When faced with the possible built reality of density people tend to grip a hold of the things they have to forgo for that green city...space, the backyard and the car. This studio is about looking at the street as a theoretical inversion of the ‘back yard’. It’s about valuing tiny spaces like prize real-estate.

What pressures and design opportunities would a substantial increase in density present for inner suburban streets and parks? How will we play and recreate in the public realm of the future?

You will be asked to analyse the existing grain of an exploration zone in Seddon just outside the major business district of Footscray and compare this grain with a theoretical density proposal. What approaches to design synthesis are best suited to this scenario? What happens to the public realm when a hectare that contained 10 homes with back yards becomes a hectare of 40 homes with no back yards?

What if the creation of each of those additional homes contributed to a local council kitty for future improvements to the public realm?

Within the exploration zone, students will be asked to put forward proposals for street and park.

• Proposals will be informed through analysis of selected local and international precedent streets and through the work of Aldo van Eyck, Burle Marx and Rem Koolhaas
• Form generation will be explored through a set of site + programme exercises where the possibilities of imaginative play, cherished childhood memories, sport and outdoor living are tested in isolation as an extreme.
• The immediacy of Google Earth and Bing maps will be explored along side the 4 dimensional capabilities of physical model making.
• Environment analysis, programmatic loading and precedent will be used for design synthesis.
• The power of the public tree; it’s species, form, size and spacing and it’s place in the language of streets will be examined.