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CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

NAME OF PRESENTER:	E. Yarina, P. Allan, M. Bryant
TITLE OF PAPER:	Indigenous values as a method for designing for climate change on culturally significant sites
THEME:	<i>Theme 1: Heritage at Risk – Climate Change and Disasters</i>
PAPER ABSTRACT:	
<p>Low-lying low-density villages and farms throughout the Pacific have significance as indigenous cultural sites. But many are threatened by the impact of climate change and rising sea levels. The increasing regularity of freak storm events generates more concern, and yet indigenous communities have little access to the funds or technologies that might address this concern or catalyse change. Alternative methods to encourage adaptation need to be explored: in this paper we discuss the potential for indigenous cultural methods and knowledge to complement traditional science and initiate action for indigenous people.</p> <p>We have looked at two case studies. One is a farm in the Horowhenua in coastal New Zealand, where Māori cultural knowledge methods such as whakapapa (connections between land and people), kōrero tuku iho (oral narratives) and hikoi (walking and talking) provided a way of developing strategies for future farming activities, settlement form and an enhanced ecological environment. The second case study looked at indigenous patterns and customs of vanua (land) in the island of Ovolau in Fiji as the starting point for change to tourism, community activities and infrastructure. Both projects entailed working through design research and climate change science, while local community engagement and indigenous world views framed methods and practices to develop an acute understanding of the cultural significance of landscape as the locus for initiating adaptation. The case studies provide models for other coastal communities who are concerned with adaptations for climate change while still conserving land-based values of indigenous cultures.</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. Her personal research focuses on climate change risk and displacement. She recently completed a one year Fulbright research grant in New Zealand, studying the spatial implications of climate change migration. Penny Allan is a Professor of Landscape Architecture at UTS. Her most recent design research projects, MOVED to Design, Earthquake Cities of the Pacific Rim, and Rae ki te Rae, deal with the relationship between environment, culture, resilience and design. All received national awards</p>	



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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.