

Internationalisation — Impact Statement

Leadership in Internationalisation and Global Engagement

Dr. Steffen Lehmann

I believe we should promote internationalisation in all our activity. My work has a strong emphasis on Internationalisation, innovation and interdisciplinarity.

- I made significant research contributions internationally in the fields of urbanisation, future cities, and the “science of cities”, including energy, mobility, ecology, food and green urbanism.
- I have made significant achievements in the strategic fields of internationalisation, innovation, industry co-operation and fund-raising (please refer to details in my C.V.).
- I have led the innovation-based transformation and internationalisation of three large schools and established three impactful international research centres and programmes, worldwide (in the UK, USA, and in Australia), including successful international positioning of these schools and centres.
- I hold Australian and German citizenships, and I am currently a permanent resident in the U.S., and I am completely bi-lingual (English and German).
- I have been a tenured full professor in three countries: in the US, Australia and the UK. Over the last 20 years, I have been fortunate to work in senior leadership positions at 4 research-intensive universities in 3 countries, gaining significant experiences. I have led three architecture schools, as head of school, head of department or director of the school of architecture, in Las Vegas, Perth and Brisbane.
- I nurture an international network of academics at top universities worldwide that I was able to develop over the last 30 years.
- As Head of School in Australia, I was responsible for off-shore programmes in architecture in Malaysia and Hong Kong.
- I have been a Visiting Professor with extended stays at top universities in Singapore, Germany, India, China and the US.
- I have successfully launched numerous international collaboration projects, for example: 2016-19, I have created and led the Euro 2 mill. international research project CRUNCH, with 19 partners from 6 countries, funded by a range of funding bodies, including the National Science Foundation in the USA.
- I have advised over a dozen of cities on matters of sustainable urban development, including Berlin, Dresden, Hamburg, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Abu Dhabi, Ho-Chi-Minh City, Oslo, Helsinki, Brighton, Southend-on-Sea, Las Vegas and Reno.

- At the University of South Australia, I have led the China engagement activities for the university, established the joint China-Australia Centre for Sustainable Development (for which I was Founding Director, 2010-14) and developed a joint Ph.D. programme with Tianjin University (China).
- In the last 30 years, I have presented over 550 times at public events, conferences and symposia, in 40 countries, including over 100 invited keynote addresses.
- My research work has received funding internationally, from the NSF, ESRC, Innovate UK, AHRC, Belmont Forum, British Council, and other important funding bodies. My own Google Scholar h-index is 25, and i10-index is 43, with over 2,600 citations (April 2020).
- In recognition of the international significance of my work, I have been appointed in 2008 as inaugural chair holder of the UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Urban Development for the Asia-Pacific Region, by the UNESCO (Paris).
- Teaching “Global Studios” since 2002: over the last 20 years, I was invited to prominent universities worldwide to teach architectural design studios. I call these Global Studios, including at the University of California, Berkeley; TU Munich (as DAAD professor); TU Berlin; NUS Singapore; Tongji University Shanghai; Tianjin University; IBERO Mexico City; University of Portsmouth, Xi’an Jiaotong University, ANU Ahmedabad India and Papua New Guinea University of Technology.
- **I have been appointed as international reviewer for major funding bodies.**
Over the last 18 years, I have regularly been an assessor for international research proposals and large grant applications, in 12 countries, such as for:
 - European Commission, Brussels, for Horizon 2020 (multiple; as Expert Evaluator and as Rapporteur)
 - EPSRC, UK Research Council, for Global Challenges Fund; and Leverhulme Trust (multiple)
 - British Council Newton Fund, Reviewer of Science Research Programme, UK (multiple)
 - Swiss National Science Foundation, Bern
 - Canada Foundation for Innovation, Ottawa
 - Israel Science Foundation, Israel
 - Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Tokyo
 - Hong Kong: Research Grants Council of Hong Kong, SAR Hong Kong (multiple; regularly since 2012)
 - Earth Watch Institute, Massachusetts, USA
 - UNESCO, Higher Education Sector, Paris
 - Australian Research Council, Canberra, as Excellence in Research (ERA) Peer Reviewer and as regular ARC Grant Assessor for large grants (multiple; regularly since 2008)
- I have led large official Group Missions to China, where I organised symposia at Xi’an Jiaotong University and Tianjin University, funded by the British Council and the NSF of China.



- My internationalisation strategy “Global Engagement” includes:
 - increasing the overall international visibility, brand and profile.
 - strengthening international activities and strategic partnerships.
 - offering new opportunities for international collaboration to faculty and students.
 - fostering student success by providing the international learning and research support structure and tools necessary to be successful.
 - Before establishing my own practice, *Steffen Lehmann Architekten + Stadtplaner GmbH*, in 1993 in Berlin, I worked internationally with Pritzker Prize–winners James Stirling in London and Arata Isozaki in Tokyo. I taught design studios with Hans Hollein in Austria and Harry Seidler in Australia.
 - My thinking is deeply influenced by, first, studying at the Architectural Association in London in the 1980s; second, by British and Japanese modernism and the years I spent working as a young architect with James Stirling in London and Arata Isozaki in Tokyo; and finally, by the privilege to have been able to make significant urban and architectural contributions to the city of Berlin after the fall of the Wall, during the 1990s.
 - Membership in professional associations: In 2019, I became a member of the American Institute of Architects and joined the AIA Board of Directors of the Las Vegas Chapter. In 2016, I was appointed to the UK’s Academy of Urbanism and became a member of the RIBA. In 2003, I joined the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. In 1995, I was appointed *Freier Architekt BDA* in Berlin.
 - Demonstrated international strategic leadership:
I have established and led three research centres and have restructured all research and innovation activities at the UNLV School of Architecture:
 - Founding Director of the Sustainable Design & Behaviour Research Centre, UniSA, Australia (funded with \$5 mill. by the Government of South Australia and UniSA)
 - Founding Director of the China-Australia Centre for Sustainable Urban Development, UniSA & Tianjin University (funded with \$1 mill.)
 - Founding Director of the Cluster for Sustainable Cities (UK), University of Portsmouth
 - Restructured all research and innovation activities in the UNLV School of Architecture and establishing 7 theme-based Research & Innovation Labs that focus on the *Grand Challenges*.
- I have led complex schools of the built environment in the U.S. and in Australia:
- Director of the School of Architecture, University of Nevada Las Vegas (USA)
 - Head of School of Design & Built Environment, Curtin University, Perth (Australia)
 - Chair, Department of Architecture, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane
- At the UNLV School of Architecture, I introduced a study abroad programme at IBERO in Mexico City.
 - Awards: In 2020, I received the *Global Top 100 in Education* award. Prior to this, I have also received the Award for Teaching Excellence.

An ambassador of sustainable design principles, Steffen Lehmann has been described as a “global academic nomad” who is always interested in new challenges, enjoying working in different cultural contexts to experience a variety of cities and cultures.



I have presented over 550 lectures in 40 countries

I consider the following three areas as of particular relevance for the future of the university:

- Innovation
- Interdisciplinarity
- Internationalisation

INNOVATION

Innovation, i.e. developing applications for business and society through scientific knowledge, is one of three core tasks with research and teaching to meet the global challenges for mankind and society.

I see groundbreaking research contributions in the thematic fields of climate change, the city of the future, energy, mobility, food, waste and digital information.

How can innovation best result in concrete developments, projects and products that contribute to general prosperity and benefits?

This requires a suitable innovation environment for technology transfer, with effective partnerships with business, industry and the city; as well as a founding spirit and entrepreneurship of researchers and students. A start-up incubator (e.g. in the form of an Office of Business Innovation) is an efficient platform for founders, industry and innovation management.

Internationalisation and global engagement play a significant role in this.

Fund-raising: Investors, donors, sponsors and alumni who are interested in promoting science and young talent are particularly relevant for the university. Through their commitment to research, teaching and innovation, the framework conditions for scientific researchers, students and founders are decisively improved in many places.

