

LSAA Conference & Design Awards

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LSAA 2016 Conference and Design Awards

Call for Papers and Presentations

Theme “Design Beyond the Boundaries of Architects or Engineers”



Successful and iconic lightweight structures are always unique outcomes that have challenged the boundaries of the design experiences of both architects and engineers. They will rely on working together, studying pure geometric forms dictated by the requirements of the materials used and the initial loadings.

This year it is fitting for LSAA to reflect on the inspiration and contributions of Frei Otto who perhaps more than anyone did challenge the design boundaries of what is possible. He is regarded as the father of lightweight structures and many regarded him as both a brilliant engineer and architect. He turned to nature for inspiration and studied new materials and how they could work together. He was not constrained by building box-like designs but let the requirements of forces and material provide radically different geometric forms. He founded the Lightweight Structures Institute in Stuttgart which continues to be a centre of excellence.

Most of Frei Otto's creativity was born well before the advent of 3D computer graphics. He considered that physical models where the structures could be viewed and touched was invaluable in adding to the overall understanding. The models ranged from creative soap films to very elaborate cable-net models that could be used to take measurements of forces.

Part of the 2016 Conference will explore our current approaches and tools used in the design of the forms found in tensioned lightweight structures. We will examine how they have evolved over the years from small physical models using stockings, lycra or soap films through to computer generated 3D virtual structures. We will ask if we have progressed significantly.

Otto is an honorary life member of LSAA. Vinzenz Sedlak, the founding President of LSAA came to the University of New South Wales in 1975, having worked with Otto at the IL in Stuttgart. In 1981 Sedlak formed the Membrane Structures Association of Australasia (MSAA) which has since become the Lightweight Structures Association of Australasia (LSAA).

For more information contact the LSAA Conference Coordinators

Email: office@LSAA.org Phone 613 9586 6088

Lightweight Structures Association of Australasia: PO Box 7345, Beaumaris, Victoria 3193

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2016 LSAA “Call for Papers and Presentations - Guidelines”

The 2016 Theme allows us to consider a wider range of contributions. These range from a major Keynote paper and presentation, through paper/presentations on major projects to short project summaries and contributions to be part of a number of selected panels. For example, we plan to have a panel that will reflect on and compare the impact of Frei Otto on their thinking and work.

The LSAA appreciates your valuable time and technical contribution by way of a paper and presentation to our 2016 Conference “Design Beyond the Boundaries of Architects or Engineers”.

There are a few guidelines that we would appreciate you to follow:

1. We must have final Paper titles, abstracts, short bios (in MSWord) and a good head/shoulders image (800x800 pixels or larger) available no later than **July 29 2016** for promotion and printing purposes.
2. We should receive a copy of your Presentation in MS PowerPoint format by **Friday August 19 2016**. This is because it needs to be loaded onto the conference computer and checked ahead of time. Many presentations will have large file sizes and the use of a “Dropbox” or equivalent would work best. In some cases, we may expect a later “tweaked” version.
3. Authors must register and attend the Conference.
The registration is necessary for our insurance purposes. As a minimum we need to know contact details (names and affiliation for badges, email and mobile phone number) and the period you intend to stay during the Conference (for catering purposes).
4. Authors must introduce themselves to their Session Chairperson at the break before the session. Bring along your contributions as 2 copies on USB drives. Do not expect to use your own computer!
5. Any changed presentations must be given to the AV operator well before the session in which you are presenting.
6. The Paper abstracts and program will be printed for the conference.
7. Presentations must not be considered to be “Commercial” but rather be informative in a technical and generic context.
Any blatant commercial promotional material can be handled through your sponsorship and exhibition facilities and not enter into the technical program.
8. Only one data projector and screen will be available.

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Some Details

Your PowerPoint presentation and paper will be published or made available to Conference delegates following the Conference. Delegates will be able to download the material from the LSAA website. The documents will be in the form of PDF files.

Notes about your PowerPoint Presentations

The PowerPoint presentations will be printed as a PDF as 4 or 6 slides per page. This is a means of protecting your high quality images. However, it does mean that any “animations” on a slide will be lost as only the final view is saved onto the PDF. As an example a sequence of overlapping images on the one slide will only show the last image. Similarly a sequence of bullet points that appear will only show the last state.

PowerPoint presentations should have all images and media embedded into the file rather than as links to a file on your computer. Any video or audio files should be of a common standard that can be viewed/heard on a PC and Mac.

All images used in your presentation or paper must be cleared of any copyright restrictions. Alternatively, if there are isolated images with such restrictions that permit viewing during the conference, but not publication, then we should have a separate version of your PowerPoint that skips these images.

Your PowerPoints slides should be free of any company or product logos except for the Title slide with your affiliation and an ending slide that may have “credits”.

Keep your PowerPoint designs simple:

- Do not use a large number of different fonts and only use standard fonts
- Be careful with colours – for example black typing on a dark blue background is a no-no. Red on black is equally bad
- Do not have too much text on a slide – 8-10 lines max. Your paper can elaborate on the points raised
- Showing of a detailed CAD drawing during the presentation may detract rather than add value. Drawings should be free of clutter and only show key elements. Keep more complex drawings etc for your paper.

Rehearse your presentation aloud beforehand. It is quite surprising how many minutes go by when you start off speaking. Imagine the extra time that might be taken up in simply pointing to a feature on an image on the screen behind you compared to flipping through your presentation in silence on the familiar screen of your laptop. Also you will lose some time using the remote control device compared to doing it at home.

Use bullet points on your PowerPoint as reminders – not to simply read out as the audience can do that. You might consider that 20-30 slides is a guideline for a 20 minute presentation.

Consider how to cut short your presentation should you run overtime and the Session Chair starts making all sorts of signs. There is likely to be a following speaker who will not appreciate you running over.

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Notes about your Papers

Because we will be making your papers (submit in MSWord format) as PDF files rather than physically printing, we are not imposing any page limits however 6 pages might be taken as a minimum. Again, because of no limits, there is no need to spend a lot of time squeezing things to fit on a page etc.

Notes about Submitting your Contributions

You may send your PowerPoints and Paper by email to office@LSAA.org if the files are smallish.

For larger files, many people have adopted using a “drop box” or similar and inviting the recipient to share a folder in your Dropbox.

Name your files in a unique fashion – NOT “LSAA Presentation”. Use the Session Number and your name. For example S7B_Dean_Presentation.ppt or S7B_Dean_Paper.doc

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