Central Dandenong is currently the site of the largest urban redevelopment project in Australia. The redesign of Lonsdale Street, the main artery or transit corridor of Dandenong, is now under construction, while to its immediate west whole city blocks are being demolished with swathes being cut through the local commercial district, including Little India.

Vic Urban, the development authority together with the City of Greater Dandenong has big plans for Dandenong, envisioning this site as a new residential, commercial and business hub. At the heart of this revitalisation project is a new street and plaza. This new urban configuration is expected to: articulate and activate the new development, provide necessary open space, serve as gateway, destination and connective tissue between Dandenong station and the city centre, ...and more!

One challenging and demanding expectation of the brief for this project is that it must ‘work’ as a finished street and public space from day one while also being capable of accommodating and responding to, and to a certain extent stimulating, its changing urban context for possibly at least the next 20 to 30 years. Indeed, the full extent of the overall development has been cleared but there is at present only one development committed and under construction; all the rest remains speculative and yet to find financial commitment. Consequently this means that the new street and plaza will have to be complete yet emergent, and simultaneously transformational and transformative.

The design team for the project is comprised of Aspect Studios, Williams Boag Architects, SAALA, Arup Engineers, and Electrolight, and is currently in the final stages of Sketch Design. This studio engages directly with this ongoing project and asks you to think through the complexities of this large scale urban revitalisation project by making design proposals for this new streetscape and plaza. It asks you to closely consider the role of design of the public realm as a precondition for rather than a consequence of successful, resilient, and livable urbanisation. In particular it asks: What are the compositional forms and assumptions that underwrites most urban design and what are the potentials for new generative tools, for new geometries of encounter, to fashion or provoke a true urbanity for the 21st Century?