An all-seasons crossing point for the Goulburn River, Seymour, 90Km north of Melbourne, became a pastoral centre and then a ‘railway town’, and later fixed the route of the Hume Highway. Then its terrain, location and its connectivity to a water supply a few kilometers from the railway station made it ideal as a major military training ground. Now, the 300 acres of rolling terrain, the Light Horse Memorial Park, is potentially to be hemmed in by urban development within its far horizon of hills. It exists memorialised through sculptural elements and sacred ground, its grassland and newly planted trees prey to a mob of kangaroos. In recent years, a committee of residents has initiated a regime of conditioning to sustain its diverse ecology in the warming climate, and to encourage its potential as a place of recreation. But they wonder, beyond these commitments, could it give new focus for the energy of its people? Would a new memorial to the military life that brought identity to their town in the 20th century arouse local interest in the deeper questions of this new century for their town – questions of relationship that emerge through growth and decay, contemporary social and work structures, development, drought and flood: would it forge resilience in the face of change?

The town has opened its doors to your interest in its past and future. It offers its records, its memory and its hospitality, and invites your particular research and its design resolution.

Stutterheim/Anderson is interested in design that engages with the site through an intimate understanding of its fine-grain topographical elements, historic framework, and the patterns of growth emerging from site in this design research studio. In this vein, it offers you the support of our staff and our expertise, as much as an introduction to the realities of practice, at our office in North Melbourne.