The Architecture Et cetera Lab invites creative professionals to engage with issues related to the residential habitat in the course of COVID-19 imposed self-isolation measures.
The City to You Think Tank seeks to compile creative responses to the COVID-19 imposed self-isolation measures currently affecting the world at large. It seeks to open-up a multi-disciplinary conversation about the issues related to the residential built environment of our homes, particularly in relation to the building envelope and the notion of bringing the city to the individual. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the lives of many to varying degrees. One of the most common effects of COVID-19 has been the need to self-isolate and the consequential limitation on the performance of everyday activities which punctuate life. This crisis has put, consequently, the home in the spotlight. Homes, in fact, are undergoing a dramatic shift in their role of providing their inhabitants with the space needed to perform an array of functions which surpasses the privacy of the domestic walls. An increasing number of videos depict balconies and windows as tools to support the civic life of communities stranded in their homes and the consequent flourishing of critical pieces reflecting on the role of the balcony (from specialised publications such as Domus and Detail to more general press like The New York Times and The Guardian) in supporting the investigation of the residential space with a new lens. The proposed project offers the opportunity to reflect critically on how the residential domain is occupied and inhabited and what can be considered essential moving forward. The study is not limited to the investigation of balconies. Yet, a more systematic approach is put forth where the residential unit is dissected and studied in its layers: rooms, ancillary objects and spaces, and envelope.

The broader aim of The City to You Think Tank is to learn from current circumstances and make tangible contributions for future residential built environments that allow for new ways of living, working and recreation post COVID-19. The Think Tank has the aspiration to investigate two fundamental aspects showcased by self-isolation.

1. **Personal and psychological wellbeing**
   The first aspect is the dichotomy presented by the need of containing a virus and overcoming the adverse impact that reclusion/confine has on the mental health of individuals. We seek proposals that aim to address this conundrum via the analysis and testing of architectural proposals and experimentations of alternative conceptualisations for the residential envelope. Currently conceived as a definitive barrier, how can the envelope be transformed to allow contact and interaction? How can the envelope become a limen? In English limen is often translated as threshold. However, the Latin word does not just indicate a border, but on the contrary, indicates the possibility of trespassing, penetrating a newly conquered (or yet to be conquered) territory. This definition has an embedded fluidity that is key to addressing our current situation.

2. **The fulfilment of communitarian and social life**
   A second aspect pivots around how and what elements of a communitarian life can be recreated and re-proposed within the individual residential dwelling/unit. In other words, how can the infrastructures and networks of a city (social, cultural, political etc) be brought to the individual to allow for the performance of a communitarian and social life?
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

This is a call for proposals to be included in The City to You Think Tank. We seek proposals for design works to be presented at a Round Table Event co-ordinated by the Architecture Et cetera Lab (Griffith University) and the Design Institute of Australia and further disseminated through a professional design publication.

Possible areas of engagement include, but are not limited to, propositions and provocations for:

- Envelope/ Boundary/ Limen Infrastructure in Dwelling/ Unit Inhabited walls
- Furniture/ Apparatus Unexpected Experiences Different Atmospheres
- Utopia and Heterotopia as methods of investigation

FORMAT

The Think Tank encourages the use of creative formats. We invite contributions in a range of formats such as:

- Drawing/s
- Narrative writing (max 1500 words)
- Physical Models (photographed and laid out)
- Photograph/ Image Essay
- Video/ Sound Recording

SUMISSIONS

Submission deadline – Friday, 28th August 2020 11:00 pm
Entries can be made via the Architecture Et cetera Lab website https://www.aeclab.com.au/events/thecitytoyou

ELIGIBILITY

Design practitioners, theorists, academics, artists and other built environment professionals are invited to submit. Students of these disciplines are also eligible.

Any questions related to the City to You Think Tank can be directed to hello@aecl.com.au

CONDITIONS

By making a submission to the City to You Think Tank, the applicant gives permission to exhibit, promote or publish any or all of the entries thereby absolving the Organiser from any liability relating to confidentiality, intellectual property or copyright issues that may be raised by any party. If the entry is used for promotional purposes the Organisers will endeavour to promote the name of the author and other contributors such as photographers will be acknowledged. All entrants must be prepared to edit their work for exhibition or publication purposes if required. The Organiser holds the right to reproduce materials in part or whole without payment of release or licencing fees to the holder of the publication rights or copyright.

SCAN TO ENTER
ORGANISERS

Architecture Et cetera Lab (AEcL) is a practice-based research initiative established in 2020.

The AEcL provides a productive forum for the overlap of academia and architectural practice via the production of practice-based research and ensures that the lab’s research and skills become widely accessible and practically usable.

Cecilia Bischeri

Cecilia investigates the pressing issue of community resilience against natural disasters and social stressors.

Her research work has been published nationally and internationally and she exhibited her creative work on several occasions in Italy and China.

Zuzana Kovar

Zuzana’s research focuses on the relations within and between bodies and spaces drawing on the philosophy of Julia Kristeva and process philosophers such as Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari.

She is interested in the notion of bodily boundaries and more broadly the conversations around bodies and spaces within the fields of architecture, philosophy, art and film. She teaches design and contemporary theory and is co-director of Zuzana & Nicholas Architects.

Jessica Harris

As well as teaching design, representation and architectural history Jessica’s other areas of interest include: temporary architectural installation, material practices and making, and progressive pedagogical and practice methods.

Jessica works for Seven Mile Architects and is director of furniture design practice Metopē Studio.
RESEARCH

AEcL

ARCHITECT
ET CETERA

IN REALITY

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