

Access & Equity

Charles Darwin University Master of Architecture

May 2026 | Michael Fox AM

Introductions

This semester's CDU Master of Architecture units + Legislation

THEORY

RESEARCH

LEGISLATION

DESIGN

Providing equitable and accessible environments responds progressively to all four components

Overview

- **Architecture & accessibility**
- **Initiation of AS1428**
- **Standards Australia to legislation**
- **Progressive awareness to UN adoption**

AS 1428.1:2021



Design for access and mobility

Part 1: General requirements for access — New building work





Theory

National and International

- From charity to rights
- *Nothing about us without us*
- Continuous accessible path of travel
- Process of access
- Positive terminology



THEORY

Research

Consultations, communities and committees

- **AS 1428.1-2021** — current accessibility standard
- **AS 1428.2** — enhanced & additional requirements
- **Standards Australia & ABCB** — governing bodies
- **Adaptable & Livable Housing** — evolution of criteria
- **Community benefits** — including kerb ramps and low floor buses



RESEARCH

Legislation

From discrimination law to construction codes

LEGISLATION

- **1993** — Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)
- **2000** — Sydney Olympic & Paralympic Games
- **2008** — Australia ratifies the UN CRPD
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- **2010** — Access to Premises Standards (APS)
- **NCC 2022** — Livable housing provisions adopted – except NSW and WA
- **NCC 2025** — Adoption progressive – not in NT
- Deemed to satisfy & performance solutions

Design

From Theory to implementation

DESIGN



Embrace accessibility

for better designs and more equitable environments

Northern Australia: Access & Equity

- Townsville 2011 Workshop
- Red Dust Healing
- First Peoples Disability Network Australia
- *Critical need for*
- *Genuine consultations and involvement of all stakeholders*
- *Regionally appropriate responses*
- *Darkinjung ex-CEO Sean Gordon*
- *First Nation Principles*
- *Respect and Balance*
- Wilya Janta — *Standing Strong* – Simon Quilty

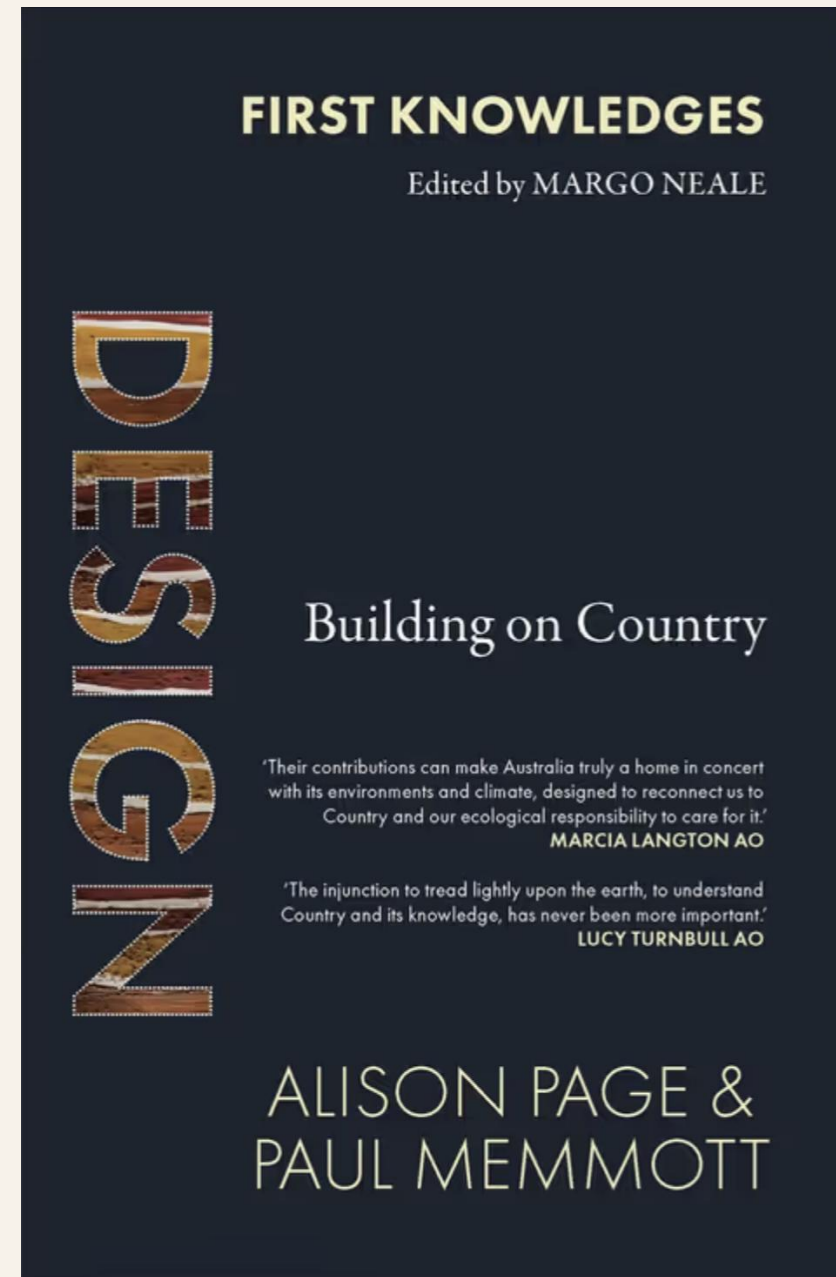
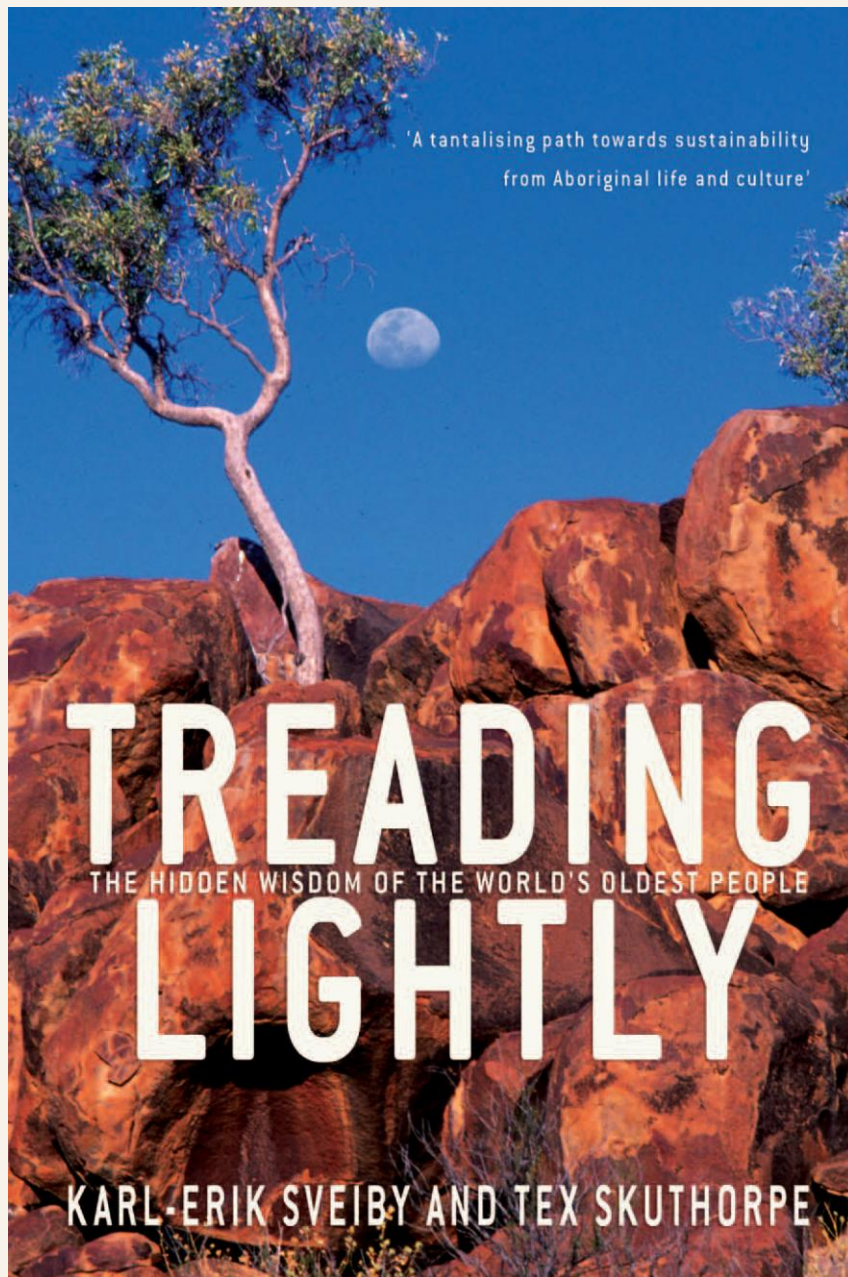


William Mackinnon, The purple house, 2019

FPDN ensure accessibility in all its forms by embedding cultural, physical, digital, and systemic inclusivity into our practices.

- *First Peoples Disability Network responds to Minister Butler's NDIS overhaul*
- First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDN) joins Australia's Disability Representative Organisations in a statement calling for people with disability to lead the design of the NDIS reforms announced by Minister Mark Butler at the National Press Club.
- **FPDN CEO and Worimi man Damian Griffis, said:**
- “Minister Butler said today that the NDIS is a measure of our national character. We agree. And the measure of these reforms will be whether they protect or further exclude the most marginalised Australians, First Nations people with disability living in communities where many of the services simply do not exist in the first place.
- “The Minister invoked **‘nothing about us without us.’** We are here to hold him to that. First Nations people with disability were not mentioned in today's speech. That silence is not acceptable.





Key References

Summary & Potential

- Combine Theory, Research, Legislation and **Design** in practice
- Develop regionally appropriate design responses
- For comments or requests contact:

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