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Gunyah, Goondie and Wurley: Aboriginal Architecture Australia by Paul Memmott. University of NSW Press, St Lucia zld 2007, xx-412 pages, ISBN 978 0 7022 3245 9. Considered by Cherry de Leyen Department of Archaeology, Flinders University, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide SA 5001, Australia

Perception and the widespread myth that Indigenous Australia was a land without architecture, without permanent, significant homes and settlements, and that Indigenous peoples were nomads directly challenged in Paul Memmott's book. Its central subject is Aboriginal ethno-architecture, as practiced before colonization and throughout and after the contact period. It is important to study Memmott's complexity and the range of such practices; indeed, this book fills a large gap (and need) in our documented knowledge and is a tangible answer to the question of terra nullius. Most importantly, the book examines and recognizes indigenous architecture as a built expression of complex and changing social structures, reflections and interconnectedness of sister groups and complex social rules and structures, as well as reactions to resources, lifestyles and climate. Memmott has been documenting regional architectural styles for over 30 years, and this book is a combination of about 20 publications. The result is what appears to be an encyclopedia of indigenous architectural practices. However, this book is more of a starting point than a completed catalog. This is an important attempt to start collecting and documenting a more definitive resource on the subject. The audience is a lay reader and academic (p.xiv) - not a book written for archaeologists - however, the systematic documentation of many types of regional indigenous architecture is informative and useful. The architectural view of the built environment has the potential to inform our archaeological perspectives. In addition, the extensive collection of photographs, paintings, magazine and magazine articles and the use of indigenous voices is both impressive and informative. Specific topics covered in the book include camping behavior, camping trips in response to seasonal changes, semi-moving villages, spatial camping organization and the spread and impact of design types in different regions. These topics are explored by region through case studies. For example, Chapter 4 examines the north-eastern rainforests and how tropical wet seasons lead to settled village architecture, while Chapter 9 examines the homes of the Spinifex of the Western Desert. Boxes are also used to provide additional case studies in each chapter. They are valuable, but the layout makes reading the main text somewhat disjointed. This book also examines the architecture since the 1970s, with joint architectural projects Aboriginal groups and non-Aboriginal architects, as well as modern architecture architects from indigenous backgrounds with Western qualifications and training. While some of Memmott's analyses of the use of space by dogs are refreshingly outside of mainstream thinking (with the exception of Colin Pardo), his use of primarily male anthropological sources is biased by some of his interpretations. For example, his discussion of the use of Alyawarr camping space involves innovative and engaging discussions about the male, female and canine space. However, there is more depth committed to the role of space dog than in the female space, and this is indicative of the gender biases in the book as a whole. In this chapter, the question of women's use of space is considered rather superficially (p.40): the female ritual is often planned and organized from women's places of residence. In addition, women, of course, go on their daily chores to cook, cook and care for children in these premises. The analysis of women's use of space would strengthen this volume and is an obvious area for future research. Gunyah, Goondie and Wurley are impressively hard-bound and its weight and sense, in some sense, imposing and authoritative. As the architect writes, the book has an aesthetic property that cannot be ignored. The book makes a significant contribution to our knowledge of Aboriginal architecture. It can be hard to read, but it's fun to recognize. Authors: Cherry de Leyen Title: Review 'Gunyah, Goondie and Wurley: Aboriginal Architecture Australia' Paul Memmott Date: June 2010 Volume: 70 Pages: 73-74 Type: Book Reviews You Should Be a Member, to download the attachment (Sign in/Register) 19th century engravings of the Indigenous Australian camp, for those who have spent much of their fusing careers, what might be called the sharp end of digital technology to other things, paradoxically, I have retained an interest in folk architecture and design that often deploys ancient solutions refined by age, use and experience. (Ed: Not really a paradox.) Walter Roth: Research on Aboriginal ethnoarchitecture forms, 1897. Through Wikipedia. Here in Australia, a relatively new country, if an ancient inhabited continent, there are rich folk gatherings among complex stories. Of particular interest is the Queensland home seen in Brisbane, but also the various architectural strategies and solutions used by Indigenous Australians. This is interesting partly because of the nomadic lifestyle of some Indigenous Australians, and therefore associated with other transient, portable architectures I'm interested in, and partly because of the inherently ingenious climate solutions to Australia and the terrain. An example of the architecture of Mer Island (or Murray Island) (Islands) Strait. Round shape covered with dried dried leaves with sleeping platforms placed inside. Melville hand-painted lithography, c. 1849. Through Wikipedia. A new book from - Gunyah, Goondie and Wurley, Paul Memmott, an anthropologist at the University of NSW Aboriginal Environment Research Centre - details the various architecture and design techniques that existed before the European occupation. (Ed. This piece was originally published cityofsound.com October 9, 2007.) Memmott's book now seems to be the final text on original Australian architecture. It exposes the idea that Aboriginal people do not build as essentially a deliberate and expedient strategy, or rather, lie-in-the-imagination, usually property-obsessed British invaders to ensure that Australia can be treated legally as terra nullis (empty land), and therefore ripe for claiming clean-up and settlement. In fact, there are many types of construction structures as diverse as the social structures of indigenous Australians and the climate of the continent. Nomadic aspects are a way of combating extreme

climates, as are forms of architecture built with different levels of transieny; As such, we could learn a lot from the extreme climatic conditions we go into. Through Wikipedia.Ethnoarchitectural forms built by Torres Strait Islander people on open beaches and kai on The Island of Ernest (Nagi or Nagier). Melville hand-painted lithography, c. 1849. Via Wikipedia.The Sydney Morning Herald has a short article about the book, architecture, and its sorry destruction: There were a number of different shelters built in different styles depending on climate and social factors, Associate Professor Memmott, who compiled the book for 35 years, said. There is clear evidence of complex spatial organization and design based on social rules and structures. This is further proof that aboriginal lifestyles have been well organized, which, unfortunately, still surprises people. ... Among the most striking designs featured in the book are the dome houses that existed in the rainforests of tropical NSW and northern NSW. Homes were interconnected, allowing the clans to interact, and were high enough to stand so that residents could spend long periods indoors during the rainy season. The winter houses built around Port Jackson and Warringah in Sydney's Gai Mariagals were made using hardwood, clay, reeds and animal skins... Reconciliation Australia co-chair Jackie Huggins praised the book for debunking the stereotype that Aboriginal people are part of a primitive age. Aborigines were among the first architects in the world with ingenuity in housing and housing, Ms. Huggins said. «Sydney Morning Herald», 9 9 2007-Gunya, Gundy and Wurley: Aboriginal Architecture of Australia (Penguin Australia / Univ. of queensland) Ed. This piece was originally published cityofsound.com on October 9, 2007. Download... Academia.edu no longer supports the Internet Explorer.To browse the Academia.edu and the wider Internet faster and more securely, please take a few seconds to update the browser. Academia.edu uses cookies to personalize content, adapt ads, and improve user experience. Using our website, you agree to our collection of information using cookies. To learn more, review our privacy policy.x Visit the Help section or contact us Start your review of Gunyah, Goondie Wurley: Aboriginal Architecture Australia This is a very comprehensive book of anthropology about Aboriginal huts and social constructs reflected in Aboriginal architecture. This is a comprehensive study with well-written studies, including close attention to weather and climate in vast regions. In addition, the illustrations, maps and photographs were excellent. Fantastic information in this book is wasted. The only copy I can find on Bookfinder is worth more than AUS \$1,700 in the US. I can't find a copy for sale in Australia. This book was published only in 2007, and yet it, with its valuable information, is already becoming scarce. In terms of costs, this is not the type of book that could be found on every Australian school library book shelf; but that's where it should be. Please re-publish in a smaller, more accessible format - easy to do as there is so much bar fantastic information in this book wasted. The only copy I can find on Bookfinder is worth more than AUS \$1,700 in the US. I can't find a copy for sale in Australia. This book was published only in 2007, and yet it, with its valuable information, is already becoming scarce. In terms of costs, this is not the type of book that could be found on every Australian school library book shelf; but that's where it should be. Please re-draw in a smaller, more accessible format - easy to do as there is so much bare space on each page. 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