

In global, and local, news ...

At a time when the administration of **arq** is preparing for a (relatively local) move from Cardiff University to Newcastle University in the UK (see p. 197), it seems a good moment to reflect on the global architectural research context of which the journal is a part. As **arq** has demonstrated in recent years, lessons from diverse architectural cultures are important in mapping, understanding and questioning the parameters and priorities of architecture. While the impact of increasing globalisation remains at best double-edged, productive hybridities can emerge from greater international cross-fertilisation in architectural research. Papers in this issue illustrate the global reach of prominent international research journals like **arq**, with topics ranging from environmental design in the north of Australia and publishing history in contemporary China to modular construction in 1960s Montenegro.

For example, Jessica Huang and Antony Radford use Warwick Fox's idea of responsible cohesion – where parts of a whole are seen to respond to each other for mutual benefit – to analyse houses designed by Troppo Architects in Australia that demonstrate subtle relationships with climate, local architectural traditions and patterns of inhabitation (pp. 216–226). Ljiljana Blagojević and Marija Milinković examine the dialogue between industrialised prefabrication and Mediterranean construction traditions in the design of the tourist colony at Ulcinj, Montenegro in the 1960s (pp. 253–267). Kendra Schank Smith, Xuemei Li and Albert C. Smith outline a Chinese measuring concept based on the human body, the 'Lu Ban' foot-rule of the Dong carpenters, deriving from a particular notion of the 'master craftsman' and from local traditions (pp. 227–236). In contrast, the rapidly globalising professional architectural culture of contemporary China is addressed in a paper by Guanghui Ding, with Jonathan Hale and Steve Parnell, which examines the recent history of the influential journal *Time + Architecture* (pp. 237–252). In more leisurely mode, Hannah Lewi and Christine Phillips compare outdoor bathing cultures in twentieth-century Australia and Britain, seeing seaside pools as sites of good living (pp. 281–291). Turning to the Western architectural canon, Teija Isohauta examines the use of timber in Alvar Aalto's architecture, which she roots in the sense of shelter and safety associated with the forests that cover 78% of Aalto's native Finland (pp. 269–280). And Louis I. Kahn's famous Master's Class at the University of Philadelphia in the 1960s and '70s is addressed by James F. Williamson, on the basis of extensive interviews with former students, indicating how Kahn's ideas of architectural transcendence were constructed dialectically in place and time (pp. 313–324).

An altogether more unconventional site – simultaneously, but ambiguously, global and local – is examined by Aikaterini Antonopoulou in her account of the idea of ground in the online virtual world *Second Life* (pp. 303–311). Inhabited by avatars who can construct their own houses, complete with unnecessary bathrooms and other curious anomalies, *Second Life* intersects with the real world. For example, land in *Second Life* can be owned and traded online but real world lawsuits have been conducted to resolve virtual world disputes. The virtual world, Antonopoulou reflects, constructs a ‘lightweight present’ in which residues from the real world ‘always exist as a precedent for the new beginning’. Similarly, our globalised world is inevitably emerging from local and pre-modern contexts, and there is always something which cannot be left behind. It seems that, paradoxically, the specific insights of the local – or, rather, of different locals – are becoming ever more important in an increasingly international research context.

From its new editorial domicile in Newcastle, **arq** will maintain its interest in dimensions of the global and the local, emphasising research which bridges practice and academe, contributing to the sub-fields of architecture that organise the journal’s content: design, criticism, practice, history, theory, digital, environmental design and education. We continue to welcome speculative submissions from around the globe. We are also planning a series of agenda-setting theme issues over the next few volumes intended to push the boundaries of **arq**’s intellectual territory, examining, for example, emerging design research practices, the question of Olympic legacy, synthetic biology in architecture and the changing nature of work.

THE EDITORS