

CAPITheticAL

BIG IDEAS. BIG FUTURE.

A design ideas competition for a hypothetical Australian capital city.

STUDENT PRIZE - \$3000

PROJECT NAME: proto:CAPITAL

TEAM MEMBER NAMES

Annabel Koeck

Kate Dickinson

DESCRIPTION OF ENTRY

The role of a capital city or polis has changed over centuries and will evolve into the future. Its form has continually aspired to be the most successful city form, often in isolation from the nation it represents. However, a more relevant view of the city is not as a construct striving for its own perfection, but as a tool, used instead for the progress of a much larger whole. In this way, and in a Platonic sense, the Capital gives itself to the nation's cities and population.

Today Canberra's sense of place is lost as it tries to be a 'normal' city and deny its 'Capital' role. While it was born as a young green political seat its relevance to a virtually connected population is waning.

Canberra's new role as a capital will be to embody the nation's primary concerns and be a point of difference as a kind of laboratory for the nation, continually providing a way forward. The capital will not just be dealing with the now, but also the possibilities of the future. Australians have lost a confidence in their ability to grow. To accept a manageable population growth, they will need confidence restored in their continent's and capital's abilities to lead us into a sustainable future.

This project proposes that Canberra will be an experimental ground for a new city paradigm. This is inherently suggestive of its role as a prototype. The role of a prototype is to test a concept or process, to be later replicated or learnt from. The role of Canberra as the nation's prototype will give it the tools to be a 'great' city. It becomes more of itself through the amplification of its potential, while also giving the city a contemporary relevance to the rest of the nation. The prototype may have a short or long lifespan, it may be small and intricate or large and territorial. It is not static, but instead constantly reforms itself. If *any* city were to take on this role, it should be our Capital.

This transient city, a network of parts, will build a landscape of knowledge and experimental practice.

TEAM BIOGRAPHY

We are both born and bred in Sydney and are graduates from the Masters of Architecture at University of Sydney. Prior to this we both completed the Bachelor of Design in Architecture.

Although we attended the same high school we did not know each other until our Architecture worlds collided at university. We have since travelled parts of Europe together and have worked on a number of varied projects together ranging from public art to digital design. As a pair our differences in thinking and processing help balance our team work, while our similarities ground our projects.



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Each of us has worked consistently at Architecture firms throughout our university studies and since graduating. Annabel has previously worked extensively in high-end residential projects and urban design, and is currently working on hospitality projects. Kate has previously worked extensively in urban design, commercial and housing projects, and is currently working on a large scale health project.

For us, this brief offered the ultimate hypothetical project, within a context close to home. Our interest is in how the role of capital has changed significantly over the course of the 20th century. The capital city should no longer aspire to be the most successful city form, often in isolation from the nation it represents. A more relevant view of the city is not as a construct striving for its own perfection or success, but as a tool, used instead for the progress of a much larger whole. In this way the Capital, in a platonic sense, gives itself to the nation's cities, and population.

The key to a great capital city: "A landscape of National Knowledge."

