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CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

NAME OF PRESENTER:	E. Yarina, P. Allan, M. Bryant
TITLE OF PAPER:	Translating spaces: Designing for Climate Migrants
THEME:	<i>Theme 1: Heritage at Risk – Climate Change and Disasters</i>
PAPER ABSTRACT:	
<p>Rising seas, storms and other catastrophes associated with climate change place coastal citizens around the world at risk. Increasingly, across the Pacific, mass migration to other nations is becoming part of adaptation to climate change. For indigenous people, whose identities are tied to the lands and seas they inhabit, climate change threatens not only their homes but also their culture. When migration is the only option, how can spatial design help communities retain cultural identity within the places of the diaspora? This presentation explores the role of design in ‘translating’ culture in diaspora sites in New Zealand, for Fijian migrants.</p> <p>In a speculative design research landscape architecture studio, the subject was an ex-situ Fijian community in greater Wellington, New Zealand, with the anticipation that this community will expand with increasing climate change impacts in Fiji. By engaging with the diaspora community, mapping histories and trajectories of migration, and learning about Fijian cultural practice in the context of Aotearoa, landscape spaces were examined for their potential to encourage Fijian culture to flourish in ex-situ sites. The work produced a series of designs for hybrid spaces that could serve the socio-spatial needs of this migrating community while capitalising on the essential qualities of the local landscape. As climate change forces Pacific Islanders, and perhaps all societies, to become increasingly mobile, these projects begin to suggest design principles that can allow place-based cultures to continue, even if their homelands become threatened.</p>	
BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:	
<p>Lizzie Yarina is a Research Associate at the MIT Urban Risk Lab where she is involved with multiple projects which investigate disaster preparedness and response in the built environment. She recently completed a one year Fulbright research grant in New Zealand, studying the spatial implications of climate change migration.</p> <p>Penny Allan is a Professor of Landscape Architecture at UTS. Her most recent design research projects, <i>MOVED to Design</i>, <i>Earthquake Cities of the Pacific Rim</i>, and <i>Rae ki te Rae</i>, deal with the relationship between environment, culture, resilience and design. All received national awards</p> <p>Professor Martin Bryant is head of UTS Architecture. He is a landscape architect, architect and urban designer with more than three decade’s experience in private practice and academia.</p>	