When Europeans first reached Australian shores, a view developed that Australian Aboriginal people did not have houses or towns, that they occupied temporary camps, sheltering in makeshift huts or lean-tos of grass and bark. Turning this popular idea on its head, Gunyah, Goondie and Wurley explores the range and complexity of Aboriginal-designed structures, spaces and territorial behavior, from minimalist shelters to permanent houses and villages.

Whilst Gunyah, Goondie and Wurley is mainly an in-depth study of the architecture of early contact Aboriginal Australia, it also contains an overview of post-1970 collaborative architecture between white Australian architects and Aboriginal clients, as well as an introduction to the work of the first Aboriginal graduates of university-based courses in architecture.

Gunyah, Goondie and Wurley not only provides an introduction and a framework for ongoing debate and research on Aboriginal settlements but also aims to introduce and provide insights for the lay reader to the lifestyles and cultural heritage of Aboriginal peoples.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anthropologist and architect Paul Memmott is Director of the Aboriginal Environments Research Centre in the School of Architecture at the University of Queensland. He is widely published internationally on this topic and was Area Editor for Australia in the Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture of the World (ed. Paul Oliver, CUP 1997). Paul Memmott is also the principal of a research consultancy practice in Aboriginal projects, which provides specialised services to Aboriginal organizations and government departments in Australia.