The Hyperactive Environments Research Cluster (HERC) is a postgraduate studio group that takes a problem-solving approach to designing better human environments. The world is a hyperactive place, full of things acting on other things. Everything that happens sends effects rippling outwards. The guiding research question of the HERC is: how can we design for such a full and active world? We design for actual sites, considering programme and buildability, using industry standard ways of documenting.

Primary supervisors: Carl Douglas + Elvon Young
Yosop Ryoo
Being in Painful Circumferences
Site for family reunions in Korean DMZ. Masters (2009). Best Awards Bronze, AAA Cavalier Bremworth Awards Student Winner.

Patricia Lai
Fresh Fields

Huirui Wang + Ruoyu Wang
Red Line

Keyu Yu
SenseSpace

Yosop Ryoo
Being in Painful Circumferences
Site for family reunions in Korean DMZ. Masters (2009). Best Awards Bronze, AAA Cavalier Bremworth Awards Student Winner.

Amber Ruckes
Lament, Crossing Architecture and Bodies.
Subterranean thermal baths adjacent to Auckland Hospital. Masters (2010).
We don’t live alone in this world. We interact with and depend on a whole host of other organisms. From the time humans first domesticated plants and animals, we have been forming our spaces alongside them. In 2012, the HERC will explore this dimension of our lives and spaces.

Students researchers are wanted for the four research questions listed below, although other proposals for projects under this theme are welcome.

Each project will begin with analysis and research, resulting in a refined research question, from which we will generate specific projects. The final outcome is a project and a 5000 word written exegesis describing your design methods and conceptual frameworks.
RESEARCH QUESTION 1

living with animals

How can we design for contemporary life with animals?

Within this theme, you would need to identify a particular situation in which humans and animals relate. You might consider pets, domesticated wildlife, zoos, birds and insects, endangered species, the animals that inhabit our cities, pests like possums, etc. You would propose a spatial redesign of this situation.

EXAMPLE PROJECTS
Wiel Arets, Hedge House, 2001
Atelier Bow-Wow, Pony Garden, 2008
RESEARCH QUESTION 2

**going bush**

How can we design sensitively and meaningfully in the context of NZ’s native bush?

NZ’s native bush is a unique and complex ecology that humans on these islands have been learning to live with for hundreds of years. It is delicate and protected, but there is a need to balance this protection with people’s desire to experience the bush wilderness. You would propose a recreational location (a writer’s retreat, a shelter for a deerhunter, or a tramping hut), or a small Department of Conservation research station.

**EXAMPLE PROJECTS**
Saunders & Wilhelmsen Arkitektur, Aurland Lookout, 2005
Ron Sang, Brake House, 1977
How can we design a space that embodies our relationship to micro-organisms?

There are ten times as many bacteria cells as human cells in your body. You are a habitat, not just an organism. This project is for an educational space where children can encounter micro-organisms in a way that helps them understand. This space could be installed in an existing museum site, or made demountable or portable for taking to schools.

EXAMPLE PROJECTS
Bureaux Limited, The Children of Tangaroa Exhibition, 2010
Rick Pearson, Treasures and Tales, 1997
How might a closer relationship between growing, cooking and eating be fostered through spatial design?

We have become very detached from the sources of our food, but there is a movement towards restoring the relationship between growing, cooking, and eating. This could lead to proposals for rethinking apartment living or suburban gardens, or concepts for community gardens or urban farms.

EXAMPLE PROJECTS
WORK Architecture, Public Farm 1, 2008
Jensen Architects, Slow Food Nation Welcome Pavilion, 2008