

KERB 19

PARADIGMS OF NATURE: POST NATURAL FUTURES

By The School of Architecture and Design,
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Celebrating KERB Journal's 20th year

Originating as a RMIT university pamphlet in 1989 for the purpose of critiquing student work and discussing the discourse of landscape architecture, Kerb has evolved into a progressive cross disciplinary design publication. Published annually, the journal now boasts a diverse selection of both international and local contributors, focusing on contemporary landscape architecture themes.

The journal is unique in being compiled and edited each year by a small group of students, who select a range of articles pertinent to the chosen theme of each edition. Kerb seeks to set the agenda for designers and landscape architects, establishing a platform for new ideas and contemporary design theory. Kerb Journal is now featured on university reading lists around the world.

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Now that we have entered a period of extreme technological escalation where we can synthesise technologies with living systems, it may soon be possible to create selfgenerating, manufactured landscapes that have the ability to grow, repair, decay and multiply, responding to a multitude of forces.

Kerb volume 19 discusses how the development of these bio-technological possibilities will shape the way we create landscapes where the city environment could transform into a dynamic, interactive organism of limitless potential ; and considers if current wild speculation about a



future predicting synthetic biological ecologies, trans-natural robotic systems and post-natural organisms will ever be realised, if it is useful in meeting our collective ideals and what it means for our understanding of 'nature'.

**Are we steering in an 'un-natural' direction,
or taking the evolutionary leap necessary to
establish a more integrated mode of co-existence?**

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