

UP SCALE THE BRIEF

08/2021



Australian
Institute of
Architects

SONA

UP SCALE THE BRIEF

THEME

WAITING, WATCHING, PASSING, MAKING

A 'contemporary' painting from 1844 that is imbued with layers of classicism whilst making observation on the events of the day; Turner's 'Rain, Steam, and Speed'.

The commentary was related to the arrival of the steam locomotive and inter-city passenger railways.

The broad gauge train relevant to the painting is a firefly class locomotive. The firefly class has names like Cyclops, Achilles, Actaeon, and Orion.

Orion is a constellation named after a hunter. Orion is forever chasing a hare but never catches it.

Orion's three fathers are Neptune, Jupiter, and Apollo, gods of water, air, and fire, respectively.

The painting's classical perspective is interested with the elements, something that the event brief chooses to focus on in its own way.

And whilst much time has passed since Turner's painting, time too passes at transport nodes in our contemporary lives.

INTRODUCTION

In your everyday life doing everyday things you come across everyday moments which are feebly forgotten. These moments could be compounded by the lacklustre built outcomes that occupy them. These moments can add up to represent large amounts of time in your life without even realising it—Upscale 2021 presents you with the opportunity to reimagine these built outcomes into something that could shift the banality of our daily routines.

You will work with a limited number of elements and invest thought into the way that these elements interact with each other and with the people that need them. Your proposal will be thought through in terms of both the human experience of the built outcome and the experience of building the outcome.

The selected sites in some cases appear undernourished and present opportunities for small built outcomes that have civic pride—you as students are well positioned to make these proposals. Whilst there is a public nature to the proposals, there is also thought required of fabrication/construction/assembly which ensures your team engages with the brief at multiple scales.

PROVOCATION

The Australian finish was a rough and ready finish, in factory manufacture as in custom-built furniture and houses. Immigrants from older countries never failed to be surprised and shocked at the rough edges on Australian production...It was said that 'near enough' was Australia's motto...They [tradesmen] (sic) seemed to look upon their own work as transient...

The philosophy of 'near enough' manifest in the buildings, penetrated deep into Australian society. It indicated a distaste for extremes and an impatience with high precision which sometimes served Australia well.

P. 160—161, BOYD 1952

Traits, while they reference past models, are not wed to any particular historical example. Any historical architecture is the product of a temporally specific constellation of forces, conditions, and will.

P. 182, REISER & UMEMOTO 2006

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PROGRAM

Upscale in 2021 would like you to develop human-scale interventions with a strong demonstration of construction/fabrication/assembly. The interventions may update/replace/add to the existing infrastructure/amenity or leverage other opportunities that you identify.

There are three main aspects to the brief that are detailed below (A, B & C)

A

Elements

You will select two elements from list A below. The two elements will be what your group is able to update/replace/add to the site.

LIST A

Canopy/roof

Wall

Ground

Waiting place

Balustrade/rail

Sign/transport
information/ticket
point of sale

Clock

Artificial lighting

B

Site

You will select a site from list B below. These sites are 'anonymous', i.e., their real location is not important for this event.

You have been supplied with various photos only. The supplied images will inform your understanding of the site and be the basis from which you can then translate into drawings.

LIST B

A suburban bus stop,
> [view photos here](#)

A suburban train stop,
> [view photos here](#)

A suburban tram stop.
> [view photos here](#)

C

The selected elements from list A must touch at least at three points/locations.

It is recommended that this relationship is shown at an appropriate detail scale.

With the selected elements and the site, each group will update/replace/add to the existing transport stop. The deployment of the elements may be in pursuit of function, of previously missed opportunity, or something in between. There is no requirement for the proposal to match the size/area of existing infrastructure. You will have to evaluate what is appropriate for the site based on its context. In your proposals it is important to consider the tectonics and construction methods. You should provide drawings at architectural scale to explain the scheme, and at a detail that explain tectonics.

The opportunity for architectural intervention is ripe. Whatever opportunity you wish to design for, interrogate how to construct it and do so with rigour. How would you create the instructions for a trade or craftsperson to construct Hector Guimard's station entrances for instance? These are not play-things made on a whim over breakfast. As such, your efforts should be in spent in the design process knowing that a perfect finished product is not the expected outcome.

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MAQUETTE MODELS

We understand that model making may be challenging in lockdown, but we encourage you to make models out of any available household items. Items that may be useful include cereal boxes, masking tape, foil, toothpicks, paper, etc.

The maquette models are intended to help set the direction for the proposals. Test ideas, assess siting, and consider tectonics. Consider quickly modelling initial ideas and using the models to evaluate which proposal may present the best outcome.

EXCLUSIONS

There is no requirement to investigate or adhere to various state department guidelines or constraints in this project as the focus is on the human experience and construction.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Criterion 1 Response to the Brief | 25%

The design proposal responds to the brief with two elements being used on one of the nominated sites. The two elements touch in at least three points/locations and this is suitably communicated. Evidence of making rich and thoughtful design decisions regarding the relationship between architectural space, the human body, and therefore human experience. Maquette models demonstrate exploration of opportunities.

Criterion 2 Contextual Resolution | 25%

The proposal is well resolved in the site context, skilfully balancing the existing conditions with the proposal.

Criterion 3 Detail Resolution | 25%

The proposal demonstrates attempts at demonstrating detail resolution that indicates an understanding of material properties and tectonics. This has been demonstrated at suitable drawing scales and by any other suitable means. The proposal clearly demonstrates the design logic informed by construction methods.

Criterion 4 Communication and Presentation | 25%

The proposal is clearly communicated in all aspects including visually and orally. The quality of communication is consistent throughout.

NOTE: Participants are not to use work from other submissions (competition, university, etc.). The spirit of this event is for all participants to produce new work.

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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

There are two elements that should be met to be eligible

1. Online Submission
2. Oral Presentation

ONLINE SUBMISSION

Deadline

No later than 4pm (local time).

[SUBMIT HERE](#)

Submission

Maximum of 5 x A3 pages (PDF) online submission to include,

1. Plan at appropriate scale e.g. 1:100, 1:50
2. Detail sections at appropriate scale e.g. 1:20 (showing assembly/construction information)
3. Plan/section detail addressing part c) elements touching at appropriate scale e.g. 1:5
4. Representation of maquette models (photos), and essential concept sketches

For promotion of your work on SONA social media

5. A cover image (size: 1080x1080px) that captures the essence of your proposal. This may be a collage that represents the proposal, an arrangement of the architectural drawings, a single sketch—the choice is that of the group.
6. Maximum 200-word description of the project. This can be arranged to complement the cover image on the same sheet.

ORAL PRESENTATION

Deadline

Presentation order will be random. All teams should be ready to present by 4.30pm (local time)

Requirements

Oral presentation of the scheme for a maximum of 4 minutes. Use the presentation to address the judging criteria.

If judges deem necessary, teams may be asked questions to further clarify the scheme.

Materials from your online submission are the only supporting materials that are acceptable to use to support your presentation.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

Civic prideà see Todd Mall revitalisation | 2013

by Susan Dugdale and Associates

Counter to undernourishedà Triple bridge alternation | 1932

by Jože Plečnik

Atlas of Novel Tectonics | 2006

by Reiser and Umemoto

Australia's Home | 1952

by Robin Boyd

1



2



3

Image 1. > [More Information](#)

Image 2. > [More Information](#)

Image 3. > [More Information](#)
