High-density living is inevitable. As Melbourne’s population is estimated to grow into Australia’s largest city by 2031, the city will need to build on its complex history to survive. Even though urban renewal strategies in Melbourne’s past are contentious, the future presents an opportunity to learn from history. What can we learn from the world and our own context to enhance the way we will live in the future? What should we be doing now to positively impact the future growth and development of Melbourne?

The aim of this studio will be to question current and proposed master plans and interrogate the ways in which we live and interact with other humans. This studio will employ a dynamic approach to learning, with a range of workshops, site visits and presentations from the MAA team, helping to build a bank of knowledge necessary to grasp the intricacies of spatial planning. Using Fitzroy Gasworks as the subject site, we will work collaboratively to conceptualise massing strategies, delving into the relationship between public and private space, before individually creating refined proposals that incorporate high-density living with the appropriate amenity to support a range of users across the development site and neighbourhood.