

Renew [verb]

Resume [an activity] after an interruption.

Give fresh life or strength to.

The social and environmental changes that Australia has faced over the last few months have created interruptions to all aspects of our lives. As students of the built environment it can be difficult to comprehend positivity for our future post disruptive interruptions that have a direct impact to the communities of which we live, work and learn in. Climate change, natural disasters and a global pandemic are examples of such interruptions. We believe that a state of renewal is a way of thinking that can allow us to see positivity during and after these interruptions.

Upscale will allow students to work together to find ways to renew; to resume after an interruption or give fresh life to their communities that have been disrupted during these times. The interruption that Upscale will respond to is specifically the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before COVID-19 the experience of going to the local café and getting a cup of coffee or tea and a snack is an experience not just to provide sustenance - it is an essential social need. The experience provides us with a much needed respite from the stress of the day-to-day, it allows us to (re)connect with family, friends, colleagues, or that cute / friendly barista behind the counter.

During COVID-19, the way our society functions every day has been changed. Even in the most ordinary of circumstances, waiting in line at a café feels like a production line devoid of human interaction. We are told to stand 1.5m apart, creating what seems an insurmountable gap between any spontaneous connections or conversation. We turn our faces away from one another and turn instead to our phones to alleviate boredom while we wait. The local café now feels like a ghost town - one that does not encourage people to stay and just be in the moment.

How can we recreate or reconnect social interactions post-interruption, as these conditions are likely to continue? How can the built form inspire RENEWAL in social human connections during these times?

LOCAL BRIEF

1. The 'Client' Collective

The 'client' is a collective of two community groups: students of the built environment; and the person/stranger standing next to you while waiting at a café.

2. The 'Client' Collective Aims

The client collectives have the following aims to re-capture that quintessential 'café culture' post interruption, and (re)connect with one another in ways we may not have had before / during the interruption. Specifically:

- To engage/interact with the person next to you through a built form.
- To encourage people to stay at a café, have a conversation, relax and be in the moment.

3. Design Brief

The design brief is to create a way to maintain physical distance while waiting at a café that is not socially isolating but encourages human interaction or conversation. You might consider (but are not limited to) the following:

- Something playful,
- Something interactive or collaborative,
- Something meditative,
- Something to distract people from their phones,
- A place to cool down after a workout, and/or
- Something that is abstract or conceptual to make people think or question.

4. Site and Scale

The chosen site is your “local” café at university, somewhere you frequent often throughout the day and are familiar with. It should be a typical café, easily accessible to students and the wider public.

The built form must fit through a standard size doorway.

5. Material

The primary material for Upscale 2020 is TIMBER. The proposal should seek to explore the creative use of a single material, only introducing a secondary material where structurally or experientially necessary (e.g. paint, vegetation, L-brackets, etc). Participants are encouraged to be creative with the wide range of timber-based products that are available. Timber framing members, battens, plywood sheets, softwoods, hardwoods, IKEA cabinets or even sticks from the garden or recycled pallets are all considered acceptable.

If you are looking for a starting point, search ‘timber’ on the Bunnings Warehouse website, and see the 4679 results that show up.

Estimates should be calculated by using online prices per unit, linear meter or m2 of material. Participants need to keep a record of any prices of the materials they are proposing (a simple word document with web links will suffice).

6. Feasibility and Installation

Fixed budget of \$800.

Costs to consider: raw material, transport and fabrication. It will be helpful to utilise the resources provided by the universities (ie. workshops, material supply, tools etc) to reduce the cost of fabrication.

7. Submission Information

Submissions should include two hero images/renders for publication (1080x1080px) and a 100-word statement of intent. Submission should be uploaded pdf/powerpoint, how you express your proposal is flexible – mediums including sketches, drawings, renders, and scale models are encouraged. Students present their idea via Zoom with their submission as a presentation. Presentations should be approximately 5 mins.

3 mins presentation with 2 mins Q & A.

Submissions should include a reasonable estimate of the cost of materials to build the design. Estimates should be calculated by using online prices per linear meter or m2 of material with references to websites/quoted prices. A list of links to where these prices were obtained must also be included in the submission (a simple word document would suffice).

8. Assessment Criteria

Buildability

The construction approach should be feasible for assembly in a workshop; and thus should not implement any intense or complicated methods or construction. The transport and assembly method should be considered, and the final design must be able to fit inside a standard door frame for installation.

Feasibility

The design should fall within a \$800 budget using materials that can be realistically sourced.

Sustainability

Credit will be given to designs that explore the possibility of being recycled, deconstructed and re-erected elsewhere, reimagined or repurposed etc.

Collective Design

The design process and outcome should show efforts of collective design with the community representatives, peers and mentors. The design should meet the needs of the selected community group(s) in an insightful way that adds value to their situation.

Thematic Response [Renew]

The design should insightfully respond to the overarching theme renew; to resume after an interruption or give fresh life to the communities that have been disrupted during these times.

9. Prizes

Build

The most successful (1st place) will receive both the below prizes as well as have their design built 1:1 and be displayed in a suitable location.

Recognition

The three most successful design proposals will all receive recognition utilising the SONA and National Institutemedia platforms. The recognition will showcase the students works and their names, giving students the opportunity to be recognised across the entire professional network.

Free SONA Memberships

All students of the three most successful design proposals will also receive complementary SONA memberships for the following year.

We look forward to seeing your proposals! The only limit is your imagination.