

Perspectives on Social Sustainability and Interior Architecture

Dianne Smith • Marina Lommerse • Priya Metcalfe
Editors

Perspectives on Social Sustainability and Interior Architecture

Life from the Inside

 Springer

Editors

Dianne Smith
Department of Architecture and Interior
Architecture
Curtin University
Perth
West Australia
Australia

Marina Lommerse
Marina Lommerse Consultants
Perth
Western Australia
Australia

Priya Metcalfe
Priya Metcalfe Conservation
and Heritage Consultant
Perth
Western Australia
Australia

ISBN 978-981-4585-38-5 ISBN 978-981-4585-39-2 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-981-4585-39-2
Springer Singapore Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London

Library of Congress Control Number: 2014934655

© Springer Science+Business Media Singapore 2014

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are reserved by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed. Exempted from this legal reservation are brief excerpts in connection with reviews or scholarly analysis or material supplied specifically for the purpose of being entered and executed on a computer system, for exclusive use by the purchaser of the work. Duplication of this publication or parts thereof is permitted only under the provisions of the Copyright Law of the Publisher's location, in its current version, and permission for use must always be obtained from Springer. Permissions for use may be obtained through RightsLink at the Copyright Clearance Center. Violations are liable to prosecution under the respective Copyright Law.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

While the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication, neither the authors nor the editors nor the publisher can accept any legal responsibility for any errors or omissions that may be made. The publisher makes no warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

Printed on acid-free paper

Springer is part of Springer Science+Business Media (www.springer.com)

Cover photograph by Angela Buckland

*The field of Interior Architecture is defined
by the way we act, and the opportunities for
a shift in, and challenge to, perception.*

Foreword

No living thing can be understood without knowing its habitat. This holds true of human society. A sense of space and place is intimately bound up with the human experience of being and becoming—the way in which people find their place as self in society, the way in which they build meaningful relationships with others, the way they individually and collectively construct a ‘good life’.

For these reasons it is heartening to encounter such a diverse and challenging collection of essays that connect the field of interior design with the issues of justice in society.

Of course there are competing notions of justice, and competing approaches to human development. Working over many years in the arena of social justice and community development, I have found myself increasingly drawn to Amartya Sen’s concept of development as freedom. This is not the false freedom of the market or the fleeting freedom of hedonistic individualism, but rather the agency of individuals and communities to negotiate the world, using their human capabilities to construct and enjoy the ‘good life’.

There is no absolute definition or standard of a good life of course. The point is that it can only be found in the mesh of meaning and relationships that we co-create. True human development happens when people create the circumstances for rewarding existence and activity, as they understand it. This is very much a matter of culture and not just driven by the psyche or ego of individuals.

And power relations imbue all of human society and culture. The ideal of justice, however constructed, is constrained by relations of inequality and domination. So I believe there is such a thing as an architecture of justice, both figuratively and literally. In considering the places and spaces where we live out our lives together, political and ethical thinking frames come into the picture.

While these reflections may seem somewhat abstract, the papers in this collection demonstrate that by joining the consideration of place and design to reflection on social relations, we can achieve richer insights that can drive better practice.

In the twenty-first century we seem to have entered into a new world of knowledge discovery, where many of the most exciting insights come not from the authority of a traditional discipline, but from the dialogue that happens at the hubs and intersections of thought—the arenas where different disciplines and approaches,

different schools and habits of thinking, come together to collaborate and contend. This collection is a good example of this, and I hope the book will be widely read and its lessons learned and applied.

Tim Costello

Officer of the Order of Australia
Chief Executive, World Vision Australia

Preface

... we need a more joined-up way to design for living. This means rethinking everything, including the way humans feed, clothe, shelter, assemble, communicate and live together. It means designing at the level of behaviors, habits, beliefs and language. In short, it entails re-designing design itself. (Wood 2012, n.p.)

One of the main aims of *Perspectives on social sustainability and interior architecture: Life from the inside* is to look at interior architecture through a lens which enables the embedded process, knowledge and skills to be interrogated. Another is to see how interior architecture can add to the debate and discussion concerning worldwide issues of social concern, across disciplines that are directly and indirectly associated with the design professions.

A number of fields in this transdisciplinary spectrum have been emerging over the last 30 years, but in more recent years, the literature has increased. Since the publication of our first edition, *Life from the inside: Perspectives on social sustainability and interior architecture* in 2011, fine distinctions between concepts have been defined. For example, social innovation, social economy, social development, and community development are areas described and discussed in relation to social responsibility and social sustainability. In addition, more common terms in relation to design processes and thinking in interior architecture and related disciplines, including wicked problems, participatory design, co-design, and co-production, are being rediscovered. These terms are applied to discussions of working with people within their contexts, and therefore, engaging with processes that generate insider perspectives of complex and ambiguous situations.

In Chapter 1, An introduction to Social Sustainability and Interior Architecture, we revisit the strong continuing focus on sustainability that pertains to ecological or natural environmental concerns within the literature. Although social, cultural or human aspects are interwoven and open up the discussion, the pendulum still tends to rest with the concepts and rhetoric of the interrelated terms that compose our title—social sustainability and interior architecture.

Therefore the essays contained in this publication continue to inform, extend, and challenge these discussions. We hope that the ideas proposed and questions raised by the authors' contributions will serve to stimulate your practice and research. We also invite information regarding any projects that sit within the realm

of social responsibility or social sustainability and interior architecture. In addition, we hope to contribute to the clarification of how interior architecture can play a role in the changing global context.

...we are driven by two core principles. Firstly, a need for equity of access to good design for all, privileging social justice; and secondly, a need to engage with community through student and staff projects, so that we increase the relevance of interior architecture and foster positive change. (Smith and Lommerse 2010, p. 7)

Dianne Smith
Marina Lommerse
Priya Metcalfe

References

- Wood, J. (2012). Why user-centred design is not enough. *Core77*. http://www.core77.com/blog/articles/why_user-centered_design_is_not_enough_by_john_wood_23465.asp. Accessed 30 Nov 2013.
- Smith, D., & Lommerse, M. (Eds.). (2010, April). A permeable field of possibilities. *Permeable boundaries: Interiors—A field of possibilities*. Exhibition catalogue. Perth: John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University.

Acknowledgements

Chapters in this book were double blind reviewed by independent experts in accordance with the Australian Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) guidelines.

The editors would like to thank and acknowledge the following people for their creative participation, and for igniting debate and development in the compilation, refereeing and editing of *Perspectives on Social Sustainability and Interior Architecture: Life from the Inside*:

- The contributing authors for their enthusiastic response to the intention of the book, and their ideas that shaped the book through the contributed chapters.
- The referees, for considered and constructive assessment of the chapters:
 - Linda Young, Senior Lecturer, School of History Heritage and Society, Deakin University, Geelong
 - Madeline Lester, Past President IFI, International Federation of Interior Architects and Designers, Principal of Madeline Lester + Associates, Sydney, Member of the Order of Australia
 - Salvatore Di Mauro, Senior Lecturer, Queensland College of Art, Griffith University, Brisbane
 - Professor Suzette Worden, Independent Researcher, Suzette Worden Research, Sunbury, Victoria.
- Tim Costello, Officer of the Order of Australia, Chief Executive, World Vision Australia for writing the foreword.
- Christina Houen, *Perspectives'* Production Coordinator, Adjunct Research Associate of School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts, Curtin University, and Editor/Director of www.perfectwordsediting.com, for her dedicated editing and production work, impressive attention to detail and timely advice to authors.
- Sarah Beeck, Lecturer, School of the Built Environment, Curtin University for her research assistance, dedication and contributions to the book preparation.
- Allyson Crimp, Designer, of et-al.com.au, for her graphic work and image editing.

- Jessica Winters, graduate, Curtin University and Tiia Maunu, Interior Designer, for their research assistance and contributions to the book preparation.

We thank Springer for their enthusiastic approach to publishing the book.

Last but not least, we thank Curtin University for support enabling the research and production associated with this book project.

Contents

1 An Introduction to Social Sustainability and Interior Architecture	1
Dianne Smith, Sarah Beeck, Marina Lommerse and Priya Metcalfe	
Part I Community Engagement and Interior Architecture	
2 Working Together: Interior Architecture Creating with the Community	15
Marina Lommerse	
3 More Than Bricks and Mortar: Lessons in Design and World Citizenship	41
Kelley Beaverford	
Part II Social Justice and Interior Architecture	
4 Interiors can Address Social Justice: Fact or Fiction?	55
Dianne Smith	
5 The Importance of Interior Design Professionals' Engagement in Policy Development to Effect Change for Underprivileged Individuals	79
Jill Pable and Lisa Waxman	
6 Interior Design by Expediency	87
Rodney Harber and Angela Buckland	
7 Inside the Remote-Area Aboriginal House	93
Paul Memmott	
8 Too 'Nice' to be Socially Responsible: Reflections of a Danish Interior Practitioner	101
Marianne Frandsen	

Part III Cultural Heritage and Interior Architecture

9 Cultural Heritage Practice Through Socially Sustainable, Adaptive Re-use of Industrial Buildings: A Western Australian Narrative..... 109
Priya Metcalfe

10 Ambiguity and Permeability in Historic Modern Interiors: A Challenge for Cultural Heritage and Social Sustainability 129
Penny Sparke

Index..... 139

Contributors

Kelley Beaverford Department of Interior Design, Faculty of Architecture, University of Manitoba, Canada, US

Sarah Beeck Electa Design, Churchlands, WA, Australia

Angela Buckland Durban, South Africa

Marianne Frandsen Designer, honorary member of Danish Designers, Copenhagen, Denmark

Rodney Harber Harber & Associates, Architects, Urban & Regional Planners, Durban, South Africa

Honorary Research Fellow, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa

Marina Lommerse Marina Lommerse Consultants, South Fremantle, WA, Australia

School of the Built Environment, Curtin University, Perth, Australia

Paul Memmott Aboriginal Environments Research Centre (AERC), School of Architecture and Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Priya Metcalfe Priya Metcalfe Conservation and Heritage Consultant, Hamilton Hill, WA, Australia

Priya Metcalfe Conservation and Heritage Consultant, Perth, WA, Australia

Jill Pable Department of Interior Design, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, USA

Dianne Smith Department of Architecture and Interior Architecture, Curtin University, Perth, Australia

Penny Sparke Kingston University, London, UK

Lisa Waxman Department of Interior Design, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, USA

About the Editors

Dianne Smith is Associate Professor and Head of Program in Interior Architecture at Curtin University. Dianne's research focuses on discriminating design with particular reference to people who are cognitively impaired, the meaning of environments, the impact of colour on experience, and our understanding of place, and design education.

Marina Lommerse is a designer, educator, curator, researcher and strategist with Marina Lommerse Consultants, and Adjunct Professor, Curtin University. She works with creative people and communities to strengthen individual and collective capacity and build supportive environments, mobilizing creative projects that promote positive change in communities, through publications, creative works, and curatorship of exhibitions.

Priya Metcalfe has over 15 years' experience in practise and as a lecturer at Curtin University, specializing in conservation and heritage. She has prepared heritage assessments and conservation plans for a wide range of commercial and residential buildings. Priya's Master of Philosophy dissertation relates to issues of cultural heritage.

About the Authors

Kelley Beaverford is Associate Professor at the University of Manitoba and Executive Director of Architects Without Borders Canada. She has over 10 years experience as a design educator with a focus on human rights and global citizenship. Kelley has worked on numerous non-profit projects in more than 16 countries.

Sarah Beeck has an extensive career in professional practice and as a Lecturer in Interior Architecture at Curtin University. Her interests include collective memories and objectivity within interiors, and the possibilities of creative production as research.

Angela Buckland photographer, Durban, South Africa, taught for many years in the Fine Arts Department at Durban University of Technology. She currently runs her own private photography school and works as a freelance photographer in Durban. Her photographic work explores deeply personal themes and is held in private and public collections.

Marianne Frandsen has worked on assignments in Denmark and the other Scandinavian countries and the Middle East, including Iraq and Kuwait. She volunteers in organizational work, defining the emerging profession of interior architecture in Denmark as well as internationally.

Rodney Harber is a practising architect and urban and regional planner, an international development consultant and a Professor of Architecture, Planning & Housing. His award-winning practice, Harber & Associates, has worked mainly in rural developmental projects along the eastern seaboard of South Africa, concerning sustainable settlements, impact of HIV/AIDS, poverty alleviation and community buildings.

Paul Memmott, anthropologist and architect, is Director of the Aboriginal Environments Research Centre (AERC) at the University of Queensland. Current research in the AERC addresses social problems of housing design, crowding, homelessness and family violence in both metropolitan and remote parts of Indigenous Australia.

Jill Pable is Associate Professor in the Department of Interior Design at Florida State University. Her service and research focuses on design for the underprivileged. Through her guidance, two of her students are the holders of a US patent for the design of a cradle for use by families in homeless shelters.

Penny Sparke is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) and Professor of Design History at Kingston University, London. She oversees three Faculties and chairs the Research Committee, the Campus Development Board and the Cultural Strategy Group. She has published over a dozen books and numerous articles and book chapters over the last 25 years.

Lisa Waxman is Professor and Chair of the Department of Interior Design at Florida State University. Her current research includes the design of third places and spaces that foster community, as well as housing for special populations. She teaches environment and behaviour, computer-aided design, sustainability, and studio.

List of Figures

Fig. 2.1 ‘A community is a group of people who have something in common’ (Bullock and Trombley 2000, p. 145). Tanganyika circa 1957 16

Fig. 2.2 First Nations Elder speaking in front of the ‘talking wall’, which provided an inclusive and visible listening device..... 20

Fig. 2.3 Roles variously played by the different partners in a community initiative 23

Fig. 2.4 Designing Futures facilitates capacity development through sharing of know-how, fostering relationships and building prototypes. Dune Pendant design and prototypes Malcolm Harris 33

Fig. 2.5 Penelope Forlano’s ‘Wild Creeper’: taking product from idea to prototype, to packaging and marketing, through her involvement in Designing Futures and ROI 34

Fig. 2.6 a and b Mimili Community, South Australia: the University of South Australia, School of Art, Architecture and Design. Student Construction Program has been working with Aboriginal communities since 1993 38

Fig. 3.1 Collaboration, photographer Kelley Beaverford..... 42

Fig. 3.2 Saint Anne’s Boarding School project in progress, photographer Kelley Beaverford..... 43

Fig. 3.3 Craftsman demonstrating wood work; photographer Kelley Beaverford..... 46

Fig. 3.4 Craftsman demonstrating how to apply plaster; photographer Kelley Beaverford..... 47

Fig. 3.5 Re-use of materials, students straighten nails; photographer Kelley Beaverford 47

Fig. 5.1 An example recommendation for bathroom lighting proposed for FHFC suitable for the study’s homeless, veteran and frail elderly users 83

Fig. 5.2 An example recommendation for space planning proposed for FHFC suitable for the study’s homeless users in transitional-style housing developments 84

Fig. 6.1 **a** Makhanya from Mikhomazi, street trader, resident 50 years. **b** Thembeni Mncwabe from uMKmomaas, waitress, resident 11 years. **c** Mrs Nora Hlmabisa from Verulam, temporary domestic worker, resident 15 years..... 90

Fig. 6.2 **a** Makhosi Mthethwa from uMKmomaas, bead seller, resident 30 years. **b** Janet Mngoma from Groutville, cleaner, resident 11 years. **c** Zodwa Mary Jane from Matatiele, pensioner, resident 13 years 92

Fig. 8.1 Camper for Dialogue; photographer Dorte Krogh..... 104

Fig. 8.2 The Reading Room; installation by AVPD; photographer Dorte Krogh 105

Fig. 9.1 Aerial view of the Midland Railway Workshops showing the location of the case study buildings 113

Fig. 9.2 Blocks One (*left*) and Two (*right*) 117

Fig. 9.3 Interior Block One 117

Fig. 9.4 Interior Block Two of proposed studio insertion 122

Fig. 9.5 Interior Railway Institute 124

Fig. 9.6 Interior Pattern Shop proposal 125

Fig. 10.1 The ‘Frankfurt Kitchen’, designed by Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky 1926–1927 136

List of Tables

Table 2.1 Community engagement related concepts. (Table adapted from DSE 2005, p. 15)	25
Table 4.1 Further examples of design for social responsibility	64