When Europeans first reach 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 Worley explores the range and complexity of Aboriginal-designed structures, spaces and territorial behaviour, from minimalist shelters to permanent houses and villages.

While Gunyah, Goondie and Worley 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 Worley 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.

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Anthropologist and architect Paul Memmott is Director of the Aboriginal Environments Research Centre in the School of Geography, Planning and 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 research consultancy practice in Aboriginal projects, which provides specialised services to Aboriginal organisations and government departments throughout Australia.