

MANUFACTURING FRAGMENTS



Coburg North TAFE, existing building
dlark (2019) Inspired by u/huisi's post, I shot some images of this example of Melbourne Brutalist Architecture [image]. Available at: <https://www.reddit.com/r/melbourne/comments/adeoz7/> (Accessed: 16 February 2026).

The former Coburg North TAFE (1.83ha, IN1Z) and ex-VicRoads HQ in Kew (2.67ha, C1Z) are two surplus government sites with existing workshops, classrooms and office towers ready for **strategic unbuilding**. This studio asks students to reassemble these fragments into live/work precincts for small-scale urban manufacturing – food and beverage processing, furniture and garment making, ceramics studios, laser cutting workshops, 3D printing and CNC prototyping labs – plus artist studios, apprentice co-living, designer co-working, maker showrooms and public workshops.

Working with real zoning (IN1Z/C1Z permit pathways) and medium-complex NCC requirements (Class 7b/8 + 9c fire, acoustics, ventilation), students will develop live projects that negotiate planning constraints while testing new mixes of industrial production, workspace and (potentially) living at Melbourne's urban edge.

This design studio will suit students interested in adaptive reuse, making and production, and the tension between regulation and real city economies.