

ALTERNATIVE FUTURES FOR AGED CARE

PROJECT: An Aged Care Centre.

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SITE: To be advised

STUDIO SUMMARY

The changing demands of older Australians, growing costs of care and increasing regulations are making aged-care providers review their services. The project brief is for an aged care facility with residential and community-focused elements. It is located in inner-city Sydney run by a non-government organisation. This design project has been chosen because it requires the students to engage with social issues, a complicated brief and a larger urban context.

A key part of the subject is participatory-research. Students will be required to carry out fieldwork in groups (3-4 people) to understand the life of a hostel/nursing home by volunteering in an existing facility. Students are expected to become involved in discussions with residents and staff. For this reason, many of the classes are also held on site (ie at an aged care facility).

The studio focuses on students developing consultative and research methods that can feed most directly into design work. In conjunction with developing individual designs, each student group will produce a "Books of Design Ideas" as a social brief for their work. This document is developed through the semester alongside their designs.

The multiple requirements of aged care buildings can make them complicated projects. They contain several services and this program requires students to work on a range of scales. To best facilitate this project, the studio takes the student group through a series of smaller design tasks that are increasingly challenging through the semester.

This is a challenging and confronting studio. Students must be aware of the requirement that they spend significant time outside of teaching hours working on site. The aim is for students to develop communication skills, explore built forms for a complicated building and establish an approach to the social practice of architecture.

THE STUDIO PROGRAM

There are to be three main parts to student work during the Semester.

1. Fieldwork

Each student is to undertake fieldwork in which he or she carries out volunteer work in an existing, aged-care facility as part of research to understand the life of that facility. In Week One students will be introduced to social research methods. There will be lectures and ongoing discussion of issues relevant to fieldwork. Students are expected to become involved in discussions with residents and staff.

The fieldwork is carried out in groups (3-4 students) to provide them with the support of one another. Each student is to complete a minimum of **fifteen hours** of Fieldwork prior to the studio session on Thursday of Week Four. The submission will be individual Field Notes and a Research Paper (a short text/image piece) on a topic relevant to the fieldwork undertaken. This must be completed to allow you to proceed with the Studio.

2. Books of Design Ideas

The fieldwork research leads into a *Book of Ideas*. In the research groups, students prepare a *Book of Design Ideas* concurrently with their building design projects (see below). Each *Book of Design Ideas* is to present socio-spatial relationships in a manner that can inform the building design work. While the designs are individual, the books are collaborative (ie one per team). These are submitted with each design and then brought together into a final *Book of Ideas* for the final submission project.

3. Building Designs

There will be a series of three short *Building Design* projects. In each project, students will design a building (or part of a building) and associated external spaces that focus on a particular facet of an aged-care facility. Each building design project is to be undertaken individually with the *Book of Design Ideas* informing the design. Teaching focuses on encouraging students to develop connections to surrounding areas, flexible housing and communal living areas. There is an emphasis placed on students resolving projects on various levels of scale. There is both individual and group tuition.

THE BRIEF

To be advised at the beginning of each project. A rough outline of the projects will be:

- 1. The entry to a community centre.** The community centre might include activity rooms, administration office, food preparation areas and a range of other parts. The student task in this project is to focus specifically on the entry, entry gardens and a café.
- 2. Community living.** A small community-based residential facility might have 40-60 residents and would have to include resident areas, food preparation, administrative areas, laundry and other supports. The student task is to focus on one group of 12 bedrooms, associated dining/living rooms and a garden.
- 3. A multi-purpose unit.** This will be a small complete project that includes resident only areas, community accessible areas and some administration and support. Even though most facilities in Sydney are likely to be larger than this in order to be financially sustainable, the design is kept small and there is a lot of emphasis on students resolving their ideas and producing a building.

ASSESSMENT OF WORK

The criteria for all project assessments will include:

- > Resolution of the designs for each Project;
- > Demonstrated development of the *Book of Design Ideas* into a building;
- > Development of the designs to a satisfactory resolution on a range of levels of scale; and,
- > Legibility of presentations to a lay audience.

No late work will be accepted without a medical certificate. Marks will be deducted from the overall assessment for any unsubmitted or incomplete work.

Students are expected to be present for the whole of the class time (1pm-7pm) every week. Students must be present for 80% of class time to satisfy the requirements of this course.

STUDIO TIMETABLE

DATE AND LOCATION	STUDIO SESSION	SUBMISSIONS AND ASSESSMENT
WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION	<p>Introduction to social research in architecture and the program (includes Introductory study and Working with Words exercises).</p> <p>Introduction to fieldwork and group work (includes induction)</p> <p>Drawing spatial structure</p> <p>Introduction to working groups.</p>	<p>15 hours of fieldwork prior to submitting Project 1 is a requirement to proceed.</p> <p>There will be a 10% mark for the assessment of each student's participation throughout the semester.</p>
WEEK 2 PROJECT 1	<p>Discussion of social research focusing on experiences from the week.</p> <p>Discussion of precedent studies.</p> <p>Introduction to Site and Project 1</p>	
WEEK 3 PROJECT 1	<p>Looking deeper. developing themes from log notes.</p> <p>Discussion of urban design issues.</p> <p>Discussion and criticism of designs.</p>	
WEEK 4 PROJECT 1	<p>Presentation and discussion of Project 1 submissions.</p> <p>Introduction of Project 2</p> <p>Building concepts. Discussion of design ideas and spatial structure.</p>	<p>Project 1 – Building Design (individual) 10%</p> <p>Project 1 – Field Notes & Research Paper (individual) 10%</p>
WEEK 5 PROJECT 2	<p>Discussion and criticism of designs.</p> <p>Development of <i>Books of Design Ideas</i>.</p>	

DATE AND LOCATION	STUDIO SESSION	SUBMISSIONS AND ASSESSMENT
WEEK 6 PROJECT 2	Discussion and criticism of designs. Development of <i>Books of Design Ideas</i> .	
WEEK 7 PROJECT 2	Presentation and discussion of Project 2 submissions. Introduction of Project 3	Project 2 – Building Design (individual) 20% Project 2 – <i>Book of Design Ideas</i> (group) 10%
WEEK 8 PROJECT 2	Discussion and criticism of designs.	
WEEK 9 PROJECT 3	Discussion and criticism of designs.	
WEEK 10 PROJECT 3	Discussion and criticism of designs.	
WEEK 11 PROJECT 3	Discussion and criticism of designs.	Interim submission Project 3
WEEK 12 PROJECT 4	Discussion and criticism of designs.	
WEEK 13 PROJECT 4	Discussion and criticism of designs.	
WEEK 14 NO CLASS	No Class.	
WEEK 15 FINAL ESQUISSE	Presentation and discussion of Project 4 submissions. Final Presentation of Studio Work	Project 3 – Building Design (individual) 30% Project 3 – <i>Book of Design Ideas</i> (group) 10%