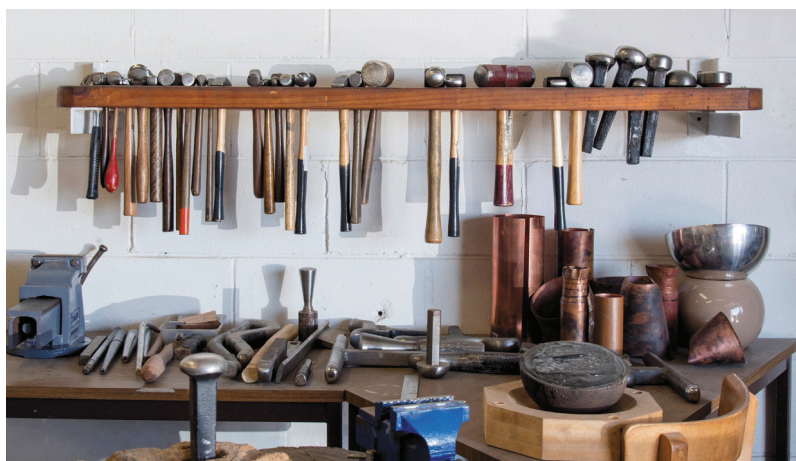




# Fix and Make

Over 12 months Hotel Hotel will become a creative hub of artists, makers and designers, all coming together to collectively question mass production and our relationship with and reliance on objects. **JOSEPHINE HUYNH** writes



In a world where consumerism and materialism are everywhere you look it's a bit too easy to conform to the modern world.

In response to this silent epidemic, Hotel Hotel Canberra has launched Fix and Make – a series of talks and workshops that bring a range of different creative people together to actively question our consumption of and relationship with objects.

“Fix and Make aims to challenge and deepen our understanding of objects – how things work and why things are the way they are,” program director Andy Marks explains.

“We live in a world where objects pass through our hands effortlessly and then end up in land fill, so partly it's to help us see the value in

those materials and in the making, take control of our resources, break our dependence on manufacturers and to enjoy them in some other way.”

The idea came about when Marks joined forces with Hotel Hotel founder and Molonglo Group managing director Nectar Efkarpidis.

“We talked about how and why Hotel Hotel was created and how it was made and put together, how the objects came to be,” Marks says.

“We also talked about valuing and meticulously restoring old furniture, collaborative craftsmanship and a deeper understanding of the new, the people and the materials, the process, and how the hotel is a response to mass consumption and the disposable.

“We also discussed how the hotel is a platform



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*The program invites individuals to reconnect with their hands and encourages new learning through doing*

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for diverse people to meet and exchange ideas. From this, Fix and Make seemed like a really logical next step to take.”

The year-long program is set within a specially designed space at Hotel Hotel and combines practical, experimental and philosophical learning.

The program, which launched on November 2015, will span 12 months. There are 32 events with contributions from more than 60 local, national and international collaborators from fields as diverse as neuroscience, art, design, craft, food, education, music, psychology and the environment.

At workshops, participants can learn how to make furniture from foraged branches,

how to whittle long-life chopsticks by hand, how to repair ceramics using a traditional Japanese technique called Kintsugi, and how to make toys from household waste.

“We are creating the immersive, engaging environments to repair, make, remake, and even redefine things, often working with salvaged or end-of-life materials,” Marks says.

“The program invites individuals to reconnect with their hands and encourages new learning through doing.

“Through the process of fixing and making, participants can gain a better understanding of how things work and apply this knowledge to other areas of life; to solve our own problems; to take

control of our own resources; to break our dependence on manufacturers who create products with limited life-spans.”

Compared to the workshops, Marks says the Fix and Make talks offer a different perspective to the program.

“The talks ask people what they think about materials, the process, and why the world works the way it does. Fun and engaging conversations will allow participants to tune into what other people think,” he says.

The program has been developed for all age groups and no previous experience or skills are required to get involved.

“Collectively through small acts of fixing and making, we can bring about positive

change at individual, societal, economic and environmental levels,” Marks says.

“We have the opportunity to be more than just about the creative output; we can create and strengthen communities, give people new skills and make the local economy more resilient.”

“Ultimately it’s about embracing Canberra in its second century and seeing all the possibilities that this city offers,” Chief Minister Andrew Barr adds.

“This is the start of something very significant.”

**W:** [hotel-hotel.com.au/fixandmake](http://hotel-hotel.com.au/fixandmake)

Bookings can be made online, with many free events in the program. Ticket prices for talks start at \$15 and \$30 for workshops. All Fix and Make program attendees are also offered 15 per cent off accommodation if they wish to stay at Hotel Hotel.



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