

ATCH Strategic Intent 2026-29

The University of Queensland's **ATCH Research Centre** brings together researchers working across the history, theory and culture of the built environment. With an interdisciplinary focus, the Centre supports collaborative research that connects architectural scholarship with broader cultural, social and environmental questions. Through the success of our Visiting Fellows Program, high-profile publications, symposia and exhibition events, ATCH has built a global reputation for critically informed, culturally engaged research that addresses historical and contemporary challenges.

With research strengths in the areas of First Nations places and culture, the heritage of the built environment, and the history and theory of architecture and urbanism, ATCH researchers work across academic and applied contexts. We have experience in contract research and consultation, and have collaborated with government and cultural institutions, including the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) and the State Library of Queensland (SLQ), translating research expertise into public, policy, and professional outcomes.

ATCH also actively contributes to the UQ School of Architecture, Design and Planning's (ADP) research and teaching profile, and is committed to maintaining a robust research culture. Our work spans the full breadth of the School's **Climate**, **Health** and **Society** Research Pillars, and includes a strong ambition to build coursework and honours thesis student pathways to Higher Degree Research, and to continue to cultivate a vibrant HDR community. Our shared aim is to create a supportive and engaged research environment.

ATCH Research Priorities 2026-29

As part of this strategic plan document, ATCH has identified a series of research priority areas for 2026-28. These research foci have strong alignments with the School's broader research priorities and will play a key role in advancing the goals identified under ADP's Society Research Pillar.

ATCH research priorities 2026-29	ADP Research Pillar Goals
Support co-designed research with First Nations communities, and sustain a deep engagement with First Nations agencies and groups	"Empowering Indigenous cultures and places" [Society Pillar] "Developing healthy communities" [Health Pillar]
Advance ATCH's role in historical research and the digital humanities Continue to critically examine histories of architecture, urbanism and colonisation	"Documenting the history of architecture and planning" [Society Pillar]
Expand work on design and cultural governance, socio-spatial justice, as well as climate and just transition	"Informing urban policy and governance" [Society Pillar] "Planning healthy cities and towns" [Health Pillar] "Implementation tools and pathways" [Climate Pillar]
Continue high-impact research on heritage, adaptive re-use, and the cultural value of existing buildings	"Supporting cultural heritage preservation" [Society Pillar] "Decarbonising the built environment" & "Innovating towards a circular economy" [Climate Pillar]

ATCH Strategic Areas

Enriching our Communities

Goal: Build and expand our engagement with existing professional groups, platforms and institutions

Actions:

- Engage professional institutes and bodies including: Parlour, AIA / EmAGN, SLQ, SAHANZ, ICOMOS, Brisbane Open House, Fabrications Journal, King's Trust, Australasian Urban History/Planning History Group, Australian Centre for Architectural History, Urban and Cultural Heritage (ACAHUTCH)
- Invest in DAQA database as key reference and resource on the history of the built environment in Queensland
- Plan for a new UQ-wide cultural heritage research strategy that includes architecture and the built environment
- Explore possibility of a new, named annual lecture

Learning and Student Experience

Goal: Increase ATCH's presence and role in the School's coursework programs

Actions:

- Profile ATCH's research in coursework programs
- Ensure research courses and thesis with ATCH topics are available to students
- Explore possibility of an 'ATCH Thesis Club' to support students in humanities research stream in Master of Architecture program, and to showcase work of past thesis students.
- Assess current barriers to coursework thesis and identify structural solutions
- Enhance interactions between HDR and MArch thesis students to promote research career pathways
- Encourage use of DAQA in MArch coursework programme

Goal: Grow ATCH's HDR cohort and improve the research experience of existing students

Actions:

- Host SAHANZ PhD Colloquium
- Create opportunities for HDR's to present their research within the School
- Profile current HDR research on ATCH website, as well as ATCH graduates
- Continue to seek high quality HDR applicants
- Seek a philanthropically funded PhD top-up scholarship for domestic students
- Advocate for secure employment for PhD students during candidacy

Global Profile

Goal: Maintain and grow international profile of ATCH and its researchers

Actions:

- Refresh Visiting Fellows program and promote past successes
- Develop annual/biannual conference program
- Promote achievements of ATCH researchers with regular news items on ATCH webpage and School social media
- Improve ATCH webpage and maintain with regular project updates
- Encourage staff and students to identify ATCH in researcher presentations, naming of Centre on publications, and co-branding of appropriate school research events

Goal: Build international ATCH collaborations with new and existing partners

Actions:

- Leverage UQ-Ghent Strategic International Partnership (SIP) funding and support to build on existing UQ-Ghent collaborations over more than a decade
- Triangulate UQ-Ghent collaboration with other British and European universities
- Develop new collaborations with existing network of Pacifica researchers
- Revive collaboration with University of Auckland on regional cultural issues in line with previous MoU

Our People

Goal: Profile ATCH researchers in the School and build collaborations across Faculties

Actions:

- Build ATCH profile within the School through monthly work-in-progress presentations, and share ATCH presentations presented at outside conferences within School
- Develop cross-faculty links in HASS particularly in Indigenous studies, History, Art History and Digital Humanities
- Recognise and profile Indigenous researchers and research collaborators

Research and Innovation

Goal: Define and promote research priority areas

Actions:

- Continue to build research collaborations with the Dept. Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI), and the Dept. Department of Public Works and Housing (Government Architects office)
- Seek research funding through ARC DP, ARC Fellowships and external consultancies, and new ARC funding opportunities as they are announced
- Invest in DAQA database as key reference and resource on the history of the built environment in Queensland
- Continue to refine our research priorities for public audiences (as laid out in this document) and re-frame these as research capabilities.

Securing our Future

Goal: Ensure the longevity of the ATCH Research Centre through external funding

Actions:

- Seek consultancies, building on previous success working with external bodies such as DETSI
- Build 'ATCH Research Capabilities' on ATCH website to promote capacity for consultancy work
- Explore philanthropic income streams