Nothing is as familiar as our everyday, domestic lives. Yet, this familiarity often renders domestic practices so transparent that we are unable to see their particularities, their social and historical contingency, or the complexities of their operation.

Unfamiliar Routines breaks this frame of familiarity, to inquire deeply into socio-material domestic practices - like sleeping, dining, or laundering - to propose more insightful, nuanced, and effective designs for housing. This 'de-familiarisation' will be elicited by drawing on accounts from sociology and anthropology, historical and cross-cultural comparison; literature and art; and diverse student experiences. We will translate independent research into initial design proposals by editing 'typical' Melbourne apartment plans; designs will ultimately be elaborated into four storey apartment blocks.

We will work through truly architectural areas of concern and agency - principally, the careful resolution of and subtle innovation in floor plans - with the awareness that small incremental changes in building typologies often have greater historical impact than large-scale 'model-solutions' for housing. We'll work from the nuances and complexities of everyday life outwards, to make proposals that are subtle but display a deep understanding of dwelling and domesticity. Good projects will more effectively accommodate the complexities of domestic life in refined and elegant ways, providing flexibility and diverse affordances; exceptional projects will be attuned to the scope of architectural agency and discern latent possibilities in domestic life, such as reconfiguring socio-material practices, hierarchies, and power relations.

We will be immersing ourselves in the world of exemplary contemporary apartments in order to analyse and draw lessons from their plans. Likewise, we'll learn to analyse two-dimensional compositions, and engage with facade and visual art references, using what we learn to design our own highly resolved facades - beginning with a rapidly designed esquisse. Throughout the semester we will exploit the productive dialogue between digital and physical working methods for iterative development and a high level of design resolution.

Mon 6-9pm & Thu 2-5pm
Semester 1, 2023

Studio 10: Unfamiliar Routines is led by Jacobi Komarzyński and Thomas Essex-Path. Jacob is an architecture graduate, works in a residential architecture practice, and has previously taught at the University of Melbourne. Thomas is an architecture and sociology graduate, and divides his working hours between practice in residential architecture, writing, and teaching. He has previously taught at Monash University and the University of Sydney.