

# Aspirations

## Antonino Saggio

Antonino Saggio has been the founder and editor of the book series "IT Revolution in Architecture" published in English by Birkhäuser, in Italian by Testo & Immagine and in Chinese by Prominence. The book series has to date reached twenty five titles and represents an asset in the process of foundation of a new digital culture in architecture.

Saggio wrote essays and introductions within this book series (the last one is "Architecture Informs" in a book co-authored with Derrick De Kerckhove and Peter Eisenman), in Exhibition catalogues (Digital | Real Dam 2001, Architecture in the Digital Age, UPennsylvania 2003), and in Conference proceedings (Acadia, Caad Futures, Docomomo). He is also author of several books, among which: Giuseppe Terragni Life and Works (Laterza, 1995 2004), Peter Eisenman. Trivellazioni Nel Futuro and Frank O. Gehry. Architetture Residuali (Testo&Immagine 1996 e 1997). His editorial activity comprehends the co-foundation of the magazine "Il Progetto" the direction of the section "The Architects" after the death of the Founder of Universale di Architettura Bruno Zevi. He has collaborated with many magazines of architecture and culture in Italy and abroad. Prof. Saggio holds a professional degree in Architecture (1979) and a diploma of Planning from the University of Rome La Sapienza, a Master of Science from Carnegie-Mellon, and a PhD from the Italian Ministry of Research. He is currently Tenured Associate Professor of architectural design at La Sapienza Rome, and has been teaching in several universities in Europe, Africa and the United States, particularly at Carnegie-Mellon University- Pittsburgh, GhK-Kassel and Eth-Zurich. He has lectured in many major cities in Europe and North America. He has won awards in design competitions in the first phase of his career, and academic research grants from institutions such as the Fulbright Commission, the Graham Foundation and the Council of Italian Research. He founded in 2003 the research group Nitrosaggio.net which operates interdisciplinary in the relationships between Design and Information Technology. Saggio keeps a web site that was a hub of architectural debate in Italy and one of the most visited of the University La Sapienza <http://www.arc1.uniroma1.it/saggio/>

## **Christian Schittich**

Christian Schittich was born in Halle/Saale, Germany in 1956 and holds a diploma in Architecture and Engineering (Dipl.-Ing. Architekt). He undertook his studies at the TU (University of Technology) Munich followed by seven years`office and design experience as an architect.

From 1991 till 1998 he was responsible editor of DETAIL, Review of Architecture in Munich and from 1998 he is editor-in-chief. Under his direction DETAIL developed to become internationally one of the most widespread and distinguished magazines among architects.

Christian Schittich is the author and editor of numerous books, all of which have been translated into different languages:

- Glass Construction Manual, with D. Balkow, M. Schuler, W. Sobek, G. Staib, 1998
- Single Family Houses, 2000
- Building Skins, 2001
- Interior Spaces, 2002
- Japan – Architecture, Construction, Ambiances, 2003
- Building in Existing Fabric, 2003
- Solar Architecture, 2004
- High-Density Housing, 2004
- Building Simply, 2005

He also published numerous articles in DETAIL and other international magazines such as Architecture and Urbanism/a+u (Tokyo), L`architecture d`aujourd`hui (Paris), Shinkenshiku (Tokyo).

## Mark Burry

Mark Burry (born Christchurch, New Zealand in 1957) took up a position at RMIT University as Professor of Innovation (Spatial Information Architecture) in July 2001. Previously he held the Chair in Architecture and Building at Deakin University for five years. He has published internationally on two main themes: the life and work of the architect Antoni Gaudí in Barcelona, and putting theory into practice with regard to 'challenging' architecture. He has also published widely on broader issues of design, construction and the use of computers in design theory and practice. As Consultant Architect to the Temple Sagrada Família, Mark Burry has been a key member within the small team untangling the mysteries of Gaudí's compositional strategies for the Sagrada Família, especially those coming from his later years, the implications of which are only now becoming fully apparent as they are resolved for building purposes. He has been active with the project, and the museum associated with it since 1979. In a major exhibition on Gaudí's exploration of form staged in Barcelona in 2003 \* a principal component of the commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gaudí's birth, he was the only international member of the exhibitions' Scientific Committee. On February 18 2004, in recognition of his contribution to this project, Professor Burry was given the prestigious award 'Diploma I la insígnia a l'acadèmic corresponent' and the title Senyor Il. Lustre by la Reial Acadèmia Catalana de Belles Arts de Sant Jordi.

Currently Professor Burry's time is divided between university and practice-based research. He is director of RMIT's state-of-the-art Spatial Information Architecture Laboratory, which has been established as a holistic interdisciplinary research environment dedicated to almost all aspects of contemporary design activity. The laboratory focuses on collocated design research and undergraduate and postgraduate teaching with associated advanced computer applications and the rapid prototyping of ideas. Projects currently include three ARC funded activities, a combined design studio with Queensland University of Technology, the Melbourne Docklands 'Shoal Fly By' Art project (Kate McLeod and Michael Belemo), the 'Village Gateway Art Integration Project' (Brisbane City Council), The City of Melbourne Sound Project, a multimedia-based design decision support environment for students, researchers and practitioners, investigations into the ontology and representation of design, and interpreting Gaudí's drawing for the Passion Façade design for construction during the coming years. The laboratory has a design-practice emphasis and acts as a creative think-tank accessible to both local and international practices, including ARUP in Melbourne and London, dECOi in Paris, Gehry Partners in Los Angeles.

Mark Burry is visiting Professor at Liverpool University (UK) and Honorary Professor at Deakin University (Australia). In 2003 he was Visiting Professor in Architecture at MIT (USA). In 2004 he was appointed to the Advisory Board for Gehry Technologies and to the Australian Research Council College of Experts.

<http://www.sial.rmit.edu.au/>

*The keynote speakers appear with the order they intervened.*