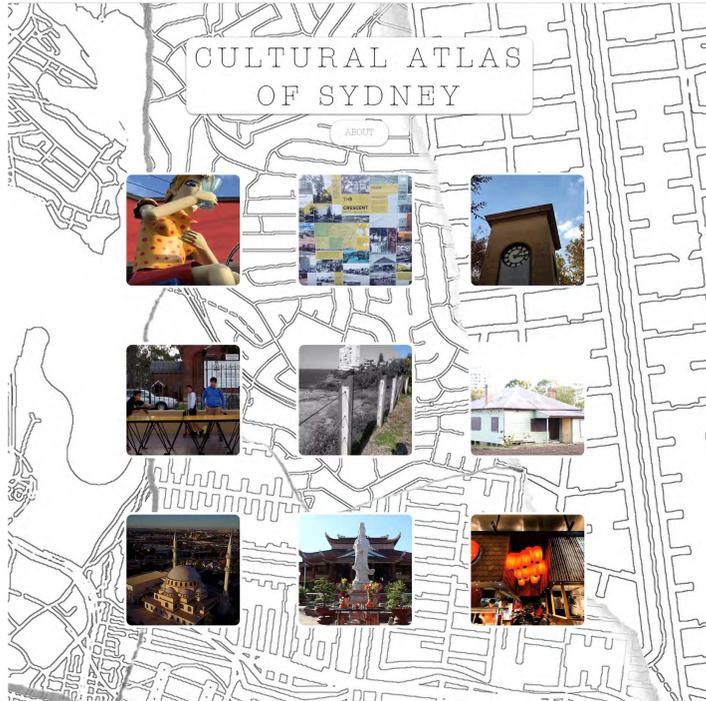

Learning & Teaching Showcase 2017

Built Environment Course Design Competition

ARCH7216 Designing Diversity: Architecture and Urbanism in a Multicultural Context

Dijana Alic



Built Environment

About the Course

'Designing Diversity' provides students with the skills to interpret relationships between urban spaces and specific cultural practices and patterns of habitation. Exploring interpretative techniques and visual methodologies, students develop their own understandings of the interconnections between built fabric and the individuals and communities for whom cities are created. Through numerous text analyses and the exploration of a variety of modes of visualisation, students investigate the many layers of diverse contemporary Sydney.

Outcomes

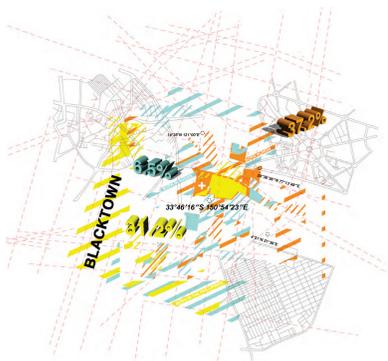
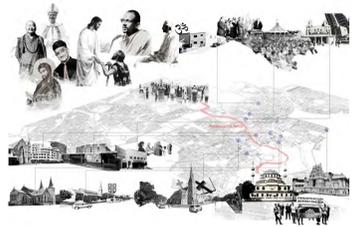
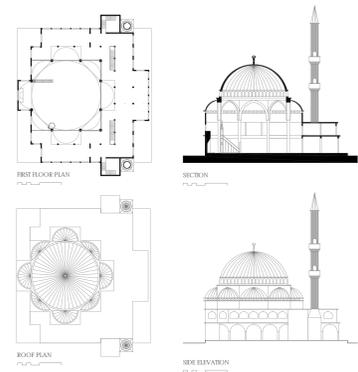
The employment of online tools and resources facilitated a productive dialogue throughout the duration of the course, rather than a traditional 'one-way' mode of teaching. Online spaces promoted a collaborative atmosphere where students gained a greater awareness of the work of their peers and the expectations of the course. The cumulative and collaborative nature of the work of the course is articulated in the end product of the final assignment, an online 'Cultural Atlas'. This webpage, updated in subsequent years as other submissions are added, becomes a record of the combined efforts of students as well as a resource on the suburbs and visual methods developed.

Redesign Aims

'Designing Diversity' moves away from a traditional content and lecture focus towards facilitating multiple opportunities for independent student learning and investigation, allowing personal trajectories through the course, and freeing face-to-face time for group discussion and collaboration. The course aims to encourage active and persistent student engagement throughout the course's duration (rather than engagement and effort heavily concentrated around major assessment tasks) and allow students to pursue their own unique avenues of investigation.

Approach

The course utilises existing online tools ('Moodle') to facilitate a 'blended' online delivery of course content. Small but frequent online tasks and feedback, libraries of production resources and exemplar material, and supplementary online workshops promote ongoing engagement, prepare students for assessment tasks, and equip them with skills necessary for them to pursue and explore individual techniques of analysis and producing visual material. Additional online tools, a website, collates student work.



Further Information:
Dijana Alic: d.alic@unsw.edu.au

