

# GRIMSHAW

## PRESS RELEASE

### Grimshaw designs its first cubby house to help Kids Under Cover prevent youth homelessness

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grimshaw has designed its first cubby house which will be auctioned at a VIP event at the 2017 Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show on Thursday, 30th March as part of this year's Cubby House Challenge.

Funds raised will go towards Kids Under Cover's Studio Program, an early intervention strategy which helps to prevent youth homelessness.

In support of this, Grimshaw has designed a bespoke shelter which encourages creative play and a sense of ownership while offering a finely detailed installation fit for the most urbane of backyards.

Grimshaw Associate, Matt Hutton said, "Through MySpace we have reconceptualised the traditional cubby, transforming the rigid building form into one that allows children to create their own space by manipulating various sized blocks across four levels. How they enter the cubby and arrange the interior is up to them – it is a non-static space that children can make their own and reinvent as they desire."

The moveable blocks have multiple uses to reinforce this sense of ownership and flexibility. They may be used to fill voids or provide openings, as furniture or storage and to house secret treasures and trinkets.

Two key workshops were held to develop the concept for MySpace. The first invited children associated with the practice to contribute their ideas of what constitutes the ultimate cubby. A space for flexibility, creativity and retreat were recurring themes, and orange a popular choice of colour.

The second workshop was a design charrette which offered Grimshaw's architects the opportunity to recall their childhood cubby house dreams. The ideas were harnessed into a single concept which has a strong connection to Matt Hutton's memories of playing with the wooden crates from his father's fruit and vegetable warehouse. "As kids we used to move the boxes to make voids which you could crawl into or use as stepping stones," he said. In keeping with Grimshaw's architectural practice, the cubby was developed from a strong concept, with the final design resulting from a deep interest in adaptable and flexible architecture and craftsmanship.

Kids Under Cover CEO, Jo Swift said that the charity was impressed with the way that Grimshaw had included children in their design process, and with the ingenuity of the space. "We love seeing the creativity of design in our entrants' dream cubbies, and having children's input on what features would best facilitate play is a clever way of tailoring a space for that specific audience.

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“Grimshaw has taken this Challenge very seriously, and has shown a great commitment to supporting Kids Under Cover and our youth homelessness prevention initiatives,” Ms Swift said.

Grimshaw has collaborated with Warrick Home Builders and its suppliers to create a cubby that is of the highest quality while offering a reconfigurable space to keep children intrigued – a true team effort for the benefit of the children that may make MySpace their own as well as those it may help through the prevention of youth homelessness.

The cubbies will be on display at MIF&GS from 29th March until 2nd April.

## ENDS

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### NOTES

#### MySpace project team

Special thanks to Warrick Home Builders and the suppliers for their generosity and enthusiasm; Clark Rubber, Cushion Factory, Danpal, Dulux, Home Timber & Hardware, Mance Studio, and Nolan Group.

#### Other projects

MySpace adds to Grimshaw’s portfolio of philanthropic projects and work within the social housing sector, which includes the award-winning Via Verde development in New York (2012). One of four of the World’s Best Projects at the 2015 PCA Property Congress, Via Verde is an affordable residential development comprising three distinct building types.

Other residential projects include Harbour Mill Apartments in Sydney (2015) and, in London, Nine Elms Over Site development (2020), Camden Housing Grand Union Walk (1988) and Park Road Apartments (1968).

#### About Grimshaw

Grimshaw was founded by Sir Nicholas Grimshaw in 1980. The practice became a Partnership in 2007 and operates worldwide with offices in London, New York, Melbourne, Sydney, Doha and Kuala Lumpur.

Grimshaw’s international portfolio covers all major sectors and has been honoured with over 150 international design awards including the prestigious Lubetkin Prize.

[www.grimshaw.global](http://www.grimshaw.global)

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