



Issue 3

Welcome to the third issue of the third volume of *Lost and Found*, an email magazine with an inside view of Melbourne's creative people and places, bringing you interesting giveaways and the first word on events buzzing in the city from June to September.



Guest Editor

Robert Buckingham is known and loved as the founder of the Melbourne Fashion Festival, and as the founding Director of Australia's Fashion Design Council. He now runs his own creative strategy company, called Mr Buckingham, and works as a consultant for London's trend forecasting studio The Future Laboratory. This month, Robert is speaking at State of Design's Design Capital conference. In his spare time, he likes browsing for Georgian chairs, eating Italian at Di Stasio and waiting two months for the perfect suit.



Design

Robert Buckingham: At the moment, I'm working on my presentation for State of Design. The topic is 'designing identity'. To get people thinking, I've posed the question, 'Why is it that at a time when we have more designers than ever before that our physical environment gets uglier every minute?' I think it has something to do with not thinking about the big picture. Great design requires a curatorial vision, emotion, and a sense of place. Melbourne is a design city because it has fantastic designers, but also (perhaps as importantly) entrepreneurs who are interested in design. This has created wonderful interiors and small architecture – stores, galleries, restaurants and bars. But when we get to the larger scale (the public and civic scale) we seem to lose our nerve...

State of Design

At dinner parties Australia-wide, Victoria regularly claims to be the design state. And it's true, but State of Design puts its money where our mouths are. Launching an all-new format this year, Victoria's design festival is much bigger than ever. Design Capital is a conference featuring speakers as diverse as Robert Buckingham and former *Lost and Found* Guest Editor Mark Moffitt. Design Made Trade is a massive trade and wholesale showcase for innovative brands including Materialbyproduct and Geneine Honey's LOVE label. The Premier's Design Awards are a glitzy tribute to excellent design practise, and Design For Everyone is just what it sounds like: a citywide program of exhibitions and workshops that anyone can visit. The perfect excuse to update your party banter.

16 July – 3 August, Melbourne Museum, Carlton Gardens and citywide.



Arts

Robert Buckingham: In the city, I love visiting The Murray White Room – the gallery at the end of Sargood Lane. I went to The Narrows for the first time recently, too, and it's great, really unusual. I'm a fan of old furniture and unusual objects, so Geoffrey Hatty Applied Arts in Prahran and South Fitzroy Antiques are sources of inspiration. I like patina.

Venice Biennale New Australian Pavilion

The polite word used by the arterati to describe our pavilion at the Venice Biennale is 'fatigued'. Worse words have been used, mind you. Including by the pavilion's architect, Philip Cox, who is at pains to point out that it was necessarily 'a very cheap building put together in ten minutes.' But now, artists-turned-architecture-critics can start thinking up some new adjectives. The Di Stasio Ideas Competition has invited architects to submit a (hypothetical) pavilion replacement. The exhibition of finalists (cut down from 446 registrations of interest from 51 countries) is currently open for your perusal at Heide Museum of Modern Art. Creative aspersions welcome.

Until 3 August, Heide Museum of Modern Art, 7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen,
tel: 03 9850 1500



Events

Robert Buckingham: One of my favourite-looking retail spaces in Melbourne is the Aesop cardboard shop on Flinders Lane. Aesop is a fantastic brand and I like the way they use different architects to respond to specific environments. The Flinders Lane store has an interior created entirely out of packaging, and it was done in only a couple of days. It's inspirational architecture. I also like the smell of damp grass and the blue skies and crisp air of late autumn and early winter in Melbourne.

Melbourne International Film Festival

It's tough trying to act like a film buff these days – you can put on black-framed glasses, drink coffee and act neurotic, but then it's all multiplexes, Kung-Fu Panda, and DVD box sets. Where's the romance? Once a year, MIFF brings it back, allowing us to brood over nearly 400 films in beautiful CBD cinemas, including the heritage-listed Capitol. Tips for 2008: Go to an after party in the festival lounge at the Forum. See Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel adaptation, *Persepolis*. Yes, George A. Romero – king of the undead – is coming. And don't pretend you knew about '70s Ozploitation cinema – nobody did until now.

25 July – 10 August, tel: 03 8660 4888



Retail

Robert Buckingham: For my dark brown cords, I go to James Cameron in the city. For sports jackets and brogues I like Henry Bucks, and Charles Maimone in Crossley Street makes my suits. (It takes about two months.) I think it's wonderful that there are people who care about menswear and quality. Henry Bucks has been around for 118 years and Charles has been making suits since the 1950s. He is definitely one of the characters who makes the city great.

Fashion Swapping

If you really boiled it down, most people would have two major worries in life: 'What if the ice caps melt?' and 'What am I wearing tomorrow?' Melbourne's clothes swapping nights are killing these two birds with one stone, bestowing a glamorous sheen upon the world of recycling. For Better or Purse (monthly at All of the Above) lets you swap your clothes for tokens, then swap tokens for clothes. My Sister's Wardrobe (monthly at The Croft Institute and July 18 at Rose Street Artists' Market) uses buttons for currency and books out faster than New York Fashion Week. You'll still have to aerate the compost, but you'll look hott with a double 't' doing it.



Visual Diary



Robert Buckingham: For dinner, no-one does atmosphere like Di Stasio. The waiters, the drama, the presentation and the 'waiting for Ronnie' creates a memorable night. I've also been going to the monthly Kitchen Garden Dinner at Circa. Basically it's a dinner they create entirely from the produce in their kitchen garden. You can book – it's all grown and cooked by Matt Wilkinson. I go to Cicciolina because of the cosy atmosphere and I like having to ask for a key to visit the toilet. And there is always the back room at Pellegrini's when you want to feel like a uni student again. It's warmer when you're in the kitchen.



Win

If Johnny Depp touched your heart with his scissor hands back in 1990 (well not literally but, you know), it's high time you relived his triumphs of tears and topiary. Director/choreographer Michael Bourne brings his *Edward Scissorhands* stage spectacular to the Arts Centre from 22 July – 3 August. For those who can only remember as far back as *Sweeney Todd*, this presents an opportunity to see Tim Burton's best gothic fairytale on a larger scale than DVD. Johnny's not in it. Just as well, though, because this show stars people who can actually dance.

Thanks to the Arts Centre, we have two prize packs to give away each including a double pass to opening night on 22 July, an *Edward Scissorhands* souvenir program and a keyring. For the chance to win, send an email to lostandfoundinmelb@gmail.com with the subject line 'Touch my heart with your scissor hands'.