



RMIT Design Hub Gallery is pleased to present *Super Tight*, an exhibition and program of talks, walks and workshops co-curated by Graham Crist, John Doyle and Yoshiharu Tsukamoto. *Super Tight* draws on the work of Crist and Doyle looking to Asia from their position as architects and academics in Australia and the celebrated built projects and research of Tsukamoto, co-founder of Japanese architecture studio Atelier Bow-Wow. In 2002, Atelier Bow-Wow published *Pet Architecture* – a guide to the creative potential of left-over, micro urban spaces and a working handbook of inventive design solutions. In the same vein, *Super Tight* asks us to move away from the prescriptive and rigid language of “density”, towards the poetic idea of “tightness” – a feeling, culture and practice of close living. The “super tight” is the idea that the small, the condensed and the congested can be a productive and creative condition of urban life, rather than a stifling one.

Super Tight is constructed as a kind of ‘mini-city’, sampling and abstracting the conditions of real, lived spaces. The exhibition includes The Tight Bar (a 1:1 replica of a Japanese bar and a site for a series of public discussions about tightness); The Tight Hém (a 1:1 replica of a Vietnamese laneway); The Tight Cinema (an immersive screen program of works by 15 artists, designers and architects); and an installation by Shiozaki Laboratory sampling six exemplary tight spaces in Japan, such as the public *sen*to and the rush-hour train. Through close observation of existing sites, *Super Tight* brings to life the feeling of spatial compression and proximity that animates these super, tight spaces.

Kate Rhodes and Nella Themelios, curators, RMIT Design Hub Gallery

Super Tight explores the creative potential of spatial tightness emerging in Asian cities. It considers ways of living closely and the delights and difficulties that arise from the dense occupation of large cities.

Over half the world lives in cities in Asia, over half of our megacities are Asian. These cities are key in examining densely urbanised space, and new models for living and making architecture.

“Super tight” describes intense and hyper-condensed spaces that grow from extreme urban density. Tightness is a consequence of density (but is not density itself). Tightness is also a series of social, economic and cultural practices that have developed in response to the rapid growth and consolidation of cities.

In *Super Tight* we ask: are big cities inherently tight, or is tightness something that transcends size and can emerge without vast populations? Is tightness desirable and how is it relevant to thinking about future Australian cities? What causes density? How do dense cities become tight and how does cultural tightness emerge ?

Urban density has been heavily analysed, however *Super Tight* looks specifically at cultures of tightness and the roles that designers play in them. It views dense urban environments through the social, and regulatory issues that have generated present-day cities in Asia, as well as the forms, sounds and feelings of closeness. The exhibition questions attitudes towards tightness, particularly in Australia, and ultimately proposes that the “super tight” is both viable and valuable to design culture.

Graham Crist, John Doyle and Yoshiharu Tsukamoto, exhibition curators

**Super Tight lecture and discussion
Saturday 27 July
4.30pm–6.00pm,
The Capitol, RMIT University**
Yoshiharu Tsukamoto discusses the concept of spatial and architectural tightness in the context of Japan and the work of his practice, Atelier Bow-Wow. What is tightness? Is it desirable, and how might it contribute to thinking about the future of cities? Lecture followed by a discussion chaired by Graham Crist and John Doyle with Mauro Baracco (Baracco+Wright) and Ann Lau (Hayball). Part of Open House Melbourne 2019.

**Super Tight city walking tour
Sunday 28 July
2pm–3pm, meet at RMIT Design Hub Gallery**
Are there good examples of tight urbanism in Melbourne? *Super Tight* curators Graham Crist and John Doyle take us on a walking tour of Melbourne’s tightest examples of density and intense urban living. Part of Open House Melbourne 2019.

**Tight Bar Talks
Saturday 27 July, Sunday 28 July
and every Wednesday throughout
the exhibition period, 1pm–2pm,
RMIT Design Hub Gallery**
Join us in The Tight Bar for a series of discussions on small spaces, close living and future forms of city-making. Led by curators Graham Crist and John Doyle, the Bar Talks program invites both local and international speakers to discuss aspects of the super tight, including: Taishin Shiozaki from Shiozaki Laboratory (Saturday 27 July); Yoshiharu Tsukamoto from Atelier Bow-Wow (Sunday 28 July); film-maker Andrew Stiff and artist Thierry Bernard-Gotteland (Wednesday 31 July); and academics and designers Alban Mannisi and Charles Anderson (Wednesday 7 August).

All programs are free and open to everyone. Check our website for more programs and to RSVP: designhub.rmit.edu.au

The Tight Cinema
All works are videos unless otherwise noted.

Screen A
Li Han & Hu Yan
(Drawing Architecture Studio, China)
Diamond Village 1-3, 2018, animation

Paul Tse & Evelyn Ting
(New Office Works, Hong Kong)
Middle Man, 2019
Short Cuts, 2019
Palm Tree, 2019

Sanuki Daisuke (Sanuki Daisuke Architects, Ho Chi Minh City)
Saigon Drone series, 2018

Wong Mun Summ & Richard Hassell (WOHA, Singapore)
Skyville Dawson, 2015
Parkroyal Pickering, 2013
Oasia Downtown, 2016
Kampung Admiralty, 2017

Rafael Balboa with Yasemin Sahiner (Studio Wasabi, Tokyo)
Frontal elevations for Ginza 01, 2019
Frontal elevations for Shibuya 01, 2019
Frontal elevations for Shinjuku 01, 2019

Andrew Stiff
Hém Texture, 2018
Hém City, 2019
Hém View, 2018
Hém Walks, 2017-2018
Pha Lau, 2018-2019

Minsuk Cho
(Mass Studies, South Korea)
Freeze! (꽂짝 마!), 2019

Screen B
Desirée Grunewald
Collaged City series, 2015-2019
Habitats series, 2015-2019
Mapas series, 2015-2019
Monstruo series, 2015-2019
digital photographs

Archie Pizzini
Rasquachismo portrait series, 2007-2019, digital photographs

Sue Hajdu
Urban Documentation Vietnam series, 2009-2019, digital photographs

Screen C
Sanuki Daisuke (Sanuki Daisuke Architects, Ho Chi Minh City)
NGA House series, 2018
Hém House series, 2015
Binh Thanh series, 2016
digital photographs
Photography by Hiroyuki Oki

Screen D
Sue Hajdu
Urban Documentation Vietnam series, 2009-2019, digital photographs

Sanuki Daisuke (Sanuki Daisuke Architects, Ho Chi Minh City)
NGA House landscape series, 2018
Hém House landscape series, 2015
digital photographs
Photography by Hiroyuki Oki

Desirée Grunewald
Laberinto, 2017
Alley Composite, 2015-2019

Andrew Stiff
Blue Extrusions, 2017
Cho, 2018
Hém Extrusions, 2017-2019
Zooms, 2017

Screen E
Andrew Stiff
Bun Cha, 2018

Ruben Bergambagt, Ben de Lange, Carolyn Leung (Superimpose, Beijing)
Spacious Tightness, 2019

Andrew Stiff
Nuoc Cam, 2018

Archie Pizzini
Rasquachismo landscape series, 2007-2019, Digital photographs

Tohru Horiguchi
Bingo House: A Super Tight Loose Standing Bar, 2019

Tomito Ito & Miho Tominaga (Tomito Architecture, Yokahama)
Casaco Project, 2019

Andrew Stiff
Pha Lau, 2018-2019

Alban Mannisi, Charles Anderson, Yazid Ninsalam (ULU, Melbourne), *Hokkien Mee Diplomacy*, 2019

Rafael Balboa with Yasemin Sahiner (Studio Wasabi, Tokyo)
Frontal elevations for Ginza 01, 2019
Frontal elevations for Shibuya 01, 2019
Frontal elevations for Shinjuku 01, 2019

Wong Mun Summ & Richard Hassell (WOHA, Singapore)
Skyville Dawson, 2015
Parkroyal Pickering, 2013
Kampung Admiralty, 2017
Oasia Downtown, 2016

Paul Tse & Evelyn Ting
(New Office Works, Hong Kong)
Middle Man, 2019
Short Cuts, 2019
Palm Tree, 2019

Andrew Stiff
Hém City, 2019

The Tight Hém
Atelier Bow-Wow, Graham Crist, John Doyle, Pandarosa, with George Mollet & Amy Tremewen, 2019

Thierry Bernard-Gotteland
Suspended Enharmonic Delayed Equivalents, 2019
multi-channel sound composition

The Tight Bar
Atelier Bow-Wow, Graham Crist, John Doyle with George Mollet & Amy Tremewen, 2019

Overlapping City
Taishin Shiozaki & Shiozaki Laboratory (Japan)
Tight Density, *Tight Familiarity*, *Overlapping City*, 2019
mixed-media installation (drawing, video, interactive workshop)

Acknowledgements
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Super Tight is part of Open House Melbourne 2019.

RMIT Design Hub Gallery RMIT University
RMIT Design Hub Gallery exists to ask questions about design’s role in the world today. Through exhibitions, conversations, performances and publications, we explore the process of design – making space to imagine, test and risk new ideas together.

Founded within RMIT University, the Design Hub Gallery has its roots in the city and in research practice. But most of all we’re a public place, a zone for exploration and a platform for exchange, locally and internationally. We’re an open space for discovery, questioning and experimentation.

RMIT University acknowledges the people of the Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nations on whose unceded lands we conduct the business of the University.

Location
RMIT Design Hub Gallery, Building 100, Corner Victoria and Swanston Streets, Carlton, 3053
Entrance via the Victoria Street forecourt

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The Tight Cinema
A series of projections on the themes of tightness

Screen A

Screen B

Screen C

Screen D

Screen E

The Tight Bar
1:1 scale model of a Japanese bar and a site for discussion

The Tight Hẻm
1:1 scale model of a Vietnamese laneway and a site for events

Density Workshop

A participatory drawing, which encourages visitors to collectively imagine new forms of density

Tight Density, Tight Familiarity, Overlapping City

An installation by Shiozaki Laboratory, which includes large scale line drawings, videos and a workshop space

