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Monday treat for architecture enthusiasts at Customs House

ARCHITECTURE enthusiasts who may be looking to get out of the house this long weekend may well be drawn to Circular Quay to make the most of the Sydney Architecture Festival 2009, held by the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA).

The annual event will be on Monday, which is also World Architecture Day.

Set in and around Customs House at Circular Quay, this year's festival will include talks by some of the country's leading architects; walks and cruises around some of the best examples of architecture Sydney has on

offer; and photographic and digital media exhibitions.

The day's hot topic will be sustainability through architectural choices. There will be headline talks at the Sydney Opera House by novelist David Malouf, and architect Glenn Murcutt in conversation with Julianne Schultz, while Anne Watson will examine the enduring controversy that still surrounds the replacement in 1966 of Danish architect Jorn Utzon by Peter Hall as the design architect of the Sydney Opera House.

Other scheduled events include Max Dupain at Circular Quay – an

architectural photography workshop for 13- to 21-year-old budding photographers, the UltraFAB 2 Pavilion installation by the team at University of Sydney on the Customs House forecourt, short talks throughout the day featuring AIA award-winning architects, a giant Lego play station, the Kids' Design Challenge plus Architecture + Colour and Design workshops. The day devoted to the built environment features free as well as paid events, which will run from 10am to 4pm.