



Dr Deidre Brown

Future Issues in Māori Architecture

Māori have always responded to the needs of the times by creating innovative forums for debate, worship and living. However, we are facing our most challenging period in terms of sustaining our culture within the built environment: our housing is largely incompatible with inter-generational living, observances of tapu and noa, and customary understandings of the use of space; the architectural articulation of our history, technologies and presence is largely invisible outside of our marae; and our artistic culture is being appropriated to justify a Pākehā regionalism.

This lecture looks forward to the future, with reference to the past, to demonstrate how a new generation of Māori designers, architects and engineers are 'rebuilding' the Māori world through culturally responsive and responsible housing and urban design projects. It will also indicate where these projects might take us, in redefining a 'Māori' perspective of sustainability, creating new Māori urban and rural environments, and universalising Māori concepts and technologies in a way that respects our ownership of these cultural properties.

Dr Deidre Brown (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu) is a Senior Lecturer in Architecture and the University of Auckland. Earlier this year she published Māori Architecture (Raupo), a history of Māori building since Polynesian arrival to the present day, which won the Architecture and Design section of this year's Ngā Kupu Ora Māori Book Awards. She has published four other books on Māori art. She is currently developing a pilot teaching and research programme, Te Pare, focused on indigenous design with colleagues at the University of Auckland School of Architecture and Planning, and in collaboration with the University of Queensland.