

# Unit of Assessment: 16 Architecture, Built Environment and Planning

#### a. Overview

The School of Architecture, which comprises the subject areas of Architecture, Interior Architecture and Design, and Design for Exhibition and Museums, has a lively and varied research environment, with a range of research interests and expertise. Research activity takes place within the Centre for Architectural Research (CAR) and centres around four main research clusters: Sustainable Architecture, Liveable Cities, Cultural Contexts and Habitat. These clusters collaborate with colleagues across the University to promote interdisciplinary collaboration in social, cultural, humanitarian and technical issues. This creates a vibrant research environment where the focus of activity evolves and new clusters emerge in response to the wide-ranging interests and expertise of staff. It sits within the College of Arts, enabling interdisciplinary collaboration with colleagues from a number of cognate subjects including Art and Design, History and Media.

The School has forged links with external organisations, both regional/national and international, to enhance its research reputation and impact. For example, the Carbon Trust, Green Building Council, the V&A Museum, Smithsonian American Art Museum, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Monuments Fund, and the Ministry of Innovation and Science, NZ. These national and international links have resulted in research outputs and consultancy that include international exhibitions, artefacts, international design awards, books, journal articles, patents and other Intellectual Property.

In 2012 the School appointed a new Professor (**Byrd**) to coordinate research strategy and development and to enhance the research culture within the School. **Byrd** represents the School at the College Research Committee and the University Research and Enterprise Committee

### b. Research strategy

The School's Research and Enterprise Strategy is aligned with the University's strategic research objectives. These aim to improve continuously the research environment; to invest in the building of key research capabilities and resources; to underpin the continued professional development of researchers; to raise the impact of research outputs; and to strengthen the postgraduate offering. Since the 2008 RAE submission, the School's activities and achievements in relation to the above are summarised below and addressed in more detail in the relevant subsequent sections.

We have achieved targets against our ambitious research strategies outlined for the Unit of Assessment in the 2008 RAE. which included:

- Build on the increasingly national/international profile of researchers to increase collaborative activity. This has been achieved by the appointment of staff with research track records, two Professors and two readers, staff with international experience and networks. Almost 50% of the permanent staff are from an international background pursuing collaborative research.
- Optimise the research environment through the estates and other strategies and enhance research facilities. This has been achieved by the School becoming part of the College of Arts, and the completion of a new building linked to the School of Architecture. This building provides dedicated space to enhance collaborative research including workshop and exhibition areas.
- Continued support for experienced and early-career researchers through mentoring and assistance with the national/international dissemination of research. This has been achieved by the improved research culture following the appointments of new Professors and Readers to mentor other staff. Approximately half of the School's outputs in the REF are based on international collaborative research.

During the current assessment period, these achievements have been monitored using performance indicators such as amount of external research income (see section d), improvement of research facilities and support (see section d), amount of collaborative and networking activity (see section e), number of postgraduate research students (see section c) and percentage of research active staff (see section c).

At College level a Research and Enterprise Strategy has been developed to raise the capacity and expertise of staff to identify and apply for funds, to increase the range and diversity of funding, and to improve the quality and scale of proposals for funding. Attainment of these objectives has been progressed by setting up a College External Income Generation Group (EIG), establishing a Research and Enterprise Team, working with all staff to produce a personal Academic Interaction

search Excellence Frame



Map (AIM), and creating an online environment for the support of research and enterprise, including a funding calendar that is regularly updated and tailored to staff research. External funding in the School is growing through the active participation of staff in Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) which, as well as disseminating knowledge and expertise to commercial and industrial partners, also provides resources for new research activity. Seven new KTPs were supported by staff (Sodagar and Cottrell) during the assessment period (see section d). Another positive development was the acquisition in 2012 of a Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Collaborative Doctoral Award (Watt) to research "Developing a Participatory Social Learning Framework for Reducing Energy Consumption in Residential Properties". The number of full-time PhD students has almost doubled since the last census period. Over the next five years the School has a structured plan to move away from taught Masters programmes towards thesis-based research. This will enable more staff to be involved with research supervision and allow the research culture to grow amongst a broader base of staff. Apart from increasing research capacity this will:

- Increase the quality of research publications and number of funding applications by supporting staff to produce at least one peer reviewed publication annually and contribute to bids for external funding, monitored through the appraisal process.
- Formalise the mentoring process to provide optimum support for ECRs by assigning each an experienced researcher (see section C).
- Expand the School's annual research income by £100k per year from its current level of £112.2k. This will be led by the new Professor (**Sodagar**) and Reader (**Catalani**).
- Maintain existing levels of KTP income generation at £77.6k (Sodagar).
- Develop interdisciplinary research and collaborations across the College of Art, the other Colleges, and external collaborations, led by Cottrell, **Byrd** and **Catalani**.
- Increase the research student base through externally-funded studentships and targeted recruitment activities from existing Masters programmes.
- Build on our existing research partnerships in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Nigeria, India, Colombia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, Egypt and other European and Middle-Eastern countries.

These strategies will be taken forward by constellations of researchers working on common themes. Liveable Cities' researchers are concerned with social, economic and cultural aspects of sustainability in research, teaching and design practice. Researchers look beyond dominant 'object-centred' approaches to practice and embrace a view that is 'people-centred'. We believe that promoting and instilling these values in a new generation of architects and urban designers, requires the development of innovative pedagogic practices; this forms one focus of Liveable Cities' research. Recent research has addressed such topics as the work of Geoffrey Bawa (O'Coill & Watt), modern architecture and regional identity in the East Midlands (Watt), liveable streets (Mandhar & Watt), performative identity in seaside regeneration (Watt), and social capital in urban development (Paranagamage). Marquez has established an international network focusing on architectural education with partners in Chile, while Cottrell has concentrated on KTPs with industry. A collaborative research project with some Italian Universities has focussed on the impact of climate change on coastal cities in northwest Italy (Medio) and collaborative research with the University of Auckland is studying the infrastructure of Mumbai (Byrd).

Sustainable Architecture research is concerned with reducing the environmental impact of buildings and cities to safeguard the environment as well as enhancing the health and well-being of occupants. Researchers are involved in applied as well as pedagogic research and they have a strong track record in securing externally funded research projects including Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP), Technology Strategy Board and iNET programmes. Sustainable Architecture research outputs and activities are widely recognised, and include the design and construction of the award winning Sustainable Community Hall (**Sodagar**), the RIBA award winning Construction Emissions Community of Practice (**Sodaga**r) and Carbon 4CAST (**Sodagar**), and the carbon action strategy toolkit, which won the Ecobuild Innovation Award 2013. Work on sustainable cities has included funded research on the sustainability of Auckland, NZ, and the ecological footprint of Mumbai (**Byrd**).

The Cultural Contexts is a cross-disciplinary research group, focusing on the areas of architectural history, philosophy, exhibition design and heritage. Members of the group have established national and international research links and networks, act as peer-reviewers for international academic journals (*Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change*: **Catalani**) and have been part of



national industry panels (Industry Lead Body for Design: Matthews). Publications and projects resulting from these collaborations include: the exploration of soundscapes as an inclusive interpretation strategy at the National Heritage Park in Nassau, Bahamas (**Catalani**); the redesign of interpretation structures in the Egyptian Sculpture Gallery at the British Museum (Dechelle); the design and realisation of the A.R.C. in Hull, (Hay); the exploration of sketchbook in contemporary art and architecture practices (Gittens); the understanding of the role of the exhibition designer as a creative practitioner (Locker); and a study of the collection of 72 design drawings loaned to the University of Lincoln by Neal Potter (Matthews). Research with practical applications is underpinned by interpretive approaches drawn from cultural theory (e.g. **Proto**, Baudrillardian approaches to architecture).

Finally, the School of Architecture is the focal point for a partnership with the United Nations Habitat Partners University Initiative (HPUI). The HPUI involves collaborations with worldwide universities researching into urban issues concerned with a wide range of objectives including: governance, energy, gender, disasters and resilience. Published research in this field has included issues in Palestine (Elvin), Mumbai (O'Coil) Chile and the Pacific Islands (**Byrd**). A wide range of research expertise is founded on the School of Architecture's broad base of international staff with global connections and a commitment to humanitarian architecture. Collaboration with other disciplines within the University and with other HPUI universities strengthens the research base of the School.

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The School is supported by the University's People Strategy, a comprehensive range of policies around employment, equal opportunities, research management and ethics, each with an element designed to facilitate and support research activity among staff and students. The University has signed up to the principles of The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

Recruitment: The emphasis since 2008 in the Lincoln School of Architecture has been to invest in full-time staff with research specialisms compatible with those of the research clusters sustainable technology, history and theory of design or urban design and regeneration. During this period, departing staff had a significant impact on research in the School, especially in the areas of Cultural Contexts and Sustainable Architecture. In response to this the School has made twelve new permanent appointments. Senior research leadership is now provided by a new Professor (Byrd) and Reader (Catalani), alongside internal promotions. These new appointments have had an invigorating effect on the School's research culture and boosted overall research outputs. There is a significant number of ECRs in the Centre and part of our strategy to support these includes reviewing the focus and composition of the research clusters and formalising the research mentoring process. In addition, the Lincoln Early Career Network (LECN) has been established to provide an environment for continued support, networking and development of ECRs. The Peer Review of Practice Scheme provides another mechanism whereby experienced staff support and mentor less experienced colleagues in both teaching and research. The contribution of fixed-term, part-time or teaching assistant staff to the research culture of the School is highly valued and their research development is supported through the same training and development mechanisms as full-time staff. Currently 60% of staff in the School of Architecture are research active.

**Training and Development:** There is an on-going investment in training and development of all academic staff in the Lincoln School of Architecture. The University has minimum academic standards regarding research productivity within its annual appraisal system for those seeking career advancement. Each member of staff completes an annual staff development plan as part of the appraisal scheme which enables individuals to identify development needs for the year and forms the basis of staff development applications or training needs such as research degree supervision or preparation of funding applications. Staff members are expected to produce peer-reviewed publications every year. Research success is rewarded directly through financial incentives and indirectly through the research leave scheme, which is open to all categories of contracted staff on an annual basis. A comprehensive Continuing Personal and Professional Development Framework (CPPD) is in place to assist staff with planning their development. Every researcher will have a mentor as part of the research element of the CPPD framework, and relevant staff are encouraged and supported to upgrade their qualifications through access to a



Further Study Fund, which can be used to cover all or part of fees for further study. A number have enrolled on the Master of Research Art, Architecture and Design (MRes) course or a PhD programme (see section cii). Researchers in the School are also encouraged to attend the wide range of regularly scheduled staff development short courses offered by the University, workshops on applying for research grants, staff research seminars and presentations in the College, and the University-wide "Lincoln Academy" lectures.

**Quality and Integrity:** Applications for staff development/research funds are assessed on a competitive basis and in accordance with the University's policy on Equality and Diversity. Standards of research quality and integrity for both staff and research students are maintained by the University's ethics policy, which is based on respect for individuals' dignity and autonomy (including privacy), protection of individuals from harm, and fair treatment of all participants involved in research. All research projects must obtain ethical approval from the College Ethics Committee before research commences. The University's Intellectual Property policy encourages research and scholarly work which may have commercial value.

#### ii. Research students

The School of Architecture has been restructuring postgraduate courses to focus on research based theses rather than taught courses. This will result in more staff becoming research supervisors, greater opportunities for joint authored publications, and will encourage good Masters students to proceed to PhD enrolment, so enhancing the School's research culture and significantly increasing the number of PGRs. Two new Masters courses will become available in 2014: Cultural Contexts (to support the Cultural Contexts research cluster) and Human Settlements (to support the habitat research cluster.

During the assessment period, the University offered a studentship scheme for PGRs and the School of Architecture recruited one international PhD student (Odeyale) researching food markets and urban development in Akure, Nigeria. This student benefitted enormously from the expertise of the Visiting Professor of Food and Cities (Steel) and he has published several conference papers and articles. Another research student (Wilson) was recruited in 2012 to undertake funded research for the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award (**Watt**), working in the offices of the partner firm, NPS Humber Ltd. Other financial incentives, like the University's alumni scholarships, encourage students on postgraduate taught programmes to continue their studies at PhD level. The Master of Research Art, Architecture and Design is proving to be a good "feeder" course for potential PhD students. In addition, as part of their funded programmes, KTP research associates are encouraged to pursue postgraduate study, either at MRes or PGR level.

The University has developed a strong PGR culture that benefits Architecture research students. Every research student is a member of the University's Graduate School which fosters the development of postgraduate research and champions the interests of PGRs at the University. High-quality training courses delivered by the Graduate School, dealing with generic research and personal transferable skills, are designed to enhance life skills and employability. Also offered is the innovative "Introduction to Doctoral Research" programme, which includes contributions from Architecture staff (**Watt**). Both MRes and PhD students from the School have participated in the annual Graduate School Conferences and some have won awards for delivering the best paper or exhibiting the best poster. In addition, the School offers a support network for all research students to present research findings in a supportive environment. PGR students in the School are also entitled to apply for Research Development funds just like academics, and several students have obtained funds to enable them to attend conferences. This support is in addition to extensive online and physical library facilities and IT support for all PGR students (see section d).

#### d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research and external income targets are set annually, and delivery is supported by the University Dean of Research and a Research and Enterprise team. They work closely with the College of Arts Director of Research, Business Development Manager and dedicated administrative support colleagues to provide a structured, co-ordinated and effective research culture.

**Income:** The Centre for Architectural Research is continuing to build its income, infrastructure and research base with current and newly appointed research staff and the arrival of the new Professor (**Byrd**) and Reader (**Catalani**). The School of Architecture has seen income generation rise from £97.1k/annum (2008/09) to £267k/annum (2011/12). Income for 2012/13 is likely to be



£150k, but the School expects to more than double its research income over the next five years from its current level to £300k per annum. Consistent with the University's goal to stimulate enterprise and growth through engagement with business and provision of services to employers, the main sources of research funding for the CAR have been, and will continue to be, industrial links in the form of KTPs, TSB and iNET collaborative funds, although experienced researchers are assisting new staff in identifying alternative sources of funding. In addition to enhancing the business relevance of research in the School of Architecture, KTPs also have generated a number of high quality research outputs. Income secured from KTPs during the assessment period has focused mainly on sustainability research, such as:

- £100,300 (Longhurst Group Ltd.): To examine optimum design solutions to achieve higher levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes in new housing developments (2013).
- £110,000 (NPS Property Consultants Limited): To design and implement a Green House Gas (GHG) predictive modeling framework to forecast carbon emissions (2013, rated 'outstanding' by independent assessors).
- £107,200 (JH Walters LLP): Development of a database of technologies and tools/models for comparing optimal technologies and design techniques (2011).
- £32,300 (Road Safety Markings Association): To develop an Environmental Impact Management Programme for the road marking sector (2011).
- £120,924 (Lincolnshire Community Foundation): To optimize the usage of over 800 properties and to help parochial church councils and community groups adapt their buildings and neighbourhoods to create socially mixed and diverse communities (2010).
- £113,696 (Simons Group Ltd.): To develop a methodology and IT-based tool to assess the "carbon footprint" of buildings designed and to implement this in the processes and systems of the company (2009).

In addition, a number of other externally funded research projects have been secured and completed. These include four Technology Strategy Board (TSB) funded projects with a total value of £151,700 and three iNET funded projects with a total value of £86,194. Additional external funding of £257,500 (£157,500 from Waste Resources Environmental Network (WREN) and £100,000 from Lincolnshire Enterprise) was also secured as a spin-off from a 2007 KTP towards the construction of Sustainable Community Hall (**Sodagar**).

Infrastructure: In the last five years the University has increased its investment in a capital infrastructure programme that parallels the expansion of its research environment. It has invested more than £140 million in the central Lincoln Campus, including the new Art and Design building adjacent to the School of Architecture. The resulting infrastructure is a physical manifestation of the sense of purpose and momentum around the whole institution. It has created an environment that is attracting first class students and researchers and plays an important part in building the University's future research capacity. Support for research bidding, knowledge exchange and other forms of external income generation is provided by the College Business Development Manager, the College Director of Research and the University Research Office. The Research Office offers advice on identifying funding opportunities for research, drafting and developing research proposals, costing research projects, research ethics and good research practice. An annual College Research Resources Fund (£75kp/a) provides support for a variety of research activities including participation in conferences and workshops, travel and accommodation for fieldwork. assistance with publication costs, costs associated with consultancy applications, and preparations for collaborative bid writing and for the exhibition of design work. At institutional level there is an annual Research Investment Fund of £0.5M which provides support for the pump-priming of innovative projects on a competitive basis. Paranagamage has recently been awarded £3,500 from this fund for an interdisciplinary pilot project exploring the development of housing types that promote wellbeing in elderly residents, in collaboration with colleagues from the Business School.

**Facilities:** The Centre for Architectural Research is housed in dedicated space in the School with facilities for staff and visiting researchers. The space also accommodates rapid-prototyping machinery, colour 3D-printing, 3D-scanning, laser-cutting and CAD equipment. Research students are supported by enhanced library and printing entitlements, high quality workshop facilities and office space in the Architecture building to encourage day-to-day interaction with academic staff. The Graduate School Common Room is also a stimulating place for PGR students to meet and discuss their work. The University Library provides support for researchers by becoming actively involved in bids and projects and by offering subject-based and generic workshops for academic



researchers. In 2011 the University was awarded £36,000 of funding from the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) under their 'Infrastructure for Resource Discovery' programme for 'Jerome', a six-month project to build a new, innovative library search interface using modern, open source software and open bibliographic data (<u>http://jerome.library.lincoln.ac.uk</u>). The University's Orbital project is funded under the £10m Managing Research Data programme of JISC, one of 17 large institutional projects intended to develop and extend infrastructures for research data management

#### e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

The University's Research Strategy demonstrates a commitment to engaged research involving other research institutions, public organisations, commerce, charities and voluntary organisations, both in the UK and overseas. It acknowledges that collaboration not only enhances the reputation of the University but also brings additional expertise to bear on the development of our research culture. To support this commitment, the University centrally coordinates cross-institution links, encourages joint funding applications, cross-departmental and cross-college research, organises cross-university research events such the Lincoln Academy lecture series and an annual staff and student Research Conference, and maintains a strong community of Visiting Professors and Visiting Research Fellows. During the assessment period the School appointed three leading academics as pro-rata researchers or visiting professors to provide support to the research groups. These were **Hendrix** (Professor of Architectural History), Steel (Professor of Food and Cities) and Oechslin (Professor of the History of Art and Architecture).

Collaboration with Industry: The CAR also recognises the value of engaging in high-impact research based on collaboration with the design and construction industries. This is embedded in the School's vision along with an emphasis on people-centred design and a concern to align our research with the needs of the wider community. A number of links have been forged with external organisations, both regional/national and international, to enhance the School's research activity. These include the East Midlands History and Philosophy of Architecture Research Network, the RIBA East Midlands Office and the Construction Emissions Community of Practice (CECoP). Founded by Sodagar in collaboration with five industrial partners, the CECoP won a RIBA special prize in 2008 (RIBA East Midland Awards for Architecture). The School also has a long-term relationship with Hill Holt Wood, a Social Enterprise Company near Newark, and has developed a number of KTPs related to sustainability issues including a local firm of surveyors, the J H Walter Partnership, a developer of social rented /affordable dwellings, Longhursts, and a property services company, NPS. Examples of research collaboration with industry partners are two TSB-funded research projects undertaken in partnership with Longhurst Group Ltd. and Robert Woodheads Ltd., one to monitor occupants' interactions and satisfaction in new houses built to Code Five of Sustainable Homes standards and another to monitor the performance of four new houses using Passivhaus principles and a Fabric First approach (Sodagar). Byrd was a member of a team working with 'Research New Zealand', funded by the Ministry of Education, to carry out a Post Occupancy Evaluation of recently completed NZ schools (2010). His role as technical advisor was to coordinate the building performance aspects of the schools. He was also commissioned in 2009 by Napier City Council and Housing New Zealand Corporation to survey and report on pensioner housing in the state. Watt collaborated with the RIBA East Midlands Office on a regional travelling exhibition entitled "Fifty Buildings/50 years: Modern Architecture in the East Midlands" funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund, East Midlands Development Agency and Ibstock Bricks.

**Research Collaboration:** Collaboration with other research institutions has included the iNETfunded Retrotek research project with the University of Derby and EKV Design, which aimed to establish a 'toolkit' for improving the energy performance of empty rented properties to help return them to use by the social rented sector (O'Coill; Cottrell, 2009). Another project, "Closing the Loop", with Northampton University, explored the benefits of improved visualisation, presentation and analysis techniques that are available through Immersive Virtual Reality Technology (IVRT) to facilitate the attainment of sustainable buildings (**Sodagar**). **Catalani** won a research grant, "Digital Cultural Engagement of Older Audiences" (2013), collaborating with academics from the University of Manchester, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester Museum and Whitworth Art Gallery, which focuses on digital technologies, smart cities and social inclusion.



**Interdisciplinary Research**: Hay collaborated with landscape architecture staff at Kingston University on the project "Inside Out: Spectacle and Transformation" (in press) and Gitten's crossdisciplinary research with collaborators in the School of Art and Design and The American University of Beirut will culminate in a forthcoming edited book entitled, *Recto Verso: Redefining the Sketchbook.* **Byrd** collaborated with University of Auckland academics in the departments of Economics and Electronic Engineering on a project funded by Transforming Cities Thematic Research Initiative and Auckland Council (NZ \$50,480), "The Solar Potential of Auckland" (2011-12) and with a researcher from the School of Housing, Building & Planning, Universiti Sains Malaysia in editing a book, *Towards a Sustainable Built Environment in Developing Countries: Malaysia.* USM Press (2012), involving contributions from a landscape designer, quantity surveyor, structural engineer, planner and building conservationist. **Paranagamage** is working with colleagues in the Business School on approaches to housing for older people.

**Professional Associations:** Cottrell is a regionally-elected National Councillor of the RIBA, a member of the RIBA New Courses Course Changes Group, and the RIBA Education Trust Fund Committee. He is also a member of the East Midlands Design Review Panel and the RIBA International Validation Panel. He has been a Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment Regional Representative for Yorkshire and Humberside, Chair of the RIBA Hearings Panel, and a member of the RIBA Disciplinary Committee, the RIBA Research Grants Sub-Committee and Honorary Chairman of RIBA Yorkshire Region. **Byrd** is a member of the Institute of Professional Engineers of New Zealand, the Institute of Architects and the Australia and New Zealand Architectural Science Association. **Catalan** is a founding member of the Leisure, Recreation and Heritage Research Group and a member of the International Council of Museums, the Museum Association and the Royal African Society.

Keynotes/Conferences: Researchers in the School of Architecture serve on prestigious editorial boards, conference organising committees, and several have been invited as keynote speakers. Byrd was invited speaker at the Engineers Without Borders conference in Auckland (2011). He was on the Steering Committee for the Australasian Housing Researchers Conference in 2010, a member of the organising committee of the 7<sup>th</sup> Association of Pacific Rim Universities Research Symposium on Multi-hazards (2011) and he was appointed Science Reviewer for the New Zealand Government, Ministry of Science and Innovation research funding proposals (2012). Catalani was keynote speaker at "Sharing our Identities: A Finnish-Russian Conference" (2011), and "Collection Policy Now: Objects and Documents", Helsinki, Finland (2010). Sodagar was Guest Editor for Sustainable Architecture and Construction in a special Issue of Buildings Journal (2012) (ISSN 2075-5309) and was on the Scientific Advisory Board of the sixth Dubrovnik International Conference on "Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems" (2011). Elnokaly was invited speaker and chapter editor at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Architecture and Urban Development SAUD in Jordan (2010) and Invited Keynote Speaker for the 'Marine Rotary International conference on World Peace in Egypt (2009), Hendrix was invited speaker at the Conference on Iconology at the University of Vienna (2011) on the topic of "Leon Battista Alberti and the Concept of 'Lineament'" (funded by the Kress Foundation). Six major international conferences or symposia were held at the University of Lincoln during the assessment period to provide opportunities for staff to disseminate research findings, establish networks with international researchers and expand on collaborative activity: Deconstruction, Refurbishment and the Use of Recycled Materials in the Built Environment (2008). Architecture and Justice: Judicial Matters in the Public Realm (2009), The Cultural Role of Architecture (2010), Recto Verso: Redefining the Sketchbook (2010), Theoretical Currents II: Architecture and Its Geographic Horizons (2012) and Architecture as Cosmology: Lincoln Cathedral and Bishop Robert Grosseteste (2012). These events attracted academics from all over the world, with keynote speakers including internationally-recognized scholars such as Alberto Perez-Gomez (McGill University), Marco Frascari (Carleton University), Andrzej Piotrowski (University of Minnesota), Dalibor Veseley (Cambridge) and Martin Kemp (Oxford).