

## Exhibited project descriptions



### Bachelor of Environments Landscape Studio 3 Urban Open Spaces

Tutors: Eiel Sotero, Yan Zhao, Dan Nunan, Aki Hatayama, Mark Skiba, Sidh Sintusingha

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Venue: Tasma Gallery, 4 Parliament Place, East Melbourne VIC 3002

Opening Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 6pm.

#### STUDIO OVERVIEW

We began with Jan Gehl's maxim for urbanists "***First life, then spaces, then buildings – the other way around never works***" and hence the studio placed as much importance in sustaining and enhancing the intangible heritage of Queen Victoria Market, as manifest in its people and activities, as its tangible heritage of the place. Arguably it is this heritage that is most under threat as "***...all around the world open-air markets were closing down, and the Queen Victoria Market might not be there in 50 years if nothing was done***" (Cr Doyle in The Age, April 20, 2013). Yet we can't ignore the very real phenomenon of the fast pace urban intensification in the surrounding area that "***...in the next 20 years the number of people living within 800 metres of Queen Victoria Market will almost double from 67,000 to 128,000***" (City of Melbourne media release 31/10/13). The challenge for the studio was thus to reconcile both processes, to ensure the unique characteristics and vibrancy of the market is meaningfully and robustly embedded and extended within new urban spaces that addresses the evolving needs of the city in the decades to come.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Year multidisciplinary design studio consisted of students from the **landscape architecture** major (represented by Canagaratnam, Carrasco, Li, Jiang, Muller and Scott), **urban design and planning** (McKenna), **architecture** (Fan) and **international exchange** students (De Miranda from Brazil). In the 1<sup>st</sup> assignment, students, in groups, utilized these multidisciplinary knowledge and skills to analyse Queen Victoria Market and its surrounding contexts at multiple scales. They then synthesized the analysis into urban design frameworks that they individually addressed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> assignment (exhibited) with particular focus given to the spaces in and around the car park and Queen Street.

(Dr Sidh Sintusingha, Studio Coordinator)

## **SELECTED PROJECTS**

### ***Community - Culture - Urban Forestry***

**Mary Canagaratnam**

With a robust understanding of the urban context and QVM heritage, Mary focused on the cultural aspects and extended it to fit in with Melbourne's character. Mary adapted and refined the theme based on her group's framework, "People, Produce, Productivity & Prosperity", into the three key objectives – "Culture, Community & Urban Forestry". Based on the deconstruction of the spatial configuration of QVM and the surrounding contexts, the design translates this into a new composition of program and functionality. This is grounded in a realistic proposition in terms of the integration of each space and the multifunctional urban settings/elements, such as the "Art Gallery" within "Urban Forestry Walk Trail", "Stage Platform" within "Community Edible Garden" and "Custom Bicycle Park" as outdoor seating structure.

### ***Shop local, Shop traditional, Shop Melbourne***

**Gabrielle Carrasco**

Gabrielle's concept was based on the idea of shopping locally, buying seasonally and encouraging Melbourne's exclusive small businesses to work towards a self-sustainable community. Through utilising the QVM for its primary purpose of providing fresh and local produce, the design expand on the 'relic' and use the market to truly showcase Melbourne's character, where stakeholders/users can experience the economic and environmental benefits simultaneously.

The design also bridged Queen Street's disconnection created. The landscape works as a street market, providing a natural, open space that contrasts to the rest of Melbourne's consolidated environment. With sheds displaying various architectural styles of Melbourne and the Burle Marx's inspired landscaping; Queen Victoria Street Market envisions a constantly evolving reflection of Melbourne.

### ***Avocado Lane***

**Gabriela De Miranda**

Avocado Lane is a dynamic link from Peel Street through to Queen and Therry streets towards the city. It provides an intimate space for visitors and locals to gather and experience a strong sense of 'Melbourne' mixed with QVM culture and character. The wooden element flows through the space rising and falling, acting as a seat, table, fence, gateway at various points. This provides interesting experiences for commuters as well as visitors who choose to stay and drink or eat at one of the many cafés, to enjoy the intimacy in the laneway and watch the hustle and bustle of the markets nearby.

## ***Queen Victoria Market Future Landscape Development***

Ruo Fan

The bold strategy of the project is to completely pedestrianize Peel and Franklyn streets between north of William Street to Dudley Street. Ruo observed that current vehicular traffic on Franklyn Street between Peel and Queen streets can be redirected by making A'Beckett Street into one-way road, which allows traffic to flow from South Queen Street into Franklin Street east of Queen Street and eventually merge into the Elizabeth Street. The proposal removed the existing round-about and triangle – that are awkward and accident hazards especially for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers – and replaced it with a tram super-stop that creates strong links between “QVM plaza” (former car park) and Flagstaff Gardens. The tram stop’s light roofing structure adds a visual focus and provides a comfortable enclosure. This new urban node acts as starting point or destination of the wide pedestrian promenade that directly connects from Victoria Street through Queen Street and embraces the QVM Plaza, now intensely appropriated by pedestrians and cyclists.

## ***Slow Shed***

Laisze Jessica Li

Through a bold intervention, Laisze managed to weave two seemingly opposing concepts into her market proposal; the ‘Slow Food’ movement and ‘Fast Technology’. Her first bold move is to continue to unfold the existing shed structure into the carpark space, linking the heritage market with the new “5 Senses” market. Utilising ‘Tactical Urbanist’ typologies, such as the readily available shipping container, Laisze has transformed the now redundant parking spaces into an out-of-the-box-ready public market that can be realised over a number of stages. The *Slow Shed* demonstrates a restrained addition to the site that adds value through clever strategic thinking and an intuitive understanding of the way we will live in the near future.

## ***Community Park***

Jasmina McKenna

The existing carpark at Queen Victoria Market is an underutilized and underperforming space. There is great potential to turn the QVM into a true community hub, by expanding the uses at the markets, turning the existing sheds into community facilities and developing the existing car park into public open space. The *Community Park* provides a space for local residents and visitors of all ages to gather, live and play. The design proposes a park that references the history and character of the QVM through architectural forms and use of materials.

## **Nature-Culture: A Park for QVM**

Mengying Jiang

Great urban spaces embrace diverse users and uses. In a nod to the existing rich cultural life of the market and that evolving in the surrounding precinct, Jiang has developed an urban playground for all of Melbourne to enjoy. With a refreshing playful sensibility in a serious world, Jiang has banished the monotony of car park bitumen in favour of the delights of a lush park that is part-botanical/urban plaza/adventure playground (and not just for children). A grand maze forms a loose organising device, creating pockets for passive and active activities that comfortably sit apart but is connected to the whole. Key pedestrian desire lines are overlayed for those wishing to cruise through the park in a hurry, but why would you when you can follow the garden path into a land of whimsy?

## **Wominjeka**

Catherine Muller

Catherine's proposition transforms QVM carpark into a new green space. She envisions a space in 2040, where the objectives of Reconciliation have been significantly advanced. The design boldly and meaningfully acknowledges, celebrates and provides centrality to Melbourne's Aboriginal heritage, invisible in the city's urban history and spaces. At a broader scale, the new space deftly weaves Aboriginal narratives into the conceived "circle walk" that links the city's historical green spaces such as the adjacent Flagstaff Gardens, Carlton Gardens, Treasury, Birrarung Marr etc. At the local scale, through the "Bush Food Garden", the design 'updates', enriches and enhances Victoria Market's significant role in the city's food history and heritage.

## **City North Plaza**

Emily Scott

The grand urban plaza: the confluence of city life at the heart of the metropolis. As the centre of town progressively marches beyond the bounds of the Hoddle Grid, the Queen Victoria Market is well placed to be the 'Federation Square of the north', around which the burgeoning City North precinct pulsates.

Emily's work has seized the opportunity to redevelop the underutilised market carpark into an expansive urban plaza that acknowledges the cemetery underneath by being free of structures that require deep footings. The space caters for a multitude of users and uses. It is a place to see and be seen; a green oasis to take refuge from the bustle of the market and street; a gathering point for events, concerts, protests. Utilising local stone and native vegetation, it embraces its place and celebrates the city for which it serves.