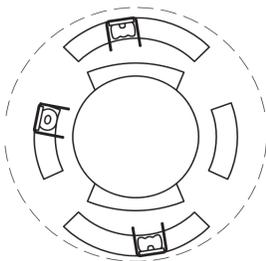


# NEW AGENCY: OWNING YOUR FUTURE SIBLING ARCHITECTURE

RMIT Design Hub  
29th August — 22nd September  
2018



## CHAMBER 01

### LAZY SUSAN RESOURCE STATION

Welcome to Lazy Susan. Take a seat, have a spin, read all about it. Several case studies illustrating different concepts for how we might live together for longer, are located on the table for your perusal. The precedents explore building typologies and ownership models, plus more. Imagine how some of these ideas could become part of your own future.

#### THE NEXT INTERGENERATION

The presence of intergenerational households is a steadily growing trend in Australia since the 1980s, particularly within its capital cities. This has been driven by both social amenity and economic pressures.

In many other societies, intergenerational living is part of a culture that extends beyond the home to other public places in society. Synergies between different generations create richer and diverse environments and communities. How can we draw on these traditions to inform our own intergenerational future?

#### OCCUPATION—GET BUSY

As the average life expectancy rises in Australia, many of us will live well into our 80s. However, we may not be able to afford to support ourselves into an older age. With the current system of retirement, a typical Australian will not retire with enough superannuation, savings or the security of the home to sustain a 'comfortable' lifestyle.

Combined with the rising age requirements to be eligible for the Age Pension, this means that our working lives may likely extend well into our later stages of life. So, how will we be occupied in our future age?

#### LOGICAL FAMILY WHO DO YOU CHOOSE?

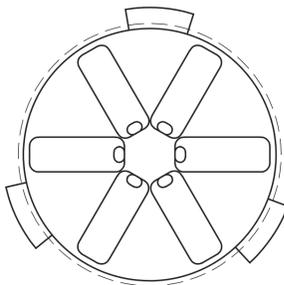
Australian society is embracing new family structures with the twentieth-century construct of the nuclear family no longer the status quo. The definition of family is not relegated to those that share a genetic or legal bond but may also include those that live together within the same household unit, share the same cultural values and extend to the wider community.

It's hard to predict who you would like to live with in your future age, but just think about what you value in your home and life, and the logical people that could share these with you.

#### TRANSIENT NETWORKS LIFE ON THE ROAD

A fall in home ownership no longer secures people to a single place. Being digitally connected, we can start to consider the concept of a transient network: where you are always on the move, but still connected back to friends, family and services.

How will driverless car technologies, the Grey Nomad lifestyle and other ways of mobile living inform a life on the road for our future age?



## CHAMBER 02

### THE GUIDED VISUALISATION LOUNGE

We're glad that you are still with us. Locate a set of headphones, lie down, relax. Listen to the guide as they take you on a journey towards your future. Don't forget to breathe along the way. One, two, three...

\_Take a break for a second.

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_Welcome to your future.

Please lie down, on your back, arms loosely at your sides.

\_Close your eyes.

~Peaceful background music~

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_Breathe in.

\_And out.

\_And in.

\_And out.

\_Let your body relax, your physicality drift away.

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_Think of the people who mean most to you.

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_Imagine them all together.

\_Where would this be?

\_On a dancefloor?

\_An outdoor lunch on a summer afternoon?

\_Sitting around a campfire?

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_Do they get along?

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_Who would you take to a desert island? Or on a mission to Mars? Who would be ideal fellow contestants in your own Big Brother household?

10 SECOND PAUSE

\_Now, imagine 10 years into the future, the year 2028.

\_How old are you?

\_Where are you?

10 SECOND PAUSE

\_Remember, this is your vision. It can be anything you want it to be.

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_Imagine now where you are living.

10 SECOND PAUSE

\_Imagine your favourite people live with you too. What would this look like? How much distance do you need from each other?

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_What kinds of things do you like to do together?

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_Are there children living with you?

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_Are there people coming and going? Are YOU coming and going? Where?

10 SECOND PAUSE

\_Now, imagine 30 years into the future, the year 2048.

Developments in gene modifications and health technologies are expanding life expectancy.

\_How old are you?

\_Where are you?

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_It may be that you spend more time in the metaverse (collective virtual shared space), than the physical realm.

Connected, automated vehicles may help distance to collapse.

\_You are still living with your favourite people—you are all a lot older now. How has your lifestyle changed?

10 SECOND PAUSE

\_What kind of community/ neighbourhood will you be a part of?

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_Who will care for you?

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_Remember, this is your vision. It can be anything you want it to be.

5 SECOND PAUSE

\_Slowly, bring your awareness back to your breath.

\_Breathe in.

\_And out.

\_And in.

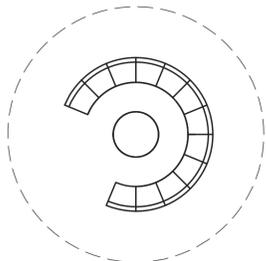
\_And out.

\_In your own time, start to notice your body, the world around you.

\_When you are ready, open your eyes and sit up.

You are now ready to progress to Chamber 3.

~Peaceful background music fades~



## CHAMBER 03

### THE INTERVIEW SITUATION

We would like to know what you think. Sibling Architecture is conducting a survey to find out more about what will constitute future places and spaces for ageing. What will your future look like?

Swipe, type and complete the questionnaire.

*Thank you for your participation so far. We now ask you to consider how your future age could be in terms of place, family and occupation. We ask you to take New Agency over Owning your Future.*

*This is an anonymous and voluntary survey run independently by Sibling Architecture, we will be reviewing the results from this survey to develop new concepts for our future of aged living.*

YOU & YOUR AGE	How old are you? How do you feel about your age? How much interaction do you have with elderly people, or people in their old age?
PLACE	Where will we live in our future age is quite possibly the main concern when considering our future lifestyle. Whether it's in the rural, the wilderness, the suburbs or the city; what is it about the place that we live in, that we value most? Where did you grow up? Where do you currently reside? Have you at some point in your life lived overseas? What do you value most in terms of where you live?
OCCUPATION	What will we do with ourselves in these later years of life? How will we be occupied in our future age? What level of education have you completed? Which of the following best describes your occupation? What does your occupation mean to you now? How long do you see yourself in your current occupation?
FAMILY	Who makes up your family? Which living situation describes yours best? Now, which living situation would be your ideal one? How do you feel about shared living? How well do you know your neighbours?
FUTURE LIVING	What if the home you are living in now, is the one you will grow old in?

To complete on your personal device:  
[www.siblingnation.net/newagency](http://www.siblingnation.net/newagency)

# NEW AGENCY



WHO DO YOU WISH TO GROW OLD WITH?

WHERE WILL YOU LIVE IN THIRTY YEARS TIME?

WILL YOUR HOUSE OUTLIVE YOU?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU LIVE FOREVER?

DO YOU HAVE GENEROUS PARENTS?

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU HATED CAPITALISM?

WILL SUPERANNUATION SAVE YOUR FUTURE?

IS ALEXA OR SIRI YOUR NURSE?

WHAT ARE NEW FORMS OF KINSHIP?

HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE INFLUENCE WHERE YOU LIVE?

WILL YOU SHARE YOUR HOME WITH STRANGERS?

WHAT KIND OF ANCESTOR DO YOU WANT TO BE?

IS THE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING ON THE RISE?

Hello again. Welcome back to the catalogue. Do you know people are living longer today than ever before? The life expectancy of human beings has almost doubled in the last hundred years (from 40 years of age to 80), with Australia seeing one of the highest life expectancies in the world. Twenty-one percent of Australians will be over 65 by 2053, while an active new category of over 85s is currently emerging. This puts pressure on our community to address the varying experiences of our elders – around issues of civic participation, medical care, pensions, public space, entertainment, accessibility – along with housing to respond to emerging leisure and medical needs. In the future, those of an older age may face a new age of housing typologies, lifestyle habits, home ownership models and care facilities.

As the retirement of Australians relies upon the asset of the family home (with superannuation), and as home ownership is becoming an impossibility for a huge swathe of younger Australians, how does this influence future models of living for the elderly, including financing aged care, retirement and intergenerational wealth? What can one learn from upwardly mobile grey nomads, multi-generational living or enclaves of like-minded people? What models of home ownership can adapt to the maturing of society and a changing market economy?

Complete the survey so that Sibling Architecture can answer these questions.



To complete on your personal device:  
[www.siblingnation.net/newagency](http://www.siblingnation.net/newagency)

Sibling Architecture is a collaborative architecture practice that works across a range of scales and sectors—but always with an emphasis on the civic. The practice has a research focus that considers how changing technologies and societal shifts affect the types of spaces and institutions we inhabit; the way people interact with them; and how they can be more inclusive.

The social, for Sibling, is a sphere where different people and things come together to form something larger—a project, a community—even if they are different ages, abilities, genders, classes or ethnicities.

Sibling's interest in how ageing trends may influence our built environment is a logical extension of these preoccupations, given it is inevitably an experience shared by all. This research interest initially began with a day-long symposium at MPavilion in 2017. One important question emerged from that day: what do we want our possible futures to be given we are suspended in the 'gig economy' and we won't be able to cash in on our house or our meagre superannuation for retirement?

This question continues to resonate because design research into ageing is an investment in our own future quality-of-life, as well as Sibling's.

Lloyd-mst is a graphic designer who's practice is built with foundations of ideation, play, experimentation and research.

Working across different mediums, his projects explore the cyclical nature of materials and the tension of hierarchy between form and content. His practice can come in various guises, but is often achieved through dynamic collaborations that spur and celebrate the exchange of ideas.

Opening Hours:  
Tuesday—Friday, 10AM – 5PM  
Saturday, 12PM – 5PM  
Closed Sunday, Monday and Public Holidays  
Admission is free

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Level 2, Building 100,  
Corner Victoria and  
Swanston Streets,  
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*New Agency: Owning Your Future*  
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Video Editor: DLA-ALM  
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RMIT Design Hub is a progressive educational environment. It houses a community of architects, designers, curators and students for collaborative, inter-disciplinary design research and education within a purpose-built, 10-storey building that also includes RMIT University's School of Architecture & Urban Design and the RMIT Design Archives. The Project Rooms at Design Hub exhibit creative, practice-led research and are open to everyone. Exhibitions at Design Hub visualise, perform and share research ideas and make new research connections.

RMIT University acknowledges the Kulin Nations as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the University stands. The University respectfully recognises Elders both past, present and emerging. RMIT also acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of lands across Australia where it conducts its business, their Elders, Ancestors, cultures and heritage.

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## OWNING YOUR FUTURE SIBLING ARCHITECTURE LIVE RESEARCH PROJECT

