FESTA 2016
CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND
“THE TRANSITIONAL CITY: CONTINUAL RENEWAL”

OFFSHORE STUDIO 2016
INITIAL BRIEFING
DR JULIAN WORRALL
24 MARCH 2016

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT
FESTA is a biennial architecture and city-making festival, held in Christchurch, New Zealand.

This year it will be held 21-24 October 2016.
FESTA was initially a response to the drastic consequences of a major natural disaster. Between 2011-2013 around 70-80% of Christchurch’s central city was demolished after a series of large earthquakes in 2010-11. The first three major FESTA events (LUXCITY 2012, Canterbury Tales 2013, CityUps 2014) have been a response to the devastation in the central city, the missing urban fabric and lack of urban intensity and density. The central purpose has been to bring the wider community into the city to experience a new temporary city and stimulate their interest and action in urban matters.
FESTA has one major event in the Festival programme, alongside a range of smaller, local projects. The major collaborative project brings together between 8-16 tertiary studios from 4-5 universities in NZ and Australia. Each studio designs and builds 1:1 fabrications which form the core physical installations of the event. To date these installations have been produced at an urban scale – creating individual projects between 2 to 40m high and between 10-200sqm in area, installed over 2-3 city blocks. This isn’t an ‘exhibition’ of student work – but rather a temporary city the public are invited to occupy and activate (usually for one night – although we have tried extending it to two nights).

Each studio is matched with a local ‘client’ who occupies the space in and around the installation. This changes each year, but in the past has included a mix of performers (theatre, music, circo arts), all-ages dance venues, cafes, bars, markets, fashion show, dance hall for audience participation, street games, hairdressers and so on. We blend the event into the city fabric and, although we do close and occupy streets, the event is not fenced off from the rest of the city. It is free to attend (although performances, events or services within the larger event may incur a cost or request for donation).
“In 2016, we will use the Festival and its events to examine and test the idea that urban and social renewal is a continuous process requiring the on-going personal, social, financial and political investment of a diversity of actors and agencies. Rather than viewing the earthquake rebuild as a discrete and closed project (as it is often presented) we’re instead interested in disaster as an extraordinary event within an ongoing process of urban development, one that teaches unique and critical lessons.”
An invitation has gone to Jan Jongert, one of the co-founders of Superuse Studios in Rotterdam. His understanding, respect and use of flows of resources deals directly and elegantly with the key concerns of the 21st century. Reuse and attention to waste cycles have been part of FESTA since the beginning (with varying success) but we have not yet made it the key driver of the event.

We anticipate establishing and using the Superuse Harvest Map in Christchurch (http://www.oogstkaart.nl/) as the impetus for designing installations and providing materials without the need to transport them to Christchurch. We will undertake this work in collaboration with NZ social enterprise Rekindle.
PREVIOUS ITERATIONS
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FESTIVAL of TRANSITIONAL ARCHITECTURE
26-27 October, 2014
CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

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Exhibition: Sat 25 & Sun 26 Oct, Opening: Fri 24 Oct, 5.30pm
209 Tuam St

GREEN PLACES
SUSTAINABILITY AND
EVENTS AND LAUNCHES
TALKS AND TOURS
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The inaugural Festival of Transitional Architecture starting in Christchurch this weekend suggests we should embrace impermanence. GEORGE PARKER explains.

The weekend-long architectural invasion of Christchurch has official and intellectual, as well as informal and impromptu, manifestations. This is the point of departure - a city that in the wake of recovery has potentially become the most innovative and experimental city in the world.

This is the moment for Christchurch to embrace its unique potential. In a city that has experienced so much destruction, the innovative spirit is central to its recovery. The Festival of Transitional Architecture (FOTA) is a radical event that seeks to redefine the city's relationship with its past.

The festival will feature various projects that explore the concept of transience in architecture. For instance, the KLOUD project by the LAUTIKE collective is a temporary structure that will be installed in the Christchurch Central Library. This project is a response to the need for temporary spaces in the city's recovery process.

Another project, Mucho, is a series of temporary installations that will be scattered throughout the city. The installations will be created by local artists and will feature materials such as recycled wood and glass. This project aims to engage the public in the process of urban regeneration.

The festival is not only about architecture but also about the city's cultural and social landscape. The sculptures and installations will be accompanied by performances and workshops. These events will be held in various locations around the city, including libraries, parks, and cafes.

The Festival of Transitional Architecture is an opportunity for Christchurch to embrace its unique potential. It is a chance to experiment with new ideas and to explore the city's creative possibilities.

In summary, the Festival of Transitional Architecture is a radical event that seeks to redefine the city's relationship with its past. The projects featured in the festival will not only transform the city's physical landscape but also contribute to its cultural and social fabric. This is a moment for Christchurch to embrace its unique potential and to create a vibrant and dynamic cityscape.
-past participating students have frequently reported that participating in FESTA was the highlight of their university education in architecture and design
-real world experience in working with professional engineers and preparing documentation for consenting processes -real world experience in fabrication of designs used by clients and public
-contributing to international conversations on architecture, design and urbanism
-working with international partners
-provides experience in resourcing a project – materials, fundraising, sponsorship
-provides experience communicating with a lay client and to a live audience
-shifting the conversation and experience of architecture and design in Christchurch and further afield during the mammoth rebuilding of the city
-understanding the complex dynamics of disaster reconstruction and contemporary urban development – processes made especially visible currently in Christchurch
Design teams work with Creative and Producing Directors to design and fabricate 1:1 installations for the event.

**FESTA secures and funds all the event infrastructure:**
- permits and consents
- engineering for installations
- electricity
- toilets
- security
- waste management
- local business and cultural activators of the event
- marketing and promotion, media and communications
- event management

**Participating Studios:**
- design and fabricate installations,
- fundraise and seek sponsors for materials and installation-specific services outside the event infrastructure (FESTA provides advice and supporting material)
- travel to Christchurch for the event (we recognize not all students will be able to commit to this)
- work to FESTA’s health & safety standards
- supply all requested documentation for engineering and consent
- deinstall installations
April 2016 – Local business & cultural partners sought
May 2016 – Local business & cultural partners confirmed
July 2016 (school dependent) – Studios commence

21 September 2016 – Consent documents submitted to Council
Friday 21 October – 8am – installation commences
Saturday 21 October – 6pm- midnight – Major event opens to public
Sunday 22 October - deinstallation
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION

A joint cross-institutional team, combining U.Adelaide and UniSA students of architecture/landscape architecture/urbanism is currently being explored.

Participants: 10-12 students (6-7 from U.Adelaide if UniSA also involved.)
Festival Date: 21-24 October 2016
Collaborators (TBC): Dr Margit Brünner (artist), Dr Matthew Rofe (geographer)
Budget: To be determined. Aim to keep within $2000 per student.
Contact Point: A/Prof. Julian Worrall (julian.worrall@adelaide.edu.au)
Next Steps: - registration of interest
- next update mid-April