

Tract Consultants July 2017 Internship Program – Exploring the ‘Minimum Garden Area Requirement’

Tract Consultants

Tract Consultants, a leading national practice of Landscape Architects, Town Planners, Urban Designers, and Media Specialists, leads many exciting high profile projects across Melbourne, both for the private and public sector. This includes major urban renewal projects, medium and high density developments, large public open space masterplans and significant mixed use projects.

Intern Program

Our intern program will provide an opportunity for three interns, one in each discipline of Landscape Architecture, Town Planning and Urban Design, to work collaboratively on an exciting joint research project. The intern program will run full-time, across three weeks, from 3 July until 21 July 2017.

Changing lifestyles and housing preferences mean there is significant demand for more housing, and different types of housing to meet the current and future needs of the Community. As a multidisciplinary firm with over 40 years of experience, Tract have had an extensive impact on the urban environment at many scales, including the facilitation of high quality residential infill and subdivision developments.

The Victorian Planning Minister recently gazetted Amendment VC110 into the Victorian Planning Provisions, which among other changes, incorporated a new mandatory requirement for minimum garden areas for all properties over 400sqm within the General Residential Zone (GRZ) and Neighbourhood Residential Zones (NRZ). The intention of this new requirement seeks to protect the open garden character of our suburbs, towns and cities.

This research project will be based around the understanding and interpretation of this new Minimum Garden Area Requirement, and the ways this will impact project outcomes of new residential developments, subdivision patterns, and landscaping provisions. This research will give us a chance to examine our evolving body of work and to learn and understand the impacts of these new requirements on the communities, the environment, the social and economic fabric, and people who benefit from the places we help create.

It is anticipated that this project will enable students to inform and critically evaluate their work and design/project thinking. Students will work together, and with our staff across all disciplines, to establish a residential typology matrix and summary paper which incorporates the new Minimum Garden Area Requirement impact on future residential developments, while also analysing alternative project types across different scales and disciplines – i.e. from preliminary yield studies to ResCode planning requirements and landscaping materials and planting schedules.

Application Process

As part of their submission, applicants are invited to research the Minimum Garden Area Requirement (Planning Scheme Amendment VC110) and how it relates to their discipline. Applicants should also consider how they might go about their research and the likely output. A requirement is that the project must be able to be completed within the three week intern period.

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Students should include a CV with their application, 'work' examples of any University projects, drawings and/or reports, along with a cover letter outlining:

- why they're interested in working with Tract;
- their interest in undertaking this collaborative research project;
- what skills they can bring to the project; and
- their discipline preference.

We are looking for highly motivated students with a strong track record of academic performance and the ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

Applications should be sent via email to applications@tract.net.au **by Friday, 12 May 2017 at 5pm.**

To find out more about Tract Consultants, please visit our website www.tract.com.au.