Architecture must reconsider and remake its relationship with living things. High on this list is its relationship with trees, long used by architects to form plans and compliment objects, removed because they are in the way of the building, forced into shallow and isolated soil depths, banned for their disruption of footing systems and gutters, removed in bushfire prone areas for their risks to building ignition and so on.

In your career as architects you will encounter trees. To rethink this relationship we will learn about and reimage the relationship between buildings and trees.

This Study Unit is run in combination with a Design Make Studio Design Autumn Room focussed around three large London Plane trees at Collingwood Yards in their seasonal deciduous state.

Students will be exposed to:
The lives of trees and tree species
Case study of architecture that has a relationship to trees: around trees, trees inside, treehouses, trees as structure
Technical considerations between buildings, urban environments and trees
Spatial qualities of trees
Trees in Indigenous culture
Traditional and contemporary relationships with of trees for timber in buildings

Students will work individually and in small teams to research and document their work for inclusion in a forthcoming publication. They will produce an exhibition of their research at the Melbourne Design Week.

Note that this subject will involve some timetable amendments, refer to revised timetable.

Semester 1, 2023, Thursdays 2.00pm-5.00pm
Louise Wright, Practice Professor of Architecture in the Faculty of Art Design and Architecture at Monash University
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