

ROAD WORKS

NEW ZEALAND'S MEMORIAL PARK IDEAS COMPETITION
28th & 29th July 2007 . School of Architecture . Wellington . New Zealand



NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF
ARCHITECTS
INCORPORATED



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
Te Kura Waihangā
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Te Kura Waihangā



the architectural centre inc.
PO Box 24178 Wellington

SATURDAY JULY 28th 09:30 - 13:00

ROAD WORKS INTRODUCTION

Christine McCarthy
Senior Lecturer Interior Architecture, School of Architecture, VUW
President of Wellington Architectural Centre

Rhys Williams
Lecturer in Landscape Architecture, School of Architecture, VUW

SPATIAL +

MOTIVATION AND BACKGROUND MINISTRY FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE 'NEW ZEALAND'S MEMORIAL PARK COMPETITION'

Brodie Stubbs
Manager, Heritage Operations
Ministry for Culture and Heritage

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Peter Cooke
Historian

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE

Mary O'Keefe
Archaeologist
Heritage Solutions

NEW ZEALAND'S WAR MEMORIAL PAGEANTRY, PROCESSION AND EVENT

Paul Riley
Curator, National War Memorial

BREAK 11:00 - 11:30

ROAD works

Gary Clark
Traffic Concepts

INFRASTRUCTURE, AS PUBLIC DOMAIN

Rhys Williams
Lecturer in Landscape Architecture

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CONCLUSIONS AND BRIEF DISPATCH

SUNDAY JULY 29th 13:00

SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES 13:00
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE ATRIUM

THURSDAY AUGUST 2nd 18:00

WINNER ANNOUNCED 18:00
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE LT1

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Te Kura Waihangā

139 Vivian Street

Wellington

New Zealand

Contact: Rhys.Williams@vuw.ac.nz

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BRIEF

“when infrastructure is treated as art, it enforces the idea that a place has meaning ... if Duchamp’s urinal had not been turned on its side, it would not have become a “fountain.” If automobiles should somehow disappear in the future ... the indispensable works of infrastructure that integrate artistic and social purposes will endure as civic contributions of lasting value and fulfill the promise of the cathedral of mobility.”

Richard Ingersoll. *Sprawltown: Looking for the City on Its Edges* (2006).

What does it mean to construct a memorial as a road?

To date the proposal for Memorial Park has been perceived, in design and architectural communities, as a site with a difficult relationship to a road. The published diagrams of the proposed site-works, attempt to amplify the distance between the existing memorial and the road. Buckle Street truly buckles as road and park are perceived as peripheral to each other.

Whether this road works has been asked by numerous people ...

This competition hence takes a theoretical idea of “road works” as a beginning for design; desiring the road to work with its new and additional responsibilities as both ‘park’ and ‘memorial’.

Road works themselves inflict inconvenience and a kind of processional architecture; single files of cars, travelling with enforced slowness - an external image of funerary respect regardless of the politics of tired children and overheated temperaments internal to the vehicle.

Ingersoll’s statement above is equally demanding, suggesting the obligation for roads to engage with a sophisticated level of cultural or artistic meaning, to anticipate a civic role beyond their immediate and obvious use as conveyers of cars, bicycles and people. His words suggest this need to redesign the Buckle Street Memorial Park site as an “indispensable work ... of infrastructure that integrates [the] artistic and social purposes [that] will endure as civic contributions of ... value.”

The physicality of road works, their churning up of the site, inflicts social, spatial and cultural texture and verticality.

“From above, the trucks dump the earth and just let it fall where it may without compacting it; it falls at the natural angle of friction. From below, the dumped earth forms mounds at the bottom of the slopes.”

Teresa Gali-Izard *The Same Landscapes: Ideas and Interpretations* (2005)

This competition asks for a full utilisation of the physical and conceptual breadth and depth of the site, which both respects its current function as an important and national memorial, and which opens up new ideas of ‘park’. It demands a key role for the road/s in Memorial Park and a committed engagement with the complexities of its immediate and broader urban context.

Your design will be a productive and meaningful architecture of memorial which outlasts a narrow definition of road as a conveyer of traffic.

Your design will be responsive and competitive; collaborative, in your team and with the site.

It may be permanent or transitory - but it must not be forgettable ...

Judges:

Jim Beard, Architect

Judy Keith-Brown, Keith + Brown Architecture, Visiting Tutor, School of Architecture, VUW

Christine McCarthy, Senior Lecturer in Architecture, School of Architecture, VUW

Rhys Williams, **SPATIAL +**, Lecturer in Landscape Architecture, School of Architecture, VUW

PHYSICAL SUBMISSION ON SUNDAY JULY 29TH, 13:00, THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, ATRIUM.



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VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
To Wharfedale
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
37 Kara Wharfedale



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PO Box 24178 Wellington
0475 24178