DiMase Architects would like to invite you to a celebratory evening at our practice.

Join us for drinks and nibbles to celebrate TERRAZZO - an inspired exhibition of work by Associate Professor Dr. Mirjana Lozanovska & students Vanessa Napiza, Samantha Jackson, Chayakan Siamphukdee & Jacqui Jeavons.

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Children are welcome.
Most Australians are able to identify what are sometimes called “Mediterranean Palaces,” houses built between 1950s and mid 1970s by first generation migrants from southern Europe. Smooth wire-cut brick facades, large and clean steel/aluminium windows, and spacious terraces - double fronted, triple fronted – cascading along the side of the house, along with materials used in new ways – concrete, terrazzo, pebble mix. Or adaptations of single fronted workers cottages aspiring to this.

On each daily walk along the street where my parents live, and I grew up with my sister, parents and grandmother, I looked at the houses and thought - nothing about these houses or the many families who live in them – was mentioned in my architectural education. They were mostly ignored and it seemed embarrassing for the aesthetic elite to talk about the houses. And yet names erupted and their ugliness and detriment to Victorian heritage was cemented.

Terrazzo is a study of the visual power and presence of migrant houses in the Australian landscape. Looking at the migrant houses, again and again, and reorganising their visual representation, experimenting with how visual strategies may affect our perception. Working with Deakin architecture students to develop these. Do they become beautiful? Viewers are invited to review this architecture and the parameters of each of our aesthetic borders.

Mirjana’s work explores the creative ways architecture mediates humanness, society and beauty. Her work on migration and architecture pioneered a new field of knowledge, with publications Ethno-Architecture and the Politics of Migration (2016), and hot off the press, Migrant Housing: Architecture, Dwelling and Migration (2019), and a recent ARC Discovery on Architecture, Industry and Migration. She has always dreamt about revising the visual perception of migrant housing, and hopes this exhibition is a start. Mirjana is an Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and the Built Environment at Deakin University.