

EXHIBITION » 1 APRIL – 2 MAY 2014

# JOHN GOLLINGS: LEARNING FROM SURFERS PARADISE



Photographer: John Gollings.

**LAS VEGAS STUDIO: IMAGES FROM THE ARCHIVES OF ROBERT VENTURI AND DENISE SCOTT BROWN, PROJECT ROOMS 1 & 2, LEVEL 2**

**JOHN GOLLINGS: LEARNING FROM SURFERS PARADISE, PROJECT ROOM 3, LEVEL 3**

**OPENING CELEBRATION » THURSDAY 3 APRIL  
6 – 8PM, PROJECT ROOMS 1 & 2**

**CLOSING LECTURE » WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL  
6.30 – 8PM, MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM, LEVEL 1**

**LECTURE BY PROFESSOR MARTINO STIERLI,  
CURATOR AND AUTHOR OF *LAS VEGAS IN  
THE REARVIEW MIRROR: THE CITY IN THEORY,  
PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILM***

In 1968, American architects Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown and Steven Izenour joined together with students from Yale University and took on Las Vegas as the subject of research. The group spent three weeks in libraries, four days in Los Angeles, and ten days in Las Vegas. The research led to the 1972 publication of the seminal architectural theory treatise, *Learning from Las Vegas*.

With their work, Venturi and Scott Brown decisively influenced the way the modern, commercial city was seen, as well as many other urbanistic research projects that followed in both methodology and questions of representation. Photography and film were employed equally as a means of argumentation and representation. The original material has since been stored in the archives of Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates in Philadelphia. The

exhibition *Las Vegas Studio: Images from the Archives* of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown presents the images and films that were taken during the legendary 1968 Las Vegas research.

Within Project Rooms 1 and 2 at RMIT Design Hub, these archival materials are presented alongside a series of video interviews, objects and ephemera collected from leading Melbourne architects that trace the Venturis' influence on the development of Melbourne's architectural culture and education. The Melbourne context for the exhibition is further investigated via a catalogue essay by Professor Peter Corrigan and via a commissioned, bespoke exhibition design by Melbourne practitioners Searle x Waldron Architecture.

In addition to *Las Vegas Studio*, a partner exhibition is presented on Level 3 of RMIT Design Hub. *John Gollings: Learning From Surfers Paradise (1973 – 2013)* is a project inspired by *Learning from Las Vegas*.

**Acknowledgements:**

*Las Vegas Studio* is developed by the Museum im Bellpark Kriens, curated by Hilar Stadler, Martino Stierli. *John Gollings Learning From Surfers Paradise* is developed by Gold Coast City Gallery with John Gollings, curated by Virginia Rigney.

RMIT Design Hub exhibition curated by Fleur Watson.  
Exhibition design by Searle x Waldron Architecture.

Print-ready images available on request.  
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