Parameters of risk are defined by us and for us everyday. Public utilities / public space of any kind are increasingly inhibited by these abstract frameworks. Even the tranquil choasms of urban creek corridors are becoming a ‘risk’ for ‘the public’ and their managers. These potentially hostile landscapes and others like them require intelligent and critical decision making, achieved through a thoughtful design process to develop ‘sustainable’ landscapes. This Studio will offer a satsif* approach to imagining sustainability as working towards redefining perceived parameters, building critical design intelligence. We will be leading change instead of defaulting to reactive solutions within set boundaries.

studio RISK will challenge students to perceive sustainability as ‘the future’, innovative, unprecedented, conceivable, much more than a technical solution! Working through a series of design exercises and interventions at various scales, students are encouraged to lead change, to take risks, to think laterally and creatively.

The studio site is the Merri Creek corridor south of the Western Ring Road to Dights Falls. The Merri Creek is a site of expression for core community values and ownership representing political and environmental positions, indigenous history, education and recreation. This environment now exists as an artificial construct, multifarious, developed, urbanised, built. ‘The Merri Creek Corridor, itself another complex set of layers and systems, is represented as nature, although clearly a ‘constructed’ not ‘wild nature’.

Confronted with Climate Change the need for a response to risk management is ever present, this studio asks how would this manifest in sustainable design? Would the existing character and form of the Merri Creek be recognisable to us in the future? Would social interaction within the corridor be an allowable risk?

*Sown; propagated by seed.