Next Degree to Nothing

We are interested in design through the act of making where drawing and modelling at various scales (including 1:1) drives the proposition with material playfulness; where making is research that explores how things work and how things feel (spatial/material/systems).

We are interested in the fantastical (fictional and non-fictional) and the scientific (fictional and non-fictional). Drawing from art, popular culture, speculative design, film, and literature, we like to construct new stories about the way we live.

We are interested in air; inflating, breathing, transforming - alchemically, mythically, biologically - the city. We wonder about structures of habitation through the material of air.

Luce Irigaray repositions air as matter (and not a void) in *The Forgetting of Air in Martin Heidegger*. We take air as design material, force, and spatial condition. We look at projects such as R&Sie’s *Terra Incognita*, EAT’s *PEPSI pavilion*, Diller and Scofidio’s *Riter building*, Antfarm and Archigram’s "Inflatables", Phillip Rahm’s temperature houses, Duchamp’s *50cc of Paris air*, Hans-Rucker-Co’s *Oasis 7*. We imagine what Melbourne could look like...

Next Degree to Nothing asks

- what role does fantasy play in the production of space?
- how can design be a transformativ process?
- how does air question inside/outside, figure/ground relationships?
- how can design fully engage the senses (spatial, temporal, material, fantastical)
- how can design be driven through the act of making

Next Degree to Nothing makes

- drawing: we will run a series of in class workshops to develop individual approaches to drawing techniques. We are interested in drawing as a tool for discovery, translation and abstraction.
- film: we will develop a series of short films to explore the sensory, spatial, and temporal aspects of design.
- modelling/making: we will explore model making as a generative tool for design through material experimentation. We are interested in how material play can drive form rather than representing outcomes. We will use a range of materials and techniques at a range of scales.
- site 1: we will develop a site specific project at 1:1 scale within the class room in response to the atmospheric conditions and spatial dynamics of the site.
- site 2: we will further develop the proposition through speculation within the Melbourne city environment.

co-run by
Scott Mitchell + Saskia Schut

time
Tuesday 5:30 - 8:30
Friday 1:30 - 4:30