the internal social processes of each territory, the relations of colonialism and structural dependence, the transnational architectural production linked to large tourist structures, and the internal development of the trade with the appearance of architects and local offices. The latter have strongly contributed to the construction of an identity and reflection of design discipline within the Pacific Islands.

Finally, Architecture in the South Pacific: The Ocean of Islands’ most significant contribution is to present architecture and urban development as highly relevant and revelatory topics for a critical study of the contemporary region. Architecture in the Pacific Islands has too often been considered a specialty subject of study largely of practical interest within the region’s building and planning offices. As these territories grow, architecture must serve as a key element for creating built environments that are more sustainable, more responsive to current demands, and more reflective of local cultural characteristics and contemporary community needs. Moreover, this revaluation of the architectural and urban processes that have built the main settlements of the Pacific Islands may contribute much-needed attention and energy to the conservation and recovery of the Pacific Islands’ historical architectural heritage, among the most overlooked and underfunded needs in the region today.

HETEREKI HUKE
Architect, Rapa Nui


Susan Cochrane is a rare enthusiast of oceanic arts, one who bridges diverse roles of collector, curator, conversationalist, and critical commentator on Pacific art, particularly that from Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia. After thirty years of impressive travel in the region, giving papers across Oceania and beyond, and attempting the difficult feat of promoting the region’s culture to the world through hard-copy art publishing—readers may have come across her Contemporary Art in Papua New Guinea (1997) or Bérétara (2001)—she has put together an online interactive compendium, Living Art in Papua New Guinea.

This e-book brings together materials going back to the 1950s from Cochrane’s own archive and that of her parents (links to these are in the book) with contemporary statements from artists, all of whom have actively participated in the project. A feature of the collection is that its electronic format allows the commonly seen static artworks to be complemented with moving images of their social context and with associated forms of performative art. Even among the former group, there are things such as large pots and
public sculptures that are not often seen outside of Papua New Guinea.

The design is a delight: landscape pages with lots of white space and text surrounded by lively images of birds, animals, and spirits, some familiar from the widely circulated styles of Akis and Kauage. The version I reviewed had a few photos strangely turned on their side, but that may well have been due to the format I was working with on a computer download. Many of the black-and-white photos are stunning for the events captured and for their rarity, irrespective of formatting.

The text includes links to clips and other information on topics such as “women in contemporary society,” “the Baining Fire Dance,” “carved canoes,” “the Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art,” and “bamboo bands.” The volume also includes an impressive mix of essays, gallery catalogs, and YouTube clips. The author admits to her amateur status as a photographer and the spontaneous nature of some of the fieldwork clips, but regardless, they are all visually captivating and informative and suggestive of immense possibility for future works on Oceanic art to bridge the gaps between artists, collections, and audiences in homelands and abroad. One visual treat in itself.

Paul Sharrad
University of Wollongong

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The inaugural volume of the Hawai‘i-nui‘akea Monograph Series, edited by Puakea Nogelmeier, explores the
Average prices of more than 40 products and services in Papua New Guinea. Prices of restaurants, food, transportation, utilities and housing are included. Cost of Living in Papua New Guinea Crime in Papua New Guinea Climate in Papua New Guinea Food Prices in Papua New Guinea Gas Prices in Papua New Guinea Health Care in Papua New Guinea Pollution in Papua New Guinea Property Prices in Papua New Guinea Quality of Life in Papua New Guinea Taxi Fares in Papua New Guinea Traffic in Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea acknowledged its biodiversity richness (wealth) and knowledge of the status is well established. The publication of two volumes of Papua New Guinea Conservation Needs Assessment (PNGCNA) in 1993. The PNGCNA assessment had a focus on the knowledge of biodiversity in the country. Volume 2 of PNGCNA focused its emphasis on the knowledge of biodiversity during the 1990s and chapters written by experts and included the following thematic areas.