

Nicholas Aley

Urban Design Review Panels: Their role in influencing the quality of urban design within the urban landscape

This thesis considers the concept of urban design and how the principles of good urban design can be implemented within the planning process in order to achieve positive outcomes in the built environment. It is argued that the use of urban design review panels is the most effective method to achieve such outcomes, as design review panels are advisory bodies comprising of experts within the broader field of urban design. The aim of this thesis is to look at the development of urban design review panels over time, both internationally and within Australia. From there, this thesis aims to utilise this critique in order to provide direction to the recent initiative to use urban design review panels in New South Wales. In order to achieve such, the thesis has been separated into four distinct areas: an examination of what constitutes urban design and how it can be defined; an international overview of urban design and the emergence of urban design review panels; a specific examination of the South Australian experience of urban design review panels; and an examination of the recent evolution of urban design review panels in New South Wales and how this has been shaped by previous experiences with urban design review panels. Much urban planning concerns itself with the maintenance of 'urban character', in which the design outcomes of the built environment play an integral role. Urban design review panels offer a positive, collaborative mechanism through which to influence the urban design outcomes of development so as to ensure that they contribute to the urban landscape in a positive, aesthetic and functional manner.

Ross Anthony

Making the Most of the Coast: Coastal Policy in NSW

The coastal zone is the complex and sensitive area where marine and terrestrial environments come together and interact. This thesis provides an overview of coastal zone management in New South Wales, with a focus on the New South Wales Coastal Policy 1997 and its governing body, the Coastal Council of New South Wales. This thesis aims to look at how they have coordinated and managed coastal planning and protection legislation, as well as the coordination of the government and non-government organisations to achieve the environmentally sustainable objectives in the Policy. A key feature of this thesis is the results of a survey undertaken with the councils of coastal local government areas to establish the forthcoming and downfalls of the Coastal Policy and to determine how effective coastal management has been in New South Wales. Through analysis of issues such as coastline building heights, coastal processes and local council implementation and attitudes, it was found that the Policy is an effective planning tool for strategic planning, however, it performs poorly when being used for development control.

Hannah Blue

Landscape Assessment: Subjectivity to Science

During the latter part of last century we have witnessed the landscapes vulnerability in the face of economic growth and social change. More often than not, the planning profession has failed adequately to predict, recognise or deal with the impacts of this change. The result of this has been a serious erosion of the character and quality of many of our urban and other landscape types. One method of addressing impact is the incorporation of 'landscape assessments' into the planning and development control process. Landscape assessments allow for landscape and visual issues to play a prominent role in the development process. They involve the systematic assessment of the significance of a specific landscape area, as well as the careful prediction of the nature and scale of any potential change to it. The objective of this thesis is to explore the practicality of landscape assessments for the planning profession. This can be achieved through the exploration the history and theoretical background of various assessment models and how they can be incorporated into the NSW planning system. Three key models (the ecological, phenomenological and psychological models) are tested through the application of each to the Port Hacking foreshore. From this practical work it was realised that all landscape assessment models are inadequate in some respects. Of the three models studied it was concluded that each is a useful planning tool, although their applications are varied. The ecological model is most beneficial as a quantifying landscape mechanism, the phenomenological model as a method for engaging the community and the psychophysical model for assessing the physical and intrinsic qualities of the landscape and its proposed changes.

Summer Booth

The Role of Community Consultation in the Planning for St. Marys ADI

This thesis has considered the contribution of the community in the planning for the redevelopment of St. Marys ADI. The evaluation of the ADI site as a 'community planned community' was based on review of the consultation program in seeking community land use preferences and needs, and the incorporation of community submissions into the planning documents that would guide redevelopment of the precinct. In the involvement of the community in the consultation program and the seeking of submissions, the planning for the ADI site commenced as community planning. Further, the incorporation of community submissions in the Draft / Regional Environmental Study and Regional Environmental Plan was observed. As such, the development was indicative of a community planned community. However, this research has proposed that the community concerns and submissions were incorporated in the plans and strategies in the context of the priorities for the site, as predetermined by the Stage Government and the Joint Venture. It was further suggested that the outcome proposed in Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 30-St. Marys was reflective of the need to achieve a balance between accommodating metropolitan population growth, providing local and regional employment opportunities and facilitating biodiversity and archaeological conservation. St. Marys ADI has been identified as a community planned community to the extent that community submissions have been given equal weight as environmental, economic, cultural and social considerations in the planning for the site.

Lydia Borchert

City Farms: Will they survive?

City farms play an important role in cities, for their educational, recreational, social and environmental components and benefits. Essentially, city farms bring the country to the city and provide the community with the opportunity to participate in farm activities. They improve the natural and built environment by facilitating initiatives such as seed saving programs, and encouraging sustainable agriculture and living practices. This study examines the role of city farms in society and debates whether they are a valid and viable land use. It also aims to discuss various international and Australian city farms, providing an analysis of six case studies and one major case study. This thesis details components that may increase the success of city farms, and outlines possible strategies to increase their viability. This study aims to promote city farms as a community resource through educating the community about agriculture, nutrition, farming, permaculture, animal husbandry, geology, geography and ecological sustainability. City farms also have the opportunity to focus on nutrition and health, thereby providing access to affordable healthy, organically grown fruit and vegetables, through initiatives such as Growers' and Farmers' Markets. This study presents a unique analysis of city farms and the various factors that have affected their evolution. These factors are detailed, as is the evolution of city farms worldwide. The case studies provide an insight into the operation of city farms, including their advantages and disadvantages. It is the aim of this thesis to promote city farms as a viable and appropriate land use and to encourage the initiation of other projects. This study aims to increase support and funding from government and non-government organisations for city farms, as this is a vital component for their success.

Kylie Bragg

Apartment Living in Inner Sydney: The Booms, The Busts, The Lifestyles

Fifteen years ago, high-rise, compact city living was not a Great Australian Dream. The popular notion of apartment living was that it was for people who could not afford a house. However, past perceptions that high-density apartments were of an inferior quality and suitable only for the poor or socially disadvantaged have changed. This has been largely as a result of urban consolidation, migration, gentrification, globalisation, change in household mix and the increasing desire for a more cosmopolitan lifestyle. These particular factors compounded to create two periods of frenzied apartment building in inner Sydney: the 1920s and the 1960s. These boom periods have shaped the location, apartment type and attitudes towards apartment living within the inner city. At present, these factors are leading the current influx of inner city apartment dwellers. The new occupants cite location, cultural activities, stage of life, sense of community, and the cosmopolitan lifestyle as being major impetuses for the move into the inner city. But who are these new inner city urbanites? The significant faction is the chic 'Generation X', with accessibility, proximity to work, and the desire for a cosmopolitan lifestyle, being the driving forces. This increase in predominantly young, professional, couples has led to a call for improved design of apartments and increased residential amenity. A small number of architects and developers are now launching residential developments that are designed to be flexible and provide a more spacious feel. Inner city apartment living has seen booms, busts, and now an increasing desire for lifestyle oriented living spaces.

Natalie Camilleri

The Creative City: Reality or Rhetoric? A critique of the recent work of Charles Landry and Comedia

The focus of this thesis is on three connected themes: Charles Landry, Comedia and the notion of the creative city. Charles Landry is a British based cultural strategist and is the founder of Comedia a consultancy and research organisation. Landry and Comedia devised the notion of the creative city in the early 1990s. Landry has since collaborated with several others to refine ideas on creativity, develop a creative city strategic planning methodology and implement the concept in a number of towns and cities. This thesis considers the relevance of the notion of the creative city to strategic urban planning. It questions whether the creative city is possible and whether it is capable of bringing the change Landry premises. This thesis looks at the evolution of urban cultural strategies since the 1970s. Landry's creative city is essentially a new urban cultural strategy with creativity as an added dimension. The meaning of creativity in the context of the individual, organisations and the city is considered. Ideas on creative milieux and the conditions for fostering such milieux are reviewed. Landry and Comedia's work leading up to the development of the creativity city is analysed as is relevant to the conceptualisation of the idea. Landry's methodology for the creative city as presented in his book *The Creative City: A toolkit for urban innovators* (2000) is critiqued. The Huddersfield Creative Town Initiative being the first project inspired by Landry and Comedia's work on the creative city is presented as a case study.

Michael Carnuccio

"City Space, Blind Places": Facilitating more responsive urban environments for the visually impaired

Within an increasingly pluralistic society, it is imperative that built environment professionals re-examine their philosophies for the design and management of the urban domain to ensure they respond equitably and affectively to the individuals who inhabit them. The experience of urban environments as "place" contributes significantly to our satisfaction, emotions, behaviour and sense of self and well-being. Contemporary urban design discourse is preoccupied with the visual, and inadvertently diminishes the opportunity for those individuals who are visually impaired to establish a sense of place within urban space. This thesis examines the sightless experience of urban environments through empirical research into the lived experiences of visually impaired individuals. Its aim is to illuminate the sightless notion of place and identify how built environment professionals can effect responsive environments which are more affectively experienced and embraced by the visually impaired. An outcome of this thesis is the formulation of guidelines for the design and management of urban spaces which have the potential to be experienced as place by the visually impaired. The main conclusion of this thesis is that the facilitation of a sense of safety within urban spaces and the provision of information defining them, are paramount to the creation of responsive urban environments for the visually impaired.

Olga Chan

Designing Safer Cities: CPTED Principles in Public Places

There has been a growing interest in implementing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) throughout Australia and abroad. In NSW, there was no statutory requirement for councils to apply CPTED in design and management of public places. An understanding on the extent to which CPTED principles have been put into practice and their effectiveness in existing public places is needed. This thesis examines the theories and principles of CPTED and investigates its application in existing public places. The methodology comprised interviews, a survey and a site assessment. Results showed that CPTED principles that aim to reduce crime opportunities by environmental design have been extensively applied in our existing public places. While there was no proven evidence that CPTED has significant effects in reducing actual crime, it was shown that CPTED has potential to reduce fear of crime in public places. An effective crime prevention policy should be in the form of partnership that combines different measures. Environments that planners design are important both in terms of physical setting and of social location. Just applying CPTED couldn't reduce social problems and social incivilities. The community that involved in social environment played a key role in crime prevention. A "social" approach on environmental design should be what planners opt for.

Clayton Davidson

Rapid Bus-Only Transitways

The cities of the developed world have undergone massive change in transport since WWII. Increased private vehicle ownership allowed suburban sprawl-based planning, resulting in falling public transport patronage and increased traffic congestion. There was a common view in the immediate post-war era that there was no longer a want for public transport, and that the car was the transport solution for the modern age. The social and environmental impacts of the car-dominated city suggest that this was a mis-guided prophecy. With the gradual re-emergence of public transport into the urban conscious in the last two to three decades have come the new transit technologies of light rail, and bus-only transitways. The transitway concept has been successfully applied in cities across the world, including the South East Busway in Brisbane, and Sydney's M2 Hills Motorway transitway. The New South Wales Government is currently constructing a transitway network across Western Sydney, in an attempt to provide transport to areas which were developed without public transport infrastructure. Whilst the above mentioned line-haul transitways have been successful, the Western Sydney Transitway network is mainly cross-regional in nature, and serious doubts exist as to its viability.

Melissa Dixon

Child's Play: Child Participation in Planning

This thesis explores children's participation in urban planning. There is a growing global trend towards acknowledging children's spatial needs, and their right to contribute to decisions regarding their environment. This thesis aims to outline the reasons why such a trend has occurred, and explain the methods that are being used to achieve children's participation in planning. The relationship shared between children and the local environment is explored, as well as the distinct way children can contribute to planning. This research takes the reader from enquiry to implementation via three sections: *why children should be considered in urban planning*, *child participation*, and *methodology and implementation*. These sections cover the logical

thought process a planner may take to research and implement child-friendly initiatives into a policy or project. It is seen that while there are numerous reasons for including children's input in the planning process, the most critical is that pertaining to community inclusion. Children form a significant proportion of the population and therefore the environment should reflect their presence. Various examples illustrate that child participation in planning can accomplish this, as well as providing other benefits for the local environment and children.

Lara Dominish

The 'too hard basket'? The struggle for local government to acquire affordable rental housing in Sydney

The lack of housing affordability in Sydney is a significant and increasing phenomenon. It creates not only personal problems, but has broad economic and social impacts within the community. Few local government areas in Sydney have incorporated affordable housing provisions within their environmental planning instruments. This is partially as a result of the ad hoc and controversial development of affordable housing legislation in New South Wales. Councils have indicated that there exist several consequential barriers in the development and implementation of housing policy. The primary barriers are insufficient information for councils, negative perceptions of potential tenants, resource inadequacies and the perception that affordable housing is not the role of local government. These barriers need to be identified and appropriately addressed in the preparation of the proposed State Environmental Planning Policy on affordable housing. The role of local government with regards to housing issues is equivocal. This role has however evolved in the past decade, often in response to the inadequacies of state and federal government in effectively addressing such issues. Although it is recognised that local government has limited capacity in comparison to other tiers of government, it is crucial that they are involved to assist in catering for local housing needs.

Murray Donaldson

Urban Design Management: Design Control for New Urban Development

One of the most important changes that have occurred in the planning profession in recent times has been the addition of design methods to the practice of development control. Over the last generation there has been a growing recognition that planning decisions often carry a large design component. Design control is a way of making complex decisions about development within the framework of proven architecture and urban planning conventions. It refers to the process by which private and public development proposals receive independent critical review against established standards. It is distinguished from conventional zoning and subdivision controls in that it deals with urban design, architecture and visual impacts. In the context of new urban development, design control is used to guide desirable physical and structural outcomes. The practice of design control is a difficult and controversial process that needs ongoing and thorough criticism and debate. While there is still resistance design control operates fully within the Australian urban planning and development tradition. This thesis identifies the importance of maintaining control over the urban design and architectural vision of new urban developments. Current attempts to control the design of new urban developments are reviewed and assessed applying a method of post-construction evaluation. This method of assessment identifies the practicalities

of using design-based development control. The inclusion of design methodology in public policy is a continuing trend with new approaches being tested. Designers and planners are rediscovering how to write development controls to ensure that appropriate design relationships and the desired urban design visions are achieved. The successful implementation of design control methods is informing private investors that good marketable design can be achieved within the framework of detailed design control.

Miné Erten

Putting Culture in its Place: A Case Study of Turkish Culture in Australia

In the absence of culture, place is mere space. Places encapsulate traditions, rituals, cultural values and belief systems. This thesis examines the intricacies of place to highlight the importance of considering human experience, identity, and emotions in the physical environment. Australians have adopted a multicultural national identity, and similarly, a multicultural approach to the creation of place based on the existing cultural diversity of the population. To capture the essence of place, it is critical to comprehend the individual cultures of communities. The case study approach adopted in this thesis examines Turkish culture and the way in which it has affected the establishment of places for the Turkish community in Australia. Interviews with members of the Australian Turkish community have added another dimension to the research, enriching it with the experiences, emotions and views of the respondents. As the name quite clearly suggests, environmental planning and management involves the management of the physical environment and increasingly, includes the people within it. Thus, appreciation of place and culture is critical in planning the physical environment, as the importance of people's experiences in space become clearer. The thesis discusses ways of adopting a more social and cultural approach to environmental planning, and concludes that human experience and sentiments in the physical environment, and attachment to place should be treated as a fundamental factor in planning and managing the physical environment.

Louise Evans

Laneways Live On: Their Struggle For Survival

Laneways are an essential component of both Sydney and Melbourne's city centres, and are an integral part of each city's urban character. Laneways have influenced and shaped each city's built environment, influencing Sydney's haphazard and Melbourne's structured development. I find that throughout the history of urban form, laneways have played multiple roles and these are easily identified throughout the two cities. I find strong similarities in the history of both cities, with lanes being sold during the 1950s to 90s as a result of 20th Century land amalgamation. The laneway policies, that have managed each city's lanes from the early 1990s are critically analysed, and I find that Melbourne has been able to utilise their lanes much more effectively than Sydney, providing accessibility and ease to traverse the city. .

Zoi Gamble

Adaptive Re-use: Design and Assessment

The thesis identifies the evolution and concept of Adaptive Re-use over the past 20 years; the current, present and future trends and application of Adaptive Re-use; the opportunities and constraints of Adaptive Re-use; and the role of heritage and

conservation with Adaptive Re-use. Four case studies were chosen based on their existing use, different characteristics, proposed uses and opportunities and constraints associated with each particular building. Documented material discussions with developers, real estate agents, the public, and Council staff have been used to gain information. The case studies are: Waratah Mills at Dulwich Hill, the Gatehouse at Jacksons Landing, the Rehoboth Church at Glebe, and the MacMahon Street Fire Station at Hurstville. The case studies outlined are representative of some of the options available to various types of buildings. Adaptive reuse is a cost effective and efficient way to conserve and preserve historic buildings while providing a desirable use. In addition, adaptive reuse is socially and economically beneficial and is in the public interest as buildings can be adapted several times providing uses which change with the areas needs. However, care should be taken as to not to reduce the buildings significance as a result of each change. It is rare that any one form of development offers so many economic, social, and environmental advantages as adaptive reuse does; everyone benefits. Despite the wide acceptance in the marketplace for adapted buildings, however, adaptive reuse is by no means a feasible option for every obsolete building. Unlike conventional real estate development in which local estate development where location follows market demand, both the location and the local market are fixed in adaptive reuse development. Unfortunately, local demand will not support the reuse of some structurally and architecturally desirable buildings. However, as the case studies presented in this thesis demonstrate, a plethora of opportunities exist for those who really look for them.

Rachel Harrison

The demise of the local centre

As society is becoming more convenience orientated, the incidence of derelict retail centres has increased. There are many factors, which have played major roles in the life cycle of the local centre. This thesis focused on the main influences including: cultural shifts, women in the workforce, emergence of the large shopping mall and increased ownership of the motorcar. All these factors have had huge effects on the functioning of local centres. This can be seen in the two case studies of Canberra and Blacktown. These case studies involved surveys of the commercial centres and focused on declining and derelict centres. The governing authorities response to the situation was also analysed. Through the review of these two case studies and a study of the options to curb the decline, outlining the role of planners as interventional is possible. There are two different issues for planners to deal with when it comes to reducing the incidence of declining centres, these being: reducing the demise by becoming interventionist and assessing what options there are, once a centre is derelict. This thesis analyses options available to planners when dealing with the abovementioned two issues. Planners cannot change society's characteristics and functions in our convenience driven culture. It is inevitable that traditional small local centres are going to struggle. In answer to the question 'do planners have a right to step in and interfere with the free market?' is yes, to an extent. Planners need to take an active role in reducing this demise and achieve new uses for sites that are no longer viable as commercial centres.

Shih-Po (Paul) Hsu

Impacts of 921 Chi-Chi Earthquake in Taiwan – Restoration Planning Study and Mitigation Response.

In the early morning hours of 21 September 1999, a devastating earthquake struck the central region of Taiwan. This earthquake became known as the 921 earthquake or the “Ji-Ji” or “Chi-Chi” earthquake. The magnitude of the 921 earthquake was $MS = 7.6$ (Richter scale) or $ML = 7.3$ (the system used in Taiwan). There were two large aftershocks of $ML = 6.8$ that occurred about 30 hours and 120 hours after the main shock. An $ML = 5.3$ aftershock was recorded as late as 260 hours later causing collapses of already damaged structures. As of October 1999, the death toll stands at more than 2,400, with over 10,000 people injured. Approximately 10,000 buildings/homes collapsed and over 7,000 more were damaged. In addition, there was widespread destruction and disruption of lifelines, including roads and bridges, communication systems, water and gas supply systems, and electric power systems. This thesis contains studies of the facts for damages on the land, buildings, lifelines, other structures, economies and people. It also tries to identify restoration issues and provides some recommendations and future thoughts on planning and overall perspectives.

Karen Hunter

Living Locally in Later Life? Government Policies and Initiatives Influencing Ageing in Place

Ageing in place refers to elderly people who continue to age within their long term community. This has many benefits for the elderly including the ability to retain established social networks and grow old within a familiar environment. Sydney’s population is ageing at a historically unprecedented rate, with the middle and some outer ring suburbs experiencing the greatest increase in the number of aged. In order for the elderly to be able to age in place, the environment needs to be barrier free, care needs to be widely available and a choice of suitable housing types - which are affordable, well located and appropriately designed - need to be provided. Government is best placed to encourage the provision of suitable housing for the elderly. This dissertation examines current Commonwealth, State and local policies and initiatives that attempt to do this. However, while numerous success stories were discovered, one of its main findings is that there are still barriers preventing an adequate supply of suitable housing choices for the elderly in their local areas and more needs to be done by government and other sectors to better facilitate ageing in place.

Peter Hynd

Urban Policy and the Development Corporation: A Tale of Two Cities

Urban decline in inner city areas is not only found in Australian cities. It is a global problem that has arisen through changes to the economic structure of western economies since the late 1960s. Inner city spaces reflect the legacies of productive decentralisation, the rapid global growth of new industrial and technological sectors and new forms of regional and interregional competition for mobile capital. The decline of manufacturing and heavy industry has been the visually dominant off-shoot of this change. Large redundant industrial sites were left as the legacy of this decline, coupled with a fall in infrastructure and service levels. This study provides an overview of urban policy and the development corporations in New

South Wales and Britain established to combat this decay. It introduces the South Sydney Development Corporation and the London Docklands Development Corporation, providing an overview of their establishment, legislative framework, policies and progress. This thesis also investigates and evaluates this policy and the development corporations. In doing this, it interprets and develops on the contemporary notions of 'new urban partnerships', 'new governance' and 'economic growth coalitions'. It investigates the effectiveness of development corporations in implementing urban policy and undertaking urban regeneration by evaluating this against these notions. Ultimately, it demonstrates the over-dependence the development corporations are placing on private-sector partnerships, agendas and objectives at the expense of equitable policy and practices. The thesis also identifies the critical nature of resourcing, highlighting the inability of the corporations to provide an equitable distribution of expenditure. In doing this, it warns that regeneration is undertaken at the expense of resolving social problems and developing a community.

Beverley Kong

Development Assessment Reforms: Are changes to Part 4 resulting in better outcomes?

"It seems that no one is entirely happy with the development approval process in Australia". (O'Toole, 1993:254) The development industry is concerned with delays in approvals and the subsequent costs of development. Local council is also discontent with the planning policy and the public believes that local council has no sense of vision of their community. It seems that the development assessment and approval (DA)-system/process in NSW is plagued with many problems. The reforms to Part 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act in 1998 was one of the significant State government's approach to remedy the many problems in the DA-system. The objectives of the reforms are to streamline procedures and to minimise the costly delays in the assessment and approval of building and other forms of development. The prime aim of this thesis is to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of (DA)-system performance, three years after the reforms to Part 4 of the EP&A Act were made in July 1998. Yet judging by the reaction of various stakeholders the development assessment and approval process still remains a long, arduous process. A fourth of NSW municipalities still failed to meet the 40-day statutory deadline for processing development applications with the highest of 106.59 days in 1999/2000 (DLG unpublished draft).

Svetlana Kotevska

Contentious Land Uses: A Study of Locational Conflict

Siting various land uses in Sydney can be highly problematic and is often controversial ~~due to the perceived or actual negative social, economic or~~ environmental impacts they are likely to generate in that particular location. This research explores small-scale contentious development applications and the conflicts that arise. Locational conflict is a result of opposing ideas and desires over the use of space. Why conflict arises, how it manifests itself and the implications of conflict are exposed. This research investigates how the planning system deals with contentious uses and the conflicts. How the planning system is designed to avoid conflicts between land uses, in particular the effectiveness of the development control system,

and the concept of the public interest is investigated. Conflict resolution options including the traditional adversarial approach and alternative dispute resolution particularly mediation and negotiation are explored. The thesis argues that the current planning system is only partially effective in dealing with the siting of contentious land uses. Additional means that may assist the planning process and minimise conflicts, are explored. The thesis suggests ways to lead to a more effective planning system and decision making through for instance less adversarial and more open and inclusionary participation processes.

Michelle Kwan

Key Hong Kong planning issues in the era of globalisation: policies and problems

Our cities' economies are moulded by world economic activities. The trend of 'Globalisation' has emerged over the last twenty years. The shifting of economic movement from manufacturing industries to information technology business and Transnationals Corporations (TNCs) establishment have led to the transformation of economic activities. These have penetrated the shift of local or national economic activities to a global economic focus. TNCs are typically situated in cities with highly advanced infrastructure and a top-level concentration of telecommunication facilities, a stable cultural, political and investment climate. Examples of 'world' or 'global' cities are New York, London, Sydney and Hong Kong. Hong Kong as a world city, has undertaken industrial restructuring and spatial changes. The region has faced with high proportion of vacant and obsolete old industrial areas that are no longer engaged in manufacturing. As a result, Government is facing the pressure of either opening new land or revitalise existing surplus of land to cater for new. Government intervention is essential to economic development and it should be proactive and responsive to changes. However, what is seen is the failure of Hong Kong Government intervention. It is argued that Hong Kong Government planning approach has been too reactive instead of proactive in relation to economic changes. Government has been too short-term focused on specific development especially the property and finance market.

Florence Leung

Privatisation of Open Space in Suburban Context

Open space is important to community. It is also an essential part of the urban form and the amenity of a city. Therefore planning functional open space is one of the significant issues in the planning process. The New South Wales state and local governments were traditionally the major sectors in provision of open space and recreation facilities for the benefit of the people. Often the acquiring of the land is the easy part, but the ongoing management of open space is another matter. There are some common issues, such as safety, security, access etc., are often raised in public open space. Nowadays, the changing society lead the changing lifestyle of many individuals this affect many people's choices on recreation. The trend of private sector involvement on recreation and open space can be one of the solutions to provide a more diverse recreation opportunities to fulfill the urban people on recreation needs and wants. From the residential perspective, the growing desire of medium and high density housing in Sydney has led to the involvement of developers in the provision of communal open space and recreation facilities. Such provision of communal open space and facilities is one of the trends of the privatisation of open

space in suburban context. The increase of communal amenity would create some significant issues for public open space.

Bianca Lewis

Management of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore

There are numerous government organisations who are responsible for the delivery of development and planning objectives on the foreshore, designated the 'urban managers of the harbour'. It is argued that the role urban managers should play on the foreshore is twofold: firstly to strategically guide or pursue appropriate development objectives on the waterfront, and secondly to work in collaboration with the community and those agencies which concern themselves with Sydney Harbour. Certainly this is not the case. It has been demonstrated that the various government authorities pursue their own planning objectives without regular consultation with comparable agencies. This is exacerbated by the political stand offs between the different levels of government, and their inability to work together to achieve the best outcomes. In addition through a corporate liberalist interpretation of urban governance where the state is rolled back in favour of private interests, examples can be seen a corporatist approach of management of the Sydney Harbour foreshore. A more collaborative working relationship between the agencies, as well as a more open and accountable government is sought.

Edwin Luk

Convenience Stores in Our Society

The suburbs and the city of Sydney have witnessed the establishment of a new form of retail service over the past decades: the 'Convenience Stores'. The convenience stores and sophistication of their associated retail elements have dramatically increased across different suburbs, and have become a significant trend within the retail sector in Australia. Convenience stores are undoubtedly providing convenience and shopping benefits to the customers, and hence contribute to the retail sector. Their economic outcomes and the convenience they bring to our society may be a positive value. However, arguments have arisen with respect to the establishment of convenience stores. With their location, operating strategies, kinds of services and commodities they provided, the existence of the convenience stores may have adverse economic and social impacts on traditional retail industry, especially for the traditional small corner stores and independent retailers. Besides, environmental effects will be generated from convenience stores. The specific objectives of the thesis include investigating the recent trends in urban retailing, which leading to a demand for convenience store; exploring the international and local trends on convenience stores; assessing the possible planning issues caused by convenience stores; and reviewing current planning legislations and regulations which deal with convenience stores. It is concluded the existence of convenience stores do generate negative planning issues on our society. This reflects the downside of convenience stores, despite the advantages which they may bring to customers. However, the existence of convenience stores are still not a concern to the public, whether in state or in local level.

Kate Lyons

Multicultural Public Art

As society becomes more culturally diverse, the representation of a multicultural society within the built environment is becoming increasingly important. Recent trends towards cultural regeneration have encouraged creativity through urban design initiatives. Public art that represents a diverse community is one of the many gestures that reflect these trends. The aim of this thesis is to look at the importance of multicultural public art not only as an opportunity for creativity, but in the ability to create a sense of place for communities who derive from different backgrounds. Identifying the character of communities through open spaces has become an increasingly important role in the urban planning process. Planners, community and cultural officers as well as architects, designers and artists who work in collaboration with community groups have demonstrated that placing emphasis on multicultural public art projects can create a real sense of cultural identity within the community. Without creative gestures such as multicultural public art, the ability to contribute to the built environment cannot be fully achieved. The character can become hard to differentiate from other neighbourhoods and in a world where creativity is playing a leading role in environmental improvement, such gestures need to be taken seriously.

Andrew Magee

Integrated Resource Management: Why? How? Now!

Integration of government management has become a focal point for environmental and community groups around the world since the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development began to be understood. Pressure has been increasing for managers and decision-makers to take note of the deficiencies that sectoral management arrangements have. Natural resources and eco-systems do not respect political boundaries and jurisdictions, and they are far too complex for each component to be taken out and managed by a separate government entity. New approaches must be developed that integrate government agencies and departments, as well as community and non-government organisations to enable natural resources to be used in a more sustainable way. Using waterways as a focal point, the issues of integrating management, including why it is necessary and how it is done, are discussed in this thesis. Particular examples of successful integrated and collaborative arrangements are given, as well as an in-depth study of one waterway, Sydney's Botany Bay. The Bay has come under much scrutiny recently for its poor environmental condition, brought about possibly as a result of the maze of government bodies making decisions with little thought of their impacts on the Bay as a whole. New management scenarios for the Bay are detailed, as well as a recommended model for integrating management and interest for Sydney's second harbour.

Simon Manoski

The New South Wales Land and Environment Court: A Cause for Concern?

In 1999, the Carr Government, under much politicised and publicised pressure from local councils called for a review of the merit appeals jurisdiction of the NSW Land Environment Court. The review into the Court was felt to provide a timely opportunity to reconsider the whole mechanism for the review of planning and development decisions in NSW. Sydney City Council was at the forefront for a review of the Court believing that the review provides an opportunity to address not

only the perceived weaknesses in the procedural rules that govern the Court's role, but more fundamentally the philosophical framework under which the Court currently operates. The underlying aim of the thesis was twofold. Firstly to provide a detailed insight into the Court itself and the broader realm of environmental law which it interprets and administers and secondly, to ascertain whether comprehensive reforms to the Court need to be made to emend what flaws the Court may have within its current planning appeals framework or whether concerns should rest with planning system itself and its construction, implementation, interpretation and execution. The thesis was also cognisant of the growing need for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to be instituted at both the local government level and by the Court itself. For this reason, various forms of alternative dispute resolution methods were discussed and evaluated.

Kristy Morris

What does my home mean? The meaning of home for older people and how it affects choice in retirement accommodation

This thesis presents combined primary and secondary research on the meaning of home for older people. It demonstrates how this meaning impacts upon the choices that older people make in selecting retirement accommodation. For the purposes of primary research, three case studies were selected: two female and one male, all aged 65 years and over and living independently. All case studies had changed their living arrangements in the previous five years as a result of changing lifestyle needs. Two of the case studies lived in age-segregated accommodation, whilst the third lived in housing, not specifically segregated but with people of similar circumstances. The meaning of their home was considered, as were the factors that affected their choice in accommodation. Secondary research involved reviewing literature on the demography of Australia's ageing population; the meanings of home for older people (physical; financial; relationship; cultural; changing; psychological; garden and community); accommodation opportunities provided for the elderly and the influences on choice in accommodation arrangements. Finally, the primary and secondary research was combined to analyse the interrelationship between the meaning of home and choice in accommodation for older people. Recommendations for the field of town planning conclude this research.

Michael Nolan

The Value of Design Competitions in Sydney

The nature of the economy and the community has changed to place higher values on the environment. However standard development control measures have failed to facilitate quality design and its economic, environmental and social benefits. Many of Sydney's most valued and identifiable buildings have been conceived and procured through the design competition process, although there is little acknowledgment of this fact. The City of Sydney has established a policy that requires significant development applications to be subject to design competitions, but to date there has been no evaluation of the policy or its outcomes. Thus, the aim of the thesis is to determine the value of design competitions in Sydney. The thesis highlights the history of design competitions in Sydney and introduces a theory explaining their role. Significant planning, political, design, community and economic influences of the city's form are analysed. The value of quality design is explained and the problems

with the existing system are exposed. The paramount design issues of the City of Sydney are elucidated and the format and effectiveness of its competitions policy is assessed. The revealed value of competitions is that they deliver quality design specific to context, with associated economic, environmental and social benefit.

Carmel O'Connor

Water Management in NSW: Past and Present

Water in our rivers and groundwater systems is a finite resource, requiring the sustainable usage by all. However, Australia's history of water management is found in stories of relentless quests to find and exploit our most precious resource in order to sustain and promote regional growth. Firstly it will be demonstrated that Australia's previous water management policies are now inadequate and have resulted in environmental degradation and other management concerns for water users. Secondly this thesis will show that environmental awareness over the past three decades has resulted in numerous water management reforms that due to their past developmental and expansionist origins still fail to resolve environmental and management issues. This thesis then details the culminating and most recent water management legislation in NSW, *The Water Management Act 2000*, whose main aim is to achieve environmental sustainability. The implications of this Act for water users and surrounding communities are potentially devastating. These implications are detailed using a case study of the Namoi Valley where users face significant cuts to their allocations. From these implications, the issues of most concern for users are detailed and subsequent solutions and recommendations are provided.

Caitlin Richards

Best Practice Environmental Management Planning for Infrastructure Projects

This study traces the evolution of environmental management within the NSW context and reviews current environmental management planning practice for infrastructure projects. Despite the application of generic Conditions of Approval requiring environmental management plans (EMPs) and the availability of EMP Guidelines, the extreme variations in the quality of EMPs submitted to the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and ongoing pollution and degradation incidents indicate that current environmental management planning practice requires review. The crucial role of EMPs in managing environmental risk and promoting sustainable environmental outcomes, and the need for establishment of an environmental management planning process that effectively manages uncertainty, accountability and flexibility, is emphasised. Twenty key determinants of best management practice were identified from 15 interviews with environmental management stakeholders (regulatory, industry, Proponents and environmental advocates) and refined through assessment against three selected case studies: the Yelgun to Chinderah Pacific Highway Upgrade, the Hornsby Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade and the Tuggerah to Munmorah Transmission Line. In order to remove the inconsistencies, issues of interpretation and uncertainty arising from the current ad hoc system, best practice environmental management planning requires the formulation of a coherent methodology that focuses on adaptive management processes. Fundamental to this is the need for all stakeholders in the planning process to shift their attention from management plans to processes of planning, the findings of completed impact assessments, and later imperatives of implementation,

monitoring and maintenance. It is concluded that the adoption of best practice environmental management planning will provide a comprehensive framework for the environmental management of infrastructure projects in NSW, and ensure that the environmental outcomes of these projects are more sustainable.

Cameron Sargent

The motor vehicle and the built environment

The car is an easy alternative to public transport. It is flexible, convenient and reliable. There are, however, social, economic and environmental costs associated with them. The construction of roads and freeways has encouraged automobile dependence. Public transport was often a second priority to government, while roads and freeways were indiscriminately applied. Approaches to counter automobile dependence have centred on increasing densities, improving public transport, taxes, traffic calming and restrictive environmental planning instruments. Many of these strategies have had little impact, and subsequently there needs to be greater focus on the cultural and sociological influences of the automobile. Scant attention in Australia has been placed on these influences in the past and it is therefore not surprising to find many strategies have failed. New approaches are needed otherwise we will find ourselves in a far worse situation than the present.

Charles Scott

Trading Places: Transferable Development Rights

Town planners seek to achieve a diverse range of land use objectives. These objectives aim to provide us with better living environments and a more harmonious way of life. In attempting to achieve these objectives, planners have a number of different planning tools available to them. One planning tool in particular has been earmarked for inclusion in the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning's newly created 'Plan First' toolbox. This planning tool is Transferable Development Rights (TDR). Whilst it has been used in Australia on many occasions, it is still only a seed in the mind of many planners. It is an innovative tool which has promised so much, but one which has yet to be properly examined within the Australian context. This thesis aims to explore the concept of TDR to get a better understanding of how well it can achieve certain planning objectives.

Rebecca Stewart

Community Renewal: Regeneration and Revitalisation

Housing plays a fundamental role in ensuring an adequate standard of living for all Australians. The primary objective of the Australian Government in the housing area is to ensure that all Australians have access to affordable, appropriate, adequate and secure housing (Department of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services, 1993). The quality of public housing estates has been a major issue of debate for a long time. Their design, architectural styles, aesthetics, density, and planning have all been discussed, criticised and debated. It is known that public housing estates have an overall poor physical appearance and lack adequate community services and employment infrastructure. The DoH is now trying to address these concerns and problems by implementing programs, known as the Neighbourhood Improvement Program (NIP) and the Community Renewal Strategy

(CRS), to revitalise these estates. This thesis and my qualitative research which supports it, focus on social exclusion, social cohesion and the experiences of residents living within the Airds public housing estate in the City of Campbelltown. My research covers a wide range of areas, looking in particular at the notion of community and resident reactions to the changes taking place on the Airds estate as part of the NIP and the CRS.

Aaron Sutherland

Urban Consolidation: A disparity between social desire and government objective

This thesis considers the historical development of urban consolidation theory and policy and how this has impacted upon local communities within Sydney. It seeks to examine the theory of consolidation and the proclaimed benefits of such urban development policy in contrast to significant community objection to the concept. It is argued that the perceived benefits of urban consolidation are not as significant as they have been portrayed. With regard to increasing community dissatisfaction with increased residential density, an analysis of these benefits is required to determine whether or not urban consolidation is indeed necessary. Therefore, this study intends to examine the potential negative impacts that result from consolidation theory and the manner in which the character of existing suburbs is changed from the execution of such policy. In order to achieve this, the thesis has four components: a study of the historical development of urban consolidation policy in New South Wales; an analysis of urban consolidation theory; questioning urban consolidation; and a case study of the impact of urban consolidation within the Sutherland Shire. Urban planning concerns itself with the concept of sustainability and the debate regarding urban consolidation in opposition to the sprawling city is fundamental to this issue. The aim of this thesis is to draw attention to the existence of this conflict and to illustrate the need for addressing the disparity between social desire and government objective regarding the issue of urban consolidation in a manner which is not only equitable in terms of developing a sustainable city but also being sympathetic to and attempting to maintain the character of existing suburbs.

Sera Taschner

Environmental Activism in Australia

There is fear in the community. Global warming, loss of native flora and fauna species, soil salinity and the depletion of fossil fuels. Are these real issues? Or are they the rantings of a hippie lunatic fringe?

‘The story of environmentalism is the story of people, not of nature’
(O’Riordan 1981:315).

As reflected in the above quotation, the environment is not considered to have a ‘voice’; rather, its qualities have been either venerated or denigrated according to societal whims and fashions. Subsequently, environmental issues are predominantly articulated through passionate people, who are prepared to utilise a variety of methods to prevent environmental degradation. The resulting activism often in turn evokes an emotional response, creating a discord between communities, environmental groups, governments and industries. The hypothesis of this thesis is that fundamental

environmentalism can be an effective tool for environmental protection. To test this hypothesis three questions are asked. First, 'if' fundamental environmentalists operate in Australia. Second, 'why' environmentalists undertake action as expressed in divergent ideologies. Third, 'how' environmentalists campaign, examining methods ranging from civil disobedience to political lobbying. Four case studies of Australian campaigns are then explored in greater detail to test whether theory is reflected in actual environmentalist actions.

Guy Tse

Critique Hong Kong Public Housing Policy: Tenants Purchase Scheme

Public housing was introduced because of a disastrous fire that destroyed hundreds of squatter structures half a century ago. Over the years, public housing has evolved from accommodation for the needy to a composite program with home-ownership assistance. When property prices were on a persistent up-trend, subsidized home-ownership was much sought after. With property prices lowered by one half from their peaks in recent years, public housing has become the focus of controversy. The paradigm shift has upset its implied policy basis and self-financing mode of operation. Thus, housing those who cannot afford private housing has become a policy dilemma. The Tenants Purchase Scheme (TPS) is one of the most popular schemes. TPS is a subsidised housing scheme, facilitating wider home ownership ratio in Hong Kong managed by the Hong Kong Housing Authority. Even though the Home Ownership Scheme was suspended from September 2001 until April 2002, TPS phase 5 will still be launched as planned. This research aims at evaluating the influence and the contribution of TPS towards the Hong Kong property market and the enhancement of home ownership rate and last but not least, it attempts to find out the role of this scheme in Hong Kong's contemporary society.

Joe Vertel

Dogs in the Urban Environment

The aim of this thesis is to examine the issues associated with dog ownership in our urban environment, specifically the Sydney Metropolitan area and to determine whether the needs of dog owners are being adequately addressed. From an analysis of the research undertaken for this thesis, the author clarified that the benefits of dogs in our urban environment outweigh the costs. Problems associated with dogs can be managed or minimised through adopting new approaches to urban animal management. The threats to dog ownership and dog owners' access to open space need to be given consideration by all levels of government, including the town planning profession. Dogs enhance the quality of our lives and by providing opportunities for dogs to be taken out on a walk and exercised in an appropriate manner, we can improve the 'livability' of our urban areas.

Karen Wang

Place Management for Metropolitan Residential Islands

With the push from the NSW government towards a more integrated approach to management of places and the rise of place management as a tool for local planning, traditional land use planning is seen as an outdated method for managing development. Land is now seen as locality: everywhere has special significance and

generic land use controls are inadequate. Examples of this include the adaptation by Warringah Council of locality plans and policy directions, disbanding of traditional land use planning controls, plus the appointment by Fairfield Council of Place Managers whose responsibility is to look at the issues of the locality as a whole to strive towards desired outcomes. The Premiers' Department along with some local councils including has created partnerships in an attempt to manage the 'ills of society', namely drugs and other social problems at Cabramatta and Kings Cross. Metropolitan Residential Islands are unique places that are often forgotten in the midst of the sprawling suburbia. They exhibit various issues that are common with landlocked communities but particular, if not unique issues also arise that are defined by their distinctive locality. They lend themselves to place management planning approaches. This thesis reviews the existing place management techniques and looks at community islands in Sydney in particular Dangar Island and Scotland Island. An outcome is the formation of a place management model for residential islands.

Renée Zaia

Changing Land Uses and Their Impact on Public Transport

A Case Study: The Illawarra Railway Line

Land use changes have been predominantly influenced by the provision of transport due to the intricate relationship between transport and land use. During the 19th century, the construction of the Sydney railways was the dominant force shaping our urban environment leading to concentrated urban development around railway stations. In the 20th century, the rise of the automobile prompted suburbanisation where urban development became dispersed and people became highly dependent on the automobile due to the flexible travel convenience it offered. The dispersed nature of urban development was impossible to service by public transport and thus investment in roads and motorways became the prevalent transport infrastructure that was provided. The railways continued to serve an important role in providing public transport but were not politically and financially supported to the same extent that road projects were. Recent planning strategies such as Shaping Sydney (1999) recognised the need to integrate transport and land use and to pursue a compact city that would readily support public transport systems and lead to less dependency on the automobile. Local councils responded to the State Government's urban consolidation policy and the urban form in many parts of Sydney has changed into a medium-high density, mixed use form, usually concentrated around public transport nodes, particularly railway stations. The case study of the Illawarra Railway Line demonstrates that extensive land use changes in the past 10-15 years, particularly increases in urban consolidation have greatly impacted on the operation of the railway line. The result of these changing land uses and the inability of the Illawarra Line to accommodate more services is that passengers are travelling on excessively overcrowded trains, boarding and alighting times at stations have increased due to patronage growth which subsequently impacts on the on-time-running of trains.