“In the next 30 years, Melbourne will grow by up to one million people and will consolidate its reputation as one of the most liveable, attractive and prosperous areas in the world for residents, business and visitors.”

Melbourne 2030

To enable this investigation students will critically examine infrastructural systems both physical and invisible to understand the qualities of these systems; how they function, the dynamics of flow, interactions with other systems and reactions to forces.

These qualities will be embraced within the design, where landscape is the catalyst for development.

This studio is built on the notion that landscape is an ‘infrastructure’ and that landscape should act rather than remaining background to the object.

Beyond the placement of new dwellings students will be asked to consider what makes a suburb successful culturally, socially and environmentally and to use this critique to position their outcomes.

The studio will be organised into a series of interlocking exercises done on an individual basis but there will also be an emphasis on workshops during class time.

Key references that will drive these exercises are theories from people such as James Corner, Stan Allen, Charles Waldheim, Richard Forman’s work on landscape ecology principals and George Seddon’s writings on Australian culture and it’s relationship with landscape.

Important background documents include the Maribyrnong Planning Scheme; Vision 2011 and Strategic Physical Framework Plan; Melbourne 2030 GAA (under review); Urban Stormwater: Best Practice Environmental Management; State of Victoria Strengthening the Management of the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers.

Jessica Blood + Rhiannon Larkin
RMIT Landscape Architecture
Semester 1, 2009
Tuesdays 5.30 - 8.30pm
Fridays 1.30 - 4.30pm