



Image credit: Women in Design 2022, long table dinner, Sabine Pagan, photo by Melanie Kate

# Design Tasmania, a hub for Tasmania's makers, design, culture and enterprise, is recognised as one of Australia's leading not-for-profit design organisations.

Dedicated to nurturing and championing creative practice in Tasmania since 1976, we encourage creative risk-taking, facilitate new work and collaborate to broaden the national and international audience for Tasmanian design and craft and bring design to as many as possible.

Design Tasmania is a destination attraction for cultural tourism in the state's north, welcoming over 30,000 visitors each year and promoting design and craft through exhibitions, collection, retail, colloquiums, and workshops. It houses one of Australia's most significant contemporary timber design collections in its award-winning building at Launceston City Park.

The annual Women in Design Colloquium is devoted to supporting an all-female speaker event, in the field of contemporary design. After nine successful years, Women in Design has attracted professional and emerging participants from all over Australia to converge in Launceston Tasmania, creating an intimate environment for succession, discussion and professional development. Originally inspired by the absence of recognition in the Australian design and cultural calendar for the vital role women play in shaping excellence in cultural practice and creative thinking, Women in Design at Design Tasmania now champions women as leading agents of change, shaping the future of design in a dynamically shifting landscape.

For immediate release  
September 2024

Agents of Change: Women Leading Design  
1-2 November 2024

Co-curated by:  
Harriet Edquist | Helen Norrie  
with Artistic Director Michelle Boyde

Featuring:  
Megan Patty | Karen Burns | Justine Clark  
| Liz Walsh | Vanessa Ward | Emma Bugg |  
Simone Bliss | Marta Figueiredo | Marlo Lyda

Design Tasmania Galleries  
More info & tickets via [designtasmania.com.au](https://designtasmania.com.au)

Tickets:		
Fri/Sat 1st-2nd	Full ticket	\$275
Saturday 2nd	Colloquium only	\$150
Saturday 2nd	Dinner only	\$150 (limited)

Design Tasmania will shine a spotlight on women in design at Agents of Change: Women Leading Design.

Design Tasmania, the state’s leading centre for design, will host its Australia-first annual Women in Design colloquium, focusing on the visibility of women in areas such as publishing, archiving and collections, and emergent fields of contemporary design.

Encompassing an opening night cocktail party, full-day symposium and long-table networking dinner, Agents of Change: Women Leading Design is Design Tasmania’s ninth iteration of the event, and will be held from 1-2 November at various locations in Launceston. The colloquium draws together delegates from all over Australia for discussion, networking, knowledge sharing and professional development.

This year’s event has been curated by Launceston’s Harriet Edquist, architectural historian and curator and professor emerita from RMIT School of Architecture and Urban Design, and Dr Helen Norrie, architecture and design academic at the University of Tasmania’s School of Architecture & Design. The program will focus on women in design and adjacent fields, in order to show how their work helps to question and shape practice paradigms and cultural infrastructures by collaboration across disciplines and within communities.

The full-day symposium on Saturday 2 November at UTAS Launceston will commence with an opening address from Professor Edquist, followed by talks from three senior women in publishing, academia, and advocacy.

“Our speakers are all leading proponents in their varied design disciplines, and will bring their unique perspectives to the conversations that we will be having throughout the event.

We are really looking forward to providing a platform to hear from these exceptional women working in the contemporary design field, and to explore together the ways in which we can continue to collaborate as a design community.”  
Helen Norrie, co-curator

Morning Session speakers:

- Dr Karen Burns, architectural historian and theorist at the Melbourne School of Design, University of Melbourne, and co-editor of The Bloomsbury Global Encyclopedia of Women in Architecture, 1960-2020
- Dr Megan Patty, Head of Publications, Photographic Services and Library at the National Gallery of Victoria, and Founding Curator of the Melbourne Art Book Fair
- Justine Clark, Co-Founder of Parlour, an award-winning advocacy group for gender equality in the architecture industry

A panel discussion with the three speakers, led by Professor Edquist, will follow.

The afternoon’s session is convened by Dr Norrie, with six pioneering Australian designers presenting a particular aspect of their practice in a series of rapid-fire short presentations. A round table discussion will follow revealing how their various practices explore new paradigms, contribute to emergent design ecosystems and embody the value of working collectively.

Participants include:

- Simone Bliss: landscape architect
- Emma Bugg: jewellery practitioner and artist
- Vanessa Ward: systems-led regenerative design
- Marta Figueiredo: speculative furniture maker and multidisciplinary artist
- Marlo Lyda: furniture maker and curator
- Liz Walsh: architect

Evening cocktails at Design Tasmania on Friday 1 September will commence the event, with the colloquium’s renowned long table networking dinner at Design Tasmania on Saturday night at its conclusion. This year’s dinner will be design-led by Marlo Lyda, in collaboration with much-loved local chef Jamie Yates.

“Agents of Change: Women Leading Design is an important opportunity to reflect on the significant contribution of women to Australian design historically, as well as to champion and hear from women leading the way forward now.”

Michelle Boyde, Artistic Director Design Tasmania



# Program

Friday

6 – 9pm

Opening cocktail event

Saturday

9:25am

Welcome by Harriet Edquist

9:30am

Dr Karen Burns

10:00am

Dr Megan Patty

10:30am

Justine Clark

11:00am – 11:20am

Morning Tea

11:20am – 12:00pm

In conversation

*Harriet Edquist in conversation with the morning presenters*

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Lunch

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Rapid-fire presentations

*Rapid fire short presentations with each designer to introduce an aspect of their practice*

2:30pm – 3:00pm

Afternoon Tea

3:00pm – 4:30pm

Creating new design eco-systems

*Helen Norrie (moderator) with Vanessa Ward, Emma Bugg, Simone Bliss, Liz Walsh, Marta Figueiredo and Marlo Lyda*

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Marlo Lyda with Jamie Yates

*Long table networking dinner at Design Tasmania + presentation by Marlo and Jamie + 'in-conversation' with Pat Cleveland, co-founder of Design Tasmania with Artistic Director, Michelle Boyde.*





# Megan Patty

Publisher  
*Talk*

Redefining cultural engagement through the role of inclusive publishing in public institutions

Megan Patty is Head of publications, photographic services and library at the National Gallery of Victoria and founding Curator of the Melbourne Art Book Fair (est.2015). In her career she has published over 400 art and design titles, commissioning authors from literature, academia, film and art history. By commissioning and developing writers who are traditionally under-represented in art and design discourse - including First Nations, Émigré, LGBTQ+ authors - she has developed new forms of museum writing for an expanded audience. Recent titles include *She Persists. Perspectives on Women in Art & Design*, *Observations: Women in Art and Design History* and *NGV Triennial 2023 Exhibition Catalogue*.





## Dr Karen Burns

Architectural Historian

*Talk*

**Demonstrating why women's archives shouldn't be thrown away!**

Dr Karen Burns is an architectural historian and theorist based in the architecture program at the University of Melbourne. She is a specialist in women's history, with a focus on the nineteenth and late twentieth centuries. Together with Lori Brown she is the editor of the forthcoming *The Bloomsbury Global Encyclopedia of Women in Architecture, 1960 – 2020* (London: Bloomsbury, 2 vols, 2024.)

Her most recent work includes the 2023 Melbourne exhibition "How We Live Now" on the radical London feminist collective Matrix (active 1980-1996) and the Introduction to the Verso Feminist Classic reprint *Matrix Making Space: Women and the Man-Made Environment* (2022). Burns was a founding member of the Parlour gender equity collective.





## Justine Clark

Editor, Writer, Advocate

*Talk*

**Building platforms for change: 12 years of action on equity through Parlour**

Justine Clark is an architectural editor, writer, researcher, advisor and advocate. She is co-founder of 'Parlour: women, equity, architecture'. Parlour is an award-winning advocacy group for gender equality in the architecture industry based in Australia. It was developed from a grant funded by the Australian Research Council and was launched with its website in 2012; in 2015 Parlour became an organisation. Justine Clark established the Parlour website which she now edits with Susie Ashworth and she leads the organisation's event, advocacy and funding programs.





## Liz Walsh

Editor, Writer, Advocate

*Talk*

Fostering design cultures committed to critique and trans-disciplinary approaches, and designing for small, exquisitely-detailed places.

Liz Walsh is an award-winning, emerging architect and Principle of Cumulus Studio where her role involves establishing Design Research as a fundamental project stage and fostering a studio design culture committed to critique and a trans-disciplinary approach that challenges project briefs, tests sites and explores typologies within different project sectors.

Liz is also a co-director of SO. Architecture, founded with Alex Nielsen, to pursue small, exquisitely-detailed private commissions. In 2015, their conversion of a dilapidated 1829 Hobart Horse Stable won top prize at the AIA National Awards for both Small Project Architecture and an award for Heritage Architecture. In 2019, their small footprint apartment project 'The Bae' won the AIA National Award for Interior Architecture. Harriet's House was awarded the 2023 AIA Tasmanian medal and the 2024 AIA James Blackburn Triennial Prize.



## Vanessa Ward

Systems Designer

*Talk*

Presenting insights into systems-led regenerative design, spanning spectrums of strategic, brand, digital, communication, product and spatial design.

Vanessa Ward is the Course Coordinator for the Bachelor of Design program at University of Tasmania. She comes from a multidisciplinary design background and is now focused on systems-led regenerative design.

Before joining The University of Tasmania, Vanessa had a global design career that straddled industry and academia. Besides running her own brand consultancy Nomadism, she held senior design and strategy positions in leading agencies Fuse Project (San Francisco), Bruce Mau Design (Toronto) and multinational Procter and Gamble (Singapore).

Her work and experience span the spectrum of strategic, brand, digital, communication, product and spatial design. Vanessa has previously taught the Masters and Bachelor level design courses at Lasalle College of the Arts in Singapore.

What drives her teaching and research is her deep conviction in design's transformational capacity to impact positive systemic change.



## Emma Bugg

Jeweller

*Talk*

Exploring the way jewellery connects people to stories, challenging perceptions of value

Emma Bugg is a jewellery practitioner and artist with a studio practice driven by curiosity and material alchemy. She is a co-founder of State of Flux, a contemporary jewellery gallery and workshop in Salamanca.

Emma experiments with connective technologies such as NFC tags and QR codes to tell captivating stories through her creations. She enjoys collaborating with scientists to make complex information accessible and engaging to a broader audience. Her work explores how jewellery connects people to stories, going beyond traditional materials and challenging notions of value.

A former artist-in-residence with Arts Tasmania's Connected studio program, Emma's unique jewellery has garnered international recognition and is represented in prestigious collections such as MONA and Science Gallery Melbourne. Emma continues to investigate emergent technologies, considering innovative ways that data and codes can be incorporated into jewellery. Her practice strives towards a convergence of science, technology, and art to create compelling sculptures that relate to the body, challenge conventional boundaries, and inspire people to see the world from a fresh perspective.





# Simone Bliss

Landscape Architect

*Talk*

Connecting humans to landscape and inspiring respect for Country through caring for land and waterways

Simone Bliss is an award-winning landscape architect and creative director of SBLA Studio, with offices in Launceston and Melbourne. Her innovation, playfulness and creativity is highly valued within both the design and environmental industries.

Simone has twenty years of experience working on projects from designing grasslands and bee corridors on rooftops to regenerating post-agricultural landscapes. She aims to connect humans to landscape in hope of inspiring a respect of country through caring for the land and waterways on which we all inhabit and gains much joy from collaborating and learning from traditional owners and is a strong advocate for equality through design.



# Marta Figueiredo

Industrial Designer  
*Talk*

Pioneering work that transcends functionality, embraces inclusivity, empathy and playfulness, inspiring transformative experiences

Marta Figueiredo is an Australian-Portuguese architect and multidisciplinary artist based in Naarm/Melbourne, whose practice spans speculative furniture design, installation and public art. Since establishing her practice in 2018, Marta has been dedicated to creating work that transcends functionality, embracing inclusivity, empathy, and playfulness. Her projects inspire transformative experiences, reflecting human resilience and provoking meaningful conversations.

Marta's work emphasises emotional connections between people and objects, exploring themes of design, architecture, sustainability, and the human experience. Known for her interplay of colour, texture, form, and scale, she sometimes incorporates elements like sound and scent to deepen the sensory experience.

Marta is currently engaged in a project exploring design, human experience, and adaptability.





# Marlo Lyda

Object Designer

*Talk*

Coaxing delicate yet functional objects from rarely considered resources

Marlo Lyda is an Australian-born designer-maker and curator based in the Powerhouse Creative Residencies on Gadigal Country, Sydney. Coaxing delicate yet functional objects from rarely considered resources, Lyda's work provokes a reassessment of the intrinsic value embedded in overlooked 'waste' materials. Lyda's deep-rooted commitment to celebrating the inherent beauty of makers and materials extends beyond her own creations to the exhibitions she curates, embodying a harmonious blend of creativity, resourcefulness, and community purpose.

Graduating from Design Academy Eindhoven in 2021, Lyda integrates design thinking with a hands-on approach to creation and collaboration, drawing from her education in the Netherlands. Her work, ranging from furniture and lighting to material research, has been exhibited at Dutch Design Week and throughout Australia. Her newer foray into curation continues to garner recognition since establishing MATTERS in 2023, a three-part exhibition series and design platform that emphasizes the importance of intention in the design process.





## Jamie Yates

Chef

*Dinner - Saturday night*

Doctoring delicious dining experiences, using locally grown fare that nourishes both body and mind.

Jamie Yates cooks with love, intention and an air of simplicity. Pasta is her forté, long Italian lunches are her calling, self-care is her embodiment. Throughout calling Tasmania home for 7 years, Jamie cooked in intimate venues Templo, Sonny and toured alongside Analiese Gregory. Jamie is known for her focus on pop-up dining; a celebration of her cherished flavours and cultivating her own atmosphere .

Now, her journey evolves further as she intertwines her passion for food with neuroscience, doctoring dining experiences that nourish both body and mind.



## Harriet Edquist AM

Architectural and design historian and curator

*Co-curator*

Advocating for contemporary women's design practices and reviewing their place in the historic archive.

Harriet Edquist is an architectural and design historian and curator. Her work covers a broad spectrum of practice modes and chronological periods and she has published widely in the field. Recently, she co-curated the exhibition 'Radical Utopia: an archaeology of a creative city', at RMIT Gallery, Melbourne (2023) and co-edited the associated issue of RMIT Design Archives Journal (RDAJ 13:1).

Her present research draws from colonial, mid-century and contemporary Tasmanian architecture and design.





## Helen Norrie

Writer, curator, architectural critic and design academic

*Co-curator*

Exploring new paradigms and collaborating across design disciplines

Dr Helen Norrie is a writer, curator, architectural critic and design academic working across scales from the curation of ideas through text and exhibitions, to the design of buildings and urban environments. Helen is a lecturer in the School of Architecture & Design at the University of Tasmania, and founder of the Regional Urban Studies Laboratory (RUSL), a collaborative urban design research initiative that explores the opportunities for the future sustainable urban development, particularly in regional centres. RUSL uses academic, postgraduate and undergraduate design research investigations to explore a range of urban issues, focusing on the role of architecture in developing a relationship between urban design, development and planning.





“I took advice and inspiration away from the forum in both my professional practice, and in my emerging maker practice. I instantly felt more professionally confident and reassured that I work in a dynamic, passionate sector.”





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Design Tasmania acknowledges the palawa people as the traditional owners of this island - lutruwita. We recognise and respect the deep history and culture of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community; on whose unceded lands we work, gather and engage in this meeting place for design and creativity. We pay respects to Elders, past and present.