Assessment brief: the terminus

The Melbourne Docklands re-development exemplifies the city’s interest in engaging with the Yarra River. The development is set to become a waterfront destination for an estimated 20 million visitors each year, home for 15,000 people and a workplace for 20,000.

The public transport connections between the Central Business District and the Docklands redevelopment are still in embryonic stage and will be moulded as needs arise in tune with development. This transport infrastructure will be important to the potentially symbiotic relationship between the CBD and Docklands precincts.

This studio will engage the newly installed ferry system that travels from Federation Square to New Quay, connecting the city to Docklands. Students will be asked to orchestrate the ferry journey through a series of exercises in mapping and design.

The task
There are four parts to the task.

1. Journey

Students will be divided into groups and asked to document the ferry journey from Federation Square to Dockland’s New Quay.

2. Terminal

Part 1 – Each student will be given a particular site in the vicinity of or adjacent to the ferry stops analysed in the journey. Students will map and record these areas and propose a site to operate within.
Part 2 – The focus of the investigation will be two-fold: to develop a ferry terminal with ancillary programs (as proposed by the student) that engages in a direct way with the river, its adjacencies and the larger context in which it is found, and to develop the ferry terminal as a fragment of the larger whole, understood in its totality only when these fragments are experienced as part of an itinerary.

3. String of terminals

Having developed the ferry terminals as fragments of a larger whole, the studio will focus on the connection between these fragments. The work will be analysed as a journey, through its temporal qualities. We will investigate the spatial implications of a work that is revealed and experienced sequentially. Various river typologies will be analysed. The studio will build a site model of the Yarra River that houses the itinerary of ferry terminals.

4. Bridge

The final project is seen as a culmination of the preceding investigations. Students will be asked to design a bridge connecting the terminal to other parts of the city. This must include three public/commercial spaces – an exhibition space, a small restaurant/café, and a commercial space. Students will take cues from and progress the spatial lexicon developed in the preliminary schemes.