

The Prince's Trust Australia and The University of Queensland School of Architecture

Enduring Design Workshop
2021 Impact Report



Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Queensland (UQ) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which UQ operates. We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country. We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.



Background

The Prince's Trust Australia's mission closely aligns with that of The University of Queensland (UQ), sharing common goals of transforming lives and solving globally significant challenges, such as exploring sustainable building practices to mitigate the effects of climate change.

In 2021, with generous support from the Prince's Trust and alumnus, Bruce Wolfe, the School of Architecture introduced a new initiative to cultivate knowledge of both Indigenous Australian and traditional European building practices with an eye on developing more sustainable housing in Australia and beyond. The Enduring Design Workshop was developed to embed these skills and values in Master of Architecture and Bachelor of Architecture students.

This innovative Workshop would not have been possible without the support of the Prince's Trust Australia, whose gift provided for the purchase of specialised tools and equipment needed to instruct students, and travel for the expert practitioners.



The Enduring Design Workshop was held on 1st October 2021 at the UQ St Lucia campus with 18 students and consisted of two parts: learning to build a traditional Bulmba (rainforest dome shelter from far north Queensland) and learning the techniques of timber framing.

Students participating in the Bulmba build were honoured to have Gimuy Walubara Yidinji elder, Uncle Peter Hyde, and Adjunct Professor Dr Shaneen Fantin on hand to share their knowledge of traditional techniques and materials.



The Bulmbas were built in the natural amphitheatre beside the School of Architecture's Zelman Cowen Building, using cane, string and paper bark sourced off Country by Uncle Peter. Once the Bulmbas were built, the group gathered around for a yarn, allowing Uncle Peter to share his stories and students to ask questions and better understand what building with and for Indigenous groups means in practice. You can view a video of the build on the UQ School of Architecture's YouTube channel at the following web address <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOBELjx-NIO>>.





Peter Harwood of Timber Frames Australia lent his expertise to the timber framing group, giving students another unique hands-on learning experience. The framing took place in the School's workshop space, requiring students to use traditional timber hand tools – such as saws, chisels and hammers – to create two joins in the timber, and then a peg, with the goal of creating a complete joint by the end of the day.

It was physical, slow and meticulous work that demonstrated the complexity of this style of construction. It also allowed students to better appreciate its place in both traditional and modern architecture, as a method. You can view a video of the build on the UQ School of Architecture's YouTube channel at the following web address <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Acn5EQM-Ldo>>.

Impact

Collaboration with The Prince's Trust provided an important opportunity for students to gain knowledge and hands-on experience relevant to their future professions, above and beyond their regular studies. It also provided an opportunity to put into action UQ's Reconciliation Action Plan vision – 'to make Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges an integral component' of teaching and research in the School of Architecture.

Students articulated that they found value in learning about the life and culture of the Indigenous elder and were fascinated to experience how intertwined the building techniques and materials were with all aspects of their life. Students were also not expecting to have the opportunity to go "deep into discussion about designing with and for First Nations communities".

Through this Workshop students recognised "the skill and expertise required to make timber structures" and appreciate the difference between sketching and the "hands on" experience.

"UQ's mission is to create change that positively influences society by engaging in the pursuit of excellence through the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. We aspire to make Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges an integral component of this mission".
UQ's Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2022



"[This Workshop had] a profound impact on my outlook on life".

Student Feedback

Student Feedback

In a survey of students from the Enduring Design Workshop, 100% said it was very 'enjoyable' (86%) or 'enjoyable' (14%), 'very engaging' (71%) or 'engaging' (29%).

Additionally, all students indicated they were 'very satisfied' (57%) or 'satisfied' (43%) with the knowledge and experience gained from the workshop and 100% agreed the learnings would assist them in their studies or future career.

In reflecting on how this Workshop would assist them in the future, one student said "It made me aware of Indigenous design practises and ways to listen and implement work of Aboriginal elders", another appreciated the "greater awareness of what's involved when you specify timber products".

The overall consensus of students was that they wanted more opportunities to learn about Enduring Design, as a valuable and complementary experience to their learning in the School, which will continue to shape their perspectives as professionals in their field.

Thank you!

The transfer of knowledge from traditional craftspeople and Indigenous leaders to the next generation of architects is critical to the future of sustainable building and design in Australia and around the world. Thank you for choosing to collaborate with UQ and the School of Architecture to support this important initiative.

In response to the overwhelmingly positive feedback, additional Enduring Design events are planned for 2022.



86%
very
enjoyable



14%
enjoyable



71%
very
engaging



29%
engaging



For more information please contact:

Weston Bruner

Director of Advancement

Faculty of Engineering, Architecture, and Information Technology

T:+61 435 386 424

E: w.bruner@uq.edu.au

CRICOS Provider 00025B



**THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND**
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE