

THE
BRIEF

MAY.2021

SUPER-
STUDIO



THEME

Evolving identity

“Identity is never static, always in the making and never made.”
- Anon

“Being a fish out of water is tough but that is how you evolve”
- Kumail Nanjiani

VISION AND HOPE

This year’s vision coincides with the 90th anniversary of the Australian Institute of Architects. As stated by Alice Hampson, the Institute’s National President, “...we’ll be looking back on how Australian architecture has shaped our cities and communities and looking forwards to the bright future for architects and the built environments throughout Australia and beyond. We will reflect on what we’ve learnt, what we’ve come to value and what remains to be done.”.

SONA and the Australian Institute of Architects message for 2021 “the strength to do more” has inspired Superstudio 2021’s vision for enlightened recognition of evolving identity along with empathy and diversity. It is our hope that participants will share stories about personal and community identity and in doing so, grow collective capacity and strength towards doing more for planetary resilience and aligning of conscious practice in advancing architecture education. SuperStudio 2021 challenges participants to engage with the concept of evolving identity that resonates with contemporary Australian Architecture – renown for inventiveness, climate consciousness, essential beauty, resilience, sensitivity to landscape and connection to country. Concepts of evolving identity may speak to an individual, a group and/or a country’s culture, heritage and history in relation to architecture and the built environment in Australia and beyond.

PREAMBLE

Australia is home to the world's oldest continuous cultures, there are Australians among us who identify with more than 270 ancestries. This nation continues to draw immigrants now numbering approximately seven million from across the world. We are a truly diverse nation made up of people with identities connected to First Nations and indigenous heritage, colonial history, and migrant cultures – all in all, a variegated nascent identity. The recently published book by ArchTangle 2020 *Architecture of Coexistence and Building Pluralism* asks how architecture can shape an open-minded and inclusive society. *Architecture of Coexistence* offers a truly interdisciplinary perspective on a very timely subject: “Building pluralism” – which means designing for a respectful inclusion of different cultural needs, practices and traditions. Designing with pluralistic lenses allows us to see culture in detail and perhaps have a view of whether culture shapes architecture or architecture shapes culture. Either way, a dynamic and symbiotic relationship exists that stems from our sense of self, others, and community alongside our sense of belonging to a place or country.

PROVOCATION

When you look outside your window
 You only see what you can see
 You do not see what you cannot see
 Is it because it does not yet exist?
 Or is it because you do not have the lenses to see?
 – Susan Ang

Peter F. Drucker (1909–2005) will tell you, “Don’t predict the future, just look outside the window and see what’s visible but not yet seen”. Although cultural diversity is critical, we also need to consider other forms of diversity including sexuality, gender, age and ageism, religion, disability, geography and so forth. Ideas of interculturality, interconnectivity and intergenerationality are needed to meld architecture thinking within architecture practice.

People

- What does inclusivity mean in architecture?
- Where and how can architecture honour diversity?
- What does social cohesion and community resilience look like in architecture?
- How can we create feelings of identity and belonging while also embracing diversity and evolving identities?

Practice

- How can a nation promote a culture of empathy?
- How can the practice of architecture in the future reflect Australia’s evolving identity and embrace diversity?

Place (country)

- How are cultural identity and diversity shaped by our environments?
- How can architecture for the future reflect and embrace the concept of identity in connection to people and country?

PROGRAM

SuperStudio 2021 would like you to explore a vision of how architecture for the future may reflect the concept of evolving identity in connection to people, practice and country. Reflecting upon self, take the opportunity to rethink the future of education and practice working together and ideas of belonging and unity in diversity.

Participants are to select a community context anywhere in Australia or beyond Australia that portrays a contemporary identity and create a proposition that affords engagement of community + architecture. Begin with creating a framework for your proposition of engagement formed from an identity (LIST A) + an issue of dissention (LIST B) + a spatial context (LIST C) from each of the lists in the table below from which to conceptualise your vision of visual, tangible and spatial identities. The lists are not exhaustive, and participants may discuss adding to the list in discussion with their Mentors.

LIST A	LIST B	LIST C
Identity connected to First Nations and indigenous heritage	Conflict Suspicion Manipulation Suppression	Meditation & reflection Worship Rituals Rehabilitation
Identity connected to colonial history	Depression Isolation Victimization	Learning Sport & Recreation Performing arts & culture
Identity connected to migrant cultures	War Massacre Safety Equity and diversity Children & Youth Aging Freedom Empowerment	Festival & Foods Health & Well being Living Trade & business

We ask you to specifically consider how architecture honours an ancient connection to land. We encourage you to explore using holistic sensory perceptive responses that demonstrate how architecture mediates social and cultural advancement and to explain, express and visualise how a future that affords safety and widens spatial participation of people across all gender, all race, all age and all abilities is envisioned. We challenge you to explore a future that embraces change and bridges differences using design as a force for community empowerment and resilience, and above all speaks to evolving identity in this ancient land.

IMAGES

Ancient Land by Scott Leggo [Photograph]

- <https://www.scottleggo.com/products/ancient-land-uluru-kata-tjuta-national-park-northern-territory?variant=17493799937>

Lost by Federick McCubbin [Painting]

- <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/explore/collection/work/5975/>

A poster advertising migration to Australia by Unknown [Poster]

- <https://collection.maas.museum/object/52927>

These three selected images have been provided to help spark ideas and thoughts as part of the brief. Each of the images, depicts a snippet of one of the frame references from LIST A.

REFERENCES

Cultural Intelligence

- <https://nrev.jp/2021/02/05/cultural-intelligence-the-must-have-skill-for-a-global-workplace/>
- <https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/architectural-community/a2622-10-books-for-culture-and-architecture-that-architects-must-read/>

Diversity and inclusion

- <https://www.di.net/articles/diversity-inclusion-new-approach-needed-avoid-cultural-irrelevance/>

Identity

- <https://www.designindaba.com/articles/creative-work/how-architecture-shapes-national-identity-and-helps-us-understand-history>
- <https://www.designindaba.com/articles/creative-work/somali-architecture-students-are-stitching-back-countrys-built-heritage>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/27/white-australia-chinese-immigration-and-the-story-of-modern-australia-through-one-family>
- <http://www.dl.edi-info.ir/Quest%20for%20Identity.pdf>
- <https://mmv.org.au/>
- <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/education/face-facts-cultural-diversity>
- <https://architangle.com/book/architecture-of-coexistence#:~:text=Architecture%20of%20Coexistence%20offers%20a,needs%2C%20practices%2C%20and%20traditions.>
- <https://www.culturebridge.com.au/research-articles/the-changing-face-of-multicultural-australia>
- http://www.uia2017seoul.org/P/papers/Full_paper/Paper/Poster/P-0901.pdf

Pluralism

- Architecture of Coexistence: Building Pluralism, Edited book by Azra Akšamija, published by ArchTangle 2020.

JUDGING CRITERIA

C1: Response to the brief

The design proposition responds creatively to the theme of evolving identity in the context of people, practice and place in the future.

C2: Design approach

The design proposition adopts a clear and identifiable approach that is applicable to the advancement of education and architecture practice.

C3: Uniqueness and innovation

The design proposition offers a unique and innovative vision to the challenge.

C4: Culture of empathy and narrative

The design proposition promotes a culture of empathy in its design narrative.

C5: Communication and expression of submission components

The design proposition is communicated and expressed with clarity across all its conceptual, visual and written components.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

There are 2 elements to your submission that must be met to be eligible to progress to the national level of judging, these components are: 1. Online submission and, 2. Presentation.

1. Online Submission

Deadline Saturday 15 May 9am AEST

Submit your design project here: <https://forms.gle/3iV8Hoz66HVuDz8A>
(if you have issues with the form please email submission to sona@architecture.com.au)

Online Submission to include:

Design project presented on a maximum of 4 x A3 sheets (portrait or landscape). Sheets are to be saved as a PDF – the content presented in this submission can be whatever your team deems necessary to convey your idea. Keeping in mind this online submission is what the national jury will refer to decide a national winner of SuperStudio.

For National Promotion of your work:

- 2 x Images that best represent your idea
- 200 words (max) Description

2. Presentation

Deadline Saturday 15 May 3pm AEST in your state

Check your state's presentation day information here:

- <https://www.architecture.com.au/sona/superstudio#state>

To be eligible to progress to national level of judging participants should present their proposal to the judges in their state at the Presentation Day on Saturday 15 May.

Those unable to present live

Prerecorded presentation not exceeding 7 mins in length must be submitted with your online submission.

Deadline for prerecorded presentations Saturday 15 May 9am AEST