

## **“New Dogs and Old Tricks: The Battle for Change in the Built Environment”**

**David Osborne**

*Guest speaker, Monash University., Malaysia, December 2012*

Abstract:

The theme of this conference focuses on the sharing of knowledge across disciplines and the subsequent integration of knowledge gained. This paper discusses how these themes can - and should - be applied to the processes for designing the built environment. These processes have been established over time and, as can be illustrated from examples within today's China, have in some areas developed unsettling practices that focus more on the construction of elitist monuments to the detriment of the functionality of individual buildings and their integration into the broader urban fabric.

This paper takes a critical look from a consumers' perspective at the current design practices that shape the built environment, and particularly the architectural priorities that often lead the process and define the outcomes. The paper argues for a restructuring of the design hierarchy, in particular a new leadership that is driven by active research rather than aesthetic form and, while so doing, highlights the difficulties of overcoming established norms to introduce new methods and structure to a tired and arguably dysfunctional industry.