



Australian
Institute of
Architects

SONA upscale_

Renew2020
#SONAupscale

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.

Due to the pandemic, we are all experiencing a different way of working and collaborating within our studio and learning spaces. It is sure to be apparent how different our connections that manifest within these environments are to be coming out into the Northern Territories "new normal".

Amidst these changes, the evolution to this new sense of normality will provide many road blocks for us as a community collective as we urge to redeem our sense of identity and belonging within our old routines. But, how do we make sure we are fostering meaningful interactions and connections within these spaces, that we hold so much value for? We need to inspire our spaces with the forward thinking and innovation that works to influence, engage and renew these interactions.

LOCAL BRIEF

1. The 'Client' Collective

The 'client' is a collective of two community groups - The client is a collective of students of the built environment and the lecturers that inspire and contribute to your learning experience.

2. The 'Client' Collective Aims

Our studio space is an environment that fosters creativity and collaboration among people. Studio spaces allow students to develop ideas with peers, lecturers, and mentors, as well as creating long-lasting relationships that become the starting point from which individual careers branch and inspire from. The lack of a studio environment limits us greatly, and it is easy to see what we are lacking.

3. Design Brief

The design of the intervention must encourage and inspire meaningful interaction between students, their peers, and their mentors/lecturers. The intervention must foster a strong studio culture where students collectively become more eager to work on their designs, hone their skills, and engage with the larger design community. The intervention must also allude to Darwin's identity within the understanding of what makes Darwin unique.

4. Site and Scale

The site can be any studio area in University or in a workplace in the Northern Territory. The site must be accessible to students, lecturers, and mentors. The intervention does not have to be site-specific as it could be inside or outside within the vicinity of these designated areas.

The built form must fit through a standard size door.

5. Material

The primary material for Upscale 2020 is TIMBER. The proposals 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 get 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 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, lineal 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. Although there is this budget, the budget should not lead the design, allowing concern for the use of recycled materials.

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 lineal 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. The design should respond to the locality of the Darwin community within cultural, climate and pastimes recognition.

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 Institute media 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.