

Architecture students' community collaborations

Each year architecture student from across Australia gather for ArchiCamp, an ethically focused collaborative design event. In 2015, over 80 people attended the event at Shepherds Grounds in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales. The aim of the event was to develop design concepts for the flood-ravaged town of Dungog.

The students worked on a master plan for a replacement Dungog showground and an accompanying pavilion, a sheltered dining and outdoor kitchen area for up to 500 people in Dungog, affordable off-grid affordable housing for young people at Shepherds Ground and a community hall that can accommodate around 200 people.

"Ahead of each ArchiCamp, specific ethical causes for architectural intervention are identified within the host community and the environment where ArchiCamp is to be held. This informs a creative brief, which is presented to participants at the opening of ArchiCamp," said ArchiCamp organizer Jiri Loew.

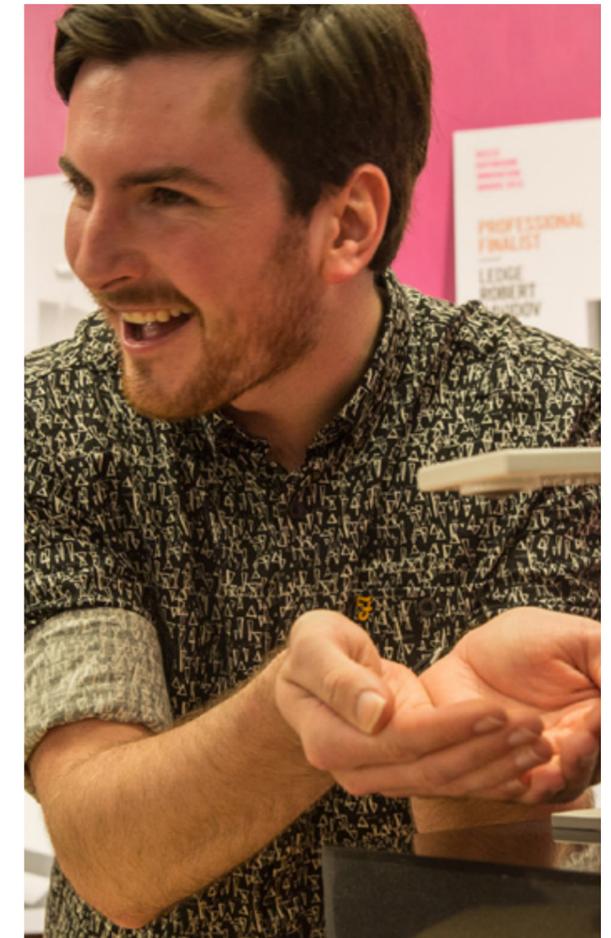
"During the following days, students create one or more design concepts with the help of experienced tutors, and present these to the community representatives at the end of ArchiCamp. In the weeks following ArchiCamp, students continue working with an experienced mentor on their successful concept, through design development to DA submission, construction drawings and construction itself."

The students were mentored through the process by Royal British Institute of Architects International Fellow, Richard Leplastrier, Architecture Foundation Australia founder Lindsay Johnston and Kerry and Lindsay Clare of Clare Design.

Students' involvement in Archicamp and engagement with the Hunter community reflects the University of Newcastle approach to architectural education which focuses on live projects through which students develop design principles that emphasise social, economic and environmental sustainability.



Photo by Rob Virtue for 1233 ABC Newcastle



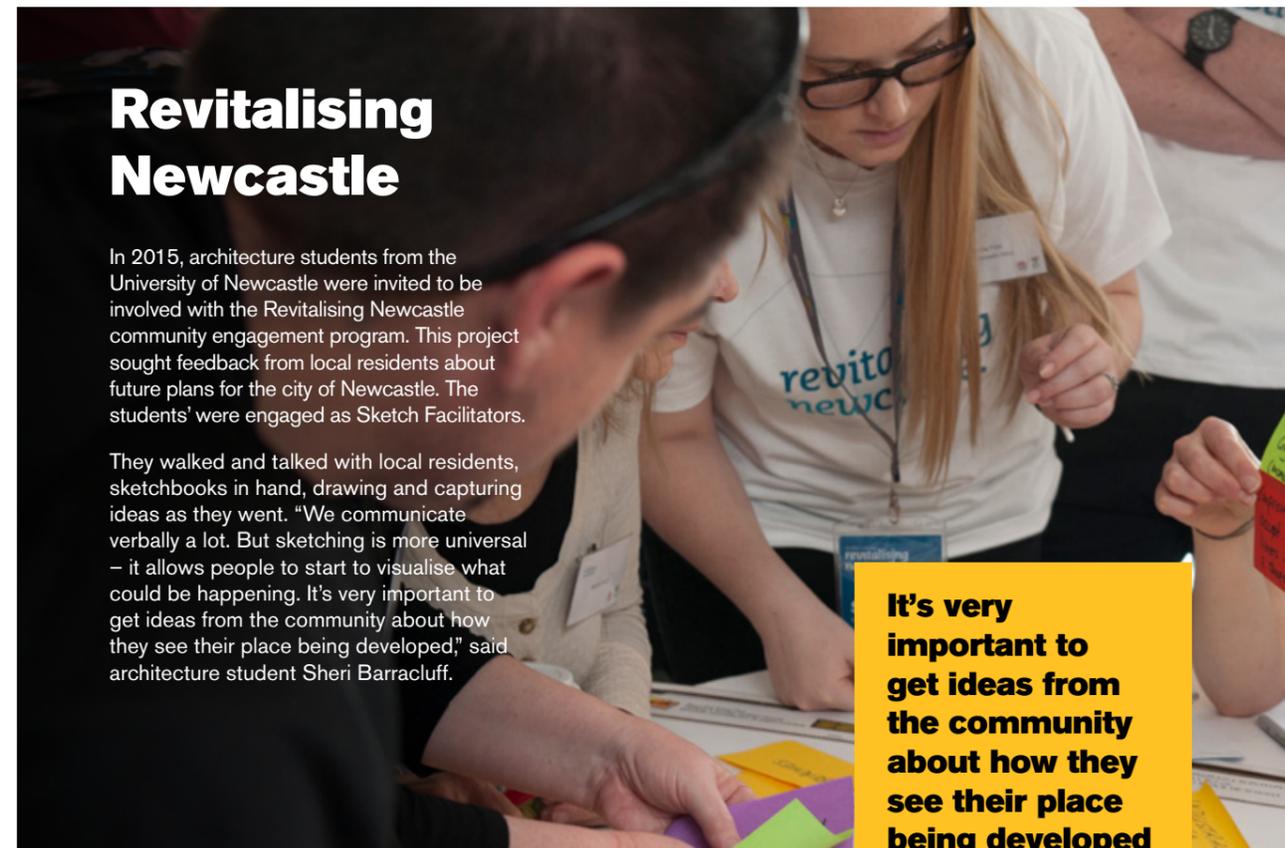
Sustainable design takes out Bathroom Innovation Award

A Bachelor of Industrial Design in 2013, Michael Wilds was named the clear winner of the professional category of the national 2015 Bathroom Innovation Award for his sustainable tap design.

His winning design, the Incline, combines sustainable water-use features and a refined sculptural form to create a functional tap. With Michael's keen desire to design with optimum sustainability in mind, the main feature of his tap is a timer feature and visual countdown element that allows users to monitor their water use through time.

"Users are more conscious of time as they use water and the visual cue of the countdown encourages users to complete water tasks more efficiently and thoughtfully, without taking away from the design aesthetics," explains Michael.

As well as a \$10,000 cash award, Michael's tap design may now be prototyped by Italian tapware manufacturer, Nobili.



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Revitalising Newcastle

In 2015, architecture students from the University of Newcastle were invited to be involved with the Revitalising Newcastle community engagement program. This project sought feedback from local residents about future plans for the city of Newcastle. The students' were engaged as Sketch Facilitators.

They walked and talked with local residents, sketchbooks in hand, drawing and capturing ideas as they went. "We communicate verbally a lot. But sketching is more universal – it allows people to start to visualise what could be happening. It's very important to get ideas from the community about how they see their place being developed," said architecture student Sheri Barracluff.