UNSW Built Environment
UG Research Link Scholarship Program 2013

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Your Discipline/s: ☐ A+D Discipline ☐ ConPlanProp Discipline ☐ Both Disciplines represented

Name of the direct supervisor of this project (if other than the applicant or if there is more than one applicant i.e. team application)

What types of skills would you prefer student applicants to have? (Please check all boxes as appropriate)

PowerPoint ☑ GIS ☐ Excel ☑ SPSS ☐ Library research skills ☑ Web Page Creation ☐

Other ☐ Please state

RESEARCH PROJECT INFORMATION

Title of Project Mapping diversities: community buildings and Sydney's multi-cultural landscape

Project Summary

Metropolitan Sydney is home to a diverse range of migrants, who, over time, have built their clubs, religious buildings and other structures to facilitate community gathering, interaction and celebration. The relevance of such facilities is thus commonly perceived in their relation to the specific community rather than the broader suburban context. This project aims to consider the selected multicultural cultural centres and ethnic clubs of the Sydney’s western suburbs in their relations to each other as well as the broader cultural and physical landscape of the Sydney’s western suburbs.

This specific project focuses on the municipal area of Fairfield, namely the suburb of Bonnyrigg, and Cabramatta. These suburbs provide an exceptional case study for the analysis of the diversity of cultures existing within suburban life. Bibby’s Place of Bonnyrigg, for example, is a unique and complex site that includes Aboriginal community centre, Turkish Mosque, Christian Church Vietnamese Community of Australia, Phap Bao Temple all in a proximity to each other. The project aims to provide a historic and cultural survey of the selected precincts and the buildings included. Such findings will provide an important extension to the extensive information available [via councils] on cultural and social relevance of this infrastructure. The data will provide the information needed for further development of the research I have commenced that addresses the shifting political and cultural role of ethnic community centres in Sydney.

The methodology used in this research combines historical research and visual representation. The research on historic context and the specific development of selected buildings will be followed by both accurate and interpretative visual representation of data. Required activities include the following:

1. Review of existing databases [such The Heritage Council of NSW and Dictionary of Sydney] and other sources with an aim of producing an accurate set of maps that mark important ethnic centers in their suburban context.
2. Producing historic and visual records of the selected precincts, e.g. mapping.
3. Producing visual material and drawings as well as photographic records of selected buildings.

- A set of detailed database entries of the multi-cultural precincts and buildings within the selected Sydney suburbs. [to be used in developing the project of ‘Buildings of multi-cultural Sydney’ into a grant application and a refereed paper on related topic]
- Accurate visual documentation of selected buildings. [to be used to expand on my efforts in teaching the design studios on related topics]
- Accurate historical documentation of selected projects [to be used in expanding the project I commenced with the March graduation studio and contributing to the on-line refereed Dictionary of Sydney]

Expected project outcomes

Specific student tasks and responsibilities

- Preparation of a comprehensive review of the selected precincts and buildings.
- Preparation of visual and historical documentation of the selected precincts and buildings.

Minimum student qualifications

Interest in design and history, good attention to detail; good language skills; good visual documentation skills, and mobility.