SONA SUPErstudio '13

refuge of discomfort

"...it is our duty to act as custodians for one of the most remarkable landscapes" Touch This Earth Lightly: Glenn Murcutt in his own words (P.Drew)

brief







Australian Institute of Architects

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PREAMBLE

The SONA SuperStudio 2013 is an opportunity to 'have a go', to engage in a collegiate environment, but most of all, to have fun while flexing your creative muscles!

First and foremost, this competition is about IDEAS.

The title of 'Refuge of Discomfort' is setting up a duality of opposing concepts - of how one can conceive of a proposition that provides succour or comfort, whilst also acknowledging the history/ tension or injustice (particularly towards Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples). Pivotal to this ideas competition is a consideration that Indigenous Australia is neither monolithic or static, it is ever evolving, it is an ancient and lived culture. History is a constant, it is both multifaceted and layered. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander concepts of Country are a transformative connection to place. The essence of this studio is to unpack the complex notion of creating an understated, yet powerful proposition which illicits a depth of meaning. The composition of this studio is a pretext to understanding Australian architecture's own position, preconceptions, prejudices and ignorances in regards to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples. Questions of whether architecture is a colonising device may well surface as part of this competition and there are lessons to be taken away from colonial treatments.

Conceptually, this challenge begs the question: how can we project or allude to identity in a manner which eschews stereotypical, cliched or patronising references in favour of a more nuanced response which embraces complexity?

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CONTEXT

The initial and pivotal decision is to consider locating one's composition. Where is it appropriate and most meaningful to position such a concept? Given the diminishing aspect of the non-consumerist public realm, where might we hinge such a scheme, which addresses dual meaning while offering a path ahead? A meaningful, embracing and inclusive gathering place acknowledging the past and present, is ever elusive. Consider reclaiming prominent space. Here's YOUR chance to conceive such a place!

Of further importance is the consideration of the appropriateness of contestation between public/ private. That is, what is the minimum intervention that can be made, or 'how can we make the ordinary extraordinary', as renowned architect Glenn Murcutt puts it.



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PROCESS Stage I

SUBMISSION

Due: up to 5 hours after commencement, no later than midnight.

Informal peer to peer presentation.

Place selection: provide images, aerial mapping, historical references [Refer to Context (p.3) for issues pertaining to place.]

Using an existing Pinterest account (or create a new one) make a Board titled 'SuperStudio state #'.

Please pin 10 images only.

View other teams Boards by following the national page, SONA SuperStudio 2013.



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PROCESS Stage II

Design a 'refuge of discomfort' based on the information provided, sited in a manner to suit the proposition. The interpretation of the theme, is for the participants to determine, using their own creativity & skills for absorbing detailed information and complex relationships.

Utilise any, all or some of the following:

- conventional architectural drawings (plans, elevations, sections, details)
- 3D representations (digital or physical models, which can be an optional presentation exhibit)
- multi media (including animation, video, sound etc.; mpeg-4, mov and/or avi formats only)

Teams are also required to complete an up to 200 word dissertation outlining both the approach to site & the conceptual framework, in pdf format.

DELIVERABLES

Due: Saturday 3 August, 7pm AEST

Part APart BPart C12 slide pdfAND/ORMulti media filesANDa 200 word dissertation pdfSubmissions are to be uploaded to Dropbox. The exact process will be explained on Friday 2 August at the
opening presentations. Please label your submissions as follows: PartA state #, PartB state #.

All teams will be required to present their idea to the jury. A time limit will be strictly enforced, with a maximum of 4 minutes per presentation and the potential of 4 minutes allowed for questions by the jury.

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ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- 1. creativity
- 2. thematic sensibility
- 3. considered engagement

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Local finalists will receive 10 days to further develop their concepts for national judging.

PRIZES

NATIONAL PRIZE

Return flights to Venice and entry to the Venice Biennale 2014

LOCAL PRIZES

Loads of local prizes including Architext book vouchers

Good luck! 2013 Creative Directors: Aroha Groves, Rueben Berg, Jefa Greenaway + Dillon Kombumerri