

## editorial introduction

Welcome to the 2024 issue of *idea journal: Unbuilt Interiors*. This year presents an excellent series of essays that examine, unpack, and establish new discourse on the influence and significance of unbuilt interior and spatial design projects.

Unbuilt often implies an unspoken relationship to its opposite. This view supposes that the unbuilt is only a temporary stage in the progression of ideas from being unrealised, to being realised. And so, the unbuilt interior or spatial design project is habitually relegated to the category of things to be dismissed, minimised, forgotten, or avoided. Yet, the qualities of unbuilt projects are far less diminutive and, when examined for their own merits, speak to a series of engaging and dialogical design practices that aim to inspire debate, provoke discourse, and change minds.

With these essays we see that unbuilt projects are not definitive, fixed, or complete. It is in their incompleteness of site, time, material, or definition that they manifest their great capacity to evidence things unseen and reflect our own incompleteness as designers, peoples, and cultures. Unbuilt projects optimistically imply that some part of designing and engaging with interior environments will always be unknown, which in many ways is a comforting thought when you consider the alternatives.

In this issue the ruin, the sales catalogue, the artwork, the journal, the exhibition, the model, the housing crisis, the space station, the drawing have all been examined for how they manifest the unbuilt in different ways.

Many encounters with unbuilt interiors first occur through fiction or technology. Video games, for instance, allow people to easily explore and create virtual and unbuilt environments. The resonance between the real and unreal is examined by Miriam Osbourn who reflects on the connection between her precarious but cherished rental home and the continuity provided by the interiors she builds and unbuilds in *The Sims* video game.

Two other authors in this issue use their own creative practice to call into question the distinction between built and unbuilt through visual essays. Bayard's illustrations for Jules Verne's futuristic fiction along with Piranesi's labyrinthine imagery influence Craig McCormack's detailed drawings that conceptualise the increasing interiorisation of outer space. Eleanor Suess uses models and photography to explore the uncanny doubling that occurs when models that replicate spaces are brought into relation with both built and unbuilt interiors.

Documents of unbuilt twentieth-century projects can illustrate shifts in social practices that have influenced everything from local commercial spaces to the perception of the family unit. Julie Collins traces how portfolios of speculative Modernist storefront designs reveal social and technological values embedded in their materials and representations. Sarah Blankenbaker examines Archizoom's *No-Stop City* as a critique of modern cycles of unbuilding and rebuilding, while Alex Brown, Tom Morgan, and Charity Edwards discuss Superstudio's *Twelve Ideal Cities*, framing its presentation in architectural magazines as a conceptual act of 'unbuilding'. Executive

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Editor Luke Tipene doubles as an author in this issue and examines how Lars Lerup's exploration of poetry and fiction in the unbuildable drawing project *Love/House* challenges late-capitalist commercial imperatives.

From conception to deconstruction, temporary architecture, pavilions, and exhibitions occupy various points between built and unbuilt. Rachel Simmonds finds that Aalto Atelier's temporary exhibition designs can be understood as 'gone-built' and creating ongoing opportunities for experimentation through engaging with the remaining ephemera. Milica Božić looks at the Venice Biennale and its tense relationship with heritage and culture in her essay that discusses the unbuilt proposals for a pavilion attempting to expose these dynamics and challenge concepts of heritage.

Finally, this issue positions the unbuilt as a space for critique and experimentation. Rana Abudayyeh focuses on the iconic Egg Building on Beirut's Green Line. Using its embattled history and proposed future to inform a design studio, her students reimagine the building as both a symbol of destruction and renewal through adaptive reuse proposals, proposing a framework for community-led urban transformation. This essay reminds us that the unbuilt is always political—either for what it offers up or for why it wasn't realised.

This year also sees *idea journal* appoint four new Editorial Assistants: Mia Peeters, Lada Polyakova, Harrison McTavish, and Sarah Witney. These Assistants join *idea journal* care of the RMIT Interior Design industry internship program. The engagement is part of the journal's increasing efforts to support a culture of scholarship with emerging interior practitioners, researchers, and educators.

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to this year's authors for their contributions to the 2024 issue of *idea journal: Unbuilt Interiors*. It has been wonderful working with you and seeing your essays develop in depth and significance. We extend a special thanks to Professor Eleanor Suess, who in addition to her visual essay has given us permission to use the image of her artwork *Amassing Light (45 Degrees) 4* (2010), as the cover image for this volume. 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. With special thanks to Andrew Wallace — Chair of IDEA, and Dr Penny Wild — Treasurer of IDEA.

Finally, we would like to thank you, our readers of *idea journal*, for your continued efforts to support us by remaining vigilant and curious about the critical exploration of the histories, theories, and practices of interior environments.

Please enjoy the 2024 issue of *idea journal: Unbuilt Interiors*.

Sincerely,

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