



**NOBODY'S HOME**

**AA DIPLOMA SIX 2018**

Diploma Six is about contemporary life, the home and housing.

Diploma Six pursues individual and social freedom through the plan.

Diploma Six has a long-term strategy. We work for a common goal.

Diploma Six believes in doing more for less.

Diploma Six loves memes. We prefer models to singular works.

Diploma Six challenges all assumptions about humanity's needs.

Diploma Six resists from within existing structures.

Diploma Six recognises all the Earth is now urban.

Diploma Six communicates to a general audience.

Diploma Six demands precision and rigour.

Diploma Six is not dogmatic. If the facts change, so do our opinions.

Diploma Six thinks the traditional is a sly invention.

Diploma Six engages positively with those who disagree.

Diploma Six questions the rhetoric of technology in the home.

Diploma Six suspects capitalism.

Diploma Six rejects anti-intellectualism disguised as pragmatism.

Diploma Six commits its resources to serving the public.

Diploma Six understands building as a means to an end.

Diploma Six is efficient.

## NOBODY'S HOME

The home is the atomic unit of society. Within it, power relations are formed and perpetuated: gender discrimination, institutional racism, class structure, and wealth inequality all begin at home. Social conditioning is embedded in every facet, from how the home is financed to how it is furnished.

The boundaries of the domestic sphere have always been unstable. Today, a variety of factors from the political to the technological are transforming our domestic habits. In particular, privacy and publicness, leisure and labour have merged into a non-stop 24/7 reality that dissolves the home into its urban context.

By examining the home in great detail we hope to develop less prescriptive and deterministic models of domestic life. The home should be the exemplar of the civilisations we want to construct.

We must therefore approach domestic space with scepticism and imagination, interrogating convention while proposing an everyday life derived from first principles.

To understand the invention of the home requires matching very basic material concerns against intellectual, historical, political and scientific frameworks.

These complex interrelationships can sometimes be surprising. For example, the simplest household ritual like running a bath immediately implicates geography, climate, technology and infrastructure, macroeconomics, land management, engineering of many kinds, and labour theory.

This unit will explore prototypical dwellings and the construction of everyday life. Their ideal subjects will be not specific residents. A home for nobody is a home for every body.

## UNIT MASTERS

Jack Self and Guillermo Lopez

## AT A GLANCE

It is as hard to plan for the future as it is to plan for the present. Risk and indeterminacy are embedded in everything we do. Against this, we must try to have agency over time. Diploma Six is committed to a multi-year project, and is proceeding on the basis of a trilogy.

2018/19: developing new theories of the home.

2019/20: applying our research to the AA's Hooke Park.

2020/21: constructing examples of new models.

Our ultimate goal is to execute housing at the AA's Hooke Park. To do this responsibly requires some patience. We must first investigate the general conditions of domesticity, and construct new theories of the home. Then we must understand the context of Hooke Park in detail. Only then will be ready to act with precision and economy.

We will examine and understand: what is the home; how it is distinct from housing; where did the home come from; who invented it; why is it necessary; and what are the possibilities for improving and intervening in its processes?

We don't believe in the countryside versus city dichotomy: all land today is urban. Therefore, our investigations into housing and the home will focus on a broad zone typically called "the suburban".

The structure of this academic year 2018/19 is also tripartite:

Term 1: working on a common publication.

Term 2: developing individual design responses.

Term 3: exploring communication formats.

Our unit trip investigates low-cost housing models in the United States and will take place in February 2019. We are conscious of this as an added cost, and will try to make it as inexpensive as possible.

Diploma Six features a seminar series in Term 1 around key concepts, and several workshops will be held throughout the year.

## TERM 1

The two main outcomes of Term 1 are a publication that collates and presents the unit's research into domestic architecture (potentially with additional invited texts), and the development of project scope.

*Slice of Life: Inventing Everyday Domesticity*  
Diploma Six, 2018

Our goal is to question all aspects of domestic normality to better understand the conditions of contemporary life.

We will research subjects like the history of domestic spaces and the evolution of their typologies, the financial models of housing, the technologies and materials that make them possible, their urban contexts, the home's relationship with its environment, the cultural norms they foster, the structure of the family, the individual's relationship to society, and the power relations both established and perpetuated by the home.

Each member of Diploma Six will contribute one crucial and vital narrative or thesis (supported by research material) to this publication. It will be printed and designed in collaboration with invited specialists in contemporary publishing.

Every Diploma Six student will use Term 1 to define the scope of their own work, which will include both a theoretical framework, a technical and historical position, and the analysis of their own specific (sub)urban context.

## SEMINARS

Term 1 will involve a seminar series delivered by the unit masters and invited guests around subjects of domesticity, housing, capitalism and urbanism.

## TERM 2

The outcomes from Term 1 should not prejudice our approach to designing the home – particularly with regards to the “rhetoric of technology”.

We neither see complex and expensive technical innovation as instrumental to housing. Nor do we believe that low-tech is intrinsically righteous. Architecture has recently witnessed a revival of an anti-intellectual and pro-craft naivete that is quite perverse (what we would call “Waldenism”).

During Term 2 we will develop Nobody’s Home. This will use our amassed research to explore transience, subjectivity, long-term adaptability, non-functionalism and non-traditional models of domestic occupation.

Diploma Six students will produce an individual design project for their defined scope and site.

## WORKSHOPS

Term 2 will involve a several workshops delivered by the unit masters and invited guests around subjects of production and architectural representation techniques.

## TERM 3

Term 3 has three primary objectives: the refinement of individual projects; the exploration of common modes of presentation and representation in architecture; and, understanding the practicalities of how buildings are costed, approved and produced.

This term will encompass drawing, model making and digital visualisation techniques. We will unpack subjects like quantity surveying, the planning system, and how to tender for a primary contractor.

## FURTHER NOTES

### Unit Space

Our unit space was originally a domestic room. An additional, minor project will seek to redecorate, deinstitutionalise and domesticate the unit space.

### Hooke Park

A Special Working Group will be established at the school to study Hooke Park’s future. Diploma Six will be central to this endeavour. While Hooke Park will technically be excluded from our principal scope this year, there will be possibilities for interested students to engage with the site. We will also be planning to visit the site over the course of the academic year.

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