

TRACING SYDNEY'S COMMON HOUSING TYPES

a strategic design approach from element to city scale

Studying Common Housing Types in Sydney

This unit reaches out from Monash to Sydney to trace and investigate the common house types that proliferate across metropolitan Sydney, in order to consider their potential for at-scale retrofitting. Our teaching is part of a collaboration between Monash Architecture and Government Architect NSW, and in this unit we will engage with Sydney-based architects and regulators committed to better quality and more equitable cities.

Study Aim:

Our task will be to identify and study the various types of houses that have been built at scale post World War II, and to devise strategies that can improve these homes for better social and environmental performance.

Given that at least 80% of today's homes will still be occupied in 2050, the retrofitting of dwellings is a sustainable way to meet different needs and purposes, such as working at home or ageing in place, as well as enhancing environmental performance and functionality like accessibility. However, currently most modifications and renovations of housing are done in an ad hoc manner that rarely factor in longer-term and strategic opportunities for improvement.

TEACHING TEAM:

NIGEL BERTRAM AND MARYAM GUSHEH
WITH CATHERINE MURPHY AND TOM MORGAN

TIMETABLE:

10-1 THURSDAYS (WEEK 1-5, WEEK 9-12)

SYDNEY TRIP: 20. 21, 22 APRIL

NO TEACHING (WEEK 6, 8)

FIELD TRIP COSTS:

APPROXIMATELY \$600 PER STUDENT

AIRFARE, ACCOMMODATION (2 NIGHTS)
AND LOCAL TRANSPORT COSTS

Study Questions:

What if we were to approach the problem of the retrofit of housing stock systematically and at scale? Are there common strategies for making our homes more inclusive and sustainable, and at the same time better quality and more adaptable to future change?

Study Approach:

In order to understand the potential of such a strategic approach, we will start with an understanding of the location and the characteristics of common post-war dwellings that exist in suburbs across metropolitan Sydney. These will be studied through research, mapping and architectural drawings. With this understanding at hand, we will consider strategies for upgrading and adapting particular building types through design testing. The outcome will be a catalogue of common house type and diagrams for strategic conversion.

Sydney Visit:

A field trip to Sydney will combine first-hand inspection of common house types and suburban environments with visits to significant contemporary projects such as the New Addition to Sydney Modern, Art gallery of NSW (SANAA) and the new interiors of the Opera house (ARM), as well as intelligent adaptations of house projects by Sydney-based architects.