

DESIGNING PLACE

An Archaeology of the Western District

Edited by Lisa Byrne, Harriet Edquist and Laurene Vaughan

D*esigning Place* is a beautifully produced book that brings together some of Australia's foremost artists and intellectuals in a project that investigates the meaning of 'place' by focusing on the Western District of Victoria. It is a book that has been supported by the RMIT Design Research Institute.

The book incorporates:

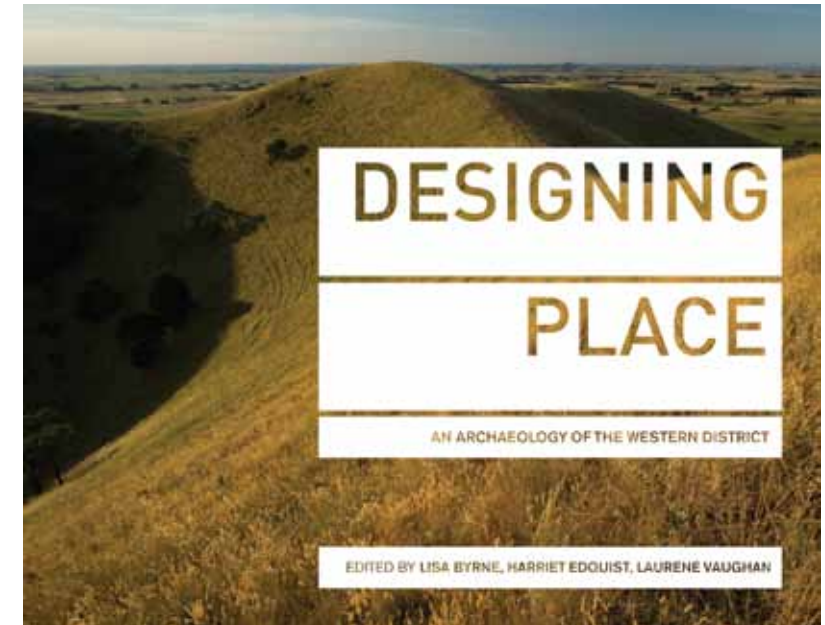
- The artworks that comprise the *Stony Rises Project* (the title referring to landscape formations in the Western District) in which 10 artists give their interpretations of the region. This is a project that culminates in a touring exhibition to regional Victorian galleries.
- Essays by leading design theorists, cultural historians, a geologist and an anthropologist.
- A photographic chapter of 117 significant homesteads of the Western District.

"...place is an experience of human connection to space... Within these pages ... each individual perspective, interest or framework for viewing the landscape is presented as a discrete entity, and as a whole they create a multi-dimensional perspective transforming a landscape and a region into the richness of place"

From the Introduction by Laurene Vaughan

"...the curators designed a framework for which ten people derived from various creative research backgrounds were selected... Four preliminary field trips were undertaken by the curatorial team. Each of these trips informed the final four-day field investigation undertaken with the ten chosen participants and scholars. The itinerary included visits to: local people's private homes; many of the lakes found in the region, notably the beautiful vistas of the twin lakes Bullen-Merri and Gnotuk; walking out into the dry, brown-grey abyss of Lake Corangulac...; experiencing the views emblematic of nineteenth century landscape painter Eugene Von Guerard, who painted commissioned landscapes for landholders of the region; traversing the aqueous systems of the Gunditj Mirring traditional land owners... exploring the lake basin to discover the abundance of eel and fish traps still in existence today, viewing the smoking trees, and inspecting the major irrigation channel built by early settlers to shift watercourses for the burgeoning colonial agriculture, impacting the indigenous farming industries already operating in the region... Visiting lava caves and several lava flow sites... the defining force the volcanic activity had on the region was evident. Beyond this, the what, how, and why each of the participants did with their respective experiences from the field, in order to make an exhibition work, was entirely at their discretion."

From the Introductory essay by Lisa Byrne



The Essayists:

Lisa Byrne
Harriet Edquist
Heather Builtth
Ross Gibson
E.B. Joyce
Ruth Pullin
Laurene Vaughan

The Artists:

Vicki Couzens	Marion Manifold
Lesley Duxbury	Laurene Vaughan
Ruth Johnstone	Carmel Wallace
Seth Keen	Kit Wise
Gini Lee	
Jenny Lowe	

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