

editorial introduction

Welcome to the 2023 issue of *idea journal: Uncertain Interiors*. The realisation of this issue reflects Luke Tipene's first year as Executive Editor of *idea journal* after Professor Julieanna Preston completed her tenure as Executive Editor in 2022. We thank Julieanna for her continued support and advice for *idea journal*.

This year also sees Dr Olivia Hamilton join *idea journal* as Editor, and the journal expand its editorial team with two new Editorial Assistants, Piper Saunders and Harriette Ellis. These new appointees are part of the journal's broader shift towards increasing the scope of its content and level of engagement with communities of interior practitioners, researchers, and educators in 2024.

As an idea, uncertainty frequently speaks to the influence of things that are unknown, unforeseen, and often unimaginable: objects, actions, and episodes of change that call in to question what we hold to be true, real, and dependable. Over this year, accelerating change across our ecological, economic, political, and social spheres has made this study of interior uncertainty as significant as it is timely.

Uncertainty is inherent to spatial design. It underpins the complex experiences inhabitants make beyond the designer's intentions and foregrounds the importance of relationality in the conception and production of interior environments. Despite the potential discomfort the instability of uncertainty may bring, it also renders tremendous potential for critical assessment and creative experimentation of unexplored ideas. It is in this spirit of exploring the complex, co-created, and often interdisciplinary ideas along the periphery of the histories, theories, and practices of interior and spatial design that the essays of this issue take their cue.

Uncertainty emerges as an important foundation in the current discourse on decolonising and re-indigenising spatial design pedagogy. Jen Archer-Martin has led two teams of authors, including Stuart Foster, Kura Puke, and Georgina Stokes, on a pair of essays emerging from the Spatial Design undergraduate programme at Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University, in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand. Both essays explore new pedagogical practices that move away from dominant, colonial modes of knowledge formation in spatial design. The first, *Waewae taku haere*, describes pedagogical practices that are embodied, collective, and embedded in Indigenous modes of learning and belonging to place. The second, *Whakamana*, explores restorative and regenerative bicultural learning

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and designing partnerships. Together, these essays reflect complementary aspects of spatial design pedagogy attuned to Indigenous paradigms that embrace uncertainty, plurality, and more-than-human ways of knowing, being, doing, and, of course, designing.

Technologies are increasingly being repositioned as innately uncertain, particularly in relation to the psychological and physical qualities of interior environments. Yuman Zeon argues against the certitude and rationality often uncritically associated with modern technology through an essay that examines a fascinating and complex research project focusing on the spatial allegories of Chinese-born novelist, playwright, and painter Gao Xingjian. In the essay *Point/cloud: diffusive spatial imaginaries*, Carl Douglas considers the experiential qualities of laser scanning within a diverse range of projects, elucidating how point cloud technology reveals ambiguity rather than exactitude. In *Resisting the real through imagined interiors and social media's spaces of uncertainty*, Dave Loder investigates how the intersection of the virtual and physical in digital images provides access to imaginaries of virtual worlds, potentially able to unlock new interior materialities for the design of interior environments. Linda Matthews's essay concerns the production of new material and spatial strategies with new generative digital image processing techniques that capture temporal-visual understandings of interior spaces.

Relationships between still and moving images of interiors and uncertainty are drawn out through the contributions by Nevena Mrdjenovic, Büşra Balaban, and Aslihan Şenel. Mrdjenovic's essay considers scenography and mapping to memorialise the physical and psychological aftermath of domestic interiors destroyed in ethnic conflicts captured in photographs. Balaban and Şenel interpret a filmic interior by using mapping to identify 'non-interiors' capable of producing alternative and fragmented, subjective, situated knowledge of interiors and interiority.

Public and private interior spaces are reconfigured in uncertain terms for other authors. The ubiquitous public toilet fascinates Nick Rebstadt, who introduces a queering technique of vacantly occupying the public restroom. The occupation is elaborated in ficto-critical writing that reframes these overlooked spaces through perspectives and approaches outside the dominant heterosexist and academic norms. Erika Brandl questions the fixity and durability of domestic interiors, examining the concept of 'plan flexibility' and how uncertainty in planning can contribute to resilient qualities of future-oriented homes. The thought-provoking, insightful, and challenging insights of this year's essays prompt us to reconsider the limits of normative practices in interior planning, education, technology, and social and cultural inclusion.

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to this year's authors for their contributions to the 2023 issue of *idea journal, Uncertain Interiors*. It has been wonderful working with you and seeing your essays develop in depth and significance. We would also like to sincerely

thank this year's peer reviewers for lending their time and expertise to support our authors with their valuable comments, reflections, and references. Thanks go to our production team, Madeleine Collinge for her editing services, Caitlin Ong for her graphic design services, as well as the IDEA Board and its member institutions for their continued support and resources.

Finally, we would like to thank you, our readers of *idea journal*, for your continued efforts to support our journal by remaining vigilant and curious about the critical exploration of the histories, theories, and practices of interior and spatial design. In today's interminable throes of change, we hope the preparedness of our authors to explore the characteristics of *uncertain interiors* offers insights for your own endeavours to address complexity and embrace unknowns.

Please enjoy the 2023 issue of *idea journal: Uncertain Interiors*.

Sincerely,

Luke Tipene, Executive Editor of *idea journal*, and Dr Olivia Hamilton, Editor of *idea journal*.