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## Ray Edgar's Mixed Media

### The Parallax View

"LESS is more" governs the choice of speakers at this year's national architecture conference, Parallax. There are fewer big names, so co-creative director Gerard Reinmuth hopes to place less attention on the speaker and more on a group discussion of the concepts. So while there is plenty of heft in having last year's Venice architecture biennale director Aaron Betsky join rock-star philosopher Slavoj Zizek (right) and



young gun Sou Fujimoto, among others, Reinmuth says the conference is about "asking questions and forcing people who are presenting to actually answer them. The idea is to generate new knowledge from the conference rather than hearing a series of manifestos that you generally know about anyway. Why architecture matters is the subplot of the conference. It's about what we do and why it matters. If you can make any blob or any shape, the big question is, why?" While this will be the first time Zizek has weighed in on architecture, Reinmuth says the Slovenian was chosen for his ability as a philosopher to investigate an argument. In fact, Reinmuth adds, it is Zizek's presence that helped secure the other big names. "Melbourne likes to think of itself as (a city of) architectural thinkers, and if ever there was a conference that would appeal to them, this is it," he says.  
Parallax, 2009 National Architecture Conference, April 30-May 2; [architecture.com.au/parallax](http://architecture.com.au/parallax)

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