousands of workers lived in construction workers' camps within structures born of a mix of pragmatism and military resourcefulness. Initially most lived in canvas tents, braving the heat, cold, dust and flies. Within a year, the tents were encased in timber, corrugated iron, and flywire, providing accommodation that for some lasted for more than ten years. A range of single and two-person semi-portable dwellings next appeared, some taken to far-flung outposts on the rocket range over 2000km away. In Woomera Village proper, three different models of houses were supplied: the Econo of Sydney, and the Hawksley and Riley-Newsum of the United Kingdom. None were well suited to the harsh environmental conditions, but in the 1960s more responsive designs emerged, with experimental solar technologies and improved thermal properties. The LRWE infrastructure has mostly been demolished or recycled, but a relatively small proportion of the buildings were partly dismantled and trucked to nearby settlements, where they survive today.

*Andrew Saniga is Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Urbanism at the University of Melbourne. His research includes the history of landscape architecture in Australia and his writings have documented and explained key designers and projects with an emphasis on the mid-twentieth century. His book *Making Landscape Architecture in Australia* (2012) won the Victoria Medal from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA), and he is co-editor of *Campus: Building Modern Australian Universities* (2023). Andrew teaches design and history of landscape architecture. He is a registered landscape architect with the AILA and a member of Docomomo International's Specialist Committee on Urbanism and Landscape.*

Convened by Professor Philip Goad and Theo Blankley for the Australian Centre for Architectural History, Urban and Cultural Heritage (ACAHUCH), Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne.

ACAHUCH acknowledges the generous support of Dr Richard Simmie and the *Jock Simmie Architectural History, Urban and Cultural Heritage Research Fund*, which assisted in the formation and running of this symposium.

Further Information: [Email Theo Blankley | ACAHUCH Centre Coordinator](#)

Cover Images

Roennfeldt, I. L. (2008) *Queensland government funded housing at Hope Vale Mission*. Brisbane: John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

Hurley, Frank. (1947) *Prefab houses on transporters Thornycroft truck and six men, Kiewa, December 1947*. Canberra: State Electricity Commission of Victoria, National Library of Australia.

Convened by **Professor Philip Goad**, co-Director of the **Australian Centre for Architectural History, Urban and Cultural Heritage** at the **Melbourne School of Design** (Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning).

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