

INTERVIEWS AND SITE DOCUMENTATION IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA by Vuk Radovic 25.01.17 – 08.02.17

From the 25th of January 2017 until the 8th of February 2017 I performed a series of interviews and site investigations in Melbourne, Australia as per the application document submitted to GAKKAI office at Keio SFC on December 6th 2016.

The pre interview letter and questionnaire were as follows:

The potential of application of urban theory to extra **High-Residential High-Rise** (xHRHR)
- between bottom-up and top-down urban design and management practices -

The main aim of this research project is to **test the potential of urban theory** (and its capability to address complex **multiplicities**) for better understanding and production of xHRHR architectural objects (in their perceived conceptual **singularity**). The particular emphasis is on **critical analysis** on traditional ways of production and management of urban spaces and practices (eg. *urban statutes* of Europe, *machizukuri* in Japan). The ultimate objective is to help advice a new method for environmentally and culturally responsible design, evaluation and management of xHRHR projects.

The project is conducted within the Keio University, Global Environmental Systems Leaders program, in Tokyo. It builds upon eight years of international professional practice (Melbourne, Tokyo, London), which provided a set of **practice-based research questions**, valuable data-base of relevant examples and contacts. The first year of PhD investigations focuses at development of **the matching theoretical basis**, definition of research methods and further refinement of research focus. The current phase seeks intersections between literature review and information compiled during the preliminary **fieldwork**, and the questions arising from it.

The primary rationale the preliminary fieldwork (January-February 2017) is to identify **expectations, requirements and current thinking of the key representatives** of design, construction and management professions and State and local regulators involved in the production of xHRHR in Victoria. Investigations will be conducted through informal, semi-structured **interviews** with government, public and private institutions and their representatives, and **site visits**. The data collected during this fieldwork will inform the next stage of the research and **lay the groundwork for continuing collaboration** with key stakeholders. An overarching aim is to better understand thought processes of individuals and groups involved in the process of conceptualization, design, approval and consultancy of xHRHR architectural objects.

While the principal aim behind these interviews is to facilitate a **free-ranging discussion** within the boundaries of the project, seeking **identification of the key themes and issues**, as seen by interviewees, a particular emphasis will be on **the concept of resilience** within the xHRHR building phenomenon (materiality, programmes, reuse/ requalification/redevelopment/re-distribution potential, decommissioning/ deconstruction) and diverse **issues associated with ageing** of those buildings.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Looking from your professional point of view:

- which **themes** are associated with resilience in the context of xHRHR developments?
- how are such themes addressed in design, construction, planning approval process?
- what are the successful **applications** of resilience thinking/making within xHRHR?
- what are the unsuccessful applications of resilience thinking/making within xHRHR?
- how do you see the **future** of xHRHR from design perspective?
- what do you see as an **ideal** xHRHR for Melbourne, what does that quality encompass?
- what are the examples of global **best-practice** xHRHR (if any)?
- what are the **specific aspects/qualities** which make those examples successful?
- what are (globally and locally) the **latest trends** in xHRHR?
- what do you see as **likely/desired direction** in development of xHRHR?

- what xHRHR qualities would you seek in an “ideal world”?
- what are the key **impediments** to such, “ideal” xHRHR vision?
- who are the **leaders** in your field in xHRHR?

The interviews were conducted over the two week period (weekends excluding) with a set of key stakeholders within the Melbourne architecture, engineering and planning professions. The breakdown of each day including interviews, preparation and conclusions is summarized in the table below.

25 January	26	27	28	29	30	31
WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
Narita – Melbourne Flight 7pm – 7am	PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN AUSTRALIA	Preliminary Site Investigations Including identifying sites of interests via visual diary	W/E	W/E	Initial Site Photographs Including the Elizabeth Street District of Melbourne	Second Site Photographs Including Central Business District of Melbourne Report Writing

01 February	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
1.5 hour meeting with Prof. Rob Adams Director at City of Melb. (photograph included) 1 hour pre-meeting preparation 2 hour meeting notes and conclusion (can be provided on request)	0.5 hour meeting with David Hunton Director @ Inhabit Australia 1.5 hour meeting with Elissa Ward Associate @ Inhabit Australia (photograph included) 1.5 hour pre-meeting preparation 3 hour meeting notes and conclusion (can be provided on request)	1.5 hour meeting with Larry Parsons Director @ State Gov. Victoria 1 hour pre-meeting preparation 2 hour meeting notes and conclusion (can be provided on request)	W/E	W/E	brief 0.5 hour meeting with Callum Fraser CEO @ Elenberg Fraser Architects 1 hour pre-meeting preparation 2 hour meeting notes and conclusion (can be provided on request)	2.5 hour meeting with Jane Homewood CEO @ State Gov. Victoria 2 hour pre-meeting preparation 4 hour meeting notes and conclusion (can be provided on request) Jane is my international advisor at Keio University so PhD discussions were lengthy	9am Flight Melbourne to Narita Final report writing during the flight

Thank you very much for the opportunity and funding regarding the trip to Australia described above. The outcomes were excellent, all correspondents were more than helpful in their time and effort. As you can see from the charts above, the trip was exactly right in time to conduct the required

Further, follow up meeting have been scheduled in 2017 (date to be confirmed) and I hope to be able to count on GAKKAI with funding the further trips if possible.

Thank you, Vuk Radovic 11.02.2017



Prof. Rob Adam and Vuk Radovic with Keio GESL Handbook @ City of Melb Office



Elissa Ward and Vuk Radovic with Keio GESL Handbook @ Inhabit Office Melbourne



Site Photograph @ Elizabeth Street Precinct in Melbourne



Site Photograph @ CBD Precinct as part of site investigations.