About the Course
The Course is designed to give students an understanding of the principles, formalities and cultural continuities of architecture and urban design in Asia.

Redesign Aims
This proposal aims to introduce representational space as an interactive yet un intrusive tool. There exists limited engagement to cultural ‘entertainment’ through photo and film, but these are often insufficiently spatially and contextually accurate. The ‘GIF’ is a proposed tool to replace representational space in the GIF (Graphics Interchange Format). Although an obsolete format, its spatial and pedagogical possibilities offer a tool that can be explored.

Approach
The objective is an immersive educational experience analysing Japanese urban phenomena within the Kyoto-Nara corridor. The entry point will be a virtual tour of the region. Areas of its blended learning exploration are:
1. Trial of immersive space examples within the lecture environment.
2. Creation of blended online lecture/tour experience.
3. Possible inter-university and social media space for students.

Outcomes
Outcomes of this blended learning exploration are:
1. Trial of immersive space examples within the lecture environment.
a. GIFs were introduced to some lectures.
b. The students final assessment, explored Sydney from an Asian spatial reference point using GIFs as their medium, with some amazingly informative results.
2. Creation of blended online lecture/tour experience.
a. Discussions were opened with the Japan Foundation for matching funds to implement a Japanese Design course at UNSW. Enthusiasm remains to follow this, with a UNSW course commitment.
b. Kansai GIF creation. Saul travelled to Osaka, Nara, Kyoto and Ise and shot GIFs for use within a blended lecture tour.
c. The “GIF” approach to spatial representation and education was thoroughly investigated in a paper called “Kansai Re Movement: ‘GIF’ as a tool for representing architectural space” presented to CAMEA at the University of Adelaide. Now a publishing proposal for Kyoto Journal.
3. Possible inter-university tour and social media space for students.
   a. As part of the Kyoto tour “GIF” investigations, approaches were made to Nara Architects, Academics at Kyoto Institute of Technology, Editors at Kyoto Journal and professional Kansai Tour operators all of which expressed positive interest.
   b. While the “GIF” space/educational tool experiment can now be judged a success, its full integration into an online lecture tour is yet to be closed but promises to be more successful.

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