

## ANNALISA ROSSO Milan

Design journalist, independent curator.



### Elsewhere, to find their own voice

In the 1950s, Italian design enjoyed a period of extraordinary effervescence. This was especially the case in Milan, where iconic buildings such as the

Velasca Tower by BBPR and the Pirelli Tower by Gio Ponti were under construction. Manufacturers such as Fiat, Olivetti and Cassina were forging ahead with innovation. This was the postwar economic boom, la Dolce Vita. Back then, everything seemed to be made by designers. 'From the spoon to the city' is how the architect Ernesto Nathan Rogers described the wide-open realm of design in 1952. Yet the 1950s is also when many decided to leave the country to seek their own path. Lina Bo Bardi became a Brazilian citizen in 1951. Massimo and Lella Vignelli moved to the United States in 1957. Enrico Taglietti arrived in Australia in 1955. This trend has continued, but the world has become smaller nowadays. Brilliant designers such as FormaFantasma left Italy for The Netherlands while maintaining a constant, fruitful link with their homeland. Transnational examples are numerous. Philippe Malouin left Canada for the UK, Ron Gilad left Tel Aviv for Milan. The importance of the place they choose to establish their office is relative. Today, just like yesterday, design knows no borders. Enrico Taglietti is a case in point.

## PHILIP GOAD Melbourne

Chair of Architecture, Melbourne University, visiting Chair, Australian Studies, Harvard University

### Placing Taglietti – Houses in Landscape

Landscape has played a major role in the design and the promotion of the post-war Australian house. In many ways, dialogue with the land can be, and has been regarded as the leitmotif, the defining element of Australian architecture. But the complexity of response to that idea has been little investigated nor appropriately differentiated. It is also, of course, only one way of looking at Australian architecture. This paper places the houses of Enrico Taglietti within the rich tapestry of post-war responses to the ongoing experiment that is the post-war Australian house where connections to a landscape - be it urban, suburban, or rural - have prompted inventive and original results. What becomes clear is



the unique and distinctive place that Taglietti's architecture occupies, where geometry, mass and engineering combine with the fundamentals of dwelling and signal not just creative originality but also links back to Taglietti's Italian

heritage and the founding principles of an architecture for Australia's capital and its territory.

## GINA LEVENSPIEL Melbourne

Durability research architect

### In defence of the original building as a medium for architectural knowledge

Do we have access to the important architectural knowledge of Enrico Taglietti through the conservation of his buildings? Many of his distinguished works are mass concrete construction, and the material tends to coincide with permanence itself. Yet when we study the St Kilda library today, or Dickson Library in Canberra, we see that a great irremovable variance has occurred to the original architecture. Dr Levenspiel will discuss how this model of conservation affects our knowledge production of Enrico's architectural legacy and present optional pathways that support the profession of architecture as an object of conservation.



Captions: all speaker photos provided. Giralang Primary School and both Enrico Taglietti portraits with permission from the NAA archives.

# Taglietti Symposium

## WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MC: **Genevieve Jacobs**

Journalist & arts enthusiast

### INTRODUCTION

**Rachael Coghlan**

CEO, Craft ACT, Artistic Director, DESIGN Canberra

### PRESENTATION: NEW BEGINNINGS

**Gordon Ramsay**, MLA, ACT Arts Minister

## SESSION 1: INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE

### KEYNOTE

**Annalisa Rosso**

Elsewhere, to find their own voice

### PUBLIC CONVERSATION

**Enrico Taglietti** with **Gianmatteo Romegialli**

LUNCH 12:15-12:55

**Gandall Hall**

## SESSION 2: LIVING HISTORY

**Philip Goad**

Placing Taglietti Houses in Landscape

**Gina Levenspiel**

In defence of the original building as a medium for architectural knowledge

## SESSION 3: DESIGN AS A CREATIVE PROCESS

**Karen McCartney**

The home as laboratory reveals the man

AFTERNOON TEA 3:10-3:35

**Gandall Hall**

## SESSION 4: TAGLIETTI PEOPLE

**Dave Pigram**

Inspiring wonder: Architecture beyond the flat roof

### TAGLIETTI PEOPLE PANEL

**Dave Pigram**

Supermanoeuvre architect, also former Giralang Primary student

**Elizabeth Paterson**

Artist, grew up in a Taglietti Home

**Bob Beasec**

Builder of Giralang Primary school plus many others of Enrico's designs

**Tanja Taglietti**

Daughter of Enrico and artist

**Belinda Love**

Principal, Giralang Primary

## SESSION 5: THE FUTURE

FINAL THOUGHTS OF THE DAY

SYMPOSIUM CLOSE 5:00

Join us at East Space (5 minute walk) for the closing reception of the exhibition, **Depth of Field: Taglietti in Canberra**, 5-6:30pm



## ENRICO TAGLIETTI Canberra

Architect

Enrico Taglietti's distinct and highly personal design character is expressed through his

use of unusual sculptural shapes and angles, cantilevered planes of roof and deck, and concrete. Italian-born and trained, Taglietti featured in the Museum of Modern Art 1979 exhibition, 'Transformations in Modern Architecture'. He completed his architectural studies at the Milan Polytechnic, studying under such luminaries as Gio Ponti, Franco Albini, Bruno Zevi and Pier Luigi Nervi. In March 2007 Taglietti was awarded Australia's most prestigious architecture prize—the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) Gold Medal for Architecture.

## GIANMATTEO ROMEGIALLI Milan

Architect

Gianmatteo Romegialli is a long-time collaborator with Enrico Taglietti. He is an architect based in Milan, working from the Act Romegialli studio together with Angela Maria Romegialli and Erika Gaggia VH. He regularly travels to study and work in Australia, collaborating with Taglietti on projects and competitions.



## KAREN MCCARTNEY Sydney

Architecture editor, author

### The home as laboratory reveals the man

'There is a concept I'd always been attached to: the principle that to be a modern architect, one has to sever oneself totally from the past and ask questions as though nothing existed before, Canberra was the ideal place'  
– Enrico Taglietti.

In this keynote Karen McCartney will explore the public and private nature of Enrico Taglietti's world, starting with his appreciation of the clean slate he saw in Canberra. In the 50s he established a home in Griffith which, alongside his studio, became a laboratory of ideas. This talk will explore the intimate details of his immediate surroundings and how this experimental philosophy and constant curiosity manifests in the broader expression of his architecture.



## DAVE PIGRAM Sydney

Computational designer, Supermanoeuvre.

### Inspiring Wonder: Architecture beyond the flat roof

Dave Pigram uses computational design and advanced fabrication processes to build unique architectural spaces globally. In this lecture Pigram reflects on Enrico Taglietti's influence on his work with specific reference to the design of roofs that bend, curve or fold to engage with more than simple weather protection. Inspired by his time as a 4- to 11-year-old student at Giralang Primary School, Dave credits not only his decision to become an architect to Enrico but also the aspiration to in turn inspire wonder in the future inhabitants of his own buildings.



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