

DISCOURSE

01 THE AGENCY OF PROCESS

Friday 07
August 6:15pm

Swanston
Academic
Building (SAB)

Building 80,
Level 4,
Room 11

Convenors
Vivian Mitsogianni &
Roland Snooks

Moderator
Vivian Mitsogianni

Panel
Emma Jackson
Roland Snooks
John Doyle
Mark Raggatt

We must never be merely satisfied with the discipline of architecture – we should question it, unravel it and strive to further it. In order to do this, architecture needs to be problematized and judgement must come into question. There must be doubt. If this is the case then we must struggle to develop techniques and tools that will assist in these endeavours.
Vivian Mitsogianni (2015)

We ask - what are the dimensions of silence? What are the materials for memory? What is the ornament for ideas? What is the structure of death?...And how can you design a tower anyway? These questions have material and physical answers.
Mark Raggatt & Tim Pyke (2014)

I'm interested in the capacity of generative systems to negotiate between surface, ornament and structure, in creating an irreducible whole. This inherently blurs the relationship between geometry and its role within architecture, and creates a unique or strange set of characteristics and expressions.
Roland Snooks (2015)

My interest in the strange is not in the overt slap you in the face strange but that dawning threshold where it becomes increasing clear that things are not quite right.
Emma Jackson (2014)

I don't buy into the distinction between observation and the speculative. I'm interested in a projective model of urbanism, where the behaviour of a city is understood through the proliferation of possible futures.
John Doyle (2014)

The Agency of PROCESS will consider the role of process, process-based design approaches (procedural, generative, rule-based) and technique – based explorations in contemporary architectural production.

Experimentation with process and new techniques in architecture are loaded and do not 'merely' contribute to the production of form or novel effects, but can be ways to 'think through' new ideas and possibilities for architecture. These explorations usually strive to generate arrangements, effects or organizational and compositional strategies that might not have been arrived at through other means and to challenge the default conventions of the discipline.

The most interesting explorations with process-based experiments and new techniques are original and loaded – seeking to find something other than what is already known and to challenge our underlying assumptions about what architecture is and what an appropriate response might be in a given situation. Yet, these explorations can sometimes be narrow and constrained by ingrained and inherited assumptions which limit their scope and potential.

This session will speculate on the expanded scope and possibilities of experimentation with process and new techniques at this moment in time, through focused discussion on the existing, diverse as well as new or nascent approaches evident in this architecture school. We will seek to address questions such as; can we overcome the history of process-based design and shape new paths and possibilities – or are we trapped forever by its tropes? What is the point? and Why should we bother?

RMIT Architecture & Urban Design values ideas-led venturous design experimentation and exploration. To be venturous is to be brave and take risks. At RMIT students are asked to articulate the positions contained in their projects, to be critical and assert their interests and future directions. It is important that architectural projects and ideas are situated within wider discussions in the discipline and that propositions are formed that suggest how a contribution can be made to disciplinary, as well as to wider contexts and ideas in the world.

The Architecture & Urban Design Discourse Series will use five themes as catalysts to initiate conversations amongst design studio leaders and reveal their positions, attitudes and propositions. There is a long standing tradition of discourse at RMIT and this series aspires to reveal our collective and diverse concerns and facilitate speculation on how these might contribute to advancing the discipline and the wider terrains that they engage in. If we drill down and look behind the statements made at design studio presentations, what do they explicitly refer to, what do they suggest and what do they lead to?
Vivian Mitsogianni - Deputy Dean Architecture & Urban Design