

# STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

# MEDIA RELEASE

28 August 2023

## Going out on a limb to challenge views on architecture

Large-scale tree installations and a replica living room from a remote Indigenous community will highlight the power of architecture in a new State Library of Queensland exhibition opening 2 September.

*Purpose built: architecture for a better tomorrow* will examine how new approaches to design and building materials can have a transformative effect on how buildings and communities meet the challenges of the future.

The exhibition, a joint initiative of State Library and The University of Queensland's School of Architecture, Design and Planning, unveils sustainable and recycled materials (such as 3D printed algae and clay bricks) and cutting-edge ideas from leading experts.

A foam replica of a Gununa (Mornington Island) living room will reveal the nature of existing housing in the remote community and how culturally sensitive design has the potential to radically transform lives.

The poignant installation will sit alongside historical drawings from 1975 (on loan from the National Museum of Australia) and drawings by students from 2022 — both addressing the future of Gununa.

Large-scale tree installations, built by FARM Architectural, using timber by-products, will also help highlight innovations in repurposed building materials.

Exhibition highlights:

- **Forest to Fibre to Timber** explores experimental ways to use and build with timber.
- **Gununa (Mornington Island)** designing homes for remote First Nations communities.
- **Greenslopes, Brisbane** examines how suburbs can tackle urban water management, energy use and population growth.
- **Digital Twin** showcases an integrated virtual replica of UQ's St Lucia campus. By examining its digital twin, designers can test ideas before they are applied at scale.
- **Robotic Manufacture with Novel Materials** explores the way materials can produce innovative and sustainable building materials in the future.
- Rare architectural plans (including the works of modernist architect Karl Langer)

### Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald AM:

"The *Purpose built* exhibition asks the tough questions. What happens when we challenge our view of architecture, sustainability, and the role of community in design?"

"Design touches our daily lives, so it is vital we get it right, and the advances presented in this exhibition can pave the way to better living."



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Interviews are available upon request.

“It is terrific to partner with UQ again and I hope this exhibition will inspire people to rethink their built environment in new and sustainable ways.”

**Quotes from Associate Professor Antony Moulis Head of School, School of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Queensland:**

“The partnership of the School of ADP with State Library of Queensland is an exciting opportunity to engage and inform visitors with fundamental questions about design and how we can live better into the future.

Situating the school’s research alongside materials from State Library’s collections creates rich conversations around architecture and community and how we become more inclusive, inventive, and resilient.”

*Free curator’s tours, design workshops and a free talk series can be [booked online](#).*

*Purpose built: architecture for a better tomorrow*

2 September – 14 April 2024

Open daily | Free entry

slq Gallery | State Library of Queensland, Cultural Centre, South Bank

slq.qld.gov.au/purposebuilt | #slqPurposeBuilt | [media kit](#)



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