

As housing intensification pressures grow across Melbourne, the suburban middle ring has become a key site of change. This studio examines the six pack apartment block, positioned between detached houses and large scale developments, as both a limitation and an opportunity. Rather than replacing these buildings, students investigate how incremental density can emerge through repair, adaptation, and extension. Challenging the idea that higher density reduces amenity, the studio explores how suburban fabric can be reshaped to enable generous, equitable, and diverse living environments.

Drawing on MA plus Co methodologies and contemporary adaptive reuse practices, the studio emphasises physical model making, hybrid drawing, and iterative design. Students analyse the environmental, cultural, and political forces shaping the suburb while engaging longer temporal perspectives. Through stages of testing and refinement, proposals extend or transform the six pack typology, focusing on shared space, thresholds, environmental performance, and material strategies while positioning architecture as a form of care within everyday suburban life.



ARC200x / ARC300x
Ciaran Snooks

crunches, planks & the MA⁺d Six-Pack