

**Bachelor of Planning
Faculty of the Built Environment
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Thesis topics - 2003

Vanessa Aziz

SEPP 5: the good, the bad and the ugly

Sydney is experiencing an age of intensification of its land use in several suburban neighborhoods. Many localities in suburban areas are currently facing redevelopment due to growing demands on the use of land and growing population. The over-development of land in key residential locations is a looming crisis especially for multi-unit development in areas 'zoned' residential. These types of developments upset neighborhood character; amenity, heritage and the effect to the environment will also be extensive (streetscape). The State Government 's SEPP 5 Policy is a mechanism for stimulating development to accommodate housing for older people and people with a disability. Yet in practice it allows developers to maximise their returns by building medium and high-density developments in areas zoned low density residential. *Despite the aims and objectives of certain medium to high density planning policies, many important and legitimate problems and issues have come to surface as a result of the impact created through these specific planning policies (Troy, 1996).* SEPP 5 has resulted in criticism from some sectors of the community, including some local councils. This criticism has principally related to medium density SEPP 5 developments considered not in keeping with the low-density residential character of local areas.

Alison Bernhart

Open Space Networks: Wasteland or Wonderland

Open space networks are linked systems of different categories of open space. They can include formal gardens, commercial facilities, sporting facilities, natural bushland, playgrounds or picnic areas. They have a range of functions and achieve numerous individual, social, environmental and economic benefits for communities. This thesis focuses on the evolution, role and future of open space networks in Western Sydney. The Western Sydney Regional Parklands were selected as a case study because they are a multi-functional open space network, far superior to any other linear open space in the region in terms of the opportunities and benefits they provide. Using the case study, in-depth interviews and a review of relevant research, this thesis reveals the characteristics needed for open space networks to develop intrinsic value; the importance of the Western Sydney Regional Parklands to local communities; and how planners can protect open space networks in the future. This thesis provides a valuable resource for planners by demonstrating how open space networks are a significant asset that will become increasingly important in the future.

Sarah Cahill

The Impact of the Seachange on the Seascape

Undeniably, Australia's population is moving to the coast – the *Seachange*. Australia has been subject to waves of settlement and the current wave is seeing people heading to the coast – the *Seascape*. The degree to which this wave of settlement is occurring will rapidly increase as the baby boomer generation takes up retirement. This increase of population in *Seascape* communities provides opportunities for the community, but not without negative impacts. The possibility exists to optimise opportunities associated with this wave, and mitigate its negative effects. The observation and understanding of the impacts of the *Seachange* is assisted by the idea *Place Character*. The idea is the intricate combination and interaction of the following theories and concepts: *migration*, *sense of place* and *social cohesion* in particular: the *sense of belonging*. The idea of *Place Character* has been applied to the research area, the twin-towns of Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest on the NSW coast. The findings have provided the basis for identifying the impact of this current and accelerating wave of settlement that is typical of other coastal localities around Australia.

Zoe Cameron

Street Prostitution: The Way Forward Development of Guidelines

For years the business of sex has been established within local communities in Australia and worldwide, this has often been in the form of Street Prostitution. It can be found in small to large cities across the globe, irrespectively of political systems, religion or moral code. Slowly Local Government Areas have begun to identify the importance of controlling and planning for this use to produce an increase in tolerance and residential complicity. Planning for street prostitution necessitates the focus to be centered on planning guidelines and legislative requirements and not the issue of whether it's considered a justifiable moral or ethical profession. This study will provide this focus addressing the planning justifications and issues disregarding the moral argument. This focus on local government planning guidelines and state government legislative requirements has devised the questions of what is appropriate when planning for street prostitution? And do apposite guidelines exist? The study produces Development Control Plan guidelines and Local Environmental Plan Options for Sydney councils when planning for street prostitution. These guidelines and options are written in response to the findings of the study, identifying 'the needs' for planning for street prostitution. They incorporate aspects that exist and can be considered as positive responses toward street prostitution internationally and domestically.

Gavin Cherry

Planning Artistic Public Places: Integrating art within the public domain

The role of public art has become a constantly changing dynamic within the planning and urban design field. Public art is now seen to surpass the traditional idea of decoration and has become a means of reinvention and revitalisation within public domain improvement projects. Integration ensures public places rich in character and design, creating a sense of place and prestige for both the community and professionals in all facets of the planning regime. Unfortunately integration is often the downfall of many public art projects as the artworks commissioned are not site conditioned. They

do not respond to the needs of the community or the design of the public domain. This thesis examines the role of public art and the integration of art within improvement projects on a local, national and international level. Countries such as Great Britain and the United States have readily incorporated public art within planning and urban design, just as many state governments within Australia have facilitated numerous public art programs and policies. NSW however has shown a slower recognition of the benefits of public art and the role of integration in public domain planning. It is only with the recent success of Sydney Olympic Park that such integrated public art policies and projects are beginning to be undertaken as well as a growing recognition of the importance of integration in the planning of public art within the public domain.

Jason Chung

A World Heritage in China: conserving the lasting treasure of Civilization

The continued growth of the economy and urban development in the People's Republic of China has induced undesirable impacts on its natural environment and cultural heritage. China contains twenty-nine World Heritage Properties which are recognised by the UNESCO's World Heritage Convention as being of exceptional and universal value. Under the condition of economic, environmental and social changes, the need to conserve the World Heritage properties of China has been increasingly recognised. This thesis aims at providing an overview of World Heritage protection and conservation in China by international organisations and Chinese government. Major risks and impacts from different dimensions in society will be identified. In order to reflect the current situation of World heritage protection in China, the sites in Beijing have been chosen for further observation and study, including the Great Wall, Imperial Palace, Peking Man site, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven and Ming Tombs. The Chinese government has paid the great efforts to protect the properties, but higher standard is needed to preserve the significance value of World Heritage by introducing international charter of cultural heritage conservation and relevant management plan. Furthermore, sustainable development of urban growth and social development would be the essential factors to achieve the success.

John Coudanaris

The New Economy – Coming to a Suburb Near You!

The growth of the New Economy has transformed urban economies worldwide in less than 40 years. Global economic restructuring and advancing technology have been the primary drivers in the rise of a New Economy. Its rapid development has given rise to knowledge driven service based industry, which has contributed to reshaping the urban landscape. Monocentric urban patterns which developed during the industrial revolution have been transformed, shifting towards a more polycentric pattern with the growth of numerous Suburban Business Centres. The centres range in concentration types between industrial, commercial and mixed-use, however they have increasingly been developed to cater for service based companies. Many factors other than market forces have had varying influences to their development, including planning, design and transport. Metropolitan planning's influence has been through promoting and responding to market changes by encouraging the development of such centres. The decentralisation of economic activity, particularly in Sydney is evident by its increasing number of suburban centres. Based on a

case study of North Ryde – one of Sydney’s largest Suburban Business Centres, this research identifies whether the New Economy has emerged in suburban areas.

Robert Craig

‘Social Exclusion’: History, Theory, Policy

The concept of ‘social exclusion’ exudes connotations of a useful and important concept. The concept originated in France and has gradually permeated the research and policy channels of the European Union. Notwithstanding, conceptual uncertainty plagues the concept and impedes its usability. As such, this thesis identifies eight key conceptual themes that arise in the social exclusion discourse. These themes capture the critical elements of social exclusion and its distinct elements, providing some clarity to the concept. The overall value of the concept and some key criticisms are also outlined. The last avenue explored is the policy element. In this regard, three case studies are presented from key policy contexts. In terms of the overall usability of social exclusion as a descriptor of social disadvantage and as a social policy tool, it is argued that social exclusion provides a comprehensive and sophisticated conception of multi-dimensional disadvantage. Furthermore, provided that the concept’s shortfalls in terms of measurement are carefully considered, social exclusion can be an extremely useful social policy tool. In this sense, the concept provides the impetus for the implementation of holistic policy solutions. Ultimately, social exclusion is a distinctive and innovative concept.

Scott De Martino

Planning for Rail Freight in the Sydney Metropolitan Region: towards integrated transport sustainability

This thesis investigates planning for the future movement of rail freight in the Sydney Metropolitan Region. Rail freight is a vital component of the overall transport task in modern cities, and appropriate planning is necessary to ensure the sustainability of the entire integrated transport system. During recent decades the rail freight task has become subordinate to transportation of passengers on Sydney’s rail network. Limited track capacity and the imposition of curfews during the passenger peak periods have reduced rail freight’s capacity, and in turn competitiveness with road based freight haulage. In this study examination is carried out on Sydney’s existing rail infrastructure, growth forecasts, current plans and strategies for freight, and global methods to improve rail freight movement. Analysis has exposed that capacity restrictions are not simply a problem isolated to the main rail corridors in Sydney. The ability and capacity of specific rail facilities, such as intermodal terminals for the road to rail transfer of goods, to cope with the forecast increases in demand are amongst the most important issues facing Sydney’s rail freight task. A comprehensive list of recommendations are presented for what means are necessary to improve efficiency and expand the city’s rail freight capability.

Carlie East

Aesthetic Suburbia: Residential streetscapes

The most frequented component of the public domain is the residential streetscape. Despite the rise of aesthetic appreciation for the built environment, the residential streetscape in

greenfield areas remains unresponsive to surrounding environments and aesthetically displeasing. With increased urban sprawl occurring, greenfield residential streetscapes are continuously being neglected, with no consideration for their aesthetic treatment or ability to enhance a sense of community. Despite the myriad reasons for improving the appearance of residential streetscapes, regulatory bodies are reluctant to change common development practices. The reasons why streetscapes should be improved do not seem to outweigh the economic and political barriers which regulatory bodies frequently encounter. Although these barriers are difficult to overcome, some aesthetically pleasing residential streetscapes are emerging in greenfield areas. If residential streetscapes can be effectively designed through efforts of particular individuals, there is no reason why all streetscapes cannot be aesthetically designed. The few methods and individual efforts which deliver aesthetic streetscapes effectively can provide a foundation for establishing a best practice framework. This study evaluates these common practices of achieving effective streetscape design, and aims to develop a set of proposed methods which reduce the effects of political and economic barriers and ultimately create aesthetically pleasing residential streetscapes.

Alison Glen

Livable or lifeless? communities in question: The Role of Design in Community

The extent to which ‘community’ exists within residential areas plays an influential role in the quality of life and well-being of individuals. Enriching qualities of life are important as it provides individuals with the motivation and drive that can foster successful, healthy and fulfilling lifestyles. The expression ‘sense of community’ is an inherently abstract, intangible and diverse notion. In terms of this thesis it represents a physically defined residential locale and the consequent social interaction that occurs. There exist a number of mechanisms within contemporary society that can influence a ‘sense of community’ and there is a growing acceptance by critics and theorists that one such mechanism is design, which can influence and modify behaviour. Key to this thesis is an exploration of the role design plays in communities as perceived by residents. This exploration has been conducted through outlining the history and development of three different community typologies, followed by research of contemporary examples that exist within the Sydney Metropolitan Area. It is the intention of the author to ascertain from this research whether residential qualities of life are enhanced (or perceived to be enhanced) by the specific physical form of a community; if satisfaction is measured by the existence of other elements separate to design; to what extent similarities exist between differently designed communities, and finally the ‘livability’ or ‘lifelessness’ of each community in question.

Russell Hand

Bulky Goods Retailing in Sydney: Decentralised development and planning controls

Bulky goods retailing activities typify trends in Australian cities toward the concentration of capital into large chain stores. Since the advent of bulky goods retailing twenty years ago, store locations have grown disassociated from traditional commercial centres and are presenting challenges to the orderly distribution of uses in Australian cities. As part of this paper, an analysis of the distribution and attributes of bulky goods centres in Sydney was undertaken. It was found that existing retail planning policy no longer reflects the true nature of dispersed and isolated retail locations. Draft SEPP 66:- *Integration of Land Use*

and Transport is proposed to deter decentralised retailing in Sydney, however it is argued that relocating bulky goods outlets in town centres is counterproductive. Bulky goods retailing requires the use of private vehicles to transport goods. Commercial centres are not capable of taking additional traffic loading. To this end, councils in Sydney are encouraged to permit further bulky goods development in existing industrial areas. Two other reforms heralded in this paper are borne by the limitations of development assessment because of ambiguous definitions of bulky goods and haphazard preparation of economic impact assessment (EIA). This paper recommends deliberation of a consistent definition of EIA in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 (NSW) and tightening of definitions of bulky goods retailing in Local Environmental Plans to deter the erroneous approval of high-volume retailers in areas zoned for high-value retailers.

Shaun Hehir

Planning for Future Tourist Development in Croatia: Tourism Development Master Plan of Istria – A Case Study

Since the 1980s the world wide tourist market has begun to change. People demanded quality, not quantity. A ‘new tourism’ is being substituted on an international scale for the old ways – a movement from sun lust to sun-plus (Goodall: 1989; Poon: 1989). Mass tourism (that is tourism based on large homogenous resort style destinations) is becoming less and less popular as people looked for different pursuits (Kusen, 2001). Products of this ‘new tourism’ are more flexible and the market to supply them segmented (Goodall: 1989). Istria is well placed to capitalise on this change in the market. As the largest tourist destination region in Croatia it has previously suffered the ongoing environmental effects of large scale mass tourist style developments. The regional government of Istria has recognised this and is in the process of implementing a new planning strategy, the Tourism Development Mater Plan of Istria. The Master Plan has been created to achieve the existing tourist markets in the region, by incorporating the ideals of new tourism. The plan separates the region of Istria into clusters, promotes sustainable development, has the backing of the major tourist operators in the region, promotes the cultural heritage and natural environment, offers a wide range of activities to tourist, and has a comprehensive plan of implementation which incorporates parts of the plan into regional and local planning polices. Its success will depend on the co-operation of all stakeholders, including Local Governments, Tourist Operators, and the Istrian public.

Calvin Houlison

Transport Corridors and Loss of Home: A planning response to Domicide

This thesis examines the loss of home as a result of transport corridors. It aims to explore how this loss of home has occurred within New South Wales. The concept of domicile, the deliberate destruction of home in pursuit of the ‘common good’, is discussed in the context of transport corridor provision. A historical overview of cases involving loss of home for transport corridor provision is presented. Acquisition of residential homes forms a particular focus. ‘Just terms’ legislation and the process for acquisition in New South Wales are examined in detail, as are the procedures of social impact assessment for transport corridors. A critical discussion of the prevalence of domicile in Sydney is presented, with particular reference to the Westlink M7 Motorway and North West Rail Link case studies. The thesis concludes that the incidence of domicile has been

significantly reduced since the introduction of the 'just terms' acquisition legislation, improved social impact assessment processes and increased community involvement in project planning. It outlines a series of recommendations to further improve land acquisition and social impact assessment processes in New South Wales.

Paul Kelly

Growing Pains or Growing Gains? The local response to growth management

With Sydney's population increasing by some 50,000 persons per year, pressures for the physical growth (and sprawl) of the metropolitan area is similarly increasing. The concept of growth management aims to holistically manage all forms of growth through strategic forward planning to ensure that valuable resources in fringe areas of metropolitan regions are protected from inappropriate urban development. This thesis examines the theoretical context of the way in which factors of demand for land are changing to create a new set of residential location choice demand parameters, then examines the principles and forms of growth management. The history of growth management in Sydney, through its 'metropolitan strategies', is then examined. The local response to growth management is evaluated to conclude what scale of government can best manage urban growth. A model for future management of growth of the urban environment is also presented. The thesis concludes by determining whether Sydney is experiencing growing pains, or indeed growing gains.

Marianna Kucic

Work Places, Cultural Graces: Understanding attachment to workplace

A sense of place and community are intimately linked to the built environment. Established theories on place contend that individuals and groups have an attachment to home as a place of belonging, and a connection to the land particularly in indigenous cultures. These established theories have however largely ignored the attachment and connection which people have to places of work. This research, centered on the examples of the construction of Stadium Australia, industrial workers at the Electric Power Transmission (EPT) site at Marayong, and armed forces of the Scheyville Officer Training Unit (OTU), examines the planning implications of this place-based identity of workplaces. The thesis advocates greater recognition and understanding of workplace attachment in planning practice.

Anson Lee

'Smart growth' mechanism: Urban Growth Boundary (UGB)

'Smart growth' or urban growth management attempts to direct urban development in order to overcome the problems of sprawl linked with loss of agricultural and rural land, increase of noise and air pollution, traffic congestion, energy wastage, and loss of community. Urban planners have continuously faced challenges in seeking effective planning tools against sprawl. Besides a variety of general 'smart growth' mechanisms, the adoption of an urban growth boundary (UGB) has become popular in a number of metropolitan cities since the early 1980s. Urban growth boundary is an urban containment policy, which is able to preserve rural land and manage the pace of urbanization on the city fringe. This

thesis discusses in detail the concept of the urban growth boundary (UGB), and evaluates whether it is an effective planning tool through case studies in three North American metropolitan cities being Portland and San Jose in the US, and the City of Hamilton in Canada. Recommendations are provided to planning authorities on how to implement a successful urban growth boundary in metropolitan cities, particularly Melbourne, which has determined to adopt urban growth boundary for growth management for the coming 30 years.

Rachel Leung

Evolution of Pedestrian-Oriented Planning: The Pedestrian Mall and its performance

Motor vehicles are the most common form of mechanical transportation in the contemporary world. While walking remains a fundamental means of transportation, there is a conflict of interest between pedestrians and drivers on the streets, particularly in built-up urban areas. Urban spaces for the use of pedestrians have evolved over time from the ancient time to the modern world. The development of urban spaces, which began with the Greek Marketplace called the Agora, grew out of a pedestrian-oriented culture long before the invention of the automobile. Ancient and medieval concepts of pedestrian and vehicular separation from the Imperial Roman Era and the Middle Ages nurtured the birth of the modern mall. Pedestrian planning is primarily concerned with planning pedestrian-oriented spaces for pedestrians. Pedestrian malls are primarily pedestrian-oriented spaces established for pedestrians that aim to provide a safe and comfortable environment for people travelling on foot or carrying out activities in outdoor spaces without interruption by automobiles. Pedestrians are benefited from pedestrian environment improvements. The development of pedestrian-oriented zones in the contemporary world would also derive traffic management, economic revitalisation, environmental improvements and social benefits. An interdependent relationship is established between pedestrians and pedestrian malls.

Louise McMahon

NSW Planning Appeals Reform: Are IHAPs the Answer?

Since 1979 the planning system within New South Wales (NSW) has evolved to incorporate the growing complexities of modern urban and regional management, which revolves around providing forward planning for the development and use of land within NSW. This is principally provided through legislation such as the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the Land and Environment Court Act 1979. However there have been many commentators who vehemently disagree with some aspects of the current planning system and the way in which development approval and appeals are undertaken. After a number of reviews of the NSW planning appeals process it was recommended that the establishment of Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels would provide successful alternative dispute resolution at the local government level. The two underlying principles of Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels (IHAPs) are the notion of separation of powers and the provision of natural justice at the local government level. IHAPs are now in operation in four councils within NSW: Liverpool (the first to implement the panel), Fairfield, Warringah and Sutherland Councils. After a detailed assessment of the IHAP process it is considered that the dispute resolution techniques utilised by the Councils

operating IHAPs, reduces the number and severity of disputes and provides natural justice for both the applicant and objectors of a development application.

Katie Redpath

Is This a Sign....? An analysis of outdoor advertising and signage in New South Wales

Advertising is one of the few areas of business activity to attract the attention of scholars in the study of communication, culture, society and history. Additional to these aspects and pure communicative role of advertising signage, policy and legislation play a major role in the progression and actual reality of advertising in today's society. With the increased use of signage as a form of advertising, planning legislation has had to adapt to allow for business identification as well as General Advertising. In March 2001 the New South Wales Department of Planning released State Environmental Planning Policy No 64 – Advertising and Signage (SEPP 64) in an effort to control and manage outdoor advertising signage. More recently the question has been raised, is the current State legislation, SEPP 64, meeting the prevailing objectives and demands of those parties involved with signage? More specifically, are all signs with potential environmental impacts requiring assessment under the more prescriptive referral controls of Part 3? However, business identification signs are exempt from the more robust and prescriptive controls found within Part 3 of SEPP 64, and therefore this thesis seeks to identify:

- The extent of business identification signage against general advertising in the urban streetscape.
- The effect of the omission of business identification signage from Part 3 of SEPP 64.
- Propose possible amendments, so as to extensively capture business identification signs.

David Schofield

Rethinking Development Control: Achieving better outcomes through better planning processes

Effective planning results in outcomes that facilitate the development of sustainable places for communities. A focus on outcomes in planning is imperative since built outcomes can form part of a community for many generations. Development control forms one of the principal mechanisms for the intervention of planning in the built environment. However, conventional development control systems have been criticised for being reactive, based on the ideal of maintaining consistency with controls rather than being focused on achieving outcomes. This thesis aims to determine what critical elements are required for planning processes to be focused on the achievement of targeted outcomes. It involves the comparative analysis of planning processes and development outcomes in Sydney and Vancouver. There has been considerable debate as to the quality of development outcomes in Sydney, with the NSW planning system currently under review to improve its effectiveness. The Vancouver system is internationally recognised as a model for its planning processes and its development outcomes. Through the comparative analysis, key principles for creating outcomes-focused planning systems are formed. This thesis considers how development controls can be configured in a systematic, coordinated and

integrated way with strategic planning and decision-making processes. Specifically, it highlights the need for development control frameworks to be based on clearly articulated strategic outcomes, where decisions are made through collaborative, participative processes informed by experts.

David Smith

Planning for Bushfire Management: A Case for Hazard Reduction

This thesis reviews the history of bushfire in Australia, including the debate on bushfire hazard reduction burning. It outlines the provisions of the Rural Fires Act 1997, and provides a summary of the Canberra fires that occurred in January 2003. It is self evident that bushfires occur during periods of hot weather. 'Bushfire weather' in NSW tends to occur when a deep low-pressure system is located south of Tasmania, which results in hot, dry, desert westerly winds blowing over the State. A recurring debate throughout both the scientific and general community is the effectiveness, required amount and location of hazard reduction burns to reduce the intensity of bushfires. The aim of these prescribed burns is not to prevent fires from occurring, but to reduce the intensity, rate of spread and crowing of those that do occur. The NSW Bushfire Co-ordinating Committee supports fuel reduction by prescribed burning and promotes a policy of mosaic fuel reduction burns. Land managers such as government agencies, local government and private landowners have the legislative responsibility for undertaking hazard reduction activities. Criticisms have arisen that the environmental requirements of the Rural Fires Act have made hazard reduction burning more difficult, and hence there has been less of it. These issues have been canvassed.

Mark Stephenson

Planning for sustainable tourism: the role of local government

This thesis explores the role that Local Governments play in the planning and management of tourism. It examines the methods and techniques employed to achieve and maintain a sustainable tourist industry. Tourism is now regarded as the world's largest industry in terms of its economic benefits, with the potential to return multi-million dollar profits to those involved. It is viewed as a relatively 'smokeless' industry, and as such, is considered to be an economic panacea for ailing economies. However, it is not without its costs, which are usually borne by the host community who rarely derive any economic benefit and are often forced to endure social upheaval, cultural transformation and environmental degradation. Ironically however, the economic sustainability of the tourist industry is ultimately dependent upon the well-being of the destination. Thus, the social, cultural and environmental impacts associated with tourism are required to be mitigated to ensure the survival of the industry. Local Government lies at the forefront of the planning, management and development of local areas. It is the level closest to both see and ameliorate any adverse impacts associated with tourism as well as implement measures to ensure a sustainable industry. The Shoalhaven region, located on the south coast of New South Wales, was selected as a case study to examine the dynamic nature inherent within the tourism industry. Shoalhaven is a pristine environment, synonymous with sun, sand and surf. However, while its natural characteristics make it an ideal target for tourist development, the region hasn't succumbed to the pressures over-development as many other coastal locations have. Shoalhaven City Council have achieved a certain sustainable

balance between the level of tourist development and the impacts on the community, whilst still maintaining a popular tourist destination and tourism industry.

Fiona Stewart

Affordable Housing in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney: Reviewing the current situation and implications for the future

Land values in the majority of suburbs in the eastern suburbs area of Sydney have reached such a high level over the last decade that home ownership in this area is now out of reach of households not earning an above-average income. Rental prices have also increased considerably making it difficult for those on low incomes to stay in the area. The demand and need for affordable housing in the Eastern Suburbs is high and its provision socially responsible. Generations of low-income families have resided in varying concentrations in the Eastern Suburbs, traditionally in large public housing estates in areas such as Hillsdale, Maroubra, South Coogee and Matraville. The provision of affordable housing in the Eastern Suburbs is a difficult issue to tackle, in light of the pressures of high demand and property prices which continue to soar. Government and housing providers are attempting to tackle this problem with policies and initiatives in place to conserve or increase the stock of affordable housing. However to date, few of the local councils in Sydney have incorporated affordable housing provisions within their environmental planning instruments. There is a need for greater action by all stakeholders to increase levels of affordable housing in the Eastern Suburbs. This affordable housing must be provided at a scale and in a physical form that creates social and environmental diversity and delivers a greater choice of housing types for low-income households.

Divini Tsoi

Great public markets, Great cities

The aim of this thesis is to explore the intertwined relationship between Charles Landry's concept of the "creative city" and thriving public markets. The factors underlying the creative city such as the presence of creative class, human diversity, cultural resources, the modern production and consumption styles, the metropolitan lifestyle, growing importance of public spaces and facilities and new technology give vast opportunities for the thriving of public markets. Public markets are creative milieus that feature the concept of the 'creative city'. In return, public markets bring significant environmental, economic and social benefits to the creative city. They help create dynamic places, stimulate economic opportunities and instill community spirit and cultural exchanges. Nevertheless, public markets are presented as ephemeral in compared to ordinary shopping centres and shops. The common problems that are confronting public markets include conflicts with private and political interests, political difficulties, aspects of competition and the arduous work for vendors. Sydney shares the universal experience of public markets. Sydney is one of the major creative cities of the world. Sydney's public markets are creative milieus that feature the concept of 'creative city' and they bring environmental, economic and social significances to the city. With few exceptions, they face challenges common to other cities.

Carolyn Whitten

When Cultures Collide: Planning for the Spatial Needs of Muslim Women in Sydney

Within western democratic cultures two basic assumptions are commonly held: firstly “every person should have equitable access to public spaces”; and secondly, “every person should also be able to maintain their cultural beliefs and practices”. The practicality of these two basic assumptions is challenged in this study. “Public” and “private” spaces are examined with regard to equitable access. Specifically, the conceptual differences between western and Islamic concepts of public space are critically examined. In western countries public spaces are understood to be those spaces where interaction can occur between strangers who, it is assured, should have equitable access to the space. By comparison, in countries where Islam is dominant, there is less of a geographical notion of “public” or “private” but rather spaces are defined by who inhabits them. Moreover, spaces are public only when males are present. Using Sydney as a study area, this study focuses on the spatial concerns of Muslim women who use public spaces, but who also uphold a degree of cultural beliefs and practices from Islam and their culture. The analysis establishes that the needs of Muslim women in Sydney varies dependent upon country of origin and cultural history. Three main spatial concerns are identified: recreation, perception and street spaces. The concerns raised allude to complex issues for planners surrounding how, by treating everyone the same, they may inadvertently exclude those with different needs when trying to achieve equitable access for all. Issues arising from the study include the ethical considerations of providing spaces for specific communities, planning for difference and the use of place management as a tool.

Michael Williams

Waterfront Revitalisation: Towards More Sustainable Place Making

Waterfront revitalisation is an urban planning phenomenon that has been transforming many cities around the globe. Cities have embraced the opportunity to renew lands along the waterfront that have become vacant as a result of changes in traditional port and industrial functions. These large and highly visible sites provide invaluable opportunities for enhancing the quality of the public realm and redefining the image of cities. They also provide opportunities for creating vibrant places with a new and diverse mix of uses that support the life of the city. The magic of water gives waterfronts a unique vitality and contributes to a special sense of place. Water also adds a high degree of social and economic value, often resulting in the waterfront becoming a contested place with various competing agendas. This thesis argues that economic and political motives typically drive the processes behind waterfront revitalisation, at times overwhelming public aspirations. The intention of this thesis is to explore how waterfronts can be developed with a more holistic approach and an emphasis on the public realm. The revitalisation of urban waterfronts should focus on the creation of places that balance social, economic, political and environmental interests and move towards more sustainable place making.

Murray Wilson

The Sustainable Golf Course: Providing Wildlife Sanctuaries for Indigenous Flora and Fauna

As urban areas expand rapidly worldwide and as countries are becoming industrialised, there is an ever-growing demand for recreation opportunities set amongst nature-like

settings. The sport of Golf is generally perceived as a physical-natural recreational activity, which in turn contributes to the improvement of health and social relationships. However, golf courses can be seen as large expanses of wasted land that degrade habitats and cause immense environmental damage to humans, animals and vegetation. Today, Golf courses exist in urban and non-urban areas, and their landscape may vary from seascapes, woodlands, grasslands, forests, mountainous ranges, swamps and deserts. This study was undertaken to set out and discover the origins of the golf course in order to understand its form. The results found that golf courses need to travel back in time to when they coexisted with nature - where little to no impacts of the course impacted on the environment. The golf course has the potential to become more closely aligned with the natural environment. The opportunities within present day courses are to use their supplementary land for the rehabilitation of indigenous flora and fauna, thus providing havens for indigenous habitats.

Robert Winters

Financing Public Transport Infrastructure: Alternatives to government funding of new rail infrastructure

The New South Wales government has identified new rail lines to serve the developing areas of Sydney without considering the funding implications of these proposals. This thesis has identified alternatives to the government funding of public transport infrastructure, with a specific interest in rail related infrastructure. Investment into new transport infrastructure is lacking demonstrated by the inaction by government in regard to transport infrastructure proposals. This thesis has shown that alternatives exist for the financing of public transport infrastructure from means other than the public sector. Through the investigation of Australian and International funding regimes it has highlighted that there are alternatives available to government funding. This information has then been adapted to the North West Sector of Sydney, where it has been shown that through the introduction of alternative funding mechanisms it is possible to significantly reduce the cost of construction the North West Rail Link.

Ricky Yu

Speciality Retailing: The streets of Mong Kok, Hong Kong

Specialty retailing places, usually formed by an agglomeration of similar economic activities, are well known around the world. In Hong Kong, this phenomenon is the distinctive feature in its retail structure. With a large number of these clusters in great variety, it has become a major urban attraction to all people. In considering the specialty retailing streets, this phenomenon of shop clustering mostly results from unplanned actions. Through the development of the local economy, it has become a common form found in Hong Kong. The excitement and colour of these specialty retailing streets are now declining as a result of ineffective government policy. This thesis attempts to explore the problems and current status of the specialty retailing streets, and evaluates the effectiveness of the relevant policy adopted by the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). The Goldfish Market and the Sports Street in Mong Kok, Hong Kong have been chosen as the subject of the case studies. A comprehensive research process has been undertaken and general recommendations have been made for renewal of Specialty Retailing Streets — generating from the two study areas to Hong Kong as a whole.