



Parlour : Inc

Parlour had a busy and active year in 2018. We have worked hard to consolidate and extend our advocacy for gender equity and diversity in the profession, and support others working to the same end. We've made excellent progress, and there is more to come!

Parlour is a small, lean non-profit organisation that is having a big impact. We thank all those who support our work, and collaborate with us.

Initiatives & impact: 2018

Parlour is highly visible and active. We have launched new initiatives and resources, and consolidated existing programs. We continue to present the work widely to both practitioner and scholarly audiences, in Australia and internationally. We are using our substantial reach to broaden the conversation and to help make space for an ever-wider range of voices.

Events and initiatives addressing equity in architecture are proliferating, organised by many and varied groups. We welcome and encourage this activity, and do everything we can to support it. In 2018 we collaborated with various groups on initiatives across the country.

Recognition

Parlour is recognised as an internationally significant advocate for gender equity. Recent highlights include being named by *Dezeen* as one of "10 champions for women in architecture and design" along with mentions in *Metropolis*, an international publication based in New York, and in an interview with US academic Despina Stratigakos on *Madame Architect*.

"There is a wonderful Australian website called Parlour dedicated to gender equity in architecture. Their contributors include men who write about what the issues mean for them, such as their desire to find work-life balance or to explore collaborative forms of working that go beyond traditional norms of architectural practice. There is a deep shift happening in architectural culture that will have a broad positive impact, and not just for women." —Despina Stratigakos

"Parlour is an Instagram account that has takeovers by guest contributors every week. This provides new voices to a wider audience and makes the account a great way to add new and diverse content to your stream." —Hani Salih, *Metropolis*



Parlour numbers

Instagram:	12,300 followers
Twitter:	4,894 followers
Subscribers:	3,869
Website users:	35,936 annual individual visitors
	188,368 unique visitors from 199 countries, since 2012



Research: knowledge in action

Rigorous research is at the core of Parlour’s activities. This is activated for and by the community

Women, Activism, Architecture

In early 2018 Parlour signed a book contract with the prestigious American publisher MIT Press. This is a significant opportunity to share our research, knowledge and experience with a large international audience. We are currently revising the manuscript following peer review.

Parlour Census Report 2001–2016

Understanding women’s participation in architecture through statistics has been a core part of Parlour’s research and advocacy. Analysing data allows us to identify patterns; it provides evidence of the structural impediments, and gives vital context for the stories of women in Australian architecture.

Gill Matthewson’s important and comprehensive new analysis of the four most recent Australian Censuses has been published in two reports – the **Parlour Census Report, 2001–2016** and the **Parlour 2016 Census Wrap: Women in Australian Architecture**. These provide an important base for developing further resources and advocacy.

Data at Work

We have held five events across Australia to present the findings of the Parlour Census report – in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane and Hobart. Each event included presentation of the data followed by a panel discussion about the results and what they mean for the profession and gender equity. These have all attracted substantial and highly engaged audiences, with some live-streamed to provide access for those unable to attend.

These events have also provided an opportunity to collaborate with other groups and organisations, including the National Gender Equity Committee of the Australian Institute of Architects, the Institute’s Gender Equity Committee Queensland, the Association of Consulting Architects, Architects Male Champions of Change and The Finlay Project in Tasmania.

AILA Gender Equity project

Parlour’s successes in advocating for gender equity led to an approach from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) to assist with developing the AILA Gender Equity Project. Parlour collaborated with XYX Lab at Monash University to produce two reports – **Census Report 2001–2016: Women in Australian Landscape** and **Next Steps**.

The Landscape Architects Census Report reveals fascinating patterns in landscape architecture, which are quite different to architecture, and provide an important framework for developing initiatives and advocacy.

Following the report, Gill Matthewson and Justine Clark have participated in AILA Gender Equity Project discussion events.





Events: building networks

Parlour's event program for 2018 focused on the highly successful Parlour Seasonal Salons and the Data at Work sessions.

Parlour is also often invited to develop dedicated events for large-scale public programs. In 2018 we convened tailored sessions for the MPavilion, Melbourne Design Week and the NGV Triennale Extra programs.

Seasonal Salons

The Parlour Seasonal Salons continue to be a huge success. Each Salon features a public conversation between two women at different stages of their careers. There is only one rule for attendees – they have to make an effort to meet someone they don't already know.

In 2018 we held eleven salons across Australia – in Sydney, Hobart, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. All attracted strong audiences, and plenty of positive feedback. Salons are hosted in a range of venues – public spaces, architectural offices and showrooms.



Heartfelt thanks to our Salon conversationalists since January 2018: Karen Burns and Jos Boys, Ann Lau and Fiona Young, Jude Abell and Liz Walsh, Christina Cho and Kelly Greenop, Olivia Hyde and Ksenia Totoeva, Megan Baynes and Rosa Douramanis, Elizabeth Watson Brown and Michelle Fitzgerald, Phuong Le and Callantha Brigham, Sue Phillips and Katica Pedesic, Cath Hall and Hannah Webber, Jocelyn Jackson and Sandra Lim, Nicolette di Lernia and Katrina Worssam, and Anne Taylor and Amy Grundy.

Thanks to those who help make the Seasonal Salons happen on the ground: Bek Verrier and Sophie of The Findlay Project in Tasmania, Alison McFadyen in Adelaide and Kelly Greenop and Kirsty Volz in Brisbane.

Hosts in 2018 were Cox Architecture (Brisbane and Sydney), Hayball (Sydney), Testing Grounds (Melbourne), and Brickworks (Hobart, Adelaide, Brisbane and Sydney). Kerri Thomsson, winemake at Wines by KT supports the salons by providing delicious wine at generous rates.

The entire Parlour Salon program is possible thanks to the support of Parlour Partner AWS.

Workaround: Super Salon

Parlour was an invited participant in the exhibition *Workaround: women, action, design*, held at RMIT Design Hub in August 2018.

We convened the closing session for the exhibition. This saw us expand the salon model to present a public conversation between Parlour and Architecture + Women • New Zealand. We reflected on five years of intense action, and projected forward to future plans. The loosely structured conversation between Naomi Stead, Gill Matthewson and Justine Clark (Parlour) and Divya Purushotham and Lynda Simmons (A + W • NZ) emphasised sharing ideas, experience, strategies and tactics





MDW: Working Between Cultures

Working Between Cultures was Parlour’s contribution to 2019 Melbourne Design Week. This panel discussion between three remarkable women – Elisapeta Heta, Sarah Lynn Rees and Shaneen Fantin – explored the opportunities, complexities and necessity of working across and among cultures. Drawing on work in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, they considered what we can learn from each other, and speculated on designing shared futures. Supported by Melbourne Design Week and Hassell.

MPavilion: In Conversation – Carme Pinós and Kerstin Thompson

Parlour was invited to conceptualise and convene the opening session for the MPavilion 2018/19 program. ‘In Conversation: Carme Pinós and Kerstin Thompson’ was held on the 10 October, 2018 and attracted a capacity crowd.

MDW: Heritage, Activism, Architecture

Parlour’s contribution to 2018 Melbourne Design Week explored the intersection of heritage, activism and architecture. Dr Jessica Halliday, Director of Te Putahi: Christchurch centre for architecture and city-making, was joined in conversation with Professor Paul Walker.

NGV Triennale Extra: Leading Change

Part of the National Gallery of Victoria Triennale Extra program, Leading Change presented a sell-out conversation between the women leading architectural education in Victoria – Julie Willis, Naomi Stead, Vivian Mitsogianni and Ursula de Jong. 23 January 2018.

Event collaborations

- Parlour collaborates with others on events.
- Flex, 4 March, 2019, with Process. Melbourne
- A Playful City, 2 July 2018, with the Planning Institute of Australia. Melbourne.



Spreading the word

Parlour gives many public presentations to a variety of audiences in many different places.

International

- ‘Parlour,’ Invited keynote panel, ParityTalks IV, ETH Zurich. Naomi Stead, March 2019.

Australia

- Invited presentation, Kerstin Thompson Architects. Justine Clark, March 2019.
- Invited presentation, International Women’s Day, Denton Corker Marshall. Gill Matthewson, March 2019.
- Invited presentation, International Women’s Day, Hassell. Justine Clark, March 2019.
- Invited presentation and panel discussion at launch of Designers for Diversity, South Australian Chapter, Australian Institute of Architects, Justine Clark, October 2018.
- ‘Six Myths About Women in Architecture,’ invited presentation, Grimshaw Breakfast Series, Justine Clark, September 2018.
- Interview, Blueprint for Modern Living, Radio National, Justine Clark, Naomi Stead and Ursula De Jong, following from the Leading Change panel at the NGV Triennale Extra, February 2018.





Projects: expanding equity

Marion's List

Marion's List continues to grow steadily. Profiles of 400 women are now online, and event organisers are using the list to ensure a diverse range of participants.

We continue to encourage women to put themselves forward, and will run workshop events to help women write their own entries.

Parlour Instagram

Every week we hand over our Instagram account to a different guest host. This is enormously successful. There have been more than 160 guest hosts, and we have more than 11,500 followers from across the globe.

People and organisations around the world put their hand up to host, and this is an important way to build international networks and support.

Instagram guest hosting is a very real instance of Parlour's 'Space to Speak' ethos. The visual nature of Instagram is a great way to enable contributions from those who do not feel confident writing for the Parlour website.

In March 2019 *Metropolis* magazine named the Parlour Instagram account as one of "12 Instagram accounts we love."

Parlour Guides to Equitable Practice

The Parlour Guides to Equitable Practice continue to generate substantial interest in Australia and internationally.

We are now in conversation with other organisations about licensing these for development in other professions.

WikiD: Women, Wikipedia, Design

Parlour's work on the international project to increase the representation of women architects on Wikipedia continues apace, run by Alysia Bennett and Charity Edwards. The *WikiD Guide to Wikipedia Editing* is used nationally and internationally, including by Wikipedia Australia.

In June 2018, Justine Clark was invited to speak about the WikiD at 'Wikipedia and History' as part of the History Council of Victoria's Making Public History discussion series.

WikiD is a collaboration between Parlour, Architexx, New York and n-ails, Berlin, and was established with seed funding from the Wikimedia Foundation.

Parlour online

Parlour continues to expand its strong editorial program, which has been an essential part of Parlour activity since the very beginning in 2012.

The Parlour website continues as a key focus of activity and attracts many readers. Parlour publishes a wide range of material from diverse authors. Since 2018 Parlour has published 90 articles on topics that matter, by writers from Australia and across the globe. The Parlour editorial program is led by Justine Clark and Susie Ashworth.

In Conversation

This new series sees Parlour conduct informal conversations with international visitors and Australian's recognised for their work on gender equity. Edited by Susie Ashworth, these are presented as long form article on the website.

Profiles published so far include Yasmeen Lari, Flora Samuel and Melonie Bayl-Smith. More interviews are in process.

Letters to My Younger Self

This ongoing series, convened by Susie Ashworth, sees women in Australian architecture and the built environment write letters to their younger selves. It collects useful advice and anecdotes on navigating study and work in architecture, and balancing it with family, travel and other pursuits. The advice is valuable to the younger generation – students at university, new graduates – and current professionals navigating the complex challenges of an ever-changing profession. The letters are greatly enjoyed and appreciated by Parlour readers.

Parlour noticeboard

In addition to commissioned editorial content, Parlour helps spread the word about initiatives, projects and opportunities developed by others. Posts on the Parlour noticeboard help amplify the impact of others, while also making the Parlour community aware of opportunities elsewhere.