

# Unzoned Living

Mixed-use housing experiments: exploring the intersection of affordable housing, local industry and climate responsive urbanism

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Session: Wednesdays, 9.30am - 4.30pm  
Site: Upfield Corridor



The housing crisis in Australian cities carries on with little sign of abating, yet the challenges of densifying established suburbs at times feel unsurmountable. Without doubt, part of the solution is unlocking accessible brownfield sites as future developable land - partially through ambitious infrastructure investments such as level-crossing removals, new airport rail line, the suburban rail loop, fisherman's bend, etc. Ensuring a housing pipeline that is needed. But what is lost when one form of socio economic activity is displaced and replaced by another? Some of our most productive and creative industries rely on affordable workspace close to where people live. On the other hand productive workspace activity is also often labelled a 'bad neighbour' - so there's the architecture problem.

Through speculative design proposals the design studio will be exploring the following questions:

- Can we propose mixed use buildings/precincts that co-locate housing with diverse types of employment, in lieu of rezoning and subsequent displacement of diverse employment?
- What models/typologies of live-work housing exist regionally and around the world that could be appropriate for Melbourne/Australia?

- What are the current and future local industrial/industrial-adjacent uses that are better located in close proximity of where people live?

- How can architecture and urban design alleviate inherent difficulties of mixing housing with other uses?

- Just speculating: could quid-pro-quo delivery of housing that incorporates employment intensification side-step a major barrier to building housing – the cost premium placed on 'developable residential land'?

The studio will build upon learnings from LIAN's Future Homes, as well as previous experience with productive-space projects, such as 5th Studio UK's BLOQs project, recently listed by The Guardian as the number 1 building in the UK for 2022 (!) in recognition of its socio-economic value.

Guests from mixed-use projects; Dairy Road, ACT, and Habitat Byron Bay, NSW, have been invited to speak. A site visit to a local productive space is also being arranged.