

RETROFIT KIT

Design tools for making our homes accessible

22 – 29 March, 2022
MADA Gallery
Monash University Caulfield Campus
Building D, Ground Floor
900 Dandenong Road
Caulfield East

Exhibition content designed and fabricated by MADA students in education units led by Monash Urban Lab

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Architecture students from RetroFit Kit design/make studio and Better Life @ Home studies unit:

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Ca Kheng Lot
Chee-Song Chuah (+ installation)
Cheng Lee (+ installation)
Cyndy Li
Edward Chan
Georgia Rose
Georgius Hindarko
John Tsitouridis (+ installation)
Lenore Whiteside (+ installation)
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Sylvanna Dong
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Coordination support: Melanie Flynn, Jordan Wood, Corinne Ryan, Hope Elston, Jaime Powell

This event is part of Melbourne Design Week 2022, an initiative of the Victorian Government in collaboration with the NGV.

www.monash.edu/mada

RetroFit Kit exhibition demonstrates how common Australian housing types could be systematically modified to achieve seamless and dignified home environments for people with disability, their families, carers and future occupants. It highlights the strategic potential of architectural design in making homes more equitable and accessible to all.

In this exhibition we ask: how can we approach accessible adaptations through a systematic yet flexible kit of architectural strategies and elements that combines generic solutions with user choice? Are there common and efficient strategies for making our homes more accessible and at the same time better quality and adaptable to future change?

These questions are explored through a series of architectural principles, strategies and elements that combine as a toolkit for accessible conversions:

- A simulated home at 1:1 scale translates accessibility principles as design strategies that enhance the home quality and amenity of the dwelling for a diversity of users. These are composed as spaces within and outside of the gallery – a drop/off pick up zone and a gathering space; a flexible, converted garage; a safe, dual-key entry; a mudroom as a transitional space; a spacious, adjustable and modular kitchen; a generous and dignified bathroom; an integrated ramp/terrace.
- Design strategies for common house types – small and large detached dwellings, walk-up flats, town and row houses, and garage houses – explore their latent potential for adaptation through models and drawings that demonstrate the application of the RetroFit Kit within a specific home context.
- Urban mapping and visual catalogue of common housing types demonstrate the potential of adaptations at metropolitan scale.
- RetroFit Kit instructive brochures of 6 Case Studies and Spaces/Elements – entry, foyer, kitchen, bathroom, garage.