



# Undressing fashion waste

**R**MIT Gallery's exhibition *Fast Fashion: the dark side of fashion* (21 July - 9 September, RMIT Gallery, 344 Swanston Street, Melbourne) takes a critical look behind the scenes of the fashion industry and consumer habits.

The exhibition undresses the social, economic and environmental impacts of cheap fashion. In response, the exhibition's Slow Fashion Studio explores new fashion practices and experiences to bring about positive change.

The term "fast fashion" references a specific production and distribution system of mass-produced fashion that is sold worldwide at low prices. But at what cost? Australians are the second largest consumers of new textiles worldwide and, at the same time, fashion is one of Australia's fastest

growing waste problems.

Vast amounts of clothes bought by Australians are either incinerated or end up in landfill within a year of being made, while the fast fashion industry is among the sectors responsible for disastrous working conditions and boasts a model of economic success earning its profits at the expense of ecological and social systems.

*Fast Fashion: The dark side of fashion* presents the global triangle of consumerism, economy and ecology from various perspectives: fashion and victims, poverty and affluence, global and local, wages and profits, clothing and chemicals/ecological balance. After opening at MKG in Hamburg, *Fast Fashion* toured Dresden as well as the Philippines and Indonesia as part of IKAT/eCUT, a Goethe-Institut project exploring the past, present and future

of textiles in Germany, Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Each region has presented a local response to the fast fashion problem.

RMIT senior lecturer Jenny Underwood, Slow Fashion Studio curator, said fashion reflects who we are as an individual and as a society.

"Using the *Fast Fashion* exhibition as a provocation, the Slow Fashion Studio features the work of nine design practitioners, who collectively create a social space for exploring alternative approaches to how fashion is produced, consumed and experienced," Underwood said.

"The Studio will showcase everything from advanced digital technologies such as using virtual reality to better design and fit clothes to individual body shapes, to meticulous hand craftsmanship."

# Learning to live small

*"Inspiration to tackle issues of scale, urban sprawl and liveability"*

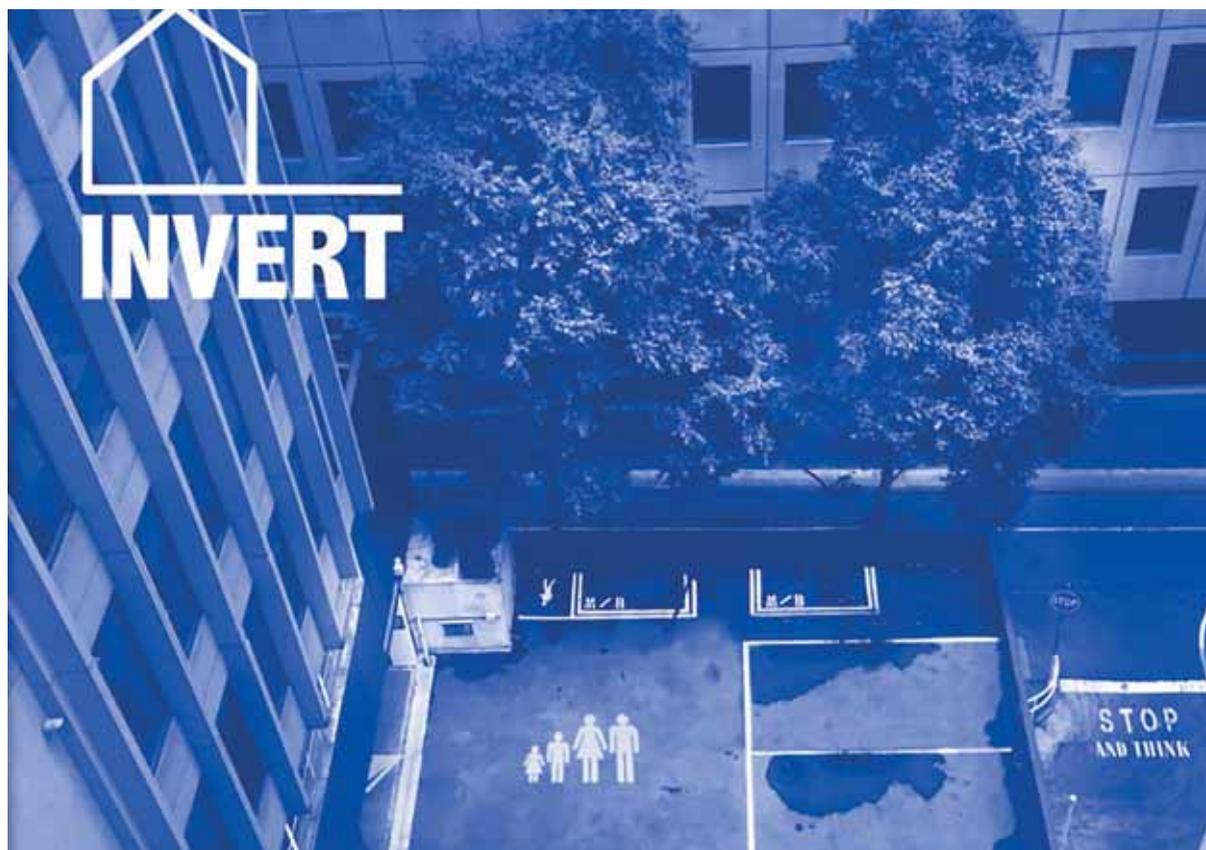
**G**reen Magazine, in collaboration with MINI and the City of Melbourne, is excited to present MINI Living – Invert, an exhibition and series of talks analysing the importance of sustainable, small-scale architecture.

For one week in October, MINI and Green will be taking over a small space in Melbourne's CBD. Green Magazine is currently inviting leading and emerging architects from Australia and New Zealand to submit plans and a 1:20 scale model of the site to explore the design potential presented by unconventional spaces.

A brief has been created for the six-by-ten-metre footprint, which is located at the rear of 200 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. The space will be reimagined as a home suitable for a young family of four.

Given the unique spatial characteristics of the location, the architects must consider construction logistics in their designs. Most important for the harmony of an inner-city home, their designs must also include some kind of garden vegetation.

The chosen models and designs will feature in a



one-week exhibition, to be presented alongside a series of talks hosted inside an on-site greenhouse in October. RMIT Master of Architecture Design Studio students will also be participating, and

there will be a concurrent exhibition at the university. These entries will be judged by a panel including the City of Melbourne principal architect Garry Ormston, with the selected design displayed

along with the architect's models at 200 Little Collins Street.

Tamsin O'Neill, editor of Green Magazine, said: "Green Magazine has always had an interest in small

scale, residential projects and this opportunity will bring together some of our favourite architects working in this space. We hope that the exhibition will provide inspiration to those

considering tackling issues of scale, urban sprawl and liveability."

MINI Australia general manager, Tony Sesto, commented that he is pleased to exhibit an adaptation of MINI's global initiative in Melbourne, Australia. "Creative use of space is at the heart of the MINI DNA. MINI LIVING allows us to apply this philosophy to a small footprint within the urban landscape," said Sesto.

"We are excited to work with both Green Magazine and City of Melbourne to bring these values to our shores and challenge the best architectural minds from Australia and New Zealand to respond to the MINI LIVING – INVERT brief," he said.

City of Melbourne Environment Portfolio Chair Councillor Cathy Oke said creative and innovative designs could help respond to the challenges facing our city.

"Our city is growing everyday so the City of Melbourne is always keen to foster and encourage high quality, sustainable design to cater for our residents of the future."

[mini.com.au/mini-news/mini-living-invert](http://mini.com.au/mini-news/mini-living-invert)