INFLECTION

JOURNAL OF THE MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

VOLUME 08 PRESENCE

Inflection is published annually by the Melbourne School of Design at the University of Melbourne and Melbourne Books.

Editors:

Michaela Prunotto, Kate Donaldson and Manning McBride

Inflection Volume 08 Presence poses the question: How is the power of 'presence' shaping architecture and place-making today?

Black Summer (2019-2020) illuminated the phenomenon of the Australian bushfire as a violent, destructive and uncontrollable presence on the global media stage. Fire in Australia has become synonymous with trauma, for its immediately perceivable harmful effects on animals, humans and the built environment. However, Black Summer has also catalysed important discussions on the rich and ancient history of fire as an ecological tool, wielded as a promoter of biological diversity and flourishing ecosystems. Catastrophe can illuminate the ironies and contradictions of an anthropocentric lens and spur us to challenge our approach to reconstruction, erasure, memory and place.

Within *Volume 08*, infrastructure is viewed as active and relational; the experience of women of colour in architecture is unpacked; 'feral' effects of the Anthropocene are unearthed; a *Planet City* takes shape; Zoom is rendered (virtually) spatial; digital craft is embodied; demolition is rendered constructive; earthquake recovery transcends time and space; and much, much more.

Founded in 2013, *Inflection* is a student-run journal based at the Melbourne School of Design, University of Melbourne. Born from a desire to stimulate debate and generate ideas, it advocates the discursive voice of students, academics and multi-disciplinary practitioners.
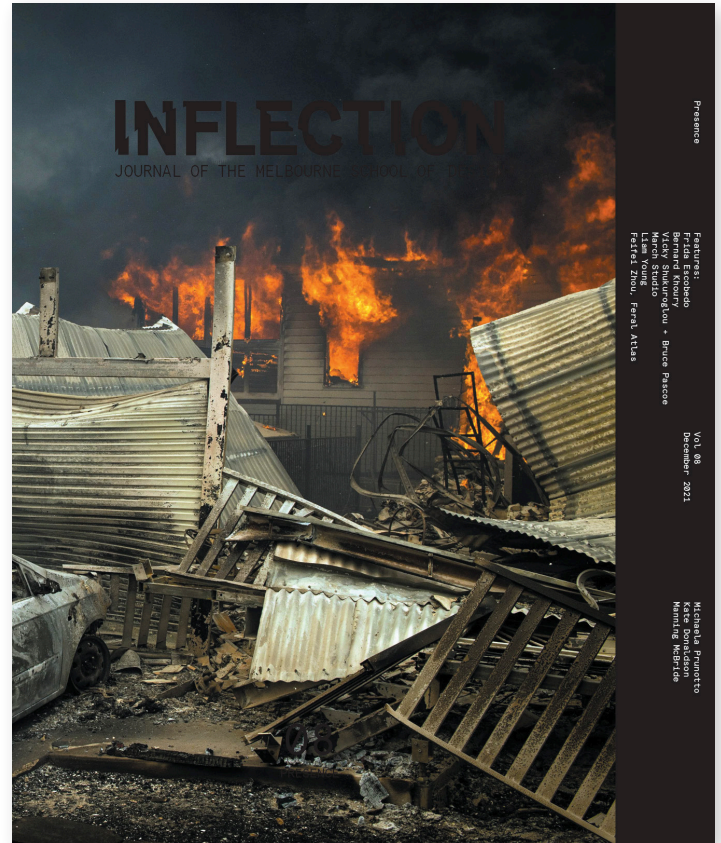
This volume includes contributions from Frida Escobedo, Bernard Khoury, Bruce Pascoe with Vicky Shukuroglou, March Studio, Liam Young, Feifei Zhou (Feral Atlas), Sarah Akigbogun, Mitul Desai, Alexis Kalagas, Amanda Achmadi, BAST with Colby Vexler, and Helen Runting.

Inflection Volume 07 Boundaries (2020) was awarded the Bates Smart Award for Architecture in Media by the Architects Institute of Victoria.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

msd
Melbourne School of Design

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING AND PLANNING

www.msd.unimelb.edu.au

CONTRIBUTORS

Alexis Kalagas

Kalagas is Head of Public Programs at Molonglo and leads an advanced studies unit at MADA exploring the impacts of 'smartphone urbanism.' Previously a foreign policy advisor with the Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet, he worked on projects internationally with the Zürich-based practice Urban-Think Tank. He has researched the complex economic, social, and technological forces reshaping our experience of urban space and the home as a Harvard GSD Richard Rogers Fellow and a Future Architecture Fellow.

Alexandra Pereira-Edwards

Pereira-Edwards is a designer, writer and recent Master of Architecture graduate from Carleton University's Azrieli School of Architecture in Canada. Situated in Tiohtià:ke (Montréal), she was one of three fellowship recipients at the Canadian Centre for Architecture in 2020, where she collaborated on an open-access syllabus project intent on addressing architecture's role in settler colonial processes. Her work centres on the politics of space, infrastructure and the affective bonds that unite us.

Amanda Achmadi

Achmadi is a Senior Lecturer in Architectural Design (Asian Architecture and Urbanism) at the University of Melbourne, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. She holds a Bachelor degree in architecture and a PhD in architecture and Asian studies. Her research works explore the interrelated history of architecture, urban forms and identity politics in colonial and postcolonial Indonesia, as well as Southeast Asia. Her writing has been published in leading academic journals such as *Fabrications* and *ABE Journal*.

Bernard Khoury

Khoury is an architect situated in Beirut, Lebanon. He studied architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design and obtained a Master of Architecture from Harvard University. Khoury's office has developed an international reputation and a significant portfolio of diverse projects both locally and internationally. He has taught, lectured and exhibited his work in prestigious academic institutions in over 35 countries.

Boyd Hellier Knox

Knox is an Australian architect at Reiulf Ramstad Arkitekter, Oslo. He previously worked at Wood Marsh Architecture, Melbourne. Graduating from the Melbourne School of Design in 2020, Boyd received The Ernest Fooks Memorial Award, nominations for the RIBA Silver Medal and INDE's Graduate Award. He has also studied at University College Dublin, Stockholm's Royal Institute of Technology and the Australian National University. Knox is the current curator of the Alistair Knox Foundation.

Bruce Pascoe

Pascoe is a Yuin, Bunurong and Tasmanian man born in the Melbourne suburb of Richmond. He has worked as a teacher, farmer, fisherman, barman, fencing contracter, lecturer, Aboriginal language researcher, archaeological site worker and editor. He has written over thirty books, among them Dark Emu (Magabala books), which won Book of the Year and the Indigenous Writer's Prize at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards in 2016.

Bureau Architectures Sans Titre

BAST is an architectural practice founded in Toulouse in 2013. They adopt an anonymous approach and a proactive research posture to experiment with the diverse potentialities of each project. At each step of their design process, solutions are found and contiguously questioned in an iterative way. As a result, their projects do not follow a formal method, but instead develop in an evolutionary way, which in turn works to define the identity of the office.

Cameron McEwan

McEwan is an architectural theorist and educator at the University of Central Lancashire Institute of Architecture and director of the AE Foundation, an independent research institute for architecture and education. He is an editor of *Accounts* (Pelinu, 2019) and *Architecture and Collective Life* (Routledge, 2021). His research focuses on the relationship between architecture, representation and subjectivity to engage the city as a critical project. McEwan is writing a book entitled *Analogical City*.

Ciro Miguel

Miguel is an architect, photographer and doctoral fellow of the Institute for History and Theory of Architecture at ETH Zürich, where his research focuses on the intersections between architecture, photography, and mass media. His work has been exhibited at biennales in Venice and São Paulo, and in museums internationally, such as Architekturmuseum der TUM in the Pinakothek der Moderne and SAM Basel. He was co-curator of *Todo dia/Everyday*, the 12th International Architecture Biennale of São Paulo (2019).

Colby Vexler

Vexler is an architectural researcher and practitioner. He has co-led Melbourne School of Design research unit and design studio *Housing Home and Contents: A Soft Focus on Domestic Things* with Pricilla Heung since 2016. In late 2020, Vexler and Heung founded Office Heuler, an architecture practice committed to contemporary residential architecture, to extend the lines of inquiry established by Studio 26 into an industry context. Vexler is also the editor of online contemporary architectural publication, *cc:Journal*.

Daniela Mitterberger

Mitterberger is an architect and researcher with an interest in new media and the Human/Body relationship within digital fabrication and emerging technologies. She is co-founder and director of «MAEID [Büro für Architektur und transmediale Kunst]», a multidisciplinary architecture practice based in Vienna. Currently, Mitterberger is a PhD researcher and A&T PhD Fellow at ETH Zürich, the Chair of Architecture and Digital Fabrication (Gramazio Kohler Research).

Domenic Trimboli

Trimboli is a registered architect, freelance writer and recipient of the Nell Norris Fellowship for a PhD in Architecture at The University of Melbourne. His research asks us to reconsider our relationship with existing cemeteries in Australia's cities and to think about how we might create new ones over the course of the 21st century. Trimboli is also a tutor of architecture and urban planning. His writing has been published across several design journals nationally and internationally.

Feifei Zhou

Zhou is a Chinese-born artist and architect. She holds a Master of Architecture from the Royal College of Art in London and was a guest researcher at Aarhus University Research on the Anthropocene (AURA). Her work explores spatial, cultural and ecological impacts of the industrialised built environment. She co-edited the digital publication *Feral Atlas: The More-than-Human Anthropocene* with Anna Tsing, Jennifer Deger and Alder Keleman Saxena, which was published in October 2020. She currently lives and works between London and China.

Frida Escobedo

Escobedo is an architect and designer based in Mexico City. Her work focuses largely on the reactivation of urban spaces that are considered to be residual or forgotten. In addition to her practice, Escobedo has taught at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Harvard Graduate School of Design, and Rice University. In 2018, she was selected to design the 18th Serpentine Summer Pavilion in London.

Helen Rix Runting

Runting is an architectural theorist (PhD), planner and partner in the Stockholm-based architecture office Secretary. She has edited books and newspapers, published essays and exhibited installations internationally. Presently, Runting is a Research Fellow in Architectural Theories and Critical Design Practices at the University of Melbourne. Her work is motivated by a feminist ethos and a commitment to an affirmative biopolitics of the designed living environment.

Igor Sladoljev

Sladoljev is an Amsterdam-based architect and urbanist working in both practice and research. He acquired his Master of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Zagreb. In 2019 he took part in 'The New Normal' think-tank and research program at Strelka Institute of Media, Architecture and Design. His work has been showcased at museums and large scale exhibitions internationally. At present, Sladoljev works as a research lead at de Architekten Cie.

Katja Wagner

Wagner is an architectural graduate currently practicing in Melbourne. She completed her Master of Architecture in November 2020 and continues to muse upon the confluence of place, space and museums. Her independent thesis project, *Cook Cloak*, has its roots in a proposition formed for The Ian Potter Museum of Art Miegunyah Student Project Award 2018 and was recognised with the Bates Smart Award at its conclusion in 2020.

Liam Young

Young is a speculative architect and director who operates in the spaces between design, fiction and futures. He is co-founder of Tomorrows Thoughts Today, an urban futures think tank, and Unknown Fields, a nomadic research studio. His worldbuilding for the film industry has been acclaimed in both mainstream and architectural media. He currently runs the Master of Fiction and Entertainment at SCI-Arc in Los Angeles.

Lucia Amies

Lucia Amies graduated with a Master of Architecture from the University of Melbourne in 2019, during which she was twice awarded the Nell Norris Scholarship for academic merit. She is a tutor, guest critic and previous research assistant at the Melbourne School of Design, as well as co-editor of *Inflection* Volume 5. Currently, Lucia is an Associate at Olaver Architecture. Her interests lie at the intersection of architecture and landscape, with a particular affinity for small-scale interventions.

Marc Boumeester

Boumeester is the Director of AKI Academy of Art and Design, University of the Arts ArtEZ. Previously, Boumeester was a researcher at the Delft University of Technology (Faculty of Architecture) and Head of the Department of Interactive Media Design at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague. His research focuses on the interplay between non-anthropocentric desire, architectural conditions and unstable media. He holds a PhD from Leiden University and he publishes in the fields of media-philosophy and art-theory.

March Studio

March Studio is a collective of architects, designers and creators located in Melbourne, Australia. They are focused on realising projects with ingenuity and respect for location, materials, processes and people. They have an unconventional knowledge of materials and fabrication processes and are constantly testing, prototyping and refining them for deployment in current and future projects.

Mitul Desai

Desai joined Studio Mumbai for an internship after graduating from Washington University, St. Louis (Master of Architecture, 2008). This engagement continues as a collaboration on publications and exhibitions in India as well as abroad. Desai has his own architectural practice and continues to engage with various design institutions in his hometown, Surat, India. Urban fringes, industrial landscapes, demolition, materiality and informal architecture are a few of his many photography and research interests.

Pınar Balat

Balat is an Amsterdam-based architect and urbanist. Before acquiring her Master of Architecture from TU Delft, she completed her Bachelor studies in METU, Ankara and her Master of Collective Housing in UPM, Madrid. In 2015, she founded her own office, Studio Pınar Balat. Balat is a member of the Advisory Committee of Architectuurcentrum Amsterdam. As a researcher, she focuses on contributing to socially integrated, equitable and sustainable urban environments.

Sarah Akigbogun

Akigbogun is an architect, filmmaker, writer and educator. She is founding director at Studio Aki, one of Wallpaper's Emerging practices of 2021, and of theatre collective Appropri8. She is an elected member of RIBA Council, Vice-Chair of Women In Architecture and founder of The XXAOC Project. Sarah is currently an Associate Lecturer at Canterbury School of Architecture and tutor at the Architectural Association. Her current film explores the stories of female architects of colour.

Timothy Hill

Hill is the founder of architectural practice Partners Hill. His work has been awarded at the national and international levels and is deliberately unspecialised; projects have ranged through furniture commissions, city centre masterplans, landscapes, campus buildings, office towers and in a continuous stream, houses. He investigates alternate models of housing that provide flexibility throughout the lifespan of their inhabitants as alternatives to nuclear family housing.

Vicky Shukuroglou

Shukuroglou is an artist and researcher who endeavours to deepen our understanding and care of our precious world and each other. She seeks to ignite joy and fulfilment through careful exploration of our environment and intimate connection with its complexity. Scientists, musicians, Indigenous communities and young people are among Vicky's collaborators. In consultation with diverse Indigenous communities, Vicky recently co-authored *Loving Country: A Guide to Sacred Australia*.