Four Master’s students have created the book you hold in your hands developed and edited in a publishing seminar led by the editors of UME magazine. This represents the range of direct experiences students of the Abedian School are able to undertake during the course.
Foreword

As we begin a new era at the Abedian School of Architecture, this first Review coincides with the graduation of the first cohort in the Master’s degree of Architecture.

Following the official opening of our School in late 2013, it is remarkable how in such a short period of time the School has been able to achieve national and international recognition as a centre of learning. This early recognition is testimony to the progressive and visionary nature of the faculty, expressed through the building design (by Sir Peter Cook and CRAB Studio), as well as the efforts of distinguished colleagues who provide guidance to the students.

We need to remember that attraction to beauty is one of the spiritual forces that lifts us up to the higher realm of existence. It is this force that compels us to seek harmony in our daily lives and in our relationships with others. The visual arts, music, craft and architecture are expressions of this essential longing of the human soul.

The vision of our School is best explained in the words of Karim Rashid: ‘Design is about the betterment of our lives poetically, aesthetically, experientially, sensorially and emotionally.’

To look into the future, we must first understand the pathways created by the fathers of modern architecture. Visionaries such as Oscar Niemeyer: ‘My work is not about form follows function, but form follows beauty’. Frank Lloyd Wright: ‘An idea is salvation by imagination’. Mies van der Rohe: ‘Less is more’. And Antonio Gaudi: ‘Man does not create _ he discovers’.

The pioneers of modern architecture paved new ways of thinking. They will always be remembered for their will to evolve architecture as we experience it today and into the future, and for their passion for architecture.

It is my ardent hope that one day our students will also be in the ranks of the great creators and continue the path of inspiration for future generations.

My heartfelt congratulations on the first edition of the Review and my sincere gratitude to all the academic personnel, graduates and students for their dedication and commitment.
Introduction

Bond University welcomes its Architecture students and staff and acknowledges the contribution they make to the life and culture of the campus. The University has benefited enormously from the generosity and advice of Dr Soheil Abedian, and the decision to embark on architecture has added to the University’s stock of creative disciplines, augmenting existing programs in film, television, multimedia design and the built environment. Since its inception over 25 years ago, Bond University has cultivated the conditions necessary to produce high-quality education in a small-scale and intimate environment, with a highly favourable staff-to-student ratio. The discipline of Architecture follows this Bond tradition. The Abedian School of Architecture is housed in a building that is itself a tribute to creative design. The building adds to the University’s noteworthy architecture and acts as an encouragement and inspiration to students throughout the campus.

Raoul Mortley AO FAHA
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean
Faculty of Society and Design

‘A WIDE VARIETY OF INTERCONNECTED BUT DISTINCT INTERIOR SPACES, FROM SOCIAL TO PRIVATE AND FROM INTERACTIVE TO CONTEMPLATIVE.’


Photo: Peter Bennetts

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Program overview

The Abedian School of Architecture is formed as a response to the question ‘What should an architecture school be today?’ We answer with a curriculum that is design-driven and has a professional focus.

We aim to graduate students who will have an impact on society, capable of transforming the profession and grasping new opportunities to apply architectural thinking.

We place strong emphasis on studio-based learning that is collaborative, discursive. There is a high degree of engagement with program staff. The pedagogy has a learning-through-making ethos at its core.

We equip our students with the techniques, as well as critical analytical skills, to enable them to leverage opportunities that will emerge for architects practising in the 21st century.

This education will enable students to work globally as architects, or in other forms of professional activity, as dramatic transformations and technology transfers shape our world.

The program is structured across a ten-semester sequence: a six-semester undergraduate degree – the Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS) – and a four-semester, professionally accredited Master of Architecture (MArch). Delivered at the pace of the University trimester system, the full sequence can be completed in three and a half years – which is enabled by the studio-based pedagogy.

Chris Knapp
Ar RA, MA, Princeton University, USA
Architectural discipline leader (2014) and assistant professor; current PhD Candidate at RMIT – subject: digital fabrication applications in design practice; Director, Studio Workshop

Photo: Paul Dielemans

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The building

The new School of Architecture building was designed by Sir Peter Cook and Gavin Robotham of London practice CRAB Studio.

The building’s primary organisational device is a broad internal ‘street’. Along one side are four dramatic sculptural concrete ‘scoops’, forming intimate seminar spaces at their base. The rich array of top-lit volumes forms the backdrop to the public life of the School.

Two levels of studios are located along the glazed southern edge of the building. Students have dedicated workstations and 24/7 access to the School’s many facilities.

Finalist, RAIA National Public Architecture Award 2014
Winner, RAIA Queensland Public Architecture Award 2014
Winner, RAIA Gold Coast and Northern Rivers ‘Building of the Year’ 2014
Winner, RAIA Gold Coast and Northern Rivers ‘People’s Choice Award’
Winner, IDEA Awards – Higher Education category 2014

Images from left:
Sketches, Sir Peter Cook, CRAB Studio
Sketches, Gavin Robotham, CRAB Studio

‘IT IS AN ICONIC, LANDMARK BUILDING DESIGNED TO INSPIRE THE ARCHITECTS OF TOMORROW.’

Lisa Rapley, Abedian School of Architecture, Architecture & Design, 12 Feb 2014
The Fab Lab

The Architectural Fabrication Research Laboratory — or Fab Lab — occupies a primary role in the School’s day-to-day design and making activities. This digital design workshop has a broad range of facilities including a full woodwork shop; digital fabrication facilities such as CNC milling, laser cutting and 3D printing; and a newly installed architectural robotics laboratory, with three multi-axis industrial robots.

Students are required to use these production facilities throughout their design education, ensuring that they graduate with a strong understanding of the increasingly significant role that these technologies play in the creation of architecture in the 21st century.