LARA 3212

UPPER POOL DESIGN RESEARCH STUDIO

TUTORS
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From Stutterheim / Anderson Landscape Architecture

Lara is a township of approximately 8,000 people on the outskirts of Geelong. Most people would only recognize the name as a minor turn-off from the Princess Highway on the drive between Melbourne and Geelong.

Due to its proximity to both Melbourne and Geelong, Lara is subject to many significant pressures, including: 1. the need to revitalize the township, 2. the demand to expand its residential holdings, and 3. the desire to maintain its ‘essential’ semi-rural lifestyle. LARA 3212 Studio focuses on what is specific to ‘semi-rural’ towns close to major urban centers and explores how these places can maintain their specific qualities in the face of the many competing pressures confronting them.

Beginning with a sequence of master plan propositions, students will investigate a variety of modes of urban design and their related outcomes and progress to generate Landscape Architectural design projects for Lara which respond to and draw upon these experiences and understandings.

This practice based studio places specific attention on how we can design places which are distant and/or unfamiliar to us. The practice of Landscape Architecture often involves designing for/with just these kinds of communities, sites and programs. Surprisingly and somewhat frustratingly, these projects often have little budgetary scope or indeed time set aside for meaningful site visits.

Pursing its particular design brief, LARA 3212 exposes students to regular site visits as a means of exploring how an intimate engagement with place can be a catalyst for research direction and design. You will approach Lara from two extremes of scale and investigate how it is that discoveries made on site can inform how we approach large scale assumptions and techniques and vice-versa.

NB. This is a studio intensive and is being conducted in the second half of semester. It comprise two weekend workshops, several weekday classes & site visits between 19th May and final presentations in Wk 14.

Classes commence in Week 8 on Tuesday 19th May
Studio based at RMIT and Stutterheim/Anderson Offices
A Practice Based Design Research Studio Intensive