

# OCEAN ROAD

**MAGAZINE**

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*Dive into life on the coast*



CATCH UP WITH THE CITY'S

# Doyens of Design

*Ocean Road* brings together the Gold Coast's movers and shakers of design to enjoy an intimate casual affair of great coffee, delightful treats and creative conversation.

Words: Cidonie Richards  
Photography: Brian Usher





In the sleepy side of bustling Broadbeach stands a new kid on the block in terms of coffee houses: Elk Espresso. With its unique interior décor resembling a scene out of an urban artist's workshop splashed with an impressive sketch of an elk etched on to a stripped-back paint-flaked wall, you get the feeling this café is set on making its mark with the cool set on the Gold Coast.

Sitting on rustic white-washed tables are quaint native flowers in vintage medicine bottles and tree branches hang suspended with cute jars with tea lights inset – the atmosphere is a delight for those who appreciate artistic detail and thus the perfect backdrop for a group of highly esteemed design enthusiasts enjoying a light afternoon tea.

If you haven't yet heard about the Design Institute of Australia's Gold Coast chapter you soon will – they've started to make some serious noise since their inception in 2012.

And it is here, at Elk, they have come to exchange ideas and savour a scrumptious selection of afternoon treats on a platter, including freshly baked coconut tea cakes, date fig chocolate and pistachio slice, a macadamia brownie and almond and lemon pillows. The talking point of the table was the cute macaroon

lollipops served in wooden holders, which were almost too cute to eat ... well almost.

The Design Institute of Australia was first introduced in Australia back in 1942 and Queensland first introduced its branch in 1977 as a way to inspire, recognise, contribute and provide vision and information to creative professionals from all design disciplines.

The 7x7 Talk Series, which stands for seven speakers who speak for seven minutes, runs three major events throughout the year in which professional and emerging designers of specialty fields are invited to give an insight to their craft, their business and how they see design being an important factor on the Gold Coast.

DIA gives a voice and a place for designers to be heard – somewhere young and up-and-coming design talent can be discovered and nurtured and, most of all, a forum through which dedicated professionals can raise the bar in their industry.

They come from a broad range of design disciplines, including interior design, graphic, textile and industrial design, fashion and apparel, TV film and set design, jewellery and furniture design, digital and film media, architecture, design management, exhibition and display

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Melissa Reid



Cidonie Richards

Carol Whittaker



design, visual merchandising, web design as well as surfboard and skateboard designs.

Melissa Reid and Carol Whittaker make up two of the founding members who began the 7x7 Talk Series.

"We have been fortunate enough to have some very talented and highly esteemed professional people speak at our events, including an Academy Award winner, internationally award-winning architects, CEOs, directors of large design firms and thought-provoking emerging designers. We are proud to have over 10 committee

members who regularly meet and help make our events the success that they have grown to become," says Melissa. One thing the 7x7 Talk Series wants to make known is that they are not a typical 'business-lunch networking organisation' but rather a group that organically brings together like-minded people who might want to listen to some great speakers, have a relaxed night out with colleagues and provide a space where connections can be made with established designers, students of design and design-related organisations.

"If people want to exchange business cards on the night and we can help foster a start-up relationship then that's great, or if people just want to come and enjoy listening to some talented and inspiring people talk about design then that's even better," says Carol.

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and a place for  
designers to be heard.



## STEVE DALTON

### Gold Coast Techspace

Steve Dalton is a software engineer, entrepreneur, maker and connector.

Frustrated by the lack of cohesive tech community on the Gold Coast, he co-founded the Gold Coast TechSpace in 2011.

It is based on the worldwide Hackerspace model: An open, community-based, pre-incubator and learning centre focusing on technology.

The TechSpace is found in a multi-purpose location in Southport after initially starting in a shed nearby. Steve's particular interest lies in tech education and design, in particular software, electronics and robotics, and he recently started the very popular Lego workshops for kids in school holidays.

He is also a passionate advocate for open source and free software, particularly in education.

[www.gctechspace.org](http://www.gctechspace.org)



## AMY DEGENHART

### AIA Gold Coast/Northern Rivers Regional Chair

Amy Degenhart is the principal architect and one of two directors of degenhartSHEDD architecture and urban design on the Gold Coast, and has been practising here since 1987.

Some of degenhartSHEDD's projects have been for renowned customers, including Lend Lease, Gold Coast City Council, Economic Development Queensland and Landmatters Currumbin Pty Ltd.

Amy has won numerous architectural and industry awards, including the 2010 UDIA Women in Development Excellence Award for Outstanding Achievement. Just a year earlier, she was one of the first two Queensland World Architecture Festival Awards finalists, and last year she was one of seven Queensland architects shortlisted for the 2012 festival awards program in Singapore.

In addition to her practice responsibilities, Amy was also the founder of the Robina Chamber of Commerce, served for six years on the not-for-profit board of Varsity Lakes Community Limited, served as President of the Robina/Varsity Rotary Club for two years and is currently the first female Chair of the Australian Institute of Architects Gold Coast and Northern Rivers Region.

[www.degenhartshedd.com.au](http://www.degenhartshedd.com.au)

## KIRSTEN BECK

### Molly & Polly Swimwear

Molly & Polly Swimwear is a buoyant and contemporary swimwear and stretchwear label designed by Kirsten Beck. Growing up in North Queensland, Kirsten spent her days exploring the amazing natural wonders of The Great Barrier Reef and local pristine beaches, which gave her the inspiration to launch a new and exciting swim label on the Gold Coast.

After studying fashion design in 2009, Kirsten launched the Molly & Polly Swimwear 'Sunset High' collection at the 2012 Gold Coast Fashion Week and hasn't looked back since.

Her love for pastels, sweets and colour are the inspiration for her latest collection – 'Sugar Mountain' – which is currently in high demand.

With positive reviews and growing customer-demand, Molly & Polly Swimwear is now being stocked with retailers across Australia and has been predicted to be one to watch.

[www.mollyandpollyswim.com.au](http://www.mollyandpollyswim.com.au)



## JASON NELSON

### Secret Technology

Born from the Oklahoma flatlands of farmers and spring thunderstorms, Jason Nelson stumbled into creating awkward and wondrous digital poems and net-artworks of odd lives, building confounding art games and all manner of curious digital creatures.

A Professor of Net Art and Electronic Literature at Griffith University, he not only coaxes students into breaking, playing and morphing their creativity with all manner of technologies, he also exhibits widely in galleries and journals, with work featured around the globe at FILE, ACM, LEA, ISEA, SIGGRAPH, ELO and dozens of other acronyms.

There are awards to list (Paris Biennale Media Poetry Prize), organisational boards he frequents (Australia Council Literature Board and the Electronic Literature Organisation), and numerous other accolades (Webby Award), but in the web-based realm where his work resides, Jason is most proud of the millions of visitors his artwork/digital poetry portal attracts each year.

[www.secrettechnology.com](http://www.secrettechnology.com)





## LAURA STRANGE

### Strange Stranger

Laura Strange is an artist and designer who juggles her full-time role as a designer at the highly respected Lloyd Grey Design and her own personal projects of designing jewellery.

Laura started her creative journey as a designer at Channel Seven and was awarded Best Portfolio when graduating with a Bachelor of Design at Queensland College of Art.

She is a founding member of the artist-run initiative IncStamp where she has exhibited and curated various shows, as well as exhibiting in other group shows.

In 2013, she is working towards the launch of her artful objects label, Strange Stranger, following her unique collection of jewellery, Touch Wood.

Laura says she's a sweet tooth, a romantic, and a caffeine addict.

[www.laurastrange.com](http://www.laurastrange.com)



## JED CAHILL

### In The Bin

Jed is the creator and director of In The Bin Film Festival, which has grown in size and strength since he started it back in 1999.

Before then he was a frustrated actor, who turned into a frustrated director, who turned into a frustrated festival director ...but everyone knows a festival director is just a frustrated musician.

In 2003 Jed started his education program to coincide with the In The Bin Touring Festival and has since taught over 3000 students throughout regional Australia in the skills of making short films.

He has produced over 500 short films in the workshops and has travelled to almost every corner of Australia. Jed Cahill is currently developing new strands of In The Bin to focus on stronger film and video production.

Current projects include producing feature-length documentaries for regional and rural communities as well as government projects.

In between this Jed is also jumping back into the director's seat, which he hasn't done in over 10 years and will be making his own short film, soon to be released.

[www.inthebin.com.au](http://www.inthebin.com.au)

## CRAIG ROCHFORT

### Art Park

Craig Rochfort is the co-founder and CEO of Art Park. He graduated as an industrial designer but has spent much of his career working as a graphic designer for clients such as Telstra, Commonwealth Bank, Macquarie Bank and others.

In an effort to combine his life-long love affair with contemporary art and his accumulated design/business skills, Craig partnered with Paul McNeil to form Art Park in 2010.

With its family of artists, Art Park creates products, publishes books, co-ordinates an internationally renowned Artist Residency Program and more.

Art Park products are sold in quality retailers around the world, including Urban Outfitters USA, Beams Japan, SurfStich Aust/Europe, etc. Among other things, Art Park is curating an exhibition of 'AP' Artists in Los Angeles in September 2013.

[www.theartpark.com.au](http://www.theartpark.com.au)

The next DIA: GC7x7 Talk will be a gala event on Friday, November 1. As a non-profit national organisation, the DIA is funded primarily by member subscriptions and sponsorship from design industry affiliates. For more information about becoming a DIA member or sponsor visit [www.design.org.au/7x7](http://www.design.org.au/7x7).



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# Developers soak up spendelove

Pics: Jude Parry Copy: Brian Usher

The DIA talk series hit the road again in July and soaked up the atmosphere at Spendelove Bistro & Bar for design delights and great food. Guest speakers included Craig Rochfort from Art Park, Kathryn Edmonds from Indigo Joker, Amy Degenhart from degenhartSHEDD, Dr Jennifer Loy from QCA Griffith Uni, Jed Cahill from In the Bin, Troy Roberts from Artistsoutlook and Mark Collingwood from Design Remedy.



# french flavour

Pics & Copy: Brian Usher

Ocean Road Magazine has seen many of the shows at Jupiters Hotel and Casino over the years but we've got to say that Cabaret de Paris is the best in some time. Back to the days of glitz and glamour, this "first-class taste of Parisian entertainment" features beautiful showgirls, talented dancing and some more acts that really have to be seen to be believed. This is a must-see!



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