

RESIDENTIAL (16)



Walkerville House
Con Bastiras Architect



Hocking Place Community Housing
Flightpath Architects



Malvern Residence
Phillips/Pilkington Architects



Porter Residence
Studio 9



House Awerbuch
Anton Johnson Architect



Esplanade Residence
Chasecrow



House at Stirling
Williams Burton Architects



Lock Residence, Glenelg
Architects Ink



Parkside Residence
Studio 9



Air Apartments
Tectvs



Papatheodorakis Residence
Max Pritchard



Heij House
Energy Architecture



Workday Weekender
Antony Radford Architect



Kirk Residence
Max Pritchard



Foundry House
Swanbury Penglase



Foskett House
Max Pritchard

Model of life in the urban wood

by Jouni Kaipia & Antony Radford

At a time when new houses are growing larger, what happens when we try instead to design for daily life to take place in a minimal space? Urban Huts are proposals for small huts in Adelaide inspired by the hut Henry David Thoreau built and occupied next to Walden pond in Massachusetts from 1845 to 1847. Thoreau was a pioneer in criticizing the values of a consumer society, the extremes of which, as we know them today, he could hardly foresee. In his celebrated book *Walden, or Life in the Wood*, he extols the virtues and pleasures of being self-sufficient, observing nature, being aware of the environment and the changing seasons. Even today, in spite of some moralizing idealism and occasional naiveté which now appear as anachronisms, Thoreau's powerful thinking offers inspiration for a responsible way to build and live in keeping with the limited resources of nature, and a lesson in timeless essentials in architecture.

A studio at the University of Adelaide's School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design explored the design of urban huts through a series of 1:20 scale models focusing on the mental and physical roles of "primary architectural images": floor, roof, door, window, stair, hearth, table and chair, bed and bath. The models were staged. First a conceptual model defined the boundaries of the hut, then a second model emphasized the mediators (doors, windows, shades etc) on these boundaries. Next, separate models showed 'settings for the scenes of life' (sleeping, eating, bathing etc). Finally a complete model made a cohesive whole of these parts. Remaking rather than altering the models kept a fascinating record of the way that ideas developed and changed. Some of their sites were conventionally rural in character, in park lands alongside the River Torrens, but others were unconventionally urban.

Designing for minimal space forces us to become bodily aware of the spatial dimensions around us, to experience the presence of the elements - to be mindful with architecture.

An exhibition of twelve of the Urban Huts will be held at the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, 100 Flinders Street, in August this year, in association with the Laminex Group. The studio was led by Helsinki-based architect Jouni Kaipia assisted by Antony Radford, Carolyn Wigg, Jane Monk, Greg Bond, Mike Sims and David Brown. Education to Thoreau and his book can be found at www.npr.org/programs/morning/features/pat/walden/index.html

The text of *Walden, or Life in the Wood*, including an 'express edition' and commentary, can be found at <http://eserver.org/thoreau/walden100.html>
Student Tom Kakoschke (above left) and his model (above right)



Pictures James Knowler