

Cave Urban

n̄vus

23rd biennale of sydney



Image: Jed Long, Cave Urban, 2012

MAJOR GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



PRINCIPAL PATRON



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



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As you walk past the stand of bamboo, pause for a moment.

Our interest in bamboo derives from its material qualities and fast growth.

Within many cultures bamboo is an integral component of life, often sourced from a stand adjacent to one's home.

In our practice we are no different, we look for the stands of bamboo scattered around Sydney and use them as a resource for making.

For this, we need bamboo that is at least three years old.

Bamboo will come out of the ground like a telescope and grow to its full height over several months.

Identifying the difference between a young pole and one that is ready for harvest requires a close study of the physical qualities of each pole.

The texture of the skin, the growth of its leaves, the colour of each node all helps to identify the species and age of each bamboo.

First look at the base of the pole...



Image: Jed Long, Cave Urban, 2022

If you can see the sheaths of the bamboo, then it is less than a year old. In its second year the sheaths will fall away, and a mature pole will have none left at its base.

Draw your eyes up and
look at the skin of the
pole. . .



Image: Jed Long, Cave Urban, 2022

If there's white powder on its skin, then it is also
young.

As the culm
ages the skin
will begin to
change colour
and you may
see scratches
and wear . . .



Image: Jed Long, Cave Urban, 2022

The bands around each pole are called nodes and as the bamboo ages these will darken.

Finally, look
up!

Watch the
poles sway...



Image: Four Minutes To Midnight, 2022

As the bamboo ages its leaves will fall away, and the pole will die. By harvesting the bamboo, new growth will take its place. It is a form of symbiosis where both plan and person benefit.