

## Position Description – Professor of Architecture

### Position Details

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<b>Position Title:</b>	Professor of Architecture
<b>Position Number:</b>	TBC
<b>Portfolio:</b>	College of Design and Social Context
<b>School/Group:</b>	School of Architecture and Design
<b>Campus Location:</b>	Based at RMIT Europe (Barcelona).
<b>Classification:</b>	Academic Level E <i>Salary Schedule:</i> <a href="http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=ewhlt73t01">http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=ewhlt73t01</a>
<b>Employment Type:</b>	Fixed Term (New academic program/s)
<b>Time Fraction:</b>	0.2

### RMIT University

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RMIT is a global university of technology and design, focused on creating solutions that transform the future for the benefit of people and their environments. We are global in attitude, action and presence; urban in orientation and creativity; and connected through active partnerships with professions, industries and organisations.

RMIT University enjoys an international reputation for excellence in professional and practical educational programs and high quality outcome-oriented research.

One of Australia's original educational institutions founded in 1887, RMIT is now the nation's largest tertiary institution. The University offers an extensive range of postgraduate, undergraduate and vocational programs

RMIT has three Melbourne campuses – in the central business district and in Brunswick and Bundoora in the city's northern suburbs - campuses in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and a site in Barcelona, Spain. With significant partnerships in Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, RMIT has a strong educational presence in the Asia-Pacific region. The University's total student population of 82,000 includes 30,000 international students (onshore and offshore).

RMIT is a leader in technology, design, global business, communication, global communities, health solutions and urban sustainable futures. It is ranked in the top 150 universities in the world for engineering, computer science and information systems, economics, communication and media studies, accounting and finance and education in the 2013 QS World University Rankings and 10<sup>th</sup> in Australia.

[www.rmit.edu.au](http://www.rmit.edu.au)

### The College of Design and Social Context

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The College of Design and Social Context encompasses RMIT University's renowned art, communication, built environment, design, education, and social science disciplines and is comprised of seven schools. The college has 24,500 students and 980 staff.

For more information about the College including the Schools, research centres and staff resources, visit the College homepage at [www.rmit.edu.au/dsc](http://www.rmit.edu.au/dsc).

## School of Architecture + Design

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The School of Architecture + Design, RMIT, is a multi-disciplinary design school.

We understand design practice as an agent of cultural change within an increasingly complex and cosmopolitan world. We emphasise the activity of designing as research and understand research as an integrated component of scholarship. Our design mission is founded on tri-polar, curated and vertically integrated scholarship. The strategic direction for our School is underpinned by three guiding scholarship principles: scholarship-of-change; curated and vertically integrated design scholarship; and tri-polar scholarship.

### **Scholarship-of-Change**

We aim to address compelling, contemporary issues such as climate change, globalisation and rapid urbanisation in ways that facilitate cultural change through design. Our scholars (students, lecturers and researchers) are risk-takers in the sense that they endeavour to bring about change both in design practice and by practicing design. These changes are pursued through refinement, criticism and experimentation and within an ethical framework of social justice and human rights. The Scholarship-of-change principle provides criteria for the appointment of staff and Adjunct Professors and in the appointment of practitioners to sessional teaching positions.

### **Curated and Vertically Integrated Design Scholarship**

We encourage staff to be actively involved in designing, as designers themselves or through critical engagement with designing. Our research is based on the activity of designing. The courses offered by our school are largely delivered in studio mode. These studios are curated according to our tri-polar model. In them staff, students and (in many cases) practitioners explore design research projects. In this way our students operate as empowered studio collaborators in the pursuit of emergent design knowledge and skills.

### **Tri-Polar Scholarship**

Our ambition is to sustain three contested areas of scholarship endeavour across the school. We believe that holding multiple, articulated positions leads to a productive scholarship environment. We understand these three poles as points of intensity within a dynamic constellational structure rather than as fixed points.

These three poles provide a focus for curating our design studios, research and the careers of our alumni. Staff and students make clear and deliberate choices in selecting studios and positioning their work in relation to these three scholarship poles. These can be positions of alignment or opposition or transfiguration. The three poles provide a critical framework through which we actively curate the careers of our alumni and other exemplar practitioners. The three poles are not exclusive. The poles interact and overlap and are always in question. Over time they are challenged and change.

Currently the three poles include the *Urban Environments*, *Advanced Architecture* and *Expanded Field*. Urban Environments has as its focus a concern for precedent, type, and the pragmatics of infrastructure and the urban scale, including civic consciousness and hence civic narratives. Advanced Architecture deals with the pursuit of rule-based and generative processes in design to facilitate new formal/organisational outcomes and ways of thinking about new speculative design possibilities (this area encompasses new digital technologies and fabrication methods). Expanded Field deals with issues of ethics and sustainability, regimes of care, art and public space, social needs and the ephemeral. The tri-polar model provides criteria for the appointment of new staff and Adjunct Professors and in the appointment of practitioners to sessional teaching positions.

The School has approximately 160 postgraduate students enrolled in Master and PhD by research in either project or thesis mode. Candidates work either one-on-one with supervisors or in small groups. Highlights of the academic year are the Practice Research Symposia (PRS) where every postgraduate student presents their work in progress to a panel of invited national and international critics, and informally discusses aspects of their research with colleagues and visitors; they are also the venue for the public examination of concluding candidates. The PRS has an international reputation as the leading research conference of its type in the world.

[www.rmit.edu.au/architecturedesign/research/prs](http://www.rmit.edu.au/architecturedesign/research/prs)

The School is also known internationally for the work of the Spatial Information Architecture Laboratory and Sound Studios (SIAL) which is an international leader in multi-disciplinary digital design research. The School's research endeavours are supported through RMIT University's research Institutes as well as the School of Architecture and Design Research Centres [[www.rmit.edu.au/research](http://www.rmit.edu.au/research)].

[www.rmit.edu.au/architecturedesign](http://www.rmit.edu.au/architecturedesign)

## **Position Summary**

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The Professor of Architecture is part of a strategic School initiative to foster and strengthen RMIT's global leadership in practice based research, in particular through a unique doctoral program. The appointee is expected to contribute comprehensively to a capability platform of design research excellence based on RMIT's acclaimed radical innovation of conventional thesis models.

RMIT is a key partner within a current four year ADAPT<sub>r</sub> program of seven European Universities - including RMIT Europe, based in Barcelona, Spain – established as an EU Framework 7 'Marie Curie' ITN. The Professor of Architecture is expected to increase European research capacity through a substantive contribution to PhD supervision and the Practice Research Symposia (PRS) within and beyond the ADAPT<sub>r</sub> ITN.

The Professor of Architecture works with the Deputy Dean (Research) in the School of Architecture and Design to provide research leadership with regard to emerging research opportunities and new research income generation, in particular within the broader European research funding context. Along with colleagues in the Professoriate, he or she will also contribute to the wider design scholarship of the School, e.g. through participation in the School's research centres.

The Professor is a senior academic and eminent researcher in the specialist field, contributing significantly to research outputs, building capability of staff and promoting strong academic performance. The Professor will provide high level design practice research leadership developing and leading design practice research project teams and programs and fostering a vibrant research culture focussed on the PhD and PRS program. He or she will be required to develop a high-quality and productivity-driven research network across RMIT and with external national and global partners. The Professor will make a significant contribution to the planning and strategic direction of the School.

## **Reporting Line**

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Reports to: Deputy Dean (Research), Architecture and Design

## **Organisational Accountabilities**

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RMIT University is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of its staff. RMIT and its staff must comply with a range of statutory requirements, including equal opportunity, occupational health and safety, privacy and trade practice. RMIT also expects staff to comply with its policy and procedures, which relate to statutory requirements and our ways of working.

Appointees are accountable for completing training on these matters and ensuring their knowledge, and the knowledge of their staff, is up to date.

## **Key Accountabilities**

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1. Provide professorial leadership and strategic direction in design practice research within RMIT's doctoral research program.
2. In collaboration with the Dean, Architecture and Design, and the Deputy Dean (Research), ensure that practice based research activity in the discipline is focussed on agreed strategic priorities and that research outcomes contribute to the positioning and strengthening of the School.
3. In collaboration with the Dean Architecture and Design, and the Deputy Dean (International and Development), advance international education and research opportunities for the discipline and programs.
4. Lead and encourage the development of interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration both within the School and across the wider University.
5. Liaise with industry and professional partners to enhance the relevance of learning, teaching and design practice research.
6. Maintain academic and professional standing and currency by engaging in a program of academic and professional activity and development.
7. Undertake design practice research as appropriate and as negotiated with the Deputy Dean (Research), Architecture and Design.
8. Position and represent the discipline and program/s locally, nationally and internationally and work with College and University marketing groups to ensure effective marketing.

9. Ensure implementation of best practice teaching strategies within discipline and dissemination of innovative practices across the University, including: initiating responses to emergent issues, leading improvement of academic standards.
10. Having achieved distinction at national and international levels and with recognition as an eminent authority in the discipline, lead research contribution including: leading publication effort of research team/s and extending dissemination activities;
11. Identifying and attracting external research funding to sustain research growth across the University.

## **Key Selection Criteria**

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1. Demonstrated International standing and excellence in Architecture and Design with a proven distinctive design practice research record and the capacity to exercise research leadership to enhance the standing of the School nationally and internationally.
2. Alignment of design practice research focus with the School of Architecture and Design and demonstrated ability to contribute to the School's Research Centres and the research platform of the PRS (Practice Research Symposia).
3. Evidence of ability and experience in mentoring candidates engaged in design practice research.
4. Evidence of internationally recognised research track record, including distinctive research output in design projects, publications and public presentations.
5. Potential to generate funding projects through effective liaison with industry and capacity to attract external funding and experience with grant bodies.
6. High level of interpersonal, communication and negotiating skills including the ability to consult, network and build relationships within the organisation and externally.
7. Ability to work effectively in a collegiate environment and to develop and achieve shared goals and objectives.
8. Strong leadership skills and experience in leading and managing projects to deliver strategic objectives.

## **Qualifications**

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**Mandatory:** PhD in relevant field

**Preferred:** Completion of the Essentials in Tertiary Teaching Practice program or equivalent<sup>1</sup> (if the appointed candidate does not meet this requirement at time of appointment, they will be supported to complete this as a requirement to fulfil their probation).

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<sup>1</sup> Equivalence is defined in the exemption criteria at <http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=3sdrya7u8m9v1>