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**Government
Architect**

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**Shaping our futures
Since 1816**

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**GA200+
Symposium /
Forum 01
What is great design
and how do we get it?**

NSW
GOVERNMENT

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Architects
Registration
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Can design-led approaches to city planning create opportunities to benefit the community and increase amenity?

Nationally and internationally, planning policies are being re-written in response to an increasing awareness that good built environment outcomes need a more innovative and integrated approach than traditional land use and planning mechanisms.

This primer offers a snapshot of recent trends and practices concerning design-led planning and architecture politics internationally and it reflects a wider context in which this discussion takes place. Initiatives towards establishing the goals and principles of design-led planning within national frameworks continue to multiply. The following case studies spotlight a selection of design-led approaches to shaping the built environment. By no means exhaustive, they have been chosen from an array of more than 30 survey initiatives to exemplify some commonly identified principles.

All initiatives emphasise and indeed implore the enormous value of good design - but finding a definition for good design is more elusive. In general within these case studies, good design is understood partly as a product of universal principles and partly as a response to local discourse and need.

The policies surveyed for this primer show that most approaches recognise that the way to achieve good design is through good process. And most recognise that these policies are anchored within a cultural context that addresses the changing relationship between all stakeholders in a participatory context.

Symposium Program 04 May 2016

1:45pm	**Arrival**	Gallery Room, State Library NSW via Shakespeare Place
2:00pm	**Forum 1_ What is great design and how do we get it?**	Nationally and internationally, planning policies are being re-written in response to an increasing awareness that good built environment outcomes need a more innovative and integrated approach than traditional land use and planning mechanisms. How can design-led approaches create opportunities for beneficial outcomes for the community? How can this be assisted by new approaches to governance, procurement, design and delivery?
3:30pm	**Afternoon tea**	
4:00pm	**Forum 2_ How do we live?**	Can a radical approach to living provide us with a sustainable approach to densification? Can high density development give equitable access to public and shared space and good quality housing? This conversation will focus on housing; affordability, the social and cultural impacts of different models, reimagining suburbia, and how the clever design of buildings and neighbourhoods can sustainably support aging populations and healthy communities.
5:30pm	**Close**	

Case Studies

Freiburg
Image credit:
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Freiburg; courtesy
Karl Fischer

01/
Baukultur, German Government

Baukultur is an approach aimed at producing good architecture and planning as elements of a sustainable, liveable environment. Focused on achieving high design standards, it embraces a holistic view of social, economic, and environmental aspects. Baukultur advocates the organisation of administrative and project structures interdepartmentally and on the basis of high levels of interdisciplinary expertise.

Distinctive to Baukultur is its social orientation which is connected to principles established in medieval times and to the fact that Germany's Basic Law declares that (property) ownership entails social responsibility. Against this background, federal, state, and municipal governments have

recognized their responsibility as role models incorporates a range of voluntary commitments including responsible competition management processes. However, Baukultur emphasises that all participants in the building process have the task of being role models.

The integration of stakeholders involved in the design, construction, and appropriation processes is an essential component of good building practice. Baukultur as a joint task maintains a dialogue between these actors and takes a role in balancing between different interests within the processes of planning, building, and operations.

Among the examples of this process culture are the "New Urban Neighbourhoods" in Freiburg, Tuebingen, Kassel and in more than 100 other locations. Further characteristics reflecting German Baukultur include a broad array of integrated urban

HafenCity Hamburg
Image credit:
HafenCity Hamburg
GmbH/Thomas
Hampel; courtesy
Karl Fischer

"The quality of competently designed, openly communicated, and professionally realised projects is recognisable by its appropriate and enriching design in the cityscape. Well-built living spaces can only emerge as the result of good processes."

— BAUKULTUR

development and design programmes and their support through government subsidies, research and a wide array of networks. There is a nationwide pracitice of competitions by joint public/private bodies alongside the German institution of International Building Exhibitions (IBAs) and landscape exhibitions which are manifest in Charters like the Leipzig Charter, the Freiburg Charter etc.

HafenCity Hamburg is a large-scale project devloped along Baukultur lines which will expand the city by 40%. Key figures: 155 ha; 6.000 apartments (to-date: 2.400); 40.000 jobs. By 2010 the project had undertaken 60 competitions involving 600 participants, based on a strategy of bidding and contracting focusing heavily on competition among smaller-size developers in order to achieve the widest possible variety of concepts and architecture.

Sustainable, high quality and people-centered architecture is a central focus of the Danish government, including the potential financial benefits of investing in architectural quality and sustainability in an environmental, economic and social sense.

02/
Danish Architectural Policy - Putting People First

In 2014, a national Danish Architectural Policy - Putting People First, replaced their 2007 policy - A Nation of Architecture Denmark - Settings for Life and Growth.

A key facet of the new policy is an insistence that high quality design is not only admirable on its own terms, but that is makes economic and strategic sense. Integrated with key ministerial strategies, it is formulated to address Denmark's most pressing challenges of rapidly changing demographics, urbanization and climate change.

Developed in close cooperation between a number of ministries and stakeholders, it launches 64 specific initiatives in different ministerial fields of responsibility. Inter-ministerial bodies meet twice a year and attend an annual conference to ensure coordinated development and implementation of the policy.

The policy focuses on four principle themes;
— Architecture meets People - Children, Youth & Adults (introducing and communicating to all citizens, the value of architecture and urban design)
— Architecture and Democracy - Involvement of Local Authorities and Citizen Participation (fostering local government capabilities and dialogue with the citizens, developers and builders to develop high quality physical environments)
— Architecture and Sustainability - Environmentally, Socially, and Culturally (creating sustainable developments while

boosting economic growth without compromising the environment)

— Architecture's Contribution – Quality, Innovation and International Potential (leveraging the potentials of the creative industries to drive growth and value creation for benefit of all citizens)

At 2015, 30 of Denmark's 98 local municipalities have adopted local policies alongside the national policy, providing a mandate for high quality designs plus supporting and strengthening local initiatives.

Policy outcome examples: Copenhagen centre for Cancer and Health by Nord Architects 'Public building projects have a significant impact on their surroundings and it is important that their quality is high.

Copenhagen Centre for Cancer and Health is a free offer to citizens affected by cancer.' (Copenhagen City of Architecture, 2010)

Slusenholmen – urban renewal area 'Slusenholmen represents a holistic concept for urban development and new housing while experimenting with the transitions between city and water, in this case, the canals and harbour space.' (Copenhagen City of Architecture, 2010)

Tietgenkollegiet, Orestad – Student dormitory, Lundgaard & Tranberg 'In Orestad North, a completely modern space has been developed that combines various functions as the basis for diverse urban life.' (Copenhagen City of Architecture, 2010)

Regeneration is a process that, in response to an injury or damage, helps a body, a system or – in our case – a city, grow again and thrive, stronger and more resilient than ever.

— REGENERATECHRISTCHURCH.NZ

03/
Reimagine Christchurch,
Christchurch City Council

Reimagine Christchurch was a radical program that teamed planning, design and public engagement. The program invited, recorded and documented community values through the use of face to face events, and simple online tools. Extensive engagement followed major earthquakes in September 2010, and February and June 2011 that devastated the city and destroyed much of the Central Business District. The disaster left Christchurch in an extraordinary position, and while it waited for opportunities to rebuild, the city invited residents to 'reimagine it in any form we choose'.

The principal means of engagement was the 'Reimagine Christchurch' website, which invited users to submit and to vote on ideas according to perceived merit. This method captured ideas from a range of professional and non-professional people interested in Christchurch's future, and prioritised them through user rankings and associated comments threads.

An advantage of such web-based techniques over conventional engagement is that the outreach (in terms of participant numbers) can be much greater, because on-line engagement can be accessed at the user's convenience, as opposed to being a one off event with a fixed time for feedback. Comments were also weighted according to popularity. In the case of Reimagine Christchurch the website generated hundreds of suggestions with the top ideas attracting in excess of 800 user votes. In parallel, events like TEDxEQChCh
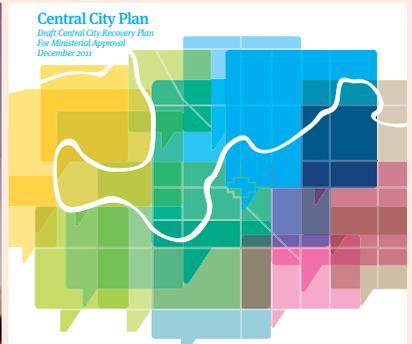
Central City Plan
Draft Central City Recovery Plan
For Ministerial Approval
December 2011

explored alternative futures for Christchurch, and gave them some historical context – challenging residents not to automatically assume that things should be put back the way they were. Temporary activation was welcomed alongside the permanent and the master planned. Projects and policies from other cities around the world were explored to see whether new rules, or ways of working were needed.

In 2011, the results from Reimagine Christchurch were incorporated in to the draft master plan for the city. New legislation was prepared, and a new authority created to deliver on the plan, Regenerate Christchurch.

Image credit:
courtesy City of
Sydney

04/
Sustainable Sydney 2030, City of Sydney

Sustainable Sydney 2030 presents a vision that addresses the city's challenges, currently and in the future, including those of climate change and the need to be economically competitive in a global market. Specifically within the city context, problems of transport congestion, decreasing affordability, persistent social disadvantage, and the need to replace aging infrastructure are key issues that need to be addressed in innovative ways. The process of "remaking the City" is focused on promoting it as a city that is green, global and connected. The Vision aims to achieve increasing sustainability targets whilst accounting for the pressures of growth and development of Australia's Global City.

05/
Survey on Architectural Policies in Europe (João Ferreira Bento on behalf of European Forum for Architectural Policies)

The European Forum for Architectural Policies is an international network devoted to foster and promote architecture and architectural policies in Europe, bridging public governance, profession, culture and education. It disseminates knowledge and best practice on architectural policies through meetings of experts, public events and publications, such as the Survey of Architectural Polices in Europe 2012.

The EFPA has evolved in response to a growing recognition of the importance of architectural quality as a prerequisite for building sustainable environments with a high quality of life.

Keynote and Panel

Keynote / Vicente Guallart

Vicente leads Guallart Architects and was the Chief Architect of Barcelona (2011-2015), a city which has undergone massive transformation over the last 30 years. He works at the confluence of architecture, nature and technologies. Vicente is interested in how design-led approaches identify opportunities for beneficial outcomes for the community assisted by new approaches to governance, procurement, design and delivery. "A good city is a place where the citizens live well. So the best measure for a good city is how the citizens live." V Guallart 2014, archdaily.com

Facilitator / Matt Davis

Matt is a Director of Davis + Davis Architects, an Adelaide based design practice committed to creating great places for people. As well as architecture and urban design projects, the practice provides strategic design advice to communities, organisations and governments. Matt is an advocate for the value of design in society and has held senior roles in academia and government.

Ken Maher

Ken is a leading Australian architect, active in practice and academia. He advises governments on design, sustainability and the future of cities throughout Australia and internationally.

Ken has a strong interest in the role of design contributing to public life. Ken's recognition as a designer is reflected in the numerous awards received for projects he has led. In 2009, he was awarded the Australian Institute of Architect's highest accolade, the Gold Medal.

Erin Flaherty

Erin is Executive Director at Infrastructure NSW and a guardian of the Commonwealth Future Fund. She is directly engaged in the areas of public transport, social and cultural infrastructure. She is also the NSW Government Co-ordinator for Parramatta and an Advisory Board Member for the Sydney Light Rail and the Sydney Metro project.

Kim Crestani

Kim has over 30 years experience as an Architect and is currently the City Architect for Parramantta City Council. In July 2015 Kim was appointed to Liverpool City Council's Design Excellence Panel.

Jeffrey Shumaker

Jeffrey is the Chief Urban Designer and Director of Urban Design for New York City. He has worked on a number of city-wide initiatives and neighbourhood projects across New York. Jeffrey believes in the transformative role of urban design in making cities both more liveable and sustainable. He is interested in whether a radical approach to living can provide us with a sustainable approach to densification and whether high density development can ensure equitable access to public and shared space as well as good quality housing.

Bridget Smyth

Bridget is Design Director at City of Sydney. Having joined the City of Sydney in 2001, Bridget manages a range of urban design, strategic and special projects, including the implementing the Sustainable Sydney 2030 vision.

Shaping our futures since 1816

In 1816, Governor Lachlan Macquarie appointed architect, stonemason and convicted forger Francis Greenway as civil architect and assistant engineer to the colony of New South Wales.

The appointment established the role of NSW Government Architect which has endured unbroken for 200 years.

The bicentenary takes place at a time of momentous change as NSW, like the rest of Australia and indeed the world, faces the challenge of creating a sustainable future, particularly in the cities and towns where most of us work, live, learn and play. What sort of places do we want our cities and towns to be? How can we achieve that?

Recent research shows that Australians want good design and understand the consequences of a poorly designed built environment. How do we honour that ambition?

To give shape to this debate, the NSW Office of the Government Architect (NSW OGA) is launching GA200+, a program of forums, discussions and keynotes in Sydney and regional NSW for government, industry, researchers and the public about how we can collectively deliver a great built environment for the public good in the years ahead.

Strategic themes brought to light at GA200+ will be presented in discussion papers to inform an inaugural, draft Policy for Architecture and Urban Design in NSW.

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