



## MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

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### Melbourne Design Week: *A New Normal* exhibition

Melbourne Design Week City Hub at 130 Lt Collins Street, Melbourne | 26 March – 3 April | FREE



**26 March 2021:** From an arresting solar-panelled roof top pavilion by John Wardle Architects to a bespoke, energy-producing greenhouse designed by Ha, *A New Normal* is an exhibition featuring fifteen installations by leading Australian architects and designers that challenges Melbourne to become an entirely self-sufficient city by 2030.

Presented as part of Melbourne Design Week, the immersive exhibition takes place on the roof top of a repurposed office building in Melbourne's CBD and features prototypes, concepts and designs for large-scale, real-world projects that could create "a new normal" for

Melbourne, including sustainable energy production, electrifying vehicles and recycling waste.

Drawing on exemplary case studies and scientific research, as well as empirical evidence of the Melbourne's consumption of resources, the fifteen installations present responses to or solutions for Melbourne's transformation from a consumer of resources into a sustainable producer.

Curated by Finding Infinity, an organisation dedicated to creating sustainable cities through design and creativity, with support from Thomas Supple, the exhibition is complemented by a series of talks, programs and live-streamed events throughout Design Week.

Highlights from the fifteen installations include an architecturally designed rooftop pavilion fitted with solar panels by John Wardle Architects, which marries Melbourne's love of roof top experiences with the need to generate green energy; a greenhouse by Ha that shows the ways in which land can be used for both agriculture and solar energy production; and a project by WOWOWA that demonstrates how the heat produced by decomposing waste can be used to warm Melbourne's swimming pools, spas and saunas.

Rt Hon Sally Capp, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, said: '*A New Normal* brings together all levels of government, innovative companies and Melburnians to discuss ideas and projects that could help to create a more sustainable and healthy city, while developing a plan to attract new industries and jobs to our city'.

'The economic and environmental challenges we face are significant but Melbourne has a history of being a world leader in sustainability and entrepreneurship. We need to harness both these traits to reboot our city post-COVID and ensure we remain one of the world's most liveable cities for years to come.' the Lord Mayor said.

Tony Ellwood AM, Director of the National Gallery of Victoria, said: 'This exciting exhibition offers a platform for leading Australian architectural and design practices to share their vision for our city's transition to renewables and economic recovery. Melbourne Design Week presents the first opportunity to the public to engage with these ground-breaking ideas, which are part of an ongoing, large-scale research project that will have a transformative real-world impact on our city.'

Ross Harding, Principal, Finding Infinity, said: 'We can transform our city to run on resources that will never run out, and profit from the transition. These projects offer possible ways to achieve this future by integrating the physical infrastructure that makes our city function with the cultural infrastructure that enables it to thrive.'

*A New Normal* is presented as part of Melbourne Design Week, Australia's leading annual international design event. Presented by Creative Victoria in partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria, and now in its fifth consecutive year, the festival features 11 days of more than 300 exhibitions, talks, films, tours and workshops across Victoria and online exploring the theme 'design the world you want'.

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Full list of fifteen projects on display at *A New Normal* include:

1. [Grimshaw](#) x [Greenshoot](#) x [Greenaway Architects](#)  
*Electric Car Conversions*  
Highlighting the process of electrifying existing cars, a live-streamed conversion will be broadcast on the roof top of the Melbourne Design Week City Hub. Taking place at an electrified vehicle 'pit stop', a place where cars are converted and charged, and their spare parts repurposed and recycled, the project aims to connect people to the process of electrifying existing cars and the benefits to our city.
2. [Foolscap Studio](#)  
*Upgrading the Train*  
As part of their investigation into an electric interstate railway system, Foolscap Studio present possibilities for the future lives of the decommissioned diesel-powered carriages. Through an exhibit comprising an electrified beverage trolley, this project highlights the ways in which old carriages can be stripped down to their shell, before being repurposed as mobile food and beverage destinations, including a café, restaurant, bar, lounge, co-working facilities and sleeper cars.
3. [Hassell](#)  
*Multi-level car park battery bank*  
In this project, Hassell showcase their plans to take an existing multilevel car park in Little Collins Street and alter its purpose, becoming a home for electric cars and the batteries from which are linked together to store and discharge the energy for the city.
4. [Clare Cousins Architects](#)  
*Southbank Apartments Car Park*  
This project presents the ways in which existing exposed carparks can be converted into electrified building stock with minimal demolition and by utilising a building podium's existing structure. These reclaimed spaces are programmed with the much-needed community facilities, including a basketball court, a coworking space, or a ground floor market.
5. [Fender Katsalidis](#)  
*Retrofitting Existing Buildings*  
This project demonstrates the ways in which existing homes can be retrofitted to become Passive Houses, including through the replacement of inefficient glazing, seal gaps and add appropriate insulation to protect the indoor environments from external extremes.
6. [John Wardle Architects](#)  
*Melbourne's Rooftops*  
In Melbourne, there is a culture of converting unused rooftops to thriving venues. This new solar architecture takes the form of a rooftop module that is made of simple solar panel components assembled into a tentlike form. The pavilion could be added to existing buildings and thus creating new place for Melbournians to experience.
7. [Ha](#)  
*Welcome to the Valley of the Sun*

A roof top greenhouse showcases the ways in which agricultural land can be harmoniously used for both food production and energy production through solar farms. The display is part of a wider initiative that proposes the Latrobe Valley as a site for 'solar agriculture' industry that could provide 50% of Greater Melbourne's power.

8. [Openwork](#)

*MCG*

Clouds of cooling mist and cans of water irreverently labelled as sewer water highlight Openwork's ambitious plan to normalise the treatment of wastewater to a drinkable standard in Melbourne. The project is a version of a larger pilot project for the MCG, where a system under the bleachers collects untreated water from the roof and plazas and then filtered through a series of pipes and tanks in the void space under the concrete seating bleachers.

9. [NMBW](#)

*Middle Ring*

This project envisions an alternative use for cul-de-sac roads, where property owners negotiate to close their no-through road to everyday traffic and install a shared carport at the entrance of the street. This simple act frees up the road for other use, including cultural and environmental production such as parklands or gardens.

10. [WOWOWA](#)

*Swimming Pools Across Melbourne*

This project proposes the use of collected waste to heat Melbourne's swimming pools, saunas and spas. 10 tonnes of food waste is collected each day from the surrounding food and beverage businesses and then a specially designed tower converts this waste into biogas, a process which generates heat. The tower also produces a nutrient-rich fertiliser to feed an expanding landscape of plants growing in and around the pool and in the adjacent park.

11. [Six Degrees Architects](#)

*Queen Victoria Market*

This proposal looks at how the significant organic waste generated at Victoria Markets can be turned into energy through the gas generated through the use of an anaerobic digester. The methane produced by the digested waste will provide energy, through a gas engine, to power a moonlight cinema for Melbourne City Council's proposed new park atop the existing market carpark.

12. [Dreamer](#)

*Replace Me*

As part of their investigation into zero waste futures, Dreamer have created a retrospective gallery space, Replace Me, that celebrates the beauty and value of the discarded. The gallery's permanent collection will comprise a series of "cores" – tubes of solid landfill waste drilled and extracted from extinct landfill sites across Melbourne – which artists can use to create contemporary works of art.

13. [Edition Office](#)

*The Cathedral of Circularity*

Drawing attention to ideas around the Circular Economy, in which all materials are repurposed or recycled, Edition Office have created a special pigment from recycled bricks, which they have used to paint items of furniture. The installation evokes their vision for a 'Cathedral of repair', where tech and machinery of all types are archived, pulled apart, sorted for parts or where people can bring anything from a toaster to a state of the art road bike for repairs.

14. [Kennedy Nolan](#)

*An Apartment Building at Docklands*

This project highlights the ways in which building infrastructure can be utilised to make it sustainable, efficient and operationally cost-effective, including through the use of solar panels as cladding operate buildings on the power of the sun.

15. [Fieldwork](#)

*Carbon Neutral Construction*

This project highlights sustainable construction techniques, including building with mass timber. Products such as Cross Laminated Timber and Glulam - which are already being manufactured in Australia - are a more sustainable alternative to concrete and steel, due to their renewability, reduced carbon impacts, and carbon sequestration. Combined with a highly efficient envelope, reduced glazing and solar shading the buildings embodied and operational energy can be reduced drastically.

Melbourne Design Week runs from 26 March to 5 April 2021. Explore the full program online at [designweek.melbourne](https://designweek.melbourne).

The NGV Department of Contemporary Design and Architecture is generously supported by The Hugh D. T. Williamson Foundation.

[designweek.melbourne](https://designweek.melbourne)

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Image caption: Render of the Solar Pavilion by John Wardle Architects in collaboration with Ash Keating Studio & Openwork Studio. Render: John Wardle Architects

**A New Normal images:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4pmuzn501l82at9/AAAsUvb8xg\\_VSneaiM2DgRola?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4pmuzn501l82at9/AAAsUvb8xg_VSneaiM2DgRola?dl=0)

**Melbourne Design Week images:** [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/70vv1pkz3kwfixq/AADFxRG-G2\\_O29tlYv34\\_Pz5a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/70vv1pkz3kwfixq/AADFxRG-G2_O29tlYv34_Pz5a?dl=0)

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