



PORTLANDIA

Masters Studio S1/2023
Fridays, 9:30 - 4:30
Studio Leader: Peter Charles
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VENICE BIENNALE CONTRIBUTION

This studio is part of research that will be part of a contribution to the Venice Biennale. The research has been accepted to the Australian contribution to the Biennale in the open archive. This is a rare opportunity for students to contribute to what is the pinnacle of architecture exhibitions and public dialogue. The theme this year resonates with the Australian pavilion theme of “Unsettling Queenstown”, part of broader “Laboratory for the Future” theme.
<https://www.architecture.com.au/venice-biennale>

The design studio will focus on research into possible alternative futures to Portland in the context of scenarios such as declining employment due to decommissioning the aluminium smelter, or off-grid power, including the adaptive re-use of the Port, Smelter and town infrastructure.

This studio is about urbanism within the context of decline and transition to sustainable futures. Propositions should focus on future tourism, sustainable energy sustainable farming/fishing and ecological symbiosis.

We will deploy strategies from the repertoire of Landscape Urbanism, focussing on the Sieve method, mapping and researching various environmental and anthropological systems, identifying intersections to make hybrid propositions that blend function and scale. We will look at international precedents for adaptive re-use.

IMPORTANT TRAVEL NOTES:

We will go to Portland, Victoria. for a site visit (4.5 hours away) including an over-night stay on week 6, Friday the 7th April.

COSTS: Students should be prepared to spend approximately \$350 for travel, accommodation and food. This trip is designed such that students can then travel individually on the great ocean road during the mid semester break.

CONTRIBUTION:

Selected works from the studio will be published in the Venice Open Archive and associated publications.



Portland, sitting on the Gunditjmara peoples lands, has a relatively new aluminium smelter that is controversial as it uses subsidised electricity, currently provided from the Loy Yang Power station, located 500km away in the La Trobe Valley, Gippsland. The bauxite that is smelted into aluminium is also mined from Gippsland. The energy contract is currently until 2036 and may even be reviewed prior. Presumably, the subsidies are to help prop up the survival of this pivotal town 550km west of Melbourne, which was the first European settlement in Victoria, adding to the fishing industry.



Inujima, Japan. Seirenscho Art Museum by Hiroshi Sambuichi, and Art House by SANAA

Adaptive re-use of industrial plants and local art-house project to create tourism revenue. <https://arquitecturaviva.com/works/pabellones-de-arte-de-inujima-7#lg=1&slide=9>