BLINDSCAPE

What is the concept of a park to those who are visually impaired or blind? What are the forms of sensory landscapes that are manifest through information delivered only to our auditory or tactile systems? The continuing dominance of visual modes of spatial design in landscape praxis seems only to reinforce the hegemony of considering the landscape as a discrete and complete ocular manifestation of information. This approach negates those deeper multi-modal considerations that landscape praxis may afford in an age where advanced connectivity, embedded technologies and instantly retrievable information will increase exponentially in the near future. This design studio seeks to explore those sense systems such as the tactile and auditory as a means for the exploration of a catalytic design process in which landscape design praxis enables encounters within the landscape that do not discriminate the senses.

The site of our project will be along Merri Creek flowing into the Yarra where the landscape generates an interesting ravine that crosses a series of infrastructures and residential neighbourhoods in Melbourne’s North East. The project will be conducted as an intensive collaborative studio with 9 weeks teaching sessions and with three intensive weekend workshops that will allow the studio to develop the project in short productive sessions. As a group we will design a common project through Merri Creek, while allocating individual sections of the landscape to produce individual projects. Students will be required to collaborate in a common studio project but allowed to develop individual projects within the framework and site of the studio.

Dr Michael Fowler
Armando Oliver Suinaga

9 weeks
Tuesday 3:30--6:30
Friday 1:30--4:30
3 weekends intensive studios