Learning from Urban Disasters: Rethinking the Role of Architects in the 21st Century

Where will you be when "the big one" strikes? Alex will base her talk on her doctoral dissertation, "Framing Disaster Research as 'Wicked' Design Problems", where she shares some of the key lessons from running the New Zealand chapter of Architecture for Humanity, and discuss the changing role of the architecture and design professionals in the 21st century in the context of recent urban disasters – the 2005 Hurricane Katrina, the 2010 Haiti earthquake, and the 2011 Christchurch earthquake.

Speaker: Alexandra Jayeun Lee is a visiting research scholar from New Zealand, where she is completing her PhD in architecture at the University of Auckland.

Photo: The Okoshi Ezu art auction for the Christchurch earthquake at the School of Architecture and Planning, The University of Auckland