

Reassemble Again

with Ross Brewin | Monday + Thursday | 3:00 to 6:00pm

Overview:

The Reassemble Again studio is about making architecture by carefully putting existing things together. As the title suggests, it also about the act of taking things apart and putting them back together again. Perhaps in an act of repair or a purposeful desire to recompose something. Perhaps also to simply reuse available parts. And to not use much more than we already have. To assemble is also to bring a group of people together for a common purpose which is also what this site and this studio is about. Ultimately, the studio is about confronting the rampant exploitation of resources in the built environment in the context of the climate emergency. We will learn about ways we can directly respond as designers by reducing, recycling and reusing materials and by designing buildings that can be disassembled for the constituent parts to be reassembled for something else in the future.

Site:

The Reassemble studio forms part of an ongoing collaboration between Monash Architecture and Joseph Norster and Millie Cattlin of These Are The Projects We Do Together at The Quarry, a post-extractive industry site being rehabilitated on the outskirts of the Victorian township of Beech Forest in the Otway Ranges on the traditional lands of the Gadubanud. The studio will complement the series of Design Make projects being undertaken at the quarry by Masters students and will explore possibilities for the consolidation of the existing facilities on the site that include accommodation, ablutions, kitchen, and workshop spaces.

Project:

Students will carefully document the existing facilities and available material stockpile and following a functional brief and drawing on site research, will notionally reassemble these parts into a unified structure that supports the ongoing rehabilitation of the site. This structure will be developed to a high degree of detail in terms of it's proposed material, structural and constructional assembly. Broadening beyond the direct engagement with existing things, the studio will also explore the historical and environmental context of the site to inform compositional decisions, building performance aims and experiential desires.

Model Making:

Students will make scale models using balsa wood in the manner that the proposed building would be constructed. We will use our studio budget towards the cost for the material but students may need to buy additional balsa wood as required.

Site Visit _ Cost:

On the Thursday of Week 2 (March 12th), we will be undertaking an all day site visit to the quarry. The cost for this trip will be \$130 and includes a detailed tour of the site, transport, snacks and a healthy lunch together.