Invited paper 08:

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Architecture towards a common wealth

Traditionally architectural practice as worked for powerful and wealthy. Architects work for clients who are able to pay for their dreams and aspirations to be made part of our living environment. This has produced some fine work and, it can be rightly argued, some great public buildings, precincts and cities for the common good.

What will the profession’s response be to global financial crisis and sustained environmental degradation and change?

Any response may need to rethink the skills and education of architects, our client base and redefine the scope of architecture to include responsibility for the health and well-being of people and sustaining the places on which their lives depend.

This paper will present projects that have attempted to create a ‘common wealth’ for those who would have traditionally never engaged an architect.