

THE EXCHANGE AT KNOWLEDGE MARKET:

AN URBAN LIVING LAB

Ross McLeod / Shanti Sumartojo / Charles Anderson / Natasha Sutilla / Sean Hogan

The Exchange was a collaborative 'urban living lab' with RMIT University and Lend Lease, established at Victoria Harbour, a precinct in Melbourne's Docklands to prototype forms of community engagement, exploring the shared urban environment through the lens of design ethnography, landscape architecture, interior design, interaction design, fashion and textiles and graphic design. Over a year and a half, The Exchange addressed issues of urban development and how the community understands and might use such developments through an ongoing set of design research studios, exhibitions and public events. The project provided a unique opportunity for a broad discussion on the nature of a resilient urban condition, incorporating the perspectives of governments, developers, architects, designers and residents in a robust and timely exchange of ideas.

The design projects developed at The Exchange included proposals which explored the complex issues surrounding community, sustainability, digital infrastructures and urban public space. These included: the design of urban greenery strategies that would regulate temperature, provide shelter from the wind and attract diverse bird species to the area; community-focused initiatives such as a cafe proposal that eliminates the use of disposable cups in a way that is both sustainable and convenient for consumers; biodegradable sushi packaging composed of algae; and devices that monitor the needs of community garden plants through sensors measuring temperature, sunlight and moisture levels.

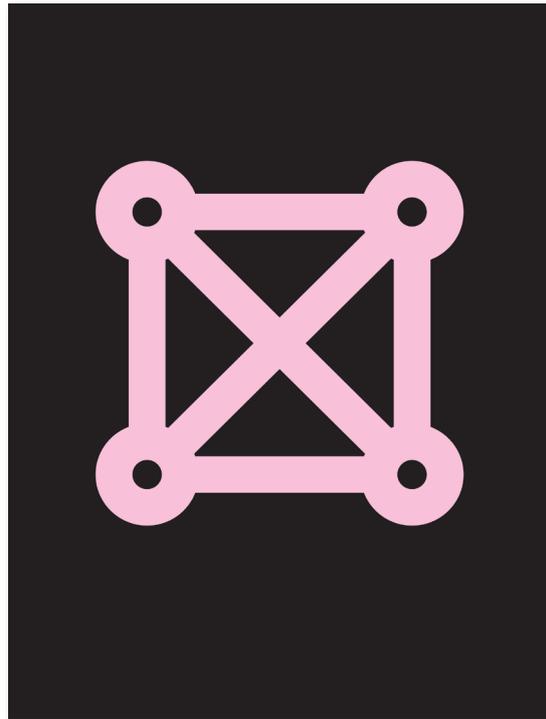
The Authors

Dr Ross McLeod - Program Manager of Design Innovation and Technology

Dr Ross McLeod is Program Director of the Masters of Design Innovation and Technology in the School of Design at RMIT University. His research speculates on the interdisciplinary nature of design practice and actively integrates industry based collaborations and public art commissions with teaching and learning outcomes.

Dr Shanti Sumartojo

Shanti is a human geographer, whose research explores how people experience their spatial surroundings, including both material and immaterial aspects, with a particular focus on the built environment. Her recent books include *Uncertainty and Possibility: New Approaches to Future-Making in Design Anthropology* (with Yoko Akama and Sarah Pink) and *Atmospheres and the Experiential World: Theory and Methods* (with Sarah Pink).



Dr Charles Anderson - Landscape Architecture

Dr Charles Anderson is a Landscape Architect and Artist in the School of Architecture at RMIT University with over thirty years experience making and exhibiting work in Australia and around the world. He has a distinguished reputation as an artist and designer, and has received numerous awards for his work, from both within and without the landscape architectural profession.

Natasha Sutilla

Natasha Sutilla is an artist, curator and arts administrator with a background in contemporary jewellery and objects who manages The Exchange at Knowledge Market curatorial in the School of Design at RMIT University.

Sean Hogan

Sean Hogan established the design studio Trampoline in 1995. Driven by continuous experimentation with image making and typography, Sean has developed a commercial practice that blurs the processes and visual language of art and design.