

AUTUMN ROOM

Ross Brewin with Louise Wright and Nigel Burdon

Wednesdays 9:30 to 4:30

Paired with the Buildings + Trees Studies Unit with Louise Wright (Thursday 2 to 5pm)

In this studio, students will collectively design, develop, prototype and assist with fabrication of a small building or shelter for the courtyard of Collingwood Yards under three existing plane trees. We have called the project 'Autumn Room' with the idea that it replaces the shelter that the trees usually provide until they lose their leaves into Autumn and Winter.

The nature of the shelter will be lightweight and removable with no permanent footings or similar structure - possibly suspended from the trees. Depending on the brief, it may be just a roof or it might have some side walls, or not. It may also include some loose furniture. We hope the installation can be made from predominantly reclaimed and upcycled materials - likely fabric of some kind.

Collingwood Yards will act as the 'client' and assist the formation of a brief, so that the project may meet their needs into the future and we propose that the project be completed and 'opened' for Melbourne Design Week (May 18-28 2023) and programmed with a mix of Monash Architecture and Collingwood Yard community events.

Autumn Room will be considered as the first project in the revival of the Monash Architecture Design Make program, re-gearred for the contemporary university context. Through undertaking this kind of project, students will gain first hand experience in the complexities of bringing an conceptually driven architectural project into being.

We will be working with a range of consultants, in particular Nigel Burdon, a structural engineer from Aecom who has expertise in designing tensile structures and canopies.

The studio will involve a high amount of physical making from small scale models to full scale prototypes and will be paired with a research based Studies Unit being run by Professor Louise Wright called Buildings + Trees.

The studio is suited to anyone interested in exploring the relationship of architecture and natural things, excited about and committed to the hands-on making design process, and able to work cooperatively and productively with groups of other people towards a common goal.

