'Architecture it Grows': Transformative learning in a work integrated learning environment

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**Abstract:**

‘Architecture it Grows’ is a Work Integrated Learning architecture studio where Masters students engage with researchers, practitioners and the community. The intent of this studio is for students to build confidence in their own skills and professional selves by engaging with a real community client, working as part of an interdisciplinary team and exploring with staff the contemporary role of an architect.

In 2015 the North Perth Community Garden were the not for profit ‘clients’ for the unit. Helping to vision this live public open space project motivated student learning. Students learned from practitioners and researchers in a range of specialist areas as might be found in a design project team (architecture, landscape, research, planning, quantity surveying & government). The teaching team drew on their professional experience to help contextualise students own experience grappling with the design process.

At the conclusion of this studio, students reported a transformation in the perceptions of their own abilities as architectural designers with increased confidence in both their understanding of the process of project development and in their ability to learn from and apply knowledge from aligned disciplines and professions.