



Media Release

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Lyons champions architecture of ideas and engagement

Practice monograph to be launched by Victorian Premier, Ted Baillieu, MLA

Architects can help create better cities by focusing less on buildings and real estate and more on ideas, culture and community engagement, according to leading Melbourne-based architectural practice Lyons.

Lyons director, Corbett Lyon, says that architecture and design are two of the most powerful tools we have to deliver exceptional outcomes for our cities.

Lyons' thoughts on architecture are detailed in a monograph on the Lyons practice work over the past 15 years, to be launched by the Premier of Victoria, Ted Baillieu MLA, in Melbourne on Thursday 31 May 2012.

The 484-page monograph, ***“More, The Architecture of Lyons, 1996-2011”***, published by Thames & Hudson, presents images, plans, sketches and notes from Lyons' key projects across the country. Lyons recent projects include Swanston Academic Building for RMIT University (nearing completion in Swanston Street), the recently awarded Lyons Housemuseum, the BHP Billiton Headquarters at QV and numerous multi awarding winning projects at the Australian National University.

“Architecture has the capacity to do more than simply deliver better buildings. Its ideas which buildings are able to express, be they about clients' aspirations, ideas about a place or site or broader ideas about our culture- these are what make them powerful and relevant to our time and place.

“We need to think about buildings being more than just functional – the 'form follows function' paradigm constrains our thinking. Of course buildings need to function exceptionally well but they also have an extraordinary capability to reflect and represent the cultural and symbolic needs of our communities.

“In our role as design practitioners we should also look beyond our own discipline to embrace a wide range of ideas and tap into 'parallel thinking', into disciplines such as visual arts, film writing.

“We are privileged to be working in one of the world's great design cities, Melbourne, and to be among a diversity of practices which are promoting this kind of architecture. There's a great tradition in Melbourne for these types of expressive and culturally connected buildings. We see our work building on this tradition – we see architecture being something akin to language and our work like writing a novel,” Mr Lyon said.

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“More” also features critical essays on the work of the practice from Leon van Schaik, Professor of Architecture - Innovation Chair School of Architecture + Design, RMIT; Juliana Engberg, Artistic Director, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA); John Macarthur, Head of School of Architecture, The University of Queensland and Paul Carter, Creative Director, Material Thinking as well as a visual essay by international artist Matthew Sleeth.

The practice monograph will be officially launched by the Premier of Victoria, the Hon Ted Baillieu MLA, on 31 May 2012.

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