

Adelaide Thinkers in Residence

Public Lecture with Professor Laura Lee

Sustainable Futures: An integrated design strategy for South Australia

Wednesday 14 October 2009

Adelaide Town Hall, 128 King William Street, Adelaide



Co-presented by Adelaide Thinkers in Residence and The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre

GABRIELLE KELLY:

Hello, everybody. What a splendid crowd. My name is Gabriel Kelly, I'm the Director of The Adelaide Thinkers in Residence and I'd like to welcome you all to the final lecture of Professor Laura Lee, our 16th Thinker in Residence, whose Residency has been titled, "An Integrated Design Strategy for South Australia."

I acknowledge this evening that we're meeting on Ghana land and I honour the Elders and ancestors of the Ghana people, and particularly pay my respects to any first Australians here tonight. Welcome to Minister Holloway who will shortly introduce Professor Lee and any other Ministers who have snuck in without me seeing them, members of the Opposition, Local Councillors from Adelaide, greater Adelaide and beyond, and to you the larger South Australian audience whose presence here we value and really appreciate.

Before we begin can I just remind everybody to turn off their mobile phones, if you don't mind.

This lecture is the crescendo of the Residency in which Laura will synthesize her observations and her work and present to us a number of recommendations. Professor Lee has been extremely busy during her Residency, 12 weeks long it began in March this year and has been spread over three visits. During this time, just to give you some idea of the kind of pace of this residency, she's attended over 100 meetings, led seven partner workshops, and met more than 1,000 people. She's met with six Ministers and the Premier on numbers of occasions, has attended Womadelaide and Festival, visited Kangaroo Island, visited the Barossa three times working with the Barossa and Light Regional Development Board who are partner in her Residency.

She's also met and engaged with other Thinkers in Residence, Professor Andrew Fearn, Judge Peggy Hora, Doctor Genevieve Bell and most recently, and I welcome Fred particularly, Fred Hansen whose Residency links strongly to this area under discussion tonight.

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In particular her work with the Australian Institute of Architects, another partner in the Residency, was so strong and so important that she's been awarded an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Institute for Architects. Before I invite Minister Holloway to introduce Laura, I'd like to briefly refer to the Thinkers' Program for those of you here who may not be aware of its role in South Australia.

The Adelaide Thinkers in Residence program is a radical social innovation. The first of its kind in the world, born in South Australia and delivering massive results over its seven year life. This includes the building of inner city apartments for the homeless in the Common Ground Project, the Bio Science Incubator, the New Australian Centre for Social Innovation and major new directions in government policy in areas such as climate change, water, early childhood to name just a few.

It uses three simple levers. The first lever we use is the Thinker themselves, a world leader, an exemplar in their field who comes to live and work in Adelaide, not just to drop in and out but to really inhabit our space and our lives and get to know the big challenges and opportunities that are before us.

The second lever is the urgency or the relevance of the issue of the Residency. What big challenges are we facing in regard to water or climate change, or health for example?

The third lever is the group of partner investors from the public and private sector who lead the major recommendations and conclusions into action. And in every case, using three levers, this program sets out to generate new thinking, provoke change, ignite action and achieve lasting, tangible results for South Australia. In particular it sets out to ensure South Australia thrives by promoting positive change in the systems of organisation across our society.

This is really important because the systems of organisation are slow, or can be slow to change. A person can change their mind in a heartbeat. You know that when you get that blinding realisation that you've changed your mind on something, or maybe that you've realised that you're wrong, God forbid, about something and you have a new insight often caused by talking to someone else, reading a book, looking at the internet, going to a movie or sometimes by a major life event.

So it's relatively easy for us as individuals to change our minds and alter our perspective and broaden our view. But a system such as the health system, the justice system or the transport

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system, to name a few, has developed often over hundreds of years and while those systems are always changing they may not always be able to change fast enough to adapt quickly to fact current circumstances.

Think about the global financial crisis, climate change, peak oil, youth unemployment, family breakdown, technology, rapid growth of knowledge, to name a few of the issues we deal with in our everyday lives. This is the soup of our modern lives, where we inhabit, where we live together.

If South Australia is to thrive as a modern contemporary place of work and life, and if Adelaide is to become a vibrant, attractive contemporary city, we need to become very good at change, clever at adapting to changing circumstances and adept at working collaboratively to get smart answers to hard problems. So our Thinkers' program supports this goal, a smarter, adaptive, State looking to the future.

Now sometimes at this stage in the Residency, we have a recommendation which points clearly to say a need for something big to be built such as the Common Ground homeless accommodation, which has made major impacts on the homelessness in South Australia. Sometimes it's obvious that we need to reframe our policy thinking such as in the launch of the health in all policies agenda. It's certainly true that in every Residency we're also confronted by the need to handle complexity and to go beyond the obvious in our problem solving.

The question is, how do you do that? All our Residencies seem to point to the need for better quality thinking, for big picture collaborative thinking and for getting better at thinking together into the future.

Professor Laura Lee's Residency has brought this challenge to the fore. She has not only focussed on material infrastructure, bridges, buildings, streets etc. even though she's an architect. And I have no doubt that thrilling projects, successful urban and city scapes will no doubt be part of the end result of her residency. But in particular, and rather, she's focussed upon the intellectual infrastructure, the quality of our thinking, and the methods we can develop to collaborate more intelligently as we deal with our complex, interconnected lives and make big decisions about environment, hospitals, employment, transport, higher density living, wealth generation, green space, beauty and liveability in our much loved State.

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Nowhere has the building of the mind of this Residency been more apparent than in the collaborative work of the partnership who committed many hours of workshops and partner meetings and which became a working example of an integrated design team. Their passion is an unstoppable force.

This presentation this evening is co-presented by the University of South Australia's Bob Hawke Ministerial Centre which as you all know is the leading force for vibrant, public debate in South Australia, and it's an expression of uni SA's commitment to community engagement. We thank them for their excellent partnership in this event tonight and particularly thank Director Liz Ho.

We have deliberately returned to our beautiful Adelaide town hall for this event and we hope that you will all help us to build these final Residency lectures into a packed to the rafters Adelaide event every time. I would be thrilled to see families and friends coming to these events in groups as a regular thing. I can see people coming to these events and going out the doors and tumbling into Gouger Street after they've come together to see what our Thinkers have to offer, and talking about it together over dinner, seems like a good idea to me. South Australia, thinking with our Thinkers as we select the right path for the future with the best opportunity for us and for South Australia.

I'd now like to welcome the Honourable Paul Holloway, the Minister for Urban Development and Planning to introduce Professor Laura Lee. Thank you very much, Minister Holloway.

MINISTER HOLLOWAY:

Thank you, Gabriel, and distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for joining us this evening to attend this final public lecture by Professor Laura Lee as her Residency in Adelaide draws to a close.

Laura's Residency has focussed on the value of design and the impact of the built environment on the quality of life for South Australians. As Minister for Urban Development and Planning I am extremely aware of the growing importance of urban design, but particularly as we pursue the objectives of the 30-year plan for greater Adelaide. In that forward-looking document and the roll out of the State Government's \$11b infrastructure spending program, in particular the electrification of our metropolitan rail lines, provides an opportunity to showcase modern urban design in areas such as transit oriented developments.

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In this public lecture, I'm looking forward to Professor Lee providing some further thought on intelligent investment in design, planning and development in our State and why it's so important to give design a central focus in our plans for Adelaide.

Laura Lee is Professor of Architecture at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, USA and is highly regarded internationally as a leader in integrated design education, practice and research in architecture.

Carnegie Mellon University is one of the leading university in the United States for architecture and its peers have rated Professor Lee's faculty number one in the US for its work on sustainable design.

Professor Lee has extensive experience working across a range of disciplines. She has taught courses in design studio, professional practice, and inter-disciplinary arts on campus and abroad.

In addition to her teaching experience at Carnegie Mellon University, Laura has taught at the Higher Institute of Architecture in Antwerp, the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

Professor Lee has won numerous prizes for teaching excellence and the development of inter-cultural and inter-disciplinary programs, including Carnegie Mellon University's highest teaching honour, The Ryan Award.

In 2008 she was elected Senior Fellow of the Design Futures Council in recognition of significant contributions towards the understanding of changing trends, new research and applied knowledge in design and architecture.

The 15 partners in Professor Lee's Residency here in South Australia have invested significant time, as well as funds, to her program. Through a series of workshops led by Laura, these partners have worked as an integrated design team. And I'd like to take this opportunity to recognise all of those partners this evening. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet, The Department of Education and Children's Services, SA Health, Arts SA, Housing SA and The Department of Families and Communities, The Department of Planning and Local Government, The Land Management Corporation, The Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology, The Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, Adelaide City Council, Flinders University, The University of South Australia, The Barossa and Light

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Regional Development Board, Carnegie Mellon University, and The Australian Institute of Architects. So I thank them all.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the supporters of Professor Lee's Residency, that is, The Learning Centre, SA Water, and Apple Pty Ltd.

As I mentioned earlier, the way urban design is applied will be key element in the implementation of the 30-year plan for greater Adelaide. Like you, I'm very much looking forward to tonight's lecture and any guidance that Professor Lee can provide. Thank you.

Professor Lee.

PROFESSOR LEE:

Minister Holloway, thank you very much. And Gabriel also thank you for that marvellous introduction that will pave the way for some of my early remarks about the Thinkers' Program. Thank you very much.

It's obviously a great privilege to be here this evening and it's been a great privilege to have the opportunity to benefit and contribute to the community and Adelaide and South Australia over the past 12 weeks, and I could not have anticipated, Gabriel, that would have recalled all of those events and efforts of the past 12 weeks. And I must say that trying to synthesize that in the next 45 minutes has been a rather significant challenge in itself.

So my talk tonight is really a journey through the Residency which, as was noted, is a simulation of the process of integrated design and indeed the partnership who's here worked together with me as a team, so what I'll be presenting tonight represents the influence of dozens, and possibly hundreds and apparently thousands, of people in the community. So I'm here really to offer a few observations and reflections on South Australia and ultimately the formation of recommendations that will go into a written report.

But honouring that process, I do want to leave time at the end of this presentation for comments and questions that has tended to influence all of the work that I've undertaken here and it does pave the road to the last recommendation that I'll have in the Residency which is a move toward more informed debate about the built environment.

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So to set the scene for the Residency, and it's not important that you can see or read this slide in particular but Gabriel Kelly referred to the power of the Thinkers' program and that's the setting into which I entered and I had the great privilege of standing on the shoulder of giants. I am the 16th Thinker in Residence but what you see here is a representation of global knowledge of Thinkers that have been in South Australia since 2003 and the knowledge which has been expressed through the recommendations of previous Thinkers would lend itself to suggesting that my role has been much more of a connector than actually a creator.

And I put this slide up also to illustrate the objective of my Residency which is the value of design, the impact of the built environment on the quality of life of South Australians. And to begin the Residency I mapped that onto to the State's strategic plan which is growing prosperity, improving wellbeing, attaining sustainability but more interestingly the spaces in between which is creativity and innovation, building communities, and expanding opportunity.

So before arriving in South Australia, I took the time to understand the character and the quality of work that was done in the social realm, the economic realm, and in the environmental realm. I might also add that I am simply riding the wave of a global trend toward integrated thinking. I'm sitting here looking at an integrated strategy but my Residency follows Andrew Fearn who looked at food and wine value chains and Ilona Kickbusch who looked at health in all policies, and I'm about to get on board with Fred Hansen as he looks at growing communities through transport. All of these Residencies looked at integrated thinking and the focus that I'm looking at really is related to the built environment that is a culmination of all of those previous pieces of work.

This is also a slide that detail is not important but Minister Holloway eloquently acknowledged all of the partners in the Residency and I had the great and good fortune to work with eight government departments, three universities, the Australian Institute of Architects and effectively five local governments if you consider the Barossa with its four local councils. And the diversity of that team and working in a collaboratively environment was an astonishing way of forming recommendations for the ultimate outcome.

I've organised my remarks in four series, the first of which is to look at integrated design or the definition of design through examples in South Australia. In a way building awareness and rethinking the everyday.

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The second series reflects the first part of the Residency when I was here in March trying to understand South Australia, its assets and its distinctions and what the connections might be through those.

The third part is really scenarios that were discussed in the partnership. How different projects in South Australia may inform our decision making.

And then finally, a synthesis through the Residency recommendations.

It's been noted that I am an architect but I will not be speaking about buildings and I've managed to avoid that for the 12 weeks that I've been here but I will be speaking a lot about the process of making places and spaces, and what's in between buildings. And I will be speaking about building in terms of building confidence, building knowledge and particularly, building culture.

So to launch this first series, my point is really to build awareness of integrated design through brilliant examples in South Australia and to ask you, as an audience, really, to rethink the everyday. So I'm going to take apart the Residency objectives, integrated design strategy for South Australia, sustainable futures, the value of design, the impact of the built environment, and the quality of life. We'll look at these at one at a time and then begin slowly to weave them back together.

I think first and foremost it's important to understand that design, in the case of the Residency and as an activity, is really defined as a verb. It's about the process of getting from one place to another. Design is most conventionally understood as a noun, as a product but design is effectively a way of thinking, it's enlightened experimentation, if you will, wherein one observes the world, identifies patterns of behaviour, generates ideas, gets feedback, repeats the process, and then keeps on refining. That does represent the activities that we've been involved with over the last six months and it's fair to say that design is more intrinsic than it is effectively learned. It's recognised globally that design is the critical knowledge of the future because design is a mode of thought that give structure to problems.

Design also looks at a total approach to environmental lifecycles. It looks upstream, it looks downstream, it's about collaboration, diverse roles, lifelong learning. It also applies critical thinking to identify, particularly important for this context and it recognises many cycles simultaneously. They may be political cycles, social cycles, or economic cycles. So I think the

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best way to define design and to learn about design is through direct experience. I'm going to define some dimensions of design through places and programs in South Australia.

I'm asked regularly, "What is your favourite building in Adelaide?" During the first visit I would generally respond, "I don't know. I just arrived. What's your favourite building?" And it was really interesting to hear about favourite places and ultimately Central Market was, sort of, highest on the list although it's not really a building and that was quite delightful.

And the second visit when I was asked that question I said, "I can tell you about some of the great experiences I've had walking in the Botanical Gardens, exquisite dining experiences, Central Market, Womad." And I didn't talk about buildings as a way of getting people to think about the space in between and about experiences.

Now in this third visit, and at the end of the Residency, I've turned that question into, "Who will be the next generation or those leaders or key influencers that will create our favourite buildings or places?"

One of the most remarkable aspects or observations about South Australia, and I've noted this, are really the people. Their accessibility, their concern for the environment, their genuine hunger for change. South Australia is also a very creative environment. It's a great incubator for ideas and it's a place where it's very easy to collaborate.

So looking at some definitions one at a time: sustainability is a very common word in our vocabulary meaning different things to different people but sustainability in this context, at its best, is about creating places and spaces where people feel a sense of belonging, of connection, of identity, and of value. It's about atmospheres that delight, inspire, ignite all the senses and form memories. And it's ultimately about the creation of places that invoke a sense of care, investment and ownership. That's what will create sustainable places. It's not about technology applications. When we think of the Central Market, you know in the words of Shakespeare, "All the world's a stage." Central Market is really the theatre of life, it expresses the distinct identity of South Australia, it's multicultural, it's affordable, it lends itself to opportunity, it's a place of true democracy of spirit and by nature it's socially inclusive. It serves basic needs but it also allows patrons the greatest variety of choice.

When we talk about futures, design always thinks with the end in mind. It is long term, it's future oriented, it's about lifecycles. We are entering into an era that is beyond sustainability in the conventional term where we're looking at environments that are adaptive, evolutionary,

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flexible, organic and resilient. This is not an unfamiliar image but it means to speak of an example in South Australia, early childhood development. Early childhood development in South Australia is emulated on a national basis and is recognised internationally.

One learns very quickly that South Australians have a great concern for the future of their children and one understands that the importance of early years as a foundation for all that is to follow but we might ask the question about our investment in childhood development and how it might be reflected in our environments and how our environments are also a teacher.

When we talk about integrated, design looks at the influence of one thing on another, be it a person, place or thing, that there's a reciprocity involved. Design is about a whole as greater than the sum of the parts and generally integration leads to multiple and mutually beneficial outcomes.

What you see here is the exhibition at the Museum of Economic Botany, that being the value of plants to, on, or in the economy. This is a heritage structure in the Botanical Gardens but its significance in this case, and I identify it as a very good example, is that it was created by a multi-disciplinary team, led in fact by the curator involving lighting designers, interior architects, architects. You see in the foreground the work of Khai Liew and in the integration it manages to connect history to the future and to connector visitors, of all levels of interest and knowledge, to the exhibition.

When we speak of strategy, design is a problem seeking, versus a problem solving activity. It tends to favour questions over answers. It's about working smarter not harder. The phrase was coined in the late 1980's that good design is good business. You will see in business schools around the world that design, and design knowledge, and design thinking is becoming very important in the curricula and the way that strategies are formed.

What you see here is an aerial image of the South Australian Museum and Gallery and while you may have visited, what you may not realise is what goes on behind the scenes. Certainly the Museum and the Gallery have pre-eminent collections but they also have a research engine that is behind those collections that draws world experts to Adelaide to keep those collections in the category or the world pre-eminence that we see, and it's that knowledge loop that's formed that keeps this reputation and the significance of the Gallery as something that South Australia is noted for.

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When we talk about value I'd certainly like to deflate the myth that design is expensive or that you can't afford it. I would say that can't afford not to. It goes with the expression, "I'm too poor to buy cheap." If you look downstream on any one purchase and you evaluate the transactional shopper to the relational shopper, if you know what that means. The transactional shopper will always look at the item that they're buying at that very instant, the pleasure that it gives, the function that it will serve. The relational shopper always looks to multiple dimensions of value that that one object or item will serve over time and how that leads to the next purchase.

That's the value of design is that it instils that way of thinking and that view, that longer view, of value.

I show Yalumba here not as a product but to identify the work of Andrew Fearn, Thinker in Residence, who looked at value chains in food and wine. And his Residency and the aspect of value chains looks with the final consumer in mind. What are their behaviours? What are their activities? What are their desires? But not to push a product on them, but how might a product develop that would instil pull, and what can attract them to new products? There are many more dimensions to value chains with Yalumba but it's safe enough to say that they looked at every dimension of the decision-making process from the grape to the final consumption of the wine and how opportunity and innovation was instilled in that chain, and I think design and design thinking by nature does that.

When we talk about impact, the impact of the built environment, Churchill is known to say, "We shape our buildings and afterwards our buildings shape us whether we like it or not." The South Australia strategic plan targets identify the basic services of the built environment that they need to be healthy, they need to be safe, they need to improve our wellbeing. But I think the real impact of design and design thinking is to create environments that would lead to greater curiosity, imagination, opportunity, and potentially, innovation. I mentioned earlier that in childhood development the best teachers that we have are really the worlds in which we grow up in.

You see here an image of the Royal Institution Australia which was opened last week. It has international, national and local spheres of influence. It makes knowledge accessible at all levels and it finds science in all matters. Again design activity looks at those various spheres of influence and how the exchange of knowledge may be influential on our way of thinking.

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The built environment: I'm often asked this question as well, "What is the built environment?" It covers the range of products to planet and it's intended to support the way we want to live, work, play and effectively learn. What people don't often realise about design, particularly in urban design, architecture and interior design, is that the medium of design is something that's intangible. It works with space, you can't touch it. It's about what's not there. It works with time, cycles of time and it works with light. Light, space and time are the medium of special design.

North Terrace is a particularly good example of a range of really exquisite relationships of all kinds of design; graphic design, product design, art in the urban context, urban design as a promenade, interior design, architecture and of course the Northern lights and the ability to delight through a changing environment. It's also a pedestrian friendly space that is accessible to a wide variety of inhabitants and visitors.

When we speak of quality, it's important to note that design is a human centred activity and begins by analysing patterns of behaviour. And design usually configures itself according to the circumstances. I think one of the great joys of being a designer is that every problem is different. That can lead to both agony and ecstasy but the design configures itself according to the team, the time, and the circumstances. And it's always a proposition of quality over quantity. It's a relative solution and not an absolute solution.

I can't imagine a better example than the Jam Factory where preciousness is really defined by the entire process from beginning to display that evokes a memory of something being crafted by hand. It's looking, really, at local processes going to a global market. And the learning environment and the interns that are at the Jam Factory are in and of themselves a learning environment in terms of their rotation. There's much more detail that I could give on the Jam Factory but it's also important to note that this was initiated during the Dunstan era. And looking back at a little campaign, not speech and not slogan, but he was known to say that, "The state that we live in is more than a state of mind. Ahead of all it's time will set the new design." And Jam Factory, as an outcome of that era, still exists, I think, as one of the most recognised environments and attributes of South Australia.

Last, but not least, is life: I'm sure you'll recognise the origin of such artwork in this case but this really puts us back to the future. Design is about translating aspirations, about desires, about hopes. It looks at all aspects of creativity not just space but the structure of music, the choreography of dance, the staging of a play. In many ways when we go back to the origins of Aboriginal culture that have to do with dance, dreaming, song, and stories, and particularly the

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relationship with the land and very much a whole of life approach. I can't think of any other definition of design that might be more appropriate in this environment. And I say, "back to the future" because that was a sustainable way of living and learning where experience was potentially the best lesson.

So that moves us on to series two which are assets or distinctions in South Australia and I must say that this is an ongoing conversation, this is a work in progress, this is something that's been formulated through discussions and debate and revisions over the last 12 weeks. But I did want to identify beyond these pockets of excellence that have been articulated in the first series, that these assets or distinctions are probably ones that will lead themselves to a uniqueness of South Australia in terms of its authenticity, its cultural identity, a sense of place and above all attractive to those who live here and visitors as well as potential new residents.

An observation beyond people that I can safely make about South Australia, given these wonderful examples I just showed, is that in many ways South Australia is like a series of exquisite musicians with instruments but it's yet to become a symphony. And one could say, and I've been quoted as saying this, it's a series of episodes yet without a story, or its parts without yet becoming, really, and engine.

And so these assets or distinctions, I'm beginning to pull threads that might lead to a deeper understanding of how we can look at products to landscape, to develop themes for South Australia wherein any designer may look at these considerations whether it's a product or a precinct that should be addressed. And I'm also asking some questions about South Australia in leveraging those assets toward building culture.

Certainly beginning at the point I left off about natural heritage and landscape diversity. Again this is just a collage, it's an array of images that are intended to look from the very small scale to the very large scale but also look at and ask you as an audience to begin to make connections to weave those stories. How they are socially significant, environmentally significant, or economically driven.

Clive Owen, the actor who is starring in the movie "The Boys are Back" which was filmed in South Australia, was apparently quoted last week as saying, "South Australia's the most beautiful place on earth." I think that's a fairly good endorsement and also fairly accurate but there's a tendency to think of South Australia as a city and not as a State so when you look at this theme you might ask yourself, "How is Adelaide a gateway to this kind of adventure and could we think of South Australia more as a journey and not as a destination."

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Environment sustainability: Certainly South Australia has advanced policies and very admirable targets so that there's leadership in this regard coming from the top down but what's also impressive about South Australia is people's attitudes toward the environment and it tends to be one that they want to do it and not they have to do it, so you have a bottom up and a top down approach that leads to products and initiatives that are very diverse in nature and have the potential to be mutually reinforcing. It's also interesting thematically that South Australia has wind, it has geothermal, and it also has sun and how those begin to come together to form a real global recognition.

One of the questions we might ask here is how to transform a threat or a vital concern like water into a global expertise so that it's not a liability but it's rather an opportunity? And given the political leadership and the initiatives on the individual level, how does South Australia really become a global model for environmental sustainability?

Certainly there's no denying the significance of agriculture. Food and wine has international prominence but one might ask that that activity is certainly experienced in dining and it's experienced in beautiful landscapes like the Barossa or McLaren Vale but how is that experience reflected potentially in an urban environment, for example, urban farming? How do we feel that more than at the Central Market or at a particular cafe or restaurant? In many ways it's how is the concept of vine to dine carried out in public space?

I've spoken about early childhood development which is emulated nationally and recognised internationally. Early childhood development is seen as the relationship between education, health and services and it looks at not only a child's mind but what the child may be experiencing in relation to others in a total formation or let's say whole of life approach.

I think the question that we might ask here in weaving a theme for South Australia is, "How does the environment contribute to that learning?" And is the environment and the schools and the childcare centres that we're building as sophisticated as that learning model? How might the environment develop self awareness for a child, independence, social skills, creativity? How do they learn risk and opportunity? And I might add what if every child and their parent were to visit this kind of environment for leaning? Would it convert us from the current standards of school to demanding standards of learning environments that are exhibited in the Galilee School?

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Social innovation: When we talk about sustainable communities again there are special practices that come to bear on sustainable communities but the wisdom is really that if sustainable communities have multiple uses, they're multi-generational, and they're multi-cultural, they tend to lead to more aspirational, social inclusion outcomes. And so we might ask ourselves, in this case, the design of places and spaces in South Australia, how might they engage an ageing population, capture their wisdom for future generations? And how might public spaces in South Australia encourage youth activism?

We can also look at primary health care. There's significant attention these days on the study of environments to promote good health. How do walkable communities create better health? How are they safe? What's our proximity to recreational spaces? So we ask how can our communities and buildings play a proactive role in creating a healthier society?

Festivals and events: Certainly the South Australia known as the Festival State has international significance, it draws the world's best, it has significant breadth and depth in its offerings from ideas to music, and it covers therefore the entire spectrum of creativity. There is many layers of activity, there are cycles throughout the year but I would ask, although these festivals and events are significant, where's the stickiness? And that means, what happens in and around and between festivals and events? How can these other strengths or assets of South Australia be part of an ongoing activity? In other words we have more or less an overture and a postscript. What would be the overture or the postscript for a visitor? Jan Gale who is here, and I'll refer to him a little bit later, said, "A great city is like a great party, you don't leave early." The festivals are great but what happens in and around that? Defence and Mining Industries certainly have the potential to look a new industrial community accommodation multiple uses.

And finally, liveability. It's important not only sometimes to look at where the opportunities are but to be mindful of what not to compromise. Liveability is a significant attraction and asset of South Australia and how do we move toward change without necessarily implying sacrifice and giving up what is already good and we cherish?

South Australia offers a lot of choices and therefore promotes diversity but we might ask ourselves from this theme of liveability is how do we attract the next generation of leaders? And how do we retain our international student population? And how do we expose and support creative individuals? So in light of what is already significant I think that there are some gaps in the middle that may enhance the set.

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Moving on to the third series, in the month that I was here in June, with the Residency partners, we went through a series of scenarios or projects that were ongoing or proposed in South Australia as a way of understanding how to move from here to there and to work towards, not the recommendations, but an ideal model for decision making. Effectively the outcome of the Residency will be a proposal for an ideal decision making process toward the Residency objectives.

So you see on the list here, and these will become larger in a moment, of the nine projects that we explored and, yes, we dared to talk about the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and I would say that it emerged as one of the best examples of integrated design and I won't have time to articulate all of its attributes but I do want to note its significance for vision. Vision being one of the principles of integrated design. The hospital was proposed as something that is obviously long term and transcends an electoral cycle. It's really looking far beyond probably this and the next cycle and it really is underpinned by leadership from, among others, Minister Hill. And it's significant to note that he moved from an environmental portfolio to a health portfolio and he's able to talk about the hospital in relation to all of the South Australia strategic plan targets and not just about health. I would say too the Royal Adelaide Hospital reflects healthcare reform and healthcare in all policies which was really a discussion started under another Thinker of Residence. So the ability to establish that vision as something that is very long term was most important in this case.

We also looked at, through DTEI and the Australian Institute of Architects, how we might reconsider procurement practices and toward valuing design. And this has to do with consultation. Fred and I had a discussion last week about the definition of consultation in South Australia. It means a lot of different things to a lot of people but consultation in this case means the role of design professionals in forming the built environment or influencing the built environment. So we looked at procurement as moving from managing risk to fostering innovation. How would those relationships be formed? And we looked at how the qualifications of architects or designers might be based on something that would lead to opportunity rather than managing risk. And we looked at procurement as something that would go beyond a fragmented delivery method, or methods, to a more integrated value added approach.

So this was an advocacy also for the early engagement of professionals and their ability to serve any client-related need and to form productive relationships. It goes back to an earlier point about going beyond first cost and economics to looking at life cycle costs. We also

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looked at procurement in terms of not just the financial risks and rewards involved but that there would be equal attention given to social and environment concerns.

And lastly, and this will become important in the recommendations, is how do we look at performance-based outcomes or quality of life outcomes as part of those contractual relationships?

We looked at the Victoria Square Project which is better named Urban Regeneration. And I note that it's referred to the collaborations involved but the significance of this in terms of reconceptualising Victoria Square, you're probably familiar that there have been some proposals over the years and they haven't come to fruition but I think this has set itself up for tremendous success in defining itself beyond the boundaries of Victoria Square but establishing a series of design guidelines or principles that in fact could lend themselves to a wider sphere of influence in Adelaide.

The project is also formed around stakeholders from both the city and the State at the highest level of government to form a consensus around those guiding principles so that ultimately people are not talking about the product itself but the process that is going to get to a more inclusive outcome.

The project also engages external experts to advise, advocate, and review on the project, those who have experiences from different perspectives, tremendous lessons learned that carry over to other projects.

And then I think one of our greatest adventures and one of my favourite days in the Residency was a day in Noarlunga where we were looking at medium density housing and this was a collection of individuals from the community, from local government and from State government led by Housing SA and it's about the principal of innovation in developing integrated design. And in the same way from the point of redefinition that the Victoria Square urban regeneration project lend itself to, things don't always follow in the right sequence. The medium density housing in Noarlunga is preceding maybe the agreement on a structure plan but we took this event as opportunity to really redefine and rethink housing in many ways where it might influence the larger development plan. The conventional process would say that we would look at a site plan and determine what its best opportunities are but what we did in this workshop, led by or I would say, with the participation of design professionals is to imagine the life of the end user, or the inhabitant and how might we consider medium density housing from that perspective.

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So what emerged from that, and I think this applies quite broadly, is this, we called it a living model and not medium density housing. Again that's a cultural shift that's rather important. We looked beyond the building and how might this model be an activator for the cultural industries. We tried to think about time, that housing was more like urban choreography that would look at the rhythms of diverse inhabitants.

We rebranded affordability. We said it's really about an incubator for opportunity. And significantly we looked at a new funding model where shared investment would lead to shared ownership.

These are broadly applicable. We also looked at a new South Australia vernacular where an iconic building might be defined by multi-cultural, multi-generational, or multi-use buildings. And we looked at it as a time machine wherein there was mobility choice, certainly a desire of South Australians. And that surveillance may be by various modes of transport for foot, bike, car and tram. And I really want to applaud Robyn Evans from Housing SA for taking this on and leading us through a very different process.

We also looked at Constellation SA which is the research dimension of DFEEST and the structure. I just wanted to talk a little bit about how Constellation SA is a superb model of how research is conducted and the structure of alliances. Probably the most well known is the wine innovation cluster but it looks at the relationship between government, industry, academia and practices to look towards more applied research outcomes.

What you see in the background here is a constellation from Austage looking at research that articulates performances and all of the knowledge around theatre, not only in South Australia, but how it relates nationally and globally. So our discussions had to do with the possibility of establishing something that would be between the existing alliances toward a more built environment focus. Evaluation being the point that we need to be able to provide evidence of the outcomes of various built environment projects.

We looked at the Noarlunga Regional Activity Centre structure plan and to note probably a future oriented aspect of this plan which is really looking at the positive relationship between design planning and development. Minister Holloway had referred to the importance of design in relation to the 30-year plan. This being a very different environment from Bowden which is well underway but how might we look at the larger spheres of influence around Noarlunga that are not just the housing site that we talked about or the immediate community

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around the transit stop but more or less its broader connections and the character of the community that would be most notable for this environment and building a character that leverages its assets.

We looked at a vision of the Barossa and the potential or, let's say, the need for communication in this case. Barossa is a very unique and obviously internationally recognised environment and in recent discussions we talked about a vision for the Barossa honouring its tradition and its history but also looking at the significant environmental challenges and how it might create a vision that would embrace change. The environment of the Barossa goes really from Two Wells to Tanunda and it goes from individuals who are quite happily lost in time to internationally recognised industries. And how does one create a vision that not only preserves but helps to support that great diversity. It has multiple layers both in its history but also in its function.

We also looked at the ability for the Barossa to translate what I was talking about earlier in food and wine value chains into environmental value chains and the impact or the imprint that that would have on the entire region.

Children centres for early childhood development: Certainly the importance of education, I had a very happy accident last week when I visited to Uni SA's School of Architecture for the final year architecture project review and had the opportunity to sit on a critique for David Bickmore who has sent me this image of his final project and it's exhibiting a Ghana educational centre and wouldn't you know he devised the brief for his project to look at heritage sites and structures which is obviously a challenge in South Australia, and how that may be turned into living history. He also translated Aboriginal culture into a learning environment and he explored a curriculum with a creative component for young children. That characterises the discussion that we've had around children's centres and again I've applauded and noted the significance of early childhood development but how might the environment be equally important as a teacher in that development.

We looked at the Bowden Urban Village master plan and although there are reflections of that clearly underway, I am articulating this point through Lochiel Park that was recently opened and the importance of demonstration in developing new work. Land Management Corporation who is behind Mawsom Lakes and then Lochiel Park has now used those lessons learned in developing a much more significant and forward looking master planning process with a multi-disciplinary team for the Bowden Urban Village. It's also, in the same way that we talked about Noarlunga, Bowden has the significance of providing leadership on a global level

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through the environment, on a national level by looking at a community that is not tarred but is effectively made for mobility. And on a local level how might it lend itself to character and identity by not introducing everything new but by stitching old heritage with new heritage.

And the last series is looking at recommendations for the Residency of which there are nine programs, initiatives or projects that arise out of the scenarios, assets, and good examples in South Australia.

The first one is noted as intelligent investment, design planning and development. Most significant insofar as the direction of, and the formation of, the environment as we see it now moves more or less in this direction and one sees intelligent investment as a co-dependency between design planning and development but puts design in the lead insofar as design becomes a process for decision making that leads to greater opportunity, innovation, investment and an investment incentive. Right now there's plenty of activity in the planning zone, in the development zone, but these are all the potential players that wrap around that activity that will lend themselves to greater innovation over time.

So the outcome of this would be hopefully, and the recommendation to the State Government will be, to introduce some multi-disciplinary integrated design commission at the level of the Department of Premier in Cabinet and the role of that commission would be to advocate for good design, to advise at the highest levels of government and also to communities and individuals, and to do a review that would have to do with quality of life issues. Within that commission we might see the provision of a State architect that would function in a peer sense with other States but I think this multi-disciplinary integrated design commission really reflects the spirit of South Australia and its creativity over time and would best serve in multi roles both at the top and at the community level.

The second recommendation is to look at collective action and I see really across agencies and tiers of government but this could apply to all stakeholders. One of the lessons learned in the partnership is the value of working beyond the independence of any one agency and the case to be made here is that if we get the right collaborators against the appropriate challenges and we reintroduce research and evidence through an integrated design space, which has a very particular way of working, we would be able to form an integrated design strategy for the city, for a regional area such as the Barossa and also for remote and coastal communities in support of the 30-year plan and development. But I think it's important that we work through this space, develop cases, evidence and performance based outcomes or quality of life outcomes

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as complimentary to that. It would be hard to imagine that this is possible without that collective action.

The third recommendation is global leadership. I think this is the potential of South Australia to be a global leader in environmental challenges wherein again we have a multi-disciplinary group of collaborators, we have research. But right now we have these as global issues in environmental sustainability and we have some of these local challenges. How do we bring to bear the leadership, or how do we bring to bear research on these problems or on these challenges that would lead to recognition of models in South Australia?

Fourth recommendation is to look at the highest aspiration of commitment in any project and to not fear piloting, pioneering or prototyping. I have been a great fan of the State Strategic Plan and I think it offers a great platform for discussion but the suggestion here with highest aspirations is that we go beyond those targets to look at a really complex quality of life matrix that would help to inspire follow through in any instance. I go back to the same model where the formula is the right collaborators at the right time, addressing global and local challenges, introducing research that would have impact, not only in design with respect to identity, policies and prosperity, but also in the building industry that would lead to efficiency, production process and less waste but a business that lends itself to innovation, productivity and collaboration, the environment, liveable cities, emissions and resources and society, better quality of life, design literacy and diversity. So if we set our aspirations high what's the matrix that we put together that we made sure that every project would appeal to these issues?

Practice based research: I refer to Constellation SA, the proposal is that in this case we look at multi-disciplinary use inspired research that would be based in practice that would provide just in time knowledge for the building industry. All the words on here are not important but the notion of research to provide evidence and that the research would be use inspired and not something that is stalled in academia, and that would actually be practice based. So our opportunity to open an alliance within Constellation SA for the built environment.

We are also looking at establishing a collaborative culture. Our recommendation is you learn fairly quickly that in South Australia there are about two degrees of separation and collaboration is fairly easy. So the industry being that it is rather close and tight has the ability to create a model that looks at building information modelling, integrated project delivery. You also have the history of firms like Hassell, Woods Bagot, ERIP, and Woodhead that have international experience that come to bear on local work. So how do we create knowledge

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loops or alliancing through this collaborative culture? The example that I have here are, here are all the players involved, this multi-disciplinary team that might represent that integrated design commission, here are the real problems facing South Australia and I wish I could really talk about these, but here are the effects that we want to have. So it's putting together this engine of people against real issues that South Australia faces and multiple outcomes.

This is also an idea that I believe South Australia has great potential in the long term which is called eco-industry innovation, looking at manufactured assemblies for mass customisation. What exactly does that mean? If we look at the present, as a result of the economic downturn, there are some non-viable industries in South Australia but if we look ahead, what's the potential for joined up solutions?

What you see here is a zero energy house that was put up in 30 thirty days and could come down in 30 days and it's made of components that are entirely green or eco, local carbon. So a zero energy house, low carbon materials, up in 30 days and if you look in South Australia this could apply to the festival market, kiosks, stages, band shows or grandstands. Certainly for the defence and mining industries and remote communities and even disaster relief, things that can be manufactured rather quickly so I think there's potential there.

Recommendation for environmental literacy, integrated design education: In the free time that I apparently don't have, in the beginning I was looking at the Premier's Reading Challenge and noted that there was not a category for art, design and architecture so I started to assemble a list of books and I got up to just over 80 and then it occurred to me, I needed to follow my own wisdom or recommendations in that children were not going to learn about the environment through books. So the recommendation here is that environmental literacy that we put together a list of places that I've talked about and that maybe the Premier will give these children credit if they visit all these environments rather than read all these books. So I have the 80 there but I think that a really creative way is to give them a map, take their parents and learn about the environment. So integrating design education is really through those experiences.

And lastly, constructive engagement, communication and media: Marshall McLuhan, a Canadian hero of mine, said, "The medium is the message." And it would be difficult to imagine all of these other recommendations working without informed debate or constructive consultation. Most of the discussion about the environment right now happens in this little piece up here, the media, and it tends to focus on opinion rather than point of view. It tends to be divisive rather than uniting. It tends to go from a yes or no to rather than you can have it

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all at once. And the interest is putting this in a relational field. So we're trying to move from a world of, "is it this or that?" to a world of "and" . And ultimately all the ways in which you can communicate that lead to empowering the individual. So an exploration of the right medium and the message at the right time that would move from informed debate, through education consultation, true collaboration to empowering the individual.

So that wraps up the recommendations and in a very short conclusion I will just note that beginnings are very important and in the first day that I arrived in Adelaide, after 32 hours of flying, I landed in the Fringe Festival and had the pleasure of serving on a panel with a group of individuals that left a really important impression: Steve Grieve who talked to me about Aboriginal culture; Ian McDougall who talked about iconic buildings in urban environments; Warwick Keats a landscape architect; Josephine Evans an emerging professional; and an architect Phil Harris who was most eloquent about nature in a very down to earth way; Joanna Cys who was interior designer, very inter-disciplinary thinker, National President of the Design Institute Australia.

This is where I landed on the first day in South Australia and I just thought that's the way world worked here and I've never forgotten that. And I think it's the way the world should work here. And at the end of that talk a woman came up to me from Christie's Walk and invited me for tea at her house and she said, "I really want you to see where I live." And those impressions, I think, have informed the Residency in a really important way. And the extreme generosity of the partners in forming these recommendations.

I'll just quickly also refer to an experience a couple of weeks ago, Jan Gale was here, he's one of the pre-eminent urban designers in the world and we had a 24 hour adventure here proposing an integrated design strategy for the city of Adelaide. And I've noted and quoted him as saying, "A great city is like a great party, you don't want to leave early." But he's quite dedicated to what he's doing here and he did write a proposal for Adelaide in 2002 "Public Spaces and Public Life". And he's worked in Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, he's now in New York and managed to pave 200 miles of bike trails, and he's from Copenhagen. And at the end of a long day and a marvellous dinner he was recalling the importance of Adelaide. In the textbooks of planning and design there are three cities in the world that everyone studies, Philadelphia, Savannah and Adelaide. And their noted because of their political organisation, their social significance and their relationship to nature. And in honouring Light's vision, Jan Gale said he could really work anywhere in the world, given his reputation, but I think I can reveal that he said, "I could work anywhere but I really want to work here."

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And I think it lends to the question that Ken Marr and I were asked last week, “Is Adelaide at a tipping point?” And when you look at the political leadership in the State and the attention that Prime Minister Rudd is giving to design in cities, I think Adelaide and South Australia is at a tipping point.

There’s so many people in this Residency that I would like to thank but I would like to leave time for some comments and questions. And although it is the end of the Residency I would just use the opportunity to quote TS Eliot and that is, “We shall not cease from exploration. And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started. And to know the place for the first time.”

So with so many people to thank, not the least of whom is the Premier, and my friend Lance Worrell who’s here who got me on to this adventure. I hope that although this is the end of my Residency that this will be the real beginning of a sustainable future for South Australia.

Thank you.

GABRIEL KELLY:

Thank you so much, Laura. We’re conscious that we’re just about at the end of our time. Can I see a show of hands who’d like to see a couple of questions only, say ten minutes? Okay. And we won’t be affronted if others of you need to go, we understand that we agreed to finish this at 7:30, so anybody who’s got a couple of questions would you like to go to the microphone. I think we’ll only be able to deal with two questions probably.

Thank you, and would you be good enough to introduce yourself?

JACK NICHOLSON:

Hi, yes. Thanks, Laurie, for your great talk. My name’s Jack Nicholson, I’m a PHD Candidate at the University of Adelaide. My background is Packology; my future is perm culture design. I chair a community group trying to establish a city farm in Adelaide and I’d like your views on urban agriculture, and if you were to design a city farm in greater Adelaide, where would you put it because I’m having trouble finding a spot to put one?

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Well, I don't the answer only insofar as again I'm emphasising a process that might identify the most appropriate sites so time would need to tell and insofar as we're proposing this integrated design strategy for the city of Adelaide and the assets that I showed, identifying the best site would be an outcome of that process.

JACK NICHOLSON:

And your comments on urban agriculture?

PROFESSOR LEE:

Well, insofar as I was talking about agriculture, food and wine as an asset and distinction of South Australia, I think there's a great potential for that in this environment but again it would need to be looked at. It's a way of extending our understanding of those assets into a setting where there might be a counter point to upcoming density and allow greater green space.

KAY BENNETTS:

My name's Kay Bennets, I'm a relatively middle class woman who's retired, has a comfortable income and is able to travel for free or at a reduced price on public transport. I enjoy all the things that you've spoken about in this city and I live relatively close to the centre of it but I'm just wondering tonight how many people here come from north of Grand Junction Road or south of Cement Hill?

Not very many and I think that if we're talking about a sustainable future we need it to be a future in which everyone shares and I'm very aware as a South Australian who enjoys all the wonderful things we have that there are a large number of people who don't have easy access to them, who may be on lower incomes and actually have to pay more to get in to enjoy these things. Have you done anything to look at that?

PROFESSOR LEE:

Well, we have the good fortune of, are you talking specifically about transport?

KAY BENNETTS:

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I think transport is one component of it. I'm aware that it's a lot more expensive for people in those areas where incomes are likely to be lower where it takes longer; it's more expensive whether they travel by car or public transport or whatever. And it's not as easy for them to access all these wonderful things. I mean you come in the middle of The Fringe, I can drop into town for nothing on a weekend and see The Fringe and enjoy the free entertainment but I'm aware that there are many Adelaide residents who don't have that option.

PROFESSOR LEE:

Certainly choice and diversity of transport options are really important in creating sustainable environments of any kind and we have the good fortune that my Residency is followed by Fred Hansen who's looking at transport in particular. But the notion of diversity and accessibility and affordability is really important in creating a sustainable future. How we solve that very particular problem is only related to looking at all the problems at the same time and transport infrastructure, public space being quite significant in solving that problem. So I acknowledge it. What's the answer, is the process or the decision making process that may lend itself in that direction.

GABRIEL KELLY:

Just one more question.

RYAN:

Thanks. My name's Ryan. I'm currently studying construction management and economics at Uni SA and one of the major things obviously we talk about is risk involved in any project. And always risk comes back to cost of course. I was just wondering at the end of the day I think humanity is a big thing and moving forward together and working together is a big thing and knowledge is something I think we take for granted. I was just wondering, in your opinion, with the relation to cost I think it's becoming a very major big factor that's holding, not only South Australia but possibly the whole world back. And I was wondering what's your opinion on possibly changing those things?

PROFESSOR LEE:

May I ask you to just repeat the very last part of that?

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RYAN:

Basically the question is, is people working together and how to eliminate cost being the major factor in really doing anything as a risk, because we always come back to risk as being the problem of bringing forward new ideas?

PROFESSOR LEE:

I suppose it gets back to this initial recommendation about intelligent investment, design planning and development and I think the activity of design tries to look at where the opportunities exist and where innovation is possible. Risk tends to be defined in a fairly narrow band of what's it going to cost in its first instance? And I think life cycles are very important and looking at multiple benefits, social and environmental being two. You can pay me now or you can pay me later is maybe the approach or the wisdom around that issue.

GABRIEL KELLY:

Thank you so much. I can tell that we'd love to have more questions but sadly we're not able to do it. I'd like to thank Minister Holloway for coming this evening to help us with this event and to introduce Laura and now invite Professor Mads Gaardboe, the Head of School Art Architecture and Design from Uni SA to just give a final brief vote of thanks.

Thank you, everyone.

PROFESSOR MADSGAARDBOE:

Thank you, Gabriel. I'm aware that we are running out of time but I want to finish this talk tonight by saying that this has been a lecture I'm sure that has been eagerly awaited by many people here in Adelaide, at not least from the people who are in this room tonight. The hope has been that it would have been the defining moment for this State to consider design as being fundamental to ensuring a more sustainable, built environment and consequently a better lifestyle for South Australia.

Gabriel has already talked about the number of meetings and the hard work schedule that Laura has been through while she's been here and it has been very inspiring to look at her commitment to Australia, to Adelaide, in the time she has been here.

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It was clear from the lecture that Professor Lee did not come here with preconceived recommendations of her predecessors but has engaged in an open dialogue, a process that focussed on design and in fact is the essence of design.

In tonight's lecture we got some constructive suggestions, we've had some observations and we've had some recommendations. Quite a lot of recommendations in fact and it would have been interesting to get further into those but I think we will need to study them in more detail when Laura Lee's reports come out.

The evidence is that this long and complex process has resulted in tangible outcomes and the challenge is now for us to make sure that we make use of these outcomes. To do so we'll need to study Professor Lee's conclusions and recommendations in more detail. In this connection I wish to advise you that a transcript of tonight's lecture will shortly be available on the Hawke Centre website together with future lectures as they also will on the Adelaide Thinkers in Residence website. And I certainly recommend that you attend these lectures. They are all extremely exciting. The addresses of the website will appear in flyers that you can get at the entrance at this hall.

After tonight's lecture, I'm optimistic that Laura Lee will have a legacy that has defined and will encourage research and practice of sustainable design and the way considerations of design contributes to decisions we make about our built environment in the future in this State.

May I conclude by thanking our invited guests and the audience here tonight for attending this lecture. The Adelaide Thinkers in Residence and the Hawke Centre for organising it.

And of course thanking Professor Laura Lee for the inspiration and the knowledge she has brought to us as Thinker Residents now. I'm sure that many of you will agree with me that we hope to see Laura Lee back in Adelaide in the not too distant future.

Thanks very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]