

DECOLONISING THE CITY

NZILA Firth Conference 2018_ Student Charrette, April 9-11 2018

INTRODUCTION

In advance of and parallel to the Tuia Pito Ora | NZILA Firth Conference on April 12-13 2018, a multi-disciplinary student design charrette will be held at **Te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka | Unitec Institute of Technology in Ōwairaka, Tāmaki Makaurau**. Students of 3rd to 4th year studies in landscape architecture, urban design, architecture, surveying, planning and related disciplines from Auckland University, AUT, Unitec, VUW, Lincoln, Otago and other universities, as well as representatives from Australian built design courses, will be invited to work on the theme of *Decolonising the City*.

Homes Land Community (HLC), a subsidiary of Housing New Zealand, is a participating partner of the charrette. Students will study an area of Onekiritea | Hobsonville Point which HLC are currently redeveloping, to suggest ideas and interventions at different scales to effect decolonisation. Sites like these present a pressing challenge for Tāmaki Makaurau today; this challenge will require students to delve into and explore the needs of mana whenua and the communities whose home this area is, as well as the mandate to provide more homes. Students will work in mixed disciplinary groups to consider a decolonised urban fabric.

This charrette aims to give students an opportunity to explore a broader challenge, which is pertinent to Aotearoa today:

How might we contribute to decolonising our urban form and cities across Aotearoa and beyond?

Photo credit: Skylens

WHAT IS DECOLONISATION?

Definitions of decolonisation abound but seem to focus on process driven acts. For Hutchings, decolonisation is about “opening the minds of many Māori and non-Māori in understanding both a truer history of this country and generating new tools to create a more meaningful process of reflection and dialogue” (nd.). Veracini adds that acknowledging and understanding forms of settler colonialism can contribute to decolonisation processes due in part because “settler colonialism has been in many ways remarkably resistant to decolonisation” (2007:1). Sherwood & Edwards talk of agendas set towards the “amelioration of the impact of those [colonialism] dynamics.” (2006:184).

Definitions are often found in the fields of health, education and more generally, settler colonial studies however, what decolonisation might mean for the built and natural environments is less well understood. A recent project undertaken by Ngāti Toa and Victoria University of Wellington, *Imagining Decolonised Cities*, sought to elicit ideas through an urban design competition for two sites in Porirua. The definition used to guide contestants in contrast to the ones above concentrated on outcomes for the tangible realisation of decolonisation in the built environment. It drew on notions of place identity and social justice: two outcomes of a decolonisation process, and read ‘Cities that are equitable places for all whānau, reflecting Māori identity and values’ (<http://www.idcities.co.nz/>).

To this end decolonisation is about processes and outcomes, both important in responding to the design charrette site. Key questions participants will need to ask themselves are:

1. **What impact has colonisation had and might continue to have on this site, the people who live there and surrounding it, and the mana whenua groups for whom this is tūrangawaewae? and;**
2. **What needs to happen in this site to move towards decolonising those impacts?**

- Sherwood, J., & Edwards, T. (2006). Decolonisation: A critical step for improving Aboriginal health. *Contemporary Nurse*, 22(2), 178-190.
- Veracini, L. 2007, ‘Settler colonialism and decolonisation’, *Borderlands e-journal*, vol. 6, no. 2
- Hutchings, J. (nd.) *Decolonisation and Aotearoa – a pathway to right livelihood*, The Swaraj Foundation, [Online] http://www.swaraj.org/shikshantar/l33_jessica.htm, accessed 27 August 2018.

CALL TO PARTICIPATE

The Landscape Foundation, events organiser; Te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka | Unitec Institute of Technology, hosts; and Tuia Pito Ora | New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects now call on staff of relevant university courses and students to register for the charrette using the **Registration Form**, and send to **Diane Menzies**, drdhmenzies@ark.co.nz; as well as forwarding payment to the Landscape Foundation as shown on the Registration Form.

For further information, please get in touch with_
Diane Menzies
drdhmenzies@ark.co.nz
027 532 2866

PROGRAMME_TO BE FINALISED

TIME	MONDAY 9 APRIL	TUESDAY 10 APRIL	WEDNESDAY 11 APRIL
7.00			Breakfast in Te Noho Kotahitanga wharekai
7.30		Breakfast in Te Noho Kotahitanga wharekai	
8.00			Pack up and move to Building 1 at Unitec
8.30		Move to Building 1 at Unitec	STUDIO WORK with design tutors (TBC)
9.00		Kōrero with Desna Whaanga-Schollum and Lucy Tukua	
9.30			
10.00		STUDIO WORK with design tutors (TBC)	
10.30			
11.00			
11.30			
12.00			Student team presentations
12.30	Arrive at Te Noho Kotahitanga Marae at Unitec by 12.45pm latest	Lunch - Students to provide or buy their own	
1.00	Pōwhiri		
1.30	Whakawhanaungatanga and cup of tea	INTERIM REVIEW of groups' work with Desna Whaanga-Schollum & other design tutors/critics	Lunch provided
2.00			
2.30	Intro by Becky Kiddle, Alayna Renata, Timmah Ball, Hayley Fitchett & Peter McPherson	STUDIO WORK with design tutors (TBC)	Poroporoaki (closing)
3.00	Build the teams & depart for site visit at Onekiritea; Mihi on site		Travel to city (transport by bus provided as part of the charrette); Register for conference
3.30	Student teams are briefed on site by Becky Kiddle, Alayna Renata, Timmah Ball and HLC		
4.00			Conference Walking Tour - Wynyard Quarter (Not included as part of charrette)
4.30			
5.00			
5.30	Return to Building 1, Unitec		Conference Welcome Cocktails (informal) (Not included as part of charrette)
6.00	Groups to set up work stations in Building 1, Unitec		
6.30	Dinner - Pizzas at Building 1	Dinner - Fish & chips at Point Chevalier beach	
7.00			
7.30	Return to Te Noho Kotahitanga wharenui; Set beds up	STUDIO WORK - TBC	
7.45	What is Decolonisation kōrero with Timmah Ball, Becky Kiddle & Alayna Renata in wharenui		
8.30		Move to Te Noho Kotahitanga marae	
9.00	Cup of tea in wharekai; noho marae	Cup of tea in wharekai; noho marae	