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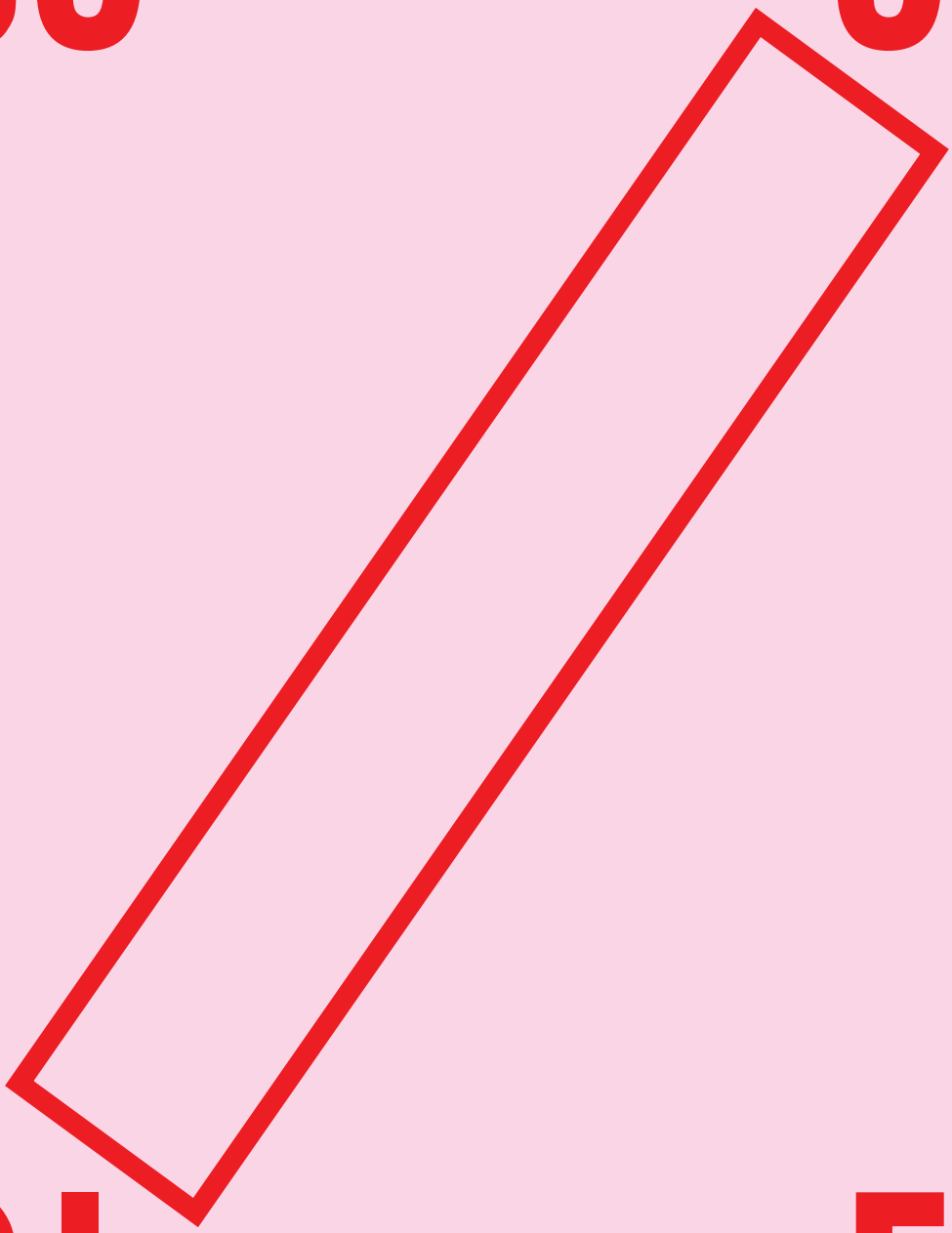
RMIT DESIGN HUB
29 JULY – 24 SEPTEMBER
2016



RMIT
UNIVERSITY

Welcome to Design Hub

The ambition of Design Hub's annual exhibition program is one that sits apart from the traditional gallery or museum. At its core lies a commitment to exhibiting, exploring and performing design ideas, rather than presenting finished or fixed outcomes.

The intent here is not simply to create spectacle or to activate benign participation, just as it is not to act as an expert or historian within the museological tradition. Rather, the position is one situated within an emergent form of curatorial advocacy and activism. In this context, the curator is tuned to the relationship with the outside world – the cultural and social context in which an exhibition might contribute.

Occupied responds directly to this ambition and takes a leaping off point from *Offset House* – a project authored by this exhibition's co-curators Grace Mortlock and David Neustein of Otherothers and produced for the Chicago Architecture Biennial 2015.

Offset House's proposal to 'un-supersize suburban McMansions' by retrofitting existing homes and adapting the typical brick veneer project home into a more flexible, environmentally efficient and economical form clearly hit a chord that resonated with the community and the press.

Also clear was that *Offset House* – while specific to the Australian context – tapped into larger questions emerging within architectural practice internationally. How does architecture respond to and make a valuable contribution to the context of a rapidly expanding and urbanised global population, for example?

Occupied is the result of a coalescing of minds around this provocation and brings together local and international projects that creatively address how architecture can respond to the increasing pressure on our living spaces and life in our cities. The exhibition seeks to frame how architecture is responding to the complexity of the contemporary condition in a manner that is dexterous, transformative and optimistic by doing more with less, retrofitting, adapting and repurposing existing structures and environments.

Importantly, *Occupied* is conceived through a highly collaborative process with the intent to 'open' the exhibition's content for discussion throughout its duration. To this end, much in the same way that Otherother's *Offset House* informed the development of *Occupied*, it is our collective hope that the exhibition will bring together a plurality of voices, active participation and critique, exploring game-changing design ideas for our 'near future'.

Fleur Watson
Curator
RMIT Design Hub

OCCUPIED » FROM THE CURATORS

The Future is Occupied

Anyone can design for the distant future. Train your gaze far enough ahead and virtually any imaginable technology, scenario or outcome seems plausible. Located at a safe remove from the present, the distant future provides a blank canvas on which to project our dreams, desires and delusions. The near future, by contrast, is a veritable minefield. This imminent reality is governed by all of the constraints that exist today, only with added problems and greater pressure. Familiar streets suddenly teem with strangers, far-flung suburbs seem to spring up overnight and unpredictable weather scorches crops and batters coastlines. There's no clean break or turning point between 'now' and 'then'. In fact, the near future is already unfolding and we've already begun to complicate it with conflicting approaches and ideas.

By 2050, Melbourne is projected to overtake Sydney as Australia's most populous city, with 8 million inhabitants to Sydney's 7.5 million. If this near-doubling of the city's population does not itself cause alarm, consider the associated impacts on infrastructure, social services and ecosystems over this short timeframe. Furthermore, according to the United Nations Environment Programme's Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative, 'the majority of buildings which [sic] will be standing in 2050 have already been built'.[1] Despite predictions that Melbourne is set to grow by 100,000 people per year, most of its buildings will remain unchanged. Moreover, many of the dwellings currently under construction provide little consideration for the needs of future occupants, while a further swathe of investment properties are deliberately left shuttered. Melbourne's situation is by no means unique. Throughout the developed world, cities and towns face similar crises. To misquote speculative fiction writer, William Gibson: the future is already here – and it's one of uneven distribution. There is no political agreement on how to proceed, no all-encompassing plan or vision. If we are to accommodate this population influx and stave off disaster, we cannot wait hopefully for large-scale, decisive changes. It's high time we got moving on a series of workarounds.

Occupied is an exhibition of diverse design propositions for the near future. While all of these projects are essentially architectural, the exhibition includes contributions by artists and academics, filmmakers and dancers. Melbourne is our subject and staging ground, with exhibitors also hailing from Sydney, Perth, Brisbane, Bangkok, Santiago, New York, London, Paris, Milan, Barcelona and Madrid. As a collection, this set of proposals is necessarily partial and incomplete, providing not so much a worldview as a productive sample. Taking the form of built and ongoing projects, installations and models, processes and performances, smartphone apps and collaborative platforms, the works range from the realised to the imaginary and from radical pragmatism to thoughtful speculation. Common to all of these projects is an acceptance of weighty realities buoyed by a sense of purpose. These are propositions that respond to, rather than resist, existing bureaucratic controls and economic systems. Combinatory, systematic, replicable and scaleable, the works attest to the valency of the idea, rather than the valour of the designer.

Of course, 'occupied' is a loaded word. Its use invokes both the forcible occupation of territory by foreign powers and the recent Occupy movement. Economic disparities may have mobilised the Occupy movement, but the focus of its protests was inarguably spatial, hinging on the right to mass in – to *occupy* – open civic space. As the use of past tense implies, this exhibition takes place in Occupy's aftermath, with the question not being whether citizenry can retake the city, but how to house this citizenry within a restricted and privatised urban domain. Occupation also happens to be the term by which each of us is identified, with social status determined by our 'primary occupation' (what we do) and 'place of occupation' (where we live). As *Home Economics*, the 2016 British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture, makes plain, changing domestic and labour conditions are rendering work and home life indistinguishable, collapsing the term 'occupation' into a single descriptor.

Occupying the picturesque emptiness of Design Hub's largest exhibition space is a massive, unfinished wall. The wall bisects the space, dividing it into two halves – 'Interior' and 'Exterior'. Carved from the depth of the wall, 'Interior's' sequenced rooms play host to projects that transform existing spaces by reprogramming activities, intensifying uses or renegotiating access and ownership. The reverse side of the wall provides a backdrop to a series of 'Exterior' projects. Parasitic, additive or interstitial, these projects modify or extend existing structures, or colonise the spaces in-between. A third exhibition area, 'In-Motion', provides a curated glimpse into two significant, multi-authored Melbourne projects currently in progress, alongside a progression of films that transport us all the way from collective European housing complexes to placeless, dystopian cityscapes.

Is *Occupied* an exhibition about housing? Yes and no. While housing is certainly prevalent, the exhibition also encompasses adaptive reuse, environmental ethics, emerging economies, sci-fi nostalgia and time travel. You will find no ideological certainties or universal solutions on display. But whereas commentators such as Patrik Schumacher may question whether contemporary architecture has a social function, this exhibition presents a fairly unequivocal response. Architecture may be 'too slow to solve problems', as Cedric Price once claimed,[2] but the future is arriving far too fast for us to wait.

Acknowledgments
Grace Mortlock, David Neustein and Fleur Watson acknowledge and thank Katherine Riggs for her valued curatorial support throughout the development of *Occupied*.

References
1. United Nations Environment Programme's Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative, *Buildings and Climate Change: Summary for Decision Makers*, United Nations Environment Programme, Paris, 2009, p6.

2. Cedric Price, *Re: CP*, ed. Hans Ulrich Obrist, Birkhäuser, Basel, 2003, p57.

Interior

In the near future, the rise of micro-apartments, online rentals and working from home will intensify the use and commodification of internal spaces. Rooms will be subdivided into smaller partitions, rented by the hour or reprogrammed as domestic settings and workplaces in one.

A monolithic wall divides Project Room 1 in two. This wall is deliberately crude and unfinished, a makeshift intervention frozen in state just prior to completion. Within the wall is a concealed interior. Housed within a sequence of differently sized and shaped rooms, 'Interior' explores strategies for finding space – whether physical or temporal – within our increasingly compartmentalised cities.

Each room contains a single project. Jack Self's *Cenobium: Housing for the Ninety-Nine Percent* challenges financial and class structures via a radical reworking of the traditional terrace house, while Andrés Jaque / Office for Political Innovation's *Rolling House for the Rolling Society* anticipates the demise of the nuclear family, replaced by flexible, shared living arrangements.

At the southern end of the wall is *Supershared* – a loft-like space projecting out and into Project Room 1. *Supershared* is open for RMIT students to book and occupy throughout the exhibition. The project speaks to the dexterity and responsiveness of the 'shared economy' through platforms such as Airbnb and investigates the blurred boundaries between private and public space.

Chilean practice TOMA is hosting a series of lunches within the gallery for the duration of the exhibition, attended by architects, artists and creative practitioners. Exhibition visitors are invited to take part in these lunches and to engage with the issues explored within *Occupied*, with a particular focus on housing. These 'open invitation' meals respond to the curatorial intent to engage visitors in the testing and developing of architectural ideas.

List of works

1. MANY 6160
Spacemarket
2016
Scale models, card, paper, styrofoam, felt, balsa, wire, ABS filament, app for smartphone, video

Spacemarket is an urban program that brings together creative practitioners and underutilised spaces. Founded in 2011, the program has facilitated more than 700 matches across Australia. Spacemarket works in two modes: match-making and instigating demonstration projects. *MANY 6160* is an example of a demonstration project and is the focus of this exhibit. Located in Fremantle, Western Australia, *MANY 6160* is currently thought to be the world's largest temporarily activated interior space. This exhibit also features the national launch of Spacemarket's smartphone app and presents recent findings that detail *MANY 6160*'s extensive economic and social benefits.

2. Cenobium: Housing for the Ninety-Nine Percent
Jack Self
2014
Paper, brass, wood, plastic

London's urban form is a product of its terrace house typology, which historically segregated populations by class. *Cenobium* is a redesign of this housing model, based on a form of long-term financing to resist parcelisation, individuation, debt servitude and the exploitation of the very many by a few.

OCCUPIED » LIST OF WORKS: INTERIOR

3. Rooms: No Vacancy
Fake Industries Architectural Agonism and MAIO
2014
Mixed media installation

This installation references ideas developed for *Rooms: No Vacancy* – a proposal for the 2015 MoMA PS1: Young Architects Program. The project envisaged dividing the PS1 courtyard into 43 equally dimensioned spaces to create a series of undifferentiated interiors that were activated by atmospheric and scopic technologies, rather than spectacular architecture. The doors, secret entrances, windows and holes in the dry-wall partitions were designed to curate views, cast shadows and organise circulation. Each room was named after the atmosphere it created – the Mountain, the Music Room, the Fog Room, the Bed Net, the Chamber, the Hole Room, the Shadows, the Curtain. The installation here references those spaces and raises questions about how architecture might construct, ignite or boost a party.

4. Rolling House for the Rolling Society – An urbanism of non-familiar shared homes
Andrés Jaque / Office for Political Innovation
2009
Wood, paper, nylon thread

In the European Union more than 80 million people share housing, many in vastly different conditions. Examples include the Erasmus apartments, an expensive development for professionals, to 'patera' dwellings, where people share limited space. Sharing living spaces is a growing and diverse phenomenon that has only recently attracted the attention of architects. It is a kind of invisible urbanism that challenges the way in which the house has been devised over past decades.

Rolling House for the Rolling Society is a project developed in three formats, of which the prototype is one chapter. It proposes a network of rolling parasitical 'urban invasions' associated with existing housing elements as a way to share homes, yet with an ability to shift and change as conditions change.

5. Occupied 2016
Atlanta Eke
2016
Performance, mixed media installation

Occupied 2016 is an installation and a series of performances by Atlanta Eke. The work imagines that architects from 2050 have travelled back in time via the digital universe and, lacking physical form, have been hosted in the bodies of four dancers. In search of alternative possibilities for the post-capitalist future, the architects share their part-utopian, part-dystopian tales of the 2050 to come.

Choreography: Atlanta Eke
Dancers: Atlanta Eke, Annabelle Bellharry, Chloe Chignell
Tarkett dance flooring: Courtesy Chunky Move

6. Never Discuss Politics at Home
TOMA
2016
Mixed media installation

Many of us grew up in this kind of house, watching TV, reading similar magazines, enjoying books or bored by the newspaper... and everyone seems to agree with Grandma: Never discuss politics at home, let alone at the table.

TOMA's Leandro Cappetto is in residence here every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon from 2-5pm. Join him in transforming the domestic arena into a forum for political discussion, or make yourself at home if Leo is out. You are invited to watch television, read a newspaper or make yourself a cup of tea and reflect upon the issues presented here.

7. Supershared
Jacqui Alexander and SIBLING Architecture
2016
Mixed media installation

Supershared is a shared loft-like space projecting out and into Design Hub's Project Room 1 gallery space. *Supershared* is open for RMIT students to book and occupy throughout the exhibition. The project speaks to the dexterity and responsiveness of the 'shared economy' and explores where the boundaries between private and public space are blurred.

Supershared is accessible for occupation via several platforms, including Couchsurfing, Gumtree, Creative Spaces and word-of-mouth. How will the space be occupied?

Exterior

If most of the near future's buildings have already been built, where will we find room for new occupants with evolving social needs? Massed outside the wall in Project Room 1 is a series of projects that make use of the residual spaces around and in-between other buildings. These 'Exterior' projects signal architecture's transition from an age of freestanding objects to an era of interstitial volumes and adaptive reuse.

Works such as MAPA's *Owner Occupy: Terra Nullius Ad Infinitum* and Breathe Architecture's Nightingale housing engage directly with the political context of the exhibition's title. These projects respond to endemic social inequities and a lack of affordable housing by confronting issues of land use, property development and collectivity.

While 70 percent of the world's population will inhabit cities by 2050, the projected population influx will largely be absorbed by suburban areas, not urban centres. In turn, suburban expansion and densification will challenge the preservation of residual landscapes and open space. Working in a predominantly low-rise Brisbane, Vokes and Peters present a body of work that gives private houses a more public face, while protecting the collective resource of the suburban backyard. Situated on the urban fringe, Baracco + Wright's *Garden House* plays a custodial role in the cultivation of ecological development and biodiversity.

Collectively, these projects seek to address how architecture can mediate the intervals and gaps between buildings, within existing political and financial structures, using available tools and knowledge, and in the narrow timeframe that separates the current reality and the one we know is coming.

List of works

8. Owner Occupy: Terra Nullius Ad Infinitum
The dwelling-gathering
MAPA (Moline Axelsen: Public Art / Participatory Architecture)
2015
Tasmanian oak, galvanised steel, copper, pine, cotton duck fabric

Owner Occupy: Terra Nullius Ad Infinitum
Map of land of occupation (southern)
MAPA (Moline Axelsen: Public Art / Participatory Architecture)
2016
Drawing on paper

Owner Occupy: Terra Nullius Ad Infinitum questions the fiction of land ownership in Australia and proposes an alternative fiction to take its place. The premise of the dwelling gathering – a mobile system of flexible dwelling machines – is that whoever occupies them owns the space they define, but only for as long as they occupy it.

Owner Occupy: Terra Nullius Ad Infinitum was commissioned by Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation as part of its Fugitive Structures 2015 program.

9. Westlegate Quarter
5th Studio
2013–2015
Drawings on paper, photographs
Photography by Tim Soar

Calvert: A City in A Garden
5th Studio
2014
Drawings on paper

Westlegate House dates from the early 1960s and had been empty for the 10 years prior to this project, *Westlegate Quarter*. The transformation of the original building involved adding an additional three storeys to the tower – a new 'crown' for the building – as well as recladding. The remaking of the tower is supported by a renegotiation of the way that it meets the ground and the surrounding urban fabric to create a mixed city fabric.

Calvert: A City in A Garden is a proposition that welds infrastructure, landscape, provisioning, planning and architecture into an intense singularity. 5th Studio's motive is to fuel a growing debate about the value of spatial planning and the use of land in the public interest, beyond the neoliberal consensus. In this project the studio imagined a city in a garden, which, through the combination of public and private agency, creates something truly civic and intense that the market could not deliver on its own.

OCCUPIED » LIST OF WORKS: EXTERIOR

10. Offset House
Otherothers
2015
Jelutong, Victorian ash, birch ply, MDF, plastic, pewter

The most suburbanised of all nations, Australia has the world's largest average dwelling size and a related undersupply of appropriate, affordable housing. *Offset House* aims to address this shortfall by reappropriating the suburban 'McMansion', stripping away its brick veneer and inserting a smaller dwelling – or dwellings – within the exposed stud frame. The zone between outer-frame and inner-wall provides shading, ventilation, recreation and privacy, while liminal space between houses can be amalgamated into a neighbourhood commons.

11. Nightingale
Breathe Architecture
2016
Text, photographs, vinyl decal

Nightingale housing shifts the power over project delivery from developer to designer, connecting the end user with an engaged community. This multi-unit housing model is replicable and, through its proliferation, creates further industry and occupant relationships that give rise to successive, improved iterations. The model challenges the motives that inform status quo development by restructuring project funding and user expectations in order to provide affordable, quality homes, where people want to live.

12. Garden House
Baracco + Wright Architects
2015
Drawings on paper, photographs
Photography by Erieta Attali, Lisa Atkinson

This holiday house is little more than a tent: a deck and raised platform are covered by a transparent 'shed' and surrounded by an interior garden space that takes the place of the traditional verandah. Part of the overall project is the rehabilitation of the indigenous vegetation present on the site, a reversal of approach to traditional development.

13. Practicing on the Periphery
Vokes and Peters
2016
Brass models, drawings on paper, photographs
Photography by Jon Linkins, Christopher Frederick Jones

This collection of brass objects, fabricated by Brisbane designer Michael Miscamble, is an abstract representation of a selection of residential projects completed over 10 years of architectural practice. The accompanying drawings illustrate the proliferation of project work undertaken by the practices of Owen and Vokes, OVP and Vokes and Peters over the accompanying period, and is intended to illustrate how small and seemingly insignificant commissions might, over time, amount to a meaningful contribution to the production of a city.

14. Sala Beckett Theatre and Drama Centre (pre-occupation)
Flores & Prats
2011–2016
Drawings on paper, photographs
Photography by Adrià Goula

Building 111 (post-occupation)
Flores & Prats
2004–2011
Drawings on paper, photographs
Photography by Alex García

Finding the original worker's cooperative building in a state of physical decay, Flores & Prats chose not to return the building to its original state, but were instead inspired to sustain its qualities as a ruin. The *Sala Beckett Theatre and Drama Centre* draws on the ruin's unfinished nature and overlapping histories to set the scene for a new cultural and social dynamic.

Building 111 is a social housing project on the edge of Barcelona. The project is organised around a central patio, creating an authentic platform for social relationships, where neighbours can meet and relate to each other while coming or going from home.

15. Meeting at the Building
Flores & Prats
2012
Video, 15:51 minutes

It's a summer morning at *Building 111* (Terrassa, Barcelona). The courtyard hosts the daily activities of the neighbours and a newcomer is preparing to join the community.

Film directors: Carlota Coloma, Adrià Lahuerta
Production: 15-L. Films

In-Motion

Presented 'In-Motion', the ideas and works assembled in Project Room 2 utilise moving image as a vehicle for architectural concepts and provocation. Produced by local and international practitioners, the films on display are alternately serious, playful, uplifting and dystopian. Making inventive use of filmmaking conventions, such as framing, sequencing, panning and zooming, these works demonstrate how architectural interventions affect personal experience, relate to broader contexts and play out over time.

Also in Project Room 2 are two large-scale Melbourne educational projects: RMIT University's *New Academic Street* and Monash University's *18 Innovation Walk*. Both projects are currently 'in-motion' and incomplete, with evolving content displayed on laboratory-like tables. The two projects demonstrate an emerging fluidity within architectural practice, eschewing singular authorship in favour of a collaborative and research-driven approach. Here, new potential is found through rigorous observation and reimagining of the current condition, with new civic and communal spaces carved out of, or grafted onto, the existing built fabric.

'In-Motion' culminates in a collaborative work by artist Callum Morton and architect Toby Reed, which suggests a cyclical return to past expectations for the future. Recontextualising Design Hub through the idealistic lens of mid-century modernism, the work reminds us of our failed dreams for the future or, perhaps, encourages us to resurrect lost hopes.

List of works

16. RMIT New Academic Street

Lyons Architecture, NMBW Architecture Studio, MvS Architects, Maddison Architects, Harrison and White
2016
Drawings on film, large-scale photographs mounted on ply, moving image
Photography by Peter Bennetts

The *New Academic Street* project transforms RMIT University's existing Buildings 8, 10, 12 and 14 to reconfigure the heart of the campus, dramatically transforming the student experience and blurring the boundaries between the space of the city and the space of the campus. A series of arcades and laneways, negotiated through the existing building artefacts, create a framework for the collaborating architects to undertake a series of independent small-scale architectural interventions. The project design is being undertaken by a progressive design collaboration between Lyons Architecture, NMBW Architecture Studio, MvS Architects, Maddison Architects and Harrison and White. The collaborating architects jointly created the project masterplan and then worked on individual design areas to develop an idea of architectural diversity within the campus.

The project is currently in progress and is being presented to the public for the first time, with a series of commissioned photographs by Peter Bennetts and drawings produced specifically for *Occupied*.

17. The Imaginaries of Transformation

Lacaton & Vassal and
Frédéric Druot Architecture
2015
Video, 57:04 minutes

Lacaton & Vassal and Frédéric Druot Architecture have been working, since 2011, on the transformation of 530 public housing apartments dating from the 1960s in the district of Grand Parc, Bordeaux. With a variety of improvements to both the interiors and facades, the living conditions and energy efficiency of the existing public housing, often portrayed as lacking in quality, have been enhanced at a fraction of the cost of demolition.

The film, *The Imaginaries of Transformation*, shows an alternative future for public housing. The recurring images of the construction process document the opening up of individual living spaces, the production of new geographies and unexpected encounters. The film reveals the changes in the inhabitants' lifestyle after the renovations. While some evolutions and appropriations are obvious, others are completely unpredictable: no one knows in advance what will occur inside these apartments, or what will change.

Produced by Karine Dana
Concept: Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, Frédéric Druot
Photography by Philippe Ruault
Exterior videos of the Grand Parc: Christophe Hutin

OCCUPIED » LIST OF WORKS: IN-MOTION

18. The Flying Gardeners

The Blink Fish in collaboration with Stefano Boeri
2015
Video, 9:02 minutes

The Flying Gardeners is a co-production of the Chicago Architecture Biennial and Shanghai Urban Space Art Season and describes the extraordinary work of the 'botanical climbers'. Every four months, the climbers maintain and prune more than 900 trees of 'Vertical Forest' in this green tower designed by Stefano Boeri Architects in Milan. The film reveals – through the eyes of the botanical climbers – the richness of the forest life that exists within this building.

Produced by The Blink Fish
Based on an idea by Stefano Boeri
Cast: Gilberto Antonelli, Massimo Sormani, Giovanni Ugo
Directors: Giacomo Boeri, Matteo Grimaldi
Producer: Paolo Soravia
Director of photography: Giacomo Frittelli
Rope operators: Ricky Felderer, Massimo Tamborini
Camera assistants: Dimitri Rosi, Marco Artusi
Sound design: Niccolò Di Guida
Production manager: Guido Ingenito
Production coordinator: Alberta Molajoni
Production assistants: Francesco Lonardi, Primavera Fumagalli
Sound: Francesco Molaro
Editor: Matteo Grimaldi
Colourist: Lorenzo Ameri
Unit publicist: Alessandra Grimaldi

19. Hi_Pod Tower Turnaround

BKK Architects together with Peter Elliott Architecture and Urban Design, Taylor Cullity Lethlean, Robert Owen and Sense Architecture
2014
Models, prototypes, postcards, video

18 Innovation Walk (B17)

BKK Architects and MAP
(Callum Morton, Nic Agius, Andre Bonnice)
2017
Monash University, Clayton Campus
Models, drawings, prototypes, video

These two local projects – one completed in 2014 and the other currently in-progress – illustrate an architectural dexterity and responsiveness in accepting and improving the existing condition without the need for relocation and/or demolition.

The *Hi_Pod* prototype tests a reskinning strategy for 21 high-rise social housing estates constructed by the Housing Commission of Victoria in the 1950s. The project seeks to improve the performance of the buildings on a number of criteria: energy rating improvement from 1.5 stars to 7 stars; improving the insulation quality from R0.3 to R3.2; and the enlargement of internal areas by 23 percent. The prototype utilises CAD/CAM technology to construct a prefabricated element that can be installed in less than three hours, with residents remaining in place during the installation process.

A significant proportion of Monash University's Clayton Campus comprises 1970s-era, brick-clad buildings. Due to their age, a number of these buildings have failing brick facades. *The Innovation Walk (B17)* project seeks to develop a reskinning strategy with a construction methodology that does not require decanting of any of the building users. Facade improvements include: a 39 percent improvement in solar gain; a 24 percent improvement in thermal performance; and a 17 percent increase in floor area, with a daylight factor greater than 200lux.

20. Light House: The Art of Living Lightly

all(zone) in collaboration with Offscene Films
Video edition 2/5
2015
Video, 11:46 minutes

Light House is a prototype for a person living in a tropical metropolis. The half-temporary condition of the house allows easy installation in the abandoned buildings that are commonly found in cities. The prototype could lead to a new form of housing, with less rigid materiality and energy consumption.

21. New City: Keeping Up Appearances

New City: Edgelands

New City: The City in the Sea
Liam Young
2014
Multiple channel video installation, 4:00 minutes

New City is a series of animated skylines of the near future. In intricate detail, the series depicts a speculative urbanism, an exaggerated version of the present, in which we can project new cultural trends, environmental, political and economic forces. Photographs taken on expeditions around the world to document emerging urban phenomena have been meticulously stitched together and extrapolated to form each city skyline. To accompany the animations, science fiction authors have been invited to inhabit each skyline, to breathe life into its characters and cultures and give form to its streets and spaces through a suggestive narrative fragment.

Original *New City* soundscapes have been developed by Coldcut.

22. South East Park Proposition
Ash Keating
2015–2016
Video, 4:37 minutes

South East Park Proposition continues the performative painting process of Ash Keating's *Urban Boundary Propositions* series that sees him transform the facade of newly built concrete warehouses on the fringe of Melbourne's urban growth boundaries. The work culminates with multiple scenes of a finished *trompe-l'œil* painting assimilating with its surrounding rural landscape.

Courtesy of the artist and blackartprojects.
Edition of 5 (+2AP)
Creative director and artist: Ash Keating
Editor: David McKinnar
Sound recording and editing: Jon Perring
Director of photography: Jason Heller
RED camera operators: David McKinnar, Esteban Ulloa, John Hall, Aidan McDonald
Drone camera operators: Matthew Sleeth, Matthew Tynan
Artist assistants: Aaron Park, Rus Kitchin

23. Future Happiness
MAP (Callum Morton, Nic Agius, Andre Bonnice)
Toby Reed
2016
Video, print

Future Happiness is an installation that investigates possibilities for the urban future of Melbourne by scrambling the city's architecture and urbanism in sheets of time. The installation posits an urbanism as an alternate version of the city in which past, present and future have been spliced and shuffled in ever mutating combinations.

~~Open~~ *Occupied* House Melbourne
Wednesday 27 July
RMIT Storey Hall
336–348 Swanston Street
Doors open 6pm for 6.30pm start
Free (no booking required)

The **~~Open~~ *Occupied* House Melbourne** Speaker Series event will expand upon the issues and themes presented in RMIT Design Hub's large-scale exhibition, *Occupied*.

Featuring local and international exhibitors, *Occupied* is an exhibition of diverse design projects and speculative propositions for the 'near future'. While *Occupied* engages with pressing issues around housing, the exhibition also encompasses ideas of adaptive reuse, environmental ethics and emerging economies.

The Speaker Series event will feature the Barcelona-based studio MAIO in dialogue with national and local architects.

Themes for the presentations and discussion include 'tomorrow's workspace', 'the distributed home', 'collective benefit' and 'an architecture of strategy'.

Curators' Floor Talk
Part of the program for Open House Melbourne
Saturday 30 July and Sunday 31 July
RMIT Design Hub
Project Room 1, Level 2
2pm
Free

Occupied is open for the duration of Open House Melbourne. Join curators Grace Mortlock, David Neustein and Fleur Watson as they discuss the making of the exhibition.

Atlanta Eke
Occupied 2016

Exhibited rehearsals
Saturday 30 July, 2 – 5pm
And then every Friday from
19 August – 16 September, 3 – 6pm
RMIT Design Hub
Project Room 3, Level 3
Free

Performance
Saturday 24 September
RMIT Design Hub
Project Room 2, Level 2
3.30 – 5pm
Free

Atlanta Eke is a dancer and choreographer working internationally. Her new work, *Occupied 2016*, imagines that architects from 2050 have travelled back in time via the digital universe and, lacking physical form, have been hosted in the bodies of four dancers. In search of alternative possibilities for the post-capitalist future, the architects share their part-utopian, part-dystopian tales of the 2050 to come.

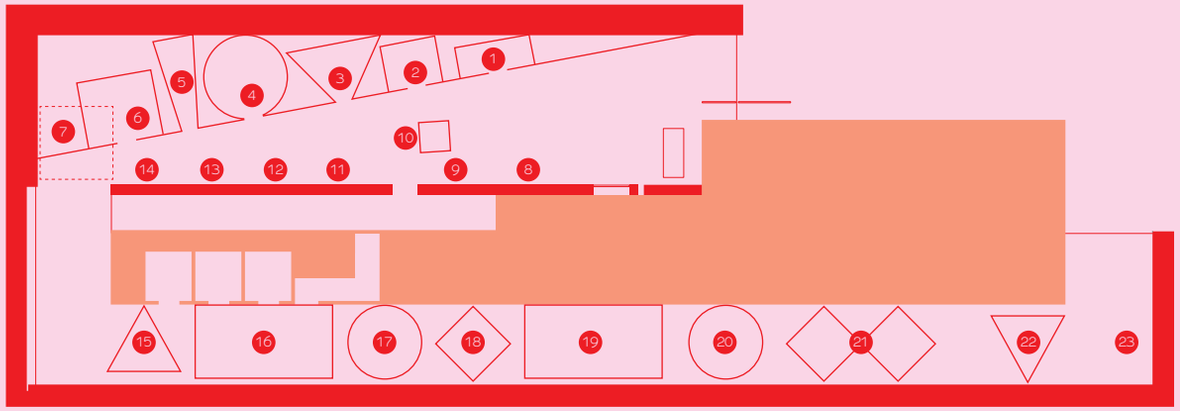
TOMA
Never Discuss Politics at the Table
Commencing Thursday 4 August, then every Thursday throughout the exhibition
RMIT Design Hub
Project Room 2, Level 2
1 – 2pm

Invited guests come together over lunch to discuss the urban issues of our time: real estate speculation, affordable housing, gentrification, demolition, displacement, urban memory, community resistance, manifestations and protests, occupations of buildings and territories, contamination of urban natural resources.

Jacqui Alexander and SIBLING Architecture
Supershared
Open for bookings for RMIT students throughout August – September.
Please visit Design Hub's website for booking details: http://designhub.rmit.edu.au/exhibitions-programs/occupied

Supershared is a shared loft-like space projecting out and into Design Hub's Project Room 1 gallery space. *Supershared* is open for RMIT students to book and occupy throughout the exhibition. The project speaks to the dexterity and responsiveness of the 'shared economy' and explores where the boundaries between private and public space are blurred.

Supershared is accessible for occupation via several platforms, including Couchsurfing, Gumtree, Creative Spaces and word-of-mouth. How will the space be occupied?



Project Rooms 1 & 2, Level 2 Floor Plan

1 MANY 6160
Spacemarket
2016

2 Cenobium: Housing for the Ninety-Nine Percent
Jack Self
2014

3 Rooms: No Vacancy
Fake Industries Architectural Agonism and MAIO
2014

4 Rolling House for the Rolling Society – An urbanism of non-familiar shared homes
Andrés Jaque / Office for Political Innovation
2009

5 Occupied 2016
Atlanta Eke
2016

6 Never Discuss Politics at Home
TOMA
2016

7 Supershared
Jacqui Alexander and SIBLING Architecture
2016

8 Owner Occupy: Terra Nullius Ad Infinitum
The dwelling-gathering
Map of land of occupation (southern)
MAPA (Moline Axelsen: Public Art / Participatory Architecture)
2015–2016

9 Westlegate Quarter
5th Studio
2013–2015

Calvert: A City in A Garden
5th Studio
2014

10 Offset House
Otherothers
2015

11 Nightingale
Breathe Architecture
2016

12 Garden House
Baracco + Wright Architects
2015

13 Practicing on the Periphery
Vokes and Peters
2016

OCCUPIED » FLOOR PLAN

14 Sala Beckett Theatre and Drama Centre (pre-occupation)
Flores & Prats
2011–2016

Building 111 (post-occupation)
Flores & Prats
2004–2011

15 Meeting at the Building
Flores & Prats
2012

16 RMIT New Academic Street
Lyons Architecture, NMBW Architecture Studio, MvS Architects, Maddison Architects, Harrison and White
2016

17 The Imaginaries of Transformation
Lacaton & Vassal and Frédéric Druot Architecture
2015

18 The Flying Gardeners
The Blink Fish in collaboration with Stefano Boeri
2015

19 Hi_Pod Tower Turnaround
BKK Architects together with Peter Elliott Architecture and Urban Design, Taylor Cullity Lethlean, Robert Owen and Sense Architecture
2014

18 Innovation Walk (B17)
BKK Architects and MAP (Callum Morton, Nic Agius, Andre Bonnice)
2017

20 Light House: The Art of Living Lightly
all(zone) in collaboration with Offscene Films
Video edition 2/5
2015

21 New City: Keeping Up Appearances

New City: Edgelands

New City: The City in the Sea
Liam Young
2014

22 South East Park Proposition
Ash Keating
2015–2016

23 Future Happiness
MAP (Callum Morton, Nic Agius, Andre Bonnice)
Toby Reed
2016

5th Studio

5th Studio are a unique spatial design agency working across the fields of architecture, urban design, infrastructure and landscape. They work with clients and commissioners to create beauty and enduring value from complex situations for new and existing buildings, through to large-scale urban strategies. The two projects included in *Occupied* illustrate their span of interest, from strategy – the proposal for a new town – through to the careful remaking of a site in the centre of a medieval city in the UK.

Jacqui Alexander

Jacqui Alexander is a lecturer at Monash Art Design and Architecture, Monash University. She is an interdisciplinary practitioner working across architecture, media and spatial practice. Jacqui is a director of Alexander Sheridan Architecture and founding editor of *POST* magazine, which won the 2009 Bates Smart Award for Architecture in the Media (VIC). Prior to establishing her own practice, Jacqui worked with Kerstin Thompson Architects on several award-winning projects, including *House at Hanging Rock*.

all(zone)

Based in Bangkok, all(zone) is a group of design professionals who joyfully collaborate with specialists across the borders of their field and country. They are fascinated by their ever-changing mega metropolis that gives form to everyday life. all(zone) is interested in contemporary vernacular design solutions, using them to create alternative built environments where all can feel 'at home' in the world. The works of all(zone) cover all aspects of the built environment, from exhibition to building design.

Baracco + Wright Architects

Mauro Baracco and Louise Wright are positioned between practice, research and teaching. In their design and teaching they investigate complementary relationships between architectural, landscape, urban and territorial fields. Baracco + Wright have deliberately shaped their practice to remain small, yet broad. They combine their multiple activities to develop insights and approaches that extend the brief and outcomes. Their built environments often take the form of simple geometries and use restrained material palettes that prioritise the spatial condition and rely heavily on their relationship with landscape.

Peter Bennetts

Peter Bennetts studied photography at RMIT. He has since travelled all over the world, first photographing environmental features and then the constructed environment. Melbourne-based, he's a globe-roaming architectural photographer whose work appears in internationally acclaimed publications. His concerns include documenting Tuvalu, a country that is vulnerable to rising sea levels.

BKK Architects

BKK Architects is a design-focused architectural studio that is not limited by building typology or style. They offer design-led solutions across a range of building types, including small residential, single houses, large multi-residential, urban planning and infrastructure, as well as university and public work. BKK aim to bring their combined experience across all these disciplines, working in a collaborative environment to arrive at the best outcome for their clients and the larger community, whether that's a small building, large institution or citywide masterplan.

Giacomo Boeri and Matteo Grimaldi (The Blink Fish)

Founders of production company, The Blink Fish, directors Giacomo Boeri and Matteo Grimaldi have worked on various documentaries and commercial projects, including projects for brands such as Prada, Hermès and Audi. Their work has been shown in festivals in Europe and the UK.

OCCUPIED » ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Stefano Boeri Architetti

Stefano Boeri Architetti (SBA), based in Milan since 1998, is a partnership led by Stefano Boeri and Michele Brunello. The international team works on project across Europe, South America and Asia. SBA has recently completed the Centre Régional de la Mediterranée in Marseilles and the Bosco Verticale towers in Milan. Stefano was part of the architectural team in charge of developing guidelines for Expo 2015 in Milan and is professor of urban design at Politecnico di Milano.

Breathe Architecture

Breathe Architecture supports, educates and advocates for the delivery of designer-led multi-residential housing that considers at its core social health, economic resilience and environmental sustainability. Our cities' inhabitants deserve beautiful, well-built and well-sized homes designed for real life. Breathe catalyse industry change through creating demonstrative projects that are fairly and transparently priced, designed for people, community and the environment. They seek to redefine the meaning and quality of city life by establishing a development model that is easily replicated and benefits the community in which it is located.

Frédéric Druot Architecture

Frédéric Druot established his eponymous architectural agency in 1992. Its main activities are in housing, workplaces and cultural venues, where the agency undertakes research into the altering of context, scale and cost-effectiveness of new buildings, as well as the transformation of pre-existing ones.

Atlanta Eke

Atlanta Eke is a dancer and choreographer, working internationally. Atlanta was a recipient of a DanceWEB scholarship in Vienna in 2010, Next Wave Kickstart in 2011 and an ArtStart grant in 2012. Atlanta has performed and premiered works in Australia and Europe, and was awarded the inaugural Keir Choreographic Award in 2014. Her solo *Monster Body* has been presented at festivals in Australia, Sweden and the UK, including MONA FOMA and Fierce Festival.

Fake Industries Architectural Agonism

Fake Industries Architectural Agonism (FKAA) is an entity of variable boundaries and questionable taste that provides architectural tools to mediate between citizens, institutions, the public sphere and disciplinary knowledge. Created by Cristina Goberna and Urtzi Grau from their headquarters in New York, Sydney and Barcelona, FKAA bridges the professional world and the environments of architectural academia to reclaim the architect's role as a public intellectual. FKAA won the American Institute of Architects (AIA) (New York) New Practices award in 2014 and represented Australia in the Chicago Architecture Biennial in 2015.

Flores & Prats Architects

Founded by Ricardo Flores and Eva Prats, Flores & Prats is an architecture office based in Barcelona, dedicated to confronting theory and academic practice with design and construction activity. The office has worked on reoccupations of old structures, often including local residents in the design process of urban public spaces and social housing to explore its capacity to create community. Flores & Prats was awarded the Grand Award for the Best Work in Architecture at the Royal Academy of Arts in London 2009 and has exhibited at the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2012, 2014 and 2016.

Andrés Jaque / Office for Political Innovation

Andrés Jaque is founder of the Office for Political Innovation (OPI) a practice that develops architectural projects using research, performance and installations. *Ikea Disobedients* is the first architectural performance to have been acquired by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. OPI received the Silver Lion for best research at the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2014 for *Sales Oddity: Milano 2 and the Politics of Direct-to-Home TV Urbanism*. Andrés is visiting professor at Princeton University School of Architecture and advanced design professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

Harrison and White

Harrison and White (HAW) is an award-winning architectural practice formed in 2006 after a series of project collaborations between directors Stuart Harrison and Marcus White. New ideas and an engaging approach to architectural problems are the core direction of the practice. Innovation and experience are combined to deliver a range of project types, including housing, education, recreational, institutional and commercial. The practice has undertaken numerous master planning and urban design projects, and has developed significant expertise in adapting existing buildings.

Ash Keating

Melbourne-born visual artist Ash Keating has exhibited extensively in galleries and created numerous large-scale, site-responsive art projects in Australia and internationally since 2004. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Response Paintings*, La Trobe University Visual Art Centre (2016); *Remote Nature Response*, MONA's *Dark Mofo* (2015); *Selected Works 2005–2015*, Benalla Art Gallery (2015). Notable group exhibitions include: *Melbourne Now*, National Gallery of Victoria (2013–14); *Artist's Proof #1*, Monash University Museum of Art (2012); *City within a City*, Artsonje Centre, Seoul, Korea (2011). Ash is the recipient of the Incinerator Art Award (2015), the Guirguis New Art Prize (2013) and the Substation Contemporary Art Prize (2012).

Lacaton & Vassal

Anne Lacaton and Jean Philippe Vassal founded Lacaton & Vassal in 1987, a Paris-based practice that works on public buildings, housing and urban planning. Its major projects include the FRAC (Fonds Régional d'art Contemporain) contemporary art gallery in Dunkirk, France, the renovation of Palais de Tokyo, Paris and the transformation of several public housing estates in France.

Lyons Architecture

Lyons Architecture is an architectural and urban design practice based in Melbourne. The firm designs projects that are responsive to and expressive of a contemporary experience of local and global culture - a world of ideas, new media, technologies and rapidly changing urbanism. Lyons' work is committed to and interested in the history and culture of ideas and how they can be used to create meaningful contemporary architecture.

Maddison Architects

Maddison Architects was established in 1989, and is recognised as a multi-disciplinary practice of significant design and delivery credentials. They have delivered over 200 projects of great diversity in scale. The work undertaken has been predominantly hospitality, commercial, educational or residential in nature. A unique aspect of Maddison Architects is their ability to integrate a multi-disciplinary approach to all of their projects, drawing on strong in-house resources involving architecture, interior and landscape architecture. They are a collaborative practice, and embrace the opportunity to engage with other experts in branding, identity, art installations, storytelling – all of which contribute to building outcomes with more meaning.

OCCUPIED » ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

MAIO

MAIO is an architectural office based in Barcelona that works on flexible systems. The practice has developed a wide range of projects, from furniture and exhibition design to housing blocks and urban planning. MAIO has participated at the Venice Biennale of Architecture 2016 (Spanish Pavilion), the Chicago Architecture Biennial 2015 and co-curated a Weekend Special at the Venice Biennale of Architecture 2014. MAIO's members combine professional activities with academic, research and editorial practice.

MAPA (Moline Axelsen: Public Art / Participatory Architecture)

MAPA work across architecture, installation, social process and situated public art. They make site-specific devices, discursive machines and social infrastructure. MAPA has designed and exhibited work in Australia, Thailand and Japan, including a collective housing model for western Sydney; a reverse granny-flat that fits in the driveway; a memory-gathering tea cart; a park shelter that predicts the weather; and a range of public instruments and optical devices. Through projects, MAPA invite people to understand, question and act upon the built and political structures that frame our lives.

Callum Morton

Professor Callum Morton is Head of Fine Art (Art) at Monash Art Design and Architecture , Monash University. He has exhibited nationally and internationally since 1990. His selected solo exhibitions include shows at the Santa Monica Museum of Art, Tommy Lund Gallery, Copenhagen, Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Anna Schwartz Gallery, NGV Australia, MCA Sydney, QAGOMA Brisbane, ACCA Melbourne.

In 2007, Morton was one of three artists to represent Australia at the Venice Biennale and he participated in the 19th Biennale of Sydney, *Imagine What You Desire* in 2014. He has produced a number of outdoor commissions including *Hotel* on the Eastlink Freeway (2008), *Grotto* for the Fundament Foundation in the Netherlands (2009), *Silverscreen* for MUMA (2010) and *Monument Park* in Melbourne's Docklands (2014). In 2012 his work was the subject of a 20-year survey exhibition at Heide Museum of Modern Art.

MvS Architects

MvS Architects is a globally recognised, award-winning and widely published architectural practice based in Melbourne, and in its fifteenth year of practice. Recent projects have included social and economic development through cultural heritage strategy, buildings with extensive interpretive content with environmental and ecological themes. Their buildings have been constructed in sensitive locations, have significant landscape components and incorporate the highest level of sustainable design practice.

NMBW Architecture Studio

NMBW Architecture Studio is an architectural practice established in Melbourne in 1997, with an emphasis on urban engagement and culturally specific design. The practice specialise in an analytical, research-based approach, linking site-specific actions to larger urban and landscape concerns. Their working process is a lively collaboration between the three directors, clients, particular site conditions and various local traditions.

Otherothers

Working alongside Other Architects, Otherothers is a design organisation that undertakes research, communication, competitions, curation, events, exhibitions and installations. Founders Grace Mortlock and David Neustein have participated in the the Venice Biennale of Architecture 2014, the Chicago Architecture Biennial 2015, and are due to take part in *New Cities, Future Ruins*, a four-year curatorial project launching November 2016 in Dallas, Texas.

Toby Reed

Toby Reed is an architect and filmmaker. He is director of Nervegna Reed Architecture and PHTR Architects. His buildings include the Dandenong Precinct Energy Project, the first precinct in Australia to be powered by co-generation, and the Arrow Studio. He directed the documentary *Dr. Caligari Moves to the Suburbs – The Architecture of Edmond and Corrigan*. He is currently undertaking a PhD at RMIT University.

Jack Self

Jack Self is a British-Australian architect and writer based in London. He is director of cultural institute, the REAL foundation, and editor of *Real Review*, its flagship magazine. He curated the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture 2016 and his writing has appeared in *Architectural Review*, *Architectural Design*, *The Guardian*, *New Philosopher*, CNN and BBC News. His first book, *Real Estates: Life Without Debt* (2014), is in its second printing.

SIBLING Architecture

SIBLING Architecture is an architecture office that works at the intersection of design, urbanism, cultural analysis and communication to produce new and unexpected outcomes, whether it be a building, installation, event or urban strategy. They won the Premier Award at the Australian Interior Design Awards in 2015 and currently have residential, cultural, retail and hospitality projects underway in Melbourne, Sydney, Bali, Shanghai and Kuala Lumpur.

Spacemarket

Spacemarket is an urban program that brings together creative practitioners and under-utilised spaces. Founded in 2011, the program has facilitated more than 700 matches across Australia. Spacemarket works in two modes: match-making, and instigating demonstration projects. Located in Fremantle, Western Australia, *MANY 6160* is currently thought to be the world's largest temporarily activated interior space.

TOMA

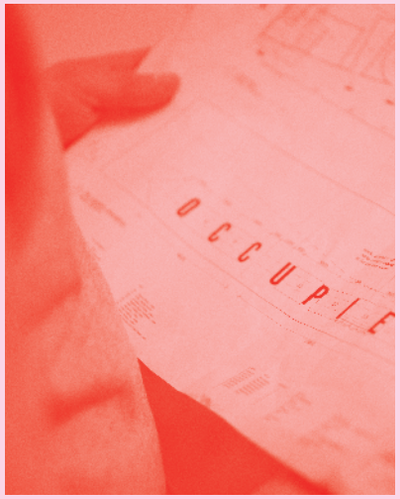
TOMA is an architectural collective that has operated since 2012 in Santiago, Chile. It is currently comprised of five architects: Leandro Cappetto, Mathias Klenner, Eduardo Pérez, Ignacio Rivas and Ignacio Saavedra. The office develops territorial actions and research to generate alternative social ecosystems. Its production is self-managed, hands-on and constructed with scarce resources.

Vokes and Peters

Vokes and Peters is an architectural practice based in Brisbane, directed by Stuart Vokes and Aaron Peters. It specialises in boutique residential, commercial and institutional projects, along with furniture design and teaching.

Liam Young

Liam Young is an architect who operates in the spaces between design, fiction and futures. He is founder of the London-based think tank, Tomorrow's Thoughts Today, a group that explores the possibilities of fantastic, speculative and imaginary urbanisms, and he co-runs the Unknown Fields Division, a nomadic studio that travels on expeditions behind the scenes of the modern city. He tells stories about the city using fiction, film and performance as imaginative tools to explore the implications and consequences of emerging technologies and ecological conditions. Liam manages his time between exploring distant landscapes and prototyping the future worlds he extrapolates from them.



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RMIT Design Hub team
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Exhibition assistants: Kate Riggs, Chloë Powell

Thank you

Boom Studios
Open House Melbourne
RMIT Architecture and Design

RMIT Design Hub

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Opening hours:
Tuesday – Friday, 11am – 6pm
Saturday, 12pm – 5pm
Closed Sunday, Monday and Public Holidays
Admission is free

RMIT Design Archives

By Appointment
The RMIT Design Archives is located on the western side of the forecourt.

Contact the Archives to make an appointment to view the collection:
rmitdesignarchives@rmit.edu.au

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OCCUPIED IS CURATED BY
GRACE MORTLOCK, DAVID NEUSTEIN, FLEUR WATSON
EXHIBITION DESIGN BY OTHEROTHERS
GRAPHIC DESIGN BY SEAN HOGAN, TRAMPOLINE

PROGRAM PARTNERED WITH
OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE
SUPPORTED BY
BOOM STUDIOS

OCCUPIED EXHIBITORS:

5TH STUDIO
JACQUI ALEXANDER AND SIBLING ARCHITECTURE
A L L (Z O N E)
BARACCO + WRIGHT ARCHITECTS
PETER BENNETTS
BKK ARCHITECTS, PETER ELLIOTT ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN, TAYLOR CULLITY LETHLEAN, ROBERT OWEN, SENSE ARCHITECTURE AND MAP
THE BLINK FISH (GIACOMO BOERI AND MATTEO GRIMALDI) WITH STEFANO BOERI
BREATHE ARCHITECTURE
ATLANTA EKE
FAKE INDUSTRIES ARCHITECTURAL AGONISM AND MAIO
FLORES & PRATS ARCHITECTS
ANDRÉS JAQUE ARCHITECTS / OFFICE FOR POLITICAL INNOVATION
ASH KEATING
LACATON & VASSAL AND FRÉDÉRIC DRUOT ARCHITECTURE
LYONS ARCHITECTURE, NMBW ARCHITECTURE STUDIO, MVS ARCHITECTS, MADDISON ARCHITECTS, HARRISON AND WHITE
MAPA (MOLINE AXELSEN: PUBLIC ART / PARTICIPATORY ARCHITECTURE)
CALLUM MORTON AND TOBY REED
O T H E R O T H E R S
JACK SELF
S P A C E M A R K E T
T O M A
VOKES AND PETERS
LIAM YOUNG