

Stutchbury Wows Local Audiences

World renowned architect, Peter Stutchbury has just delivered a series of lectures on sustainability to architects and built environment professionals in South Africa, hosted by BlueScope Steel Southern Africa and supported by Green Building Council of SA.

By Jennifer Rees and Daniel Conradie



His presentation was geared to showcase innovation in sustainable construction. Peter Stutchbury is a man who believes in observing nature when designing a building. He represented the harmonious relationship between architecture, construction and nature, not just through a speech, but through sharing his unique architectural designs and explaining how and why they work sustainably. Stutchbury, who is clearly rooted in the Australian landscape and whose passion is so evidently moulded by the teachings of its people, is driven to create spaces that are sensitive to the land and the people who occupy it. He believes that by being sensitive to the surrounds, a space or a home designed correctly can occupy its space harmoniously and does not have to impede on the surrounds. He emphasised that people too often take no heed of natural forces that occur regularly and, for example, simply build hundreds of homes on what was and always will be a floodplain.

Stutchbury highlighted the usefulness of researching the early homes of original inhabitants for clues in building sustainably in a particular geographical setting. These homes almost always give an indication as to what is necessary for survival in a particular

place. After mentioning that he wants to build a new home for himself, he says, "I am trying to find out what I need. Or rather, what I don't need."

Stutchbury has designed the likes of "The Hangar," the "Bangalay" house and Sydney International Archery Park at the Sydney Olympic Park, which together, show the versatility of steel in sustainable design and construction when well considered. His firm, (PSA), based in New South Wales is in demand worldwide and has recently done significant work in places such as Russia and Japan.

Stutchbury's lectures played out to packed audiences in the major centres. He has been on lecture tour in South Africa before, both as a visiting lecturer at UCT and in presenting a Masterclass with Richard le Plastrier at the Cradle of Humankind. He has developed and maintains a close professional relationship with his past students.

The presentations were presided over by BlueScope Steel's Wayne Miller and keynote input from the Green Building Council of SA was provided by Nick Mulvany, senior technical director.



DEEPWATER WOOLSHED:

2005

Wagga Wagga NSW

Project architect:

Sacha Zehnder

The large overhangs and solar screens allow for the plan to remain open and elevated while providing shelter. This permeability allows for optimal ventilation, resulting in reduced energy usage. The deep profile of the steel roofing allows for larger roof spans, reduction in the number of structural columns required, resulting in reductions in the building cost and environmental impact of the building.



OUTCROP HOUSE:

2007

Whale Beach NSW

Project Architects:

Richard Smith

Sacha Zehnder

The roof opens up towards the north on this south-facing site, maximising natural daylight into the building, as well as responding to the natural slope of the site. Boxes protrude out of the west and east facades are glazed on north and south edges to allow more sunlight inside. The pool flowing from the inside cools incoming air, cooling the interior drastically.



AVALON HOUSE:

2007

Avalon NSW

Project Architects:

Marika Jarv

Rachel Hudson

The skillion roof promotes natural lighting into this east-facing building. The use of prefabricated building components reduced the construction time considerably. The project highlights quality while using a very limited palette of materials, as well as emphasising the natural features of the site.



SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL ARCHERY PARK:

1999

Sydney Olympic Park

Project Architects:

Ray Fitzgibbon

Fergus Scott

Katrina Julienne

The twisting form of the roof provides differences in the scale and light entering the covered open base. The boxes placed underneath the structure can be moved freely, allowing for a great degree of flexibility in the functionality of the building. The spacing and design of the roof trusses allow for an open shooting zone.



Sydney International Archery Park



Deepwater Woolshed



Wayne Miller (left) General Manager BlueScope Steel SA with Peter Stutchbury of PSA.
Photograph by Gareth Griffiths Imaging

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