

Tim Bainbridge

**Urban Planning: The Next Step in Preparing for Terrorism - A New Era of Defending Sydney**

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 represent a defining moment in world history. Never before has terrorism been played out on such a global scale. In the years following, this globalised threat has been translated into a plethora of responses aimed at reducing risks and minimising loss of life. Such worldwide responses have included various legislative changes, police and military responses and increased intelligence gathering capabilities that have provided some degree of protection for society. The built environment continues to play a key role in society's response to terrorism. However, methods for shaping the built environment to prevent terrorism are less frequently considered. One of the key roles for urban planners is to enhance the livability and safety of the built environment to improve quality of life for the community. It is evident that urban planners can use existing planning tools and mechanisms to reduce the risk of terrorism. Sydney, as a global city, requires the implementation of appropriate urban planning mechanisms so that the risks of terrorism, although not preventable, can be successfully managed.

Adrian Bonnani

**Creative Class: The Rise of Richard Florida**

This thesis reviews Richard Florida's theories on the emergence of the Creative Class described in his topical 'best-seller' thesis, *The Rise of the Creative Class: And How It's Transforming Work, Leisure, Community and Everyday Life*. Florida claims the new class totals 38 million workers, amounting to more than 30% of the U.S. workforce. He argues that firms and high value industrial activity now follow highly skilled creative people, not vice versa as traditional theories have explained. Moreover, the growth and success of places, particularly cities, is a function of their capacity to attract and foster human talent, and creativity. He says the Creative Class tends to orientate in larger regions that offer a variety of economic opportunities, with stimulating, vibrant urban environments. Florida's thesis on regional economic development trends has been described as 'convincing', 'vibrant', 'loopy', and 'pseudo-scientific claptrap' and has caused much hype amongst media, political and academic circles. This thesis analyses the key critiques that challenge his findings, alongside competing regional economic development and growth theories. In addition, this thesis evaluated the application of Richard Florida's theories in Australia by investigating whether investment, firms and high value industrial activity will follow creative people within the 'Global Sydney' region.

Stuart Carr

### **The Creative Film Studio Complex: A study of Sydney's Fox Studios**

The film studio complex is a relatively new feature on Australia's urban and cultural landscape. It represents a cluster of diverse uses including not only sound stages and on-site production services but also often commercial, retail, education and entertainment. As a hub of creative production, the film studio complex is central to contemporary debates on the cultural economy, creative industries, and economic development. Despite this, however, there has been relatively little research done on how the film studio complex relates to urban and cultural theory. Using Sydney's Fox Studios as a case study, this thesis considers the film studio as a 'cultural district', that is, a site of production for the cultural industries and a space imbued with cultural meaning. This thesis will also look at the broader urban context of Fox Studios and its place within the city's cultural economy.

Yvette Carr

### **The Effectiveness of Open Standing and its Implications for Planning Practice**

'Open standing' is the ability of any person to commence a judicial review action to challenge an administrative decision. This thesis explores the concepts of open standing and judicial review relating to environmental and planning matters. Two objectives are to (1) examine the effectiveness of open standing in widening access to judicial review, and (2) determine the implications of open standing for planning practice. The participatory democracy model of governance and the radical/populist approach to planning law dictate that the civil service cannot adequately represent the public interest. Open standing provisions in NSW planning legislation still aim to uphold these principles by affording the public the right to have their voice heard in review of administrative decisions in the Land and Environment Court. However, there are barriers to judicial review and factors that inhibit the ultimate effectiveness of judicial review proceedings. The two research objectives are achieved through comprehensive analyses of significant case law brought under open standing provisions in the Class 4 (judicial review) jurisdiction of the Land and Environment Court and other qualitative and quantitative research methods. The thesis makes recommendations for planning education and practice in light of the research findings.

Atlas Man Yeung Chan

### **Connecting Cities to the World: Airport-CBD rail links - Global cities, transport and land-use**

Airport-CBD rail links are a significant transport mode for the development of the 'global city'. The globalised economy has highlighted the need for cities to enhance their global status through the improvement of city infrastructure. The airport and the CBD are the two important areas of a city to capture global businesses. These businesses offer great development potential and motivation for Airport-CBD rail links to make up for the 'missing link' between ground and air transportation. In return, Airport-CBD rail links offer significant land-use development potential to shape the global city. This thesis explores the interactive relationship between global cities, transport and land-use. It provides an overview of Airport-CBD rail links

around the world and discusses the motivation behind their development. It shows how urban strategies are associated with the development of Airport-CBD rail links, demonstrates the urban impact of different types of services, and evaluates their profitability and efficiency, based on experiences in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Sydney.

Cecilia Chan

### **The Rise of Cultural Tourism in Hong Kong**

Hong Kong has a diverse culture which blends east and west as well as traditional and modern. This thesis presents insights into cultural tourism in Hong Kong. The study uses a holistic approach to bring tourism and cultural development together within an urban planning perspective. In contrast to the use of tourism to achieve economic growth, this study will discuss tourism as a tool for raising cultural awareness and improving the cultural life of the community in a way that provides mutual benefits to the host community and visitors. Cultural tourism is a relatively new concept in Hong Kong which presents alternative choices for tourists other than the long promoted shopping experience. It also promotes international cultural exchange and enhances a positive image across the globe. Different forms of cultural tourism are discussed, including markets, museums, heritage, theme attractions, cultural facilities and festivals. The West Kowloon Cultural District forms the main case study. This new district provides a good opportunity to support the cultural life of both residents and visitors by transforming a reclamation area into an integrated cultural and entertainment district. The success of cultural tourism needs the support and participation of the whole community, the encouragement of cultural development by the government, and consideration of sustainability into tourism development.

Lisa Chan

### **Urban Consolidation: Planning 'For' or 'Against' the Community? An Evaluation of Impacts**

Over the past two decades, urban consolidation has been a key component of the State Government planning policy agenda. In response to the limited supply of land suitable for urban development in the Sydney Metropolitan Area, a policy adopting the compact city urban form has focused on increasing residential densities within existing urban areas near major transport nodes. The policy aims to provide adequate housing variety and an increase in residential densities in order to contain urban sprawl. However, differences in perception and values have resulted in a large disparity between the communities' desires and the State Government's objectives in achieving urban consolidation. Communities want to maintain the character of their neighbourhoods, while the government is determined to implement urban consolidation policies on the basis of sustainability and the assumed benefits derived from a compact city. This thesis aims to examine issues surrounding urban consolidation, with a view to identifying strengths and weaknesses in the process by which the policies have been made and implemented. Through a case study of Kuring-gai Council, which highlights vital concerns surrounding the planning and policy implications of urban consolidation, this thesis will evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and make recommendations.

Gilead Chen

### **High-Density Living: Design Principles for Social Interaction**

One of the greatest problems in the world today, especially in industrialized and urbanized countries, is that of dealing with the increase in world population in a way which will allow people to live in a civilized and humane fashion so they can work and play in a 'beneficial environment'. Even though this is a basic requirement of society today, it becomes increasingly difficult to meet this need. In order to resolve this problem, planners have proposed high-density living as the solution. High-density living is said to optimize land use, lessens pressures on agricultural land, reduces the need for travel, minimizes the risk of traffic accidents, and increases the profitability of public transport. Even though, high-density living offers many solutions to the conurbation problem, it can have adverse environmental, social and economic consequences. In recent years, there have been numerous attempts to improve these aspects of high-density housing. However, the social aspects of high-density living are often neglected or given lower priority. The thesis examines design principles for high density living in Europe and Australia. The intent is to develop a set of design principles that would give better opportunities for social interaction and create a sense of community within high-density development in Australia.

Leah Chiswick

### **Restore the Commons: The Potential for Community Gardens**

Increasing populations and subsequent higher densities within urban areas will inevitably highlight the importance of open space as a vital element of humane and liveable environments. Accordingly, this will require open space initiatives to effectively address community demand through the provision of meaningful and diverse recreation opportunities. This research examines the potential for community gardens to provide valuable and responsive open space within increasingly dense environments. Community gardens possess significant social and physical benefits which have relevance for modern societies. The role of community gardens in encouraging the development of social communities is discussed, along with their viability as an urban land use, and opportunities and constraints affecting their inclusion in the planning agendas of local governments. The potential of community gardens is revealed through detailed examination of the practical implementation and management of existing community gardens. The thesis advocates greater recognition and awareness of the value of community gardens in planning practice.

Elise Crameri

### **Planning Agreements: Panacea or Pain?**

Australians expect to have access to an increasing range and standard of services and facilities. These include sewerage, drainage, water, electricity, roads, public transport and community and recreational facilities. These services and facilities can be collectively described as 'public infrastructure'. Public infrastructure plays a vital role in the economic development, prosperity and growth of a city or region. It also has a

significant and direct effect on living standards and well being, liveability, and the natural environment. Section 94 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 is the primary mechanism that enables a consent authority to require developers to contribute to the cost and/or provision of amenities and services (public infrastructure). The current system is not perfect. Attention has recently turned to the potential for the implementation and use of alternative mechanisms to fund public infrastructure in NSW, including planning agreements. The purpose of this thesis is to examine whether planning agreements can overcome the failings of our current approaches to the delivery of public infrastructure in NSW. I conclude that planning agreements will not overcome all the failings of current approaches to the delivery of public infrastructure, but can be part of the solution.

Carlo Di Giulio

### **Salt of the Earth: A Review of Landuse Practices and Development Attitudes leading to secondary salinity in Australia**

Secondary salinity is another form of environmental degradation resulting from human intervention which has the potential to restrict the modern ways of life. In the Australian context, the agricultural practices forged by colonialists has resulted in vast tracts of farm land drowning in concentrated amounts of water and naturally deposited salts to the degree where it has severely restricted production and placed significant stress under remnant native habitats. Such outcomes bring to our attention the fragility and geological characteristics of the continent which make it particularly susceptible to environmental degradation, while raising our awareness of the sensitivity of all land uses. While secondary salinity has a firm grip on significant portions of some of Australia's most productive agricultural regions, the process is also emerging in towns, cities and metropolitan areas. The emergence of secondary salinity in settings not associated with the process in the past raises the question as to whether we have learnt from our previous land use principles to the degree where we can safely prevent or manage a re-occurrence so as to minimise adverse impacts on costly urban infrastructure.

Philippa Eakin

### **To what extent is Hunter's Hill Council able to preserve and manage its private historic gardens?**

This thesis explores the effectiveness of heritage planning in the historic Sydney suburb of Hunter's Hill and more specifically the extent to which Hunter's Hill Council is able to preserve and manage its private historic gardens. Hunter's Hill is one of the oldest suburbs in Australia. It was settled from the 1840s, with many original buildings still intact today. Its character, consisting of several components, is seen to be of great historical significance with two thirds of the Municipality proclaimed as a conservation area. Gardens form an important part of the 'curtilage' or 'setting' of historic buildings that are listed as heritage sites. They are key contextual elements that add to the significance of the building. At present, however, Council's ability to control the preservation and management of private historic gardens is limited. Drawing upon case studies, the results of in-depth interviewing, and relevant literature, this thesis explores how significant inroads could be made to

preserve and manage the private historic gardens that are so important to the character of Hunter's Hill.

Adrian Emilsen

### **Heartburn at the Gates of Heaven: A critical examination into the cultural politics of fastfoods in the Blue Mountains**

Since the 1990s, activists have rallied against fastfood chains like McDonald's across the world. These are heralded as movements against 'globalisation'. The resident action group opposing McDonald's in the Blue Mountains portrayed fastfoods as 'ugly', and consumers as base bodies that would defile what was perceived as a 'pure' Blue Mountains 'sense of place'. However, this study found that the Blue Mountains residents were deeply divided over McDonald's and many felt that the anti-McDonald's movement represented 'elite' and 'yuppie' opinions which were not shared by the 'majority' of 'everyday people'. This thesis therefore critically examines the ways in which discursive constructions and counter-constructions of people, place and culture were framed in the eight-year dispute over McDonald's. Through the novel application of theories of aesthetic distinction and cultural capital, as well as a psychoanalytic understanding of place/identity and otherness (Sibley 1995, Pile 1996) this study demonstrates how culture and power become aestheticised within the *realpolitik* of urban development and planning practice.

Lashta Haidari

### **SEPP 5 (1982-2004): A Historical Analysis of Pittwater Council**

NSW State Environmental Planning Policy No.5 - Housing for Older People and People with a Disability (SEPP 5) was introduced in February 1998 to increase housing densities, to provide housing for older people and people with a disability, and to make efficient use of existing infrastructure and services. An earlier SEPP 5 was formulated having regard for the ageing population in New South Wales and their housing needs and was in operation since 1982. From its introduction, however, SEPP 5 was the source of enormous criticism, particularly from local government. This thesis investigates this criticism and explores the fundamental issues associated with the operation of SEPP 5 in the Pittwater Council area, and why there has been community and political resistance to this policy. The issues are explored through an analysis of the assessment in number of Development Applications pursuant to SEPP 5 submitted to Pittwater since the introduction of SEPP 5, and a review of secondary information sources including Council documents and newspaper articles. The results of this analysis are used to critically examine the former SEPP 5 and suggest alternative methods of housing for older people and people with a disability at the local government level.

Andrew Harvey

### **The Masterplan: A Critical Analysis**

This thesis critically analyses the role of masterplans in the NSW planning system by evaluating international and interstate practices, and the outcomes achieved by three

recent masterplanned redevelopments in Sydney. This research has been developed in response to the perceived inconsistencies and ambiguity present in the use of masterplans at a variety of scales in NSW. The role of masterplans in NSW has been undermined by a planning system which is complex, lacks effective strategic regional planning, has inflexible prescriptive plans, and is poor in participation. Coincidentally, in the right planning framework, masterplans have the potential to implement policy at the place-based level, provide strategic direction, be flexible and encourage stakeholder engagement. The main output of this evaluation and analysis is a suggested model for the incorporation of masterplans into the development process. This model ensures that masterplanning occurs in key areas throughout the process, placing emphasis on the importance of a robust strategic framework, a collaborative understanding of 'place' and the key parameters for implementing sustainable outcomes. The suggested model visualises the masterplan as an essential aspect of various parts of the development process, seeking cohesion within the established elements of the planning system. The thesis concludes with suggested improvements for the current practice of masterplanning in NSW to ensure that a more outcome-focused approach to urban development is achieved.

Cathy Hoven

### **Planning Ecotourism Resorts in World Heritage Areas**

Ecotourism is emerging as one of the most popular alternative markets within the tourism industry. It is a specialised industry that requires careful planning and management. Ecotourism relies on natural areas and is increasingly relying on the unique attributes of world heritage areas. Ecotourism resorts are being developed in close proximity to sites of outstanding universal significance. A discussion is provided on the emergence of three key terms; ecotourism, world heritage areas and resorts, with a focus on how each has emerged in Australia. This discussion is followed by an analysis of the planning framework for ecotourism products with several key issues highlighted. There are clear discrepancies between the roles of Australia's three levels of government in the development of ecotourism. The industry itself plays a major role in advancing ecotourism products and knowledge. Four Australian case studies are reviewed: Longitude 131° (Northern Territory), Cape Tribulation Resort (Queensland), Kingfisher Bay Resort (Queensland) and the proposed resort at Cockle Creek East (Tasmania). A discussion compares the examples and highlights themes for consideration in the future development of similar products. Themes include scale, planning processes, product upgrading, community involvement and management plans. A recommendation is made for guidelines to aid ecotourism resort development. A set of such guidelines is offered.

Marie Ierufi

### **My House is Not My Own: The Development Industry and Housing Affordability**

Homes are the place we grow up and grow old. The home is quite often the biggest financial commitment people will ever make in their lives. During the last decade there has been an increase in both land and house prices, destroying the dream of home ownership for many Australians. Sydney has been chosen as the major case

study for this thesis, as the Sydney housing market is the most expensive in comparison to other major Australian cities. Considering that ownership of a home continues to be the dream of many Australians, the development industry is now being pressured to produce housing that is more affordable for lower to middle income earners. There is, however, a current perception held by the development industry that the provision of affordable housing is a financial risk, and as a consequence, there is not enough that is currently being undertaken on their behalf to address the housing affordability issue. Through the examination of several case studies and qualitative research, this thesis provides several suggestions on how innovative measures can be implemented from subdivision designs through to the final built product by the industry that is both affordable for low to middle income earners, and also financially feasible for the industry.

Maple Ka Po Lau

### **Cultural Preferences of Housing and Neighbourhood: The Influences of Chinese Immigrants on Urban Planning in Sydney**

Culture is a shared system of values and beliefs which leads to distinctive behavioural patterns of particular groups. Each culture has different preferences as to neighbourhood preferences and different expectations of their homes within those areas. This thesis seeks to identify some common housing and neighbourhood values of Chinese immigrants who are one of the largest immigrant ethnic groups in Australia. To understand the extent to which cultural factors influence Chinese immigrants' housing choice in Sydney, this thesis examines the significance of some selected cultural variables on housing and neighbourhood preferences. This research also studies the planning effects of ethnic concentrations in some residential areas. The study shows that the most preferred dwelling variables of Chinese immigrants are very similar to those in the mainstream society and therefore the individual dwelling preferences of Chinese immigrants have negligible impacts on planning. However, the residential location and the neighbourhood variables of housing have more direct and indirect effects on planning in some of Sydney's suburbs. Additionally, ethnic concentration provides investment opportunities for developers and businesses, and causes an increase in demand for the types of community facilities and services due to population growth.

James Li

### **Walking and Cycling: Sustainable Transport in the Suburbs**

The promotion of walking and cycling as sustainable transport solutions in the urban environment is fundamentally a choice between dinosaur powered (fossil fuels) versus human powered means of travel. The viability of walking and cycling as transport modes is dependent on whether an urban environment is supportive of the needs of pedestrians and cyclists. Existing literature has presented a plethora of theoretical planning principles for an ideal walking and cycling network and its infrastructure that maximises walkability and cycleability. This thesis examines these planning principles for walking and cycling, and establishes a set of universal qualitative assessment criteria for evaluating walkability and cycleability of different residential suburbs. Evaluations of two existing Sydney suburbs, Surry Hills and Cherrybrook,

are undertaken to test this criteria and seek real world examples of what can be achieved to draw comparisons between theory and practice. The findings of the thesis highlight the limitations and constraints in the physical and administrative environment, and the trade offs that are made by councils and their planners to meet the strategic objectives of pedestrian and cyclist planning, and strike a balance in meeting the needs of all street users.

Paul Manning

### **Entertaining the Masses: A Critical Analysis of Festivals and their Use as Planning Tools for Regional Economic and Community Regeneration.**

In the face of regional economic and community decline, many communities are 'fighting back' with a range of development strategies to regenerate their economies and communities. Communities have organised festivals for a long time, often as a source of entertainment and celebration. With evidence of their ability to create employment, provide revenue, investment, education and community pride, evidence now suggests that an overwhelming number of communities are 'jumping on the bandwagon' and are developing festivals as regeneration strategies. Their increase in popularity in this way has implications for communities, planners and economic developers and raises a number of important questions and issues. Why are festivals so popular? Are they widely supported by communities and governments? Who are the key stakeholders and what is their role? What are the costs and benefits of festivals? What role and influence does tourism play and the presence of cultural economies? A case study of the Mid to Far North NSW Coast provides empirical evidence to addressing these questions. This thesis is an investigation of the key issues and seeks to determine whether festivals as strategies are an adequate and successful means for producing economic and community regeneration for non-metropolitan communities.

Rowena Miers

### **The Role of Residential Parks as a Source of Affordable Housing**

Housing affordability has become a significant issue for many Australian households. In response to this growing issue, residential parks have come to provide a source of affordable permanent housing for many Australian households, including opportunities for both private rental and home ownership. This thesis seeks to critically discuss 'the role of residential parks as a source of affordable housing' by (1) outlining the nature of housing affordability issues in Australia; (2) outlining the findings of research both in Australia and overseas relating to the past and present function of residential parks as a form of affordable housing; (3) considering the suitability of residential parks as a form of affordable housing; (4) outlining direction shifts related to the changing function of residential parks as a source of affordable housing; and (5) offering recommendations related to the future direction for further research and policy implications. The matrix of issues related to the use of residential parks as a source of affordable housing is discussed. The main outcomes are an appreciation of change over time in the function of residential parks as a source of affordable housing along with a better understanding of the issues associated with the use of residential parks as a source of affordable housing.

Clement Miu

### **Achieving Responsive Environment in Campus Design: The Case of the University of New South Wales**

University campus design is the culminating act of processes and procedures that give form, content, meaning and delight to the physical environment serving higher education. Campus design has recently attracted public attention. One of the main reasons for the increase in campus planning awareness is due to the increase in the challenges faced by university planners. These challenges include urban design and appearance. The idea of the 'responsive environment' is crucial in campus design to promote a sense of place that allows users to respond positively to the campus setting. This thesis is based on the hypothesis that in achieving and adopting *placemaking* and *placemaking* design principles, a university campus can become environmentally responsive, and thus maximize the choices of people.

Kimberley Munn

### **Public Involvement and Factors Influencing Change: Sydney Harbour Foreshore Land**

This thesis is an assessment of the public involvement processes used in the decision-making process for determining land use for Sydney Harbour Foreshore land. In recent decades, this land has been largely influenced by the withdrawal of industry from the waterfront and the increasing recognition of the financial and social value of this land. Foreshore land is a limited resource of unique sites. There is competing demand for particular land uses and decision-making processes have limited opportunity to rectify mistakes. There is also a lack of understanding of the interplay between the public and the differing levels of involvement in the decision-making process. This can frustrate the public when they are asked for involvement in what appears to be a predetermined decision. To the public's dismay, involvement does not alone influence the decision-making process in determining the future land use of land. This thesis establishes several socio-economic and socio-cultural factors which influence the relationship between decision-making and public involvement. These factors are assessed in light of three case studies in the Leichhardt local government area. I conclude that public involvement does not influence the decision-making process in determining the future land use of foreshore land. Foreshore land use is predetermined by politics, legislation, policy, socio-economic and socio-cultural trends.

Graham Nelmes

### **Sustainable Transport in Sydney's North West**

Sydney, like many cities around the world is facing a transport crisis. The car has given rise to transport trends which are contributing to a global sustainability crisis. While the car has brought unrivalled mobility and convenience, high levels of private vehicle dependency and poor land-use planning have resulted in environmentally, economically and socially unacceptable and unsustainable trends. Sydney is now

facing major environmental, equity, economic and efficiency problems arising from its transport and land use patterns. One area of Sydney which particularly suffers from high private vehicle dependency is the North West corridor which is home to almost 400,000 residents. Without adequate public transport, this dependence on the private vehicle will worsen in the future with an additional 140,000 residents proposed over the next 20 years. To satisfy the demand for mobility in Sydney's North West, a number of major transport infrastructure projects are under construction, approved, or under development: the Westlink M7, Windsor Road upgrade, North West Transitway, and North West Rail Link. Will these projects simply exacerbate current unsustainable transport trends? Is it possible to reverse these trends and achieve more sustainable transport? This thesis answers these questions.

Louise O'Flynn

### **Protecting Urban Bushland through the Planning System: Evaluation of SEPP 19**

Throughout the world, the rapid growth of cities has resulted in the loss of bushland and its unique values. Sydney is fortunate to be surrounded by large areas of bushland protected by national parks and water catchments. As Sydney expands and its population grows there is increasing pressure for new residential development which often conflicts with the protection of bushland. The need for bushland management and protection through the planning system is paramount if areas of urban bushland are to be preserved for future generations to enjoy in an increasingly urban environment. In NSW, local government has been empowered with the responsibility of managing urban bushland. In 1989 the Department of Environment and Planning introduced State Environmental Planning Policy No. 19 (SEPP 19), which was gazetted to protect and preserve bushland within urban areas. Yet, after 18 years in operation, the success of the State Policy has rarely been investigated. In response, this thesis aims to evaluate the effectiveness of SEPP 19 in protecting urban bushland through the planning system in NSW and presents a set of strategies that may be adopted in the future to better protect urban bushland.

Ruba Osman

### **Ethnic Retail Centres: Understanding Landscapes of Difference**

As a result of post-war migration, many parts of Sydney have been transformed by incoming immigrant groups who have altered the urban environment in accordance with their cultural practices. These 'landscapes of difference' express forms of innovation and adaptation that demonstrate new cultural patterns of everyday life and the new social organisation of cultural diversity. As the residential composition of an area changes, the most prominent cultural markers are often evident in shopping areas as members of the new migrant community establish shops and services to meet their community's needs. Consequently, many ethnic commercial strips have emerged as vibrant economic landscapes in the place of declining commercial environments. This thesis attempts to understand the dynamics of ethnic retail centres because these multicultural urban places provide an opportunity to understand the role cultural diversity plays in the continuity of suburban places.

Amber Pedersen

## **The Illegal and/or Suspicious Destruction of New South Wales Heritage-Listed Items**

Despite heritage protection legislation enacted since 1977, New South Wales has experienced a steady depletion of its built heritage through illegal and/or suspicious destruction (ISD). This thesis provides an exploration of this phenomenon in New South Wales through an in-depth case study analysis of the destruction of three heritage-listed items of varying levels of significance: Rose's Emporium (Marrickville); Sheoks (Bayview); and Kianga (Merrylands). The ISD of heritage-listed items - George Patterson House (Sydney); Bradley's Head Private Hospital (Mosman); and The Laurels (Berowra) - further support this case study analysis. Contemporary heritage-listings within the expanded concept of heritage have not been backed by necessary public and hence political support to warrant greater protection measures. Analysis also points to a lack of necessary governance and diligence on behalf of local and state government planning bodies to curb these destructive occurrences. This thesis aims to heighten concern over the clandestine methods/processes of handling these destructive incidences within a historical and contemporary heritage conservation context. It seeks to fill the gap in theoretical work undertaken on the illegal and/or suspicious destruction of heritage items, through primary and secondary research – informal interviews, email surveys, media and literature reviews, and case studies.

Momcilo Romic

## **Abolition of Private Certification in the NSW Planning System**

Neo-liberalism ideals introduced private certification into the NSW planning system in 1998 through the National Competition Policy (NCP). Private certification has suffered from a series of problems since its introduction where a peak accreditation body was stripped of its power to accredit individuals. Questions have been raised over the role of private certifiers and how they relate to and operate with the traditional role of local government and have conflicts of interests with developers. As such, the 2002 NSW Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Quality of Buildings (Campbell Inquiry) reviewed the home building industry and dealt with recommendations to form the stepping stone for an improved private certification system. The current private certification system will need to undergo further reforms if the well-being of the public is to be addressed. Town planners are involved with this system; their role and future direction with respect to the amended legislation (reflecting private certification) is discussed. In essence, this thesis examines the role of private certification within the NSW planning system and argues that the system has failed and consequently should be abolished.

Daniel Sealey

### **Cycling, Cities and Citizens: Planning for Bicycles**

The bicycle is a valuable and almost universally available means of improving the efficiency, sustainability and liveability of urban areas. The bicycle is an underutilised form of transport despite being admirably suited for the realisation of a range of government objectives such as policies aimed at achieving more compact cities, cleaner air, and increased physical activity for its citizens. It is self-evident that the bicycle has not only been largely ignored by Sydney's planners as an alternative means of transport, but its wider use has in many instances been actively hampered by social attitudes, public policy and an absence of political will, not to mention the physical barriers imposed by the design of our cities and roads. The bicycle has a significant role to play in the well-being of our cities and its citizens, which makes it an issue of great relevance to planning. For these reasons, it is proposed that the promotion of cycling should become one of the key objectives of planning. In support of this, the thesis examines the credentials of the bicycle and analyses strategies aimed at managing vehicular impacts and encouraging sustainable transport, and suggests strategies as a way forward for the future.

Ben Tesoriero

### **Sydney Coastal Planning: A Critical Review and Way Forward**

The rooted desire of Australians to live by the sea is motivating a significant population shift toward the coast of NSW. Both current and planned development restrictions seem to be failing to protect the fragile ecosystems of the coastal zone and mediate this wave of urbanisation. This thesis sets out to establish whether or not Sydney needs a single coastal planning policy to preserve and conserve the unique environment of the study area. To achieve this determination an extensive review and critical analysis of all the significant instruments that manage the coastal zone in Sydney was undertaken to ascertain the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of each. The result of this review and analysis reveals that a definite need for change is required for sustainability of the coastal zone in Sydney. The thesis concludes with recommendations for reform in the current coastal planning environment in Sydney.

Michael Tilt

### **Heterogeneous Retirement Housing: Identifying demand for retirement housing products. A case study of the Sutherland Shire**

Australia will experience a significant ageing of its population over the next two decades, primarily due to the ageing effects of the 'baby boomer' bracket, lower fertility rates and an increasing life expectancy. This ageing of the population will drive the future retirement housing market and will provide a new range of housing opportunities. This thesis examines the factors of demand for retirement housing and then examines the creation of a new set of sub markets. The current retirement housing products are then evaluated. A model to test demand for future retirement housing products is presented and applied to the case study area – Sydney's Sutherland Shire. The thesis concludes by determining that no single housing product will satisfy the market, instead the future lies with heterogeneous retirement housing.

Daniela Vujic

### **Second Homes: Trends and Demands in Shoalhaven**

Second homes are a prominent feature of particular localities within Australia. However little research has been conducted in recent years to try and understand development trends and the demand for second homes. This thesis advocates that planners and associated practitioners need to understand the second home phenomenon to be more fully equipped to manage relevant issues. The changes in the number and location of second homes within Australia and New South Wales over the 1961-1986 and 1971-1986 periods respectively are analysed to understand second home trends and demand in Australia. Shoalhaven Local Government Area (LGA) is used to determine whether there have been changes to second home trends and demand in recent years, particularly demand for future retirement use. This thesis recommends that a detailed analysis of trends at an LGA level is required for local councils/planners to be able to factor in second home demand within their growth/housing strategies. Two possible methods have been suggested for local councils/planners to use so that they are able to estimate the demand for future second homes within their LGA.

Amy Watson

### **Design Quality of Infill Development: Unequal expectation, control and outcomes in two local government areas of western Sydney**

Infill development, a fundamental means of counteracting unlimited sprawl, is the development of unused or underutilised land within established areas at a greater density than is typically found in the surrounding locality. This thesis explores the design quality of infill development in established low density residential suburbs of Western Sydney, comparing and contrasting the expectation, control and outcomes in Holroyd and Blacktown local government areas. Design quality in the past has largely concentrated on prominent sites. The design of infill development in existing residential areas, however, has spurred little interest. The design quality of a significant proportion of infill development leaves a lot to be desired. Mass produced project homes are popular choices for many infill sites, but show little effort on the part of the designer or the local council to ensure the design of the development is suitable for the site, the street and the character of the broader locality. Good housing and urban design becomes more critical as housing densities increase. The study of infill development in Holroyd and Blacktown provides an insight into inequalities in expectation, control and outcomes of infill development between the two areas. Recommendations are put forward to aid in achieving a higher quality of design for infill development.

Elizabeth Wetherall

### **Sustainability of NSW Ports: The Case for Decentralisation**

The strategic future of port development is currently under review in New South Wales (NSW). The NSW Government has announced that ports activity will be

encouraged to relocate to regional areas from Sydney Harbour as leases expire. Qualitative assessment of stakeholders' opinions demonstrates that this decision is welcomed by regions, since they face difficulties in competing with the Metropolitan region. However, this policy is contested by Sydney stakeholders who fear inflated business costs with increased freight transportation. Perceived economic gain is the motivation behind both arguments concerning decentralisation of ports. A detailed literature review and examination of stakeholder arguments can be linked to the wider debate on 'balanced development'. The relevant issues in this broad debate include loss of economic productivity created by agglomeration economies, increasing costs of congestion, and the need for regional economic development. The various potential negative and positive impacts of the NSW Government's strategy are weighed up to determine the best outcome for future sustainability of ports. Through the case study of Port Kembla, it will be found that decentralisation is the most sustainable direction for the future growth of the ports in NSW.

Penny White

### **The Impact of Backpackers on Sydney's Metropolitan Seaside Communities**

This thesis analyses the impacts backpackers have on the social, economic and environmental fabric on Sydney's metropolitan seaside communities. The two communities chosen for this study are Bondi and Manly. In most of the scholarly literature written on this topic, backpackers have both negative and positive impacts on local communities. However, backpackers do not only impact on a local community, but are in fact influenced by the community's attitude towards them. These outcomes are achieved through investigating the current trends of a backpacker's behaviour not only in Bondi and Manly, but also in a broader context. Employees from Waverley and Manly Council were interviewed, along with employees from backpacker hostels. Comments from local residents also offered insights. Although this study indicates that backpackers generate many positive impacts on the social, economic and environmental fabric of a community, the conclusion indicates that local Councils do not have the resources to control the negative impacts generated by backpackers. This leads to suggestions of renewed Management Plans by Councils to be implemented at the local level.

Tim Wise

### **Sydney's Great Streets - Designing for the Pedestrian**

As populations and densities continue to increase within and around our city centres, pressure is placed on decision makers of the future to provide adequate, functional public open space. This thesis argues that the highest level of underutilised open space in our cities is our city streets. Traversing the landscape of Sydney are streets that are products of an industrial city. With design focused on the motor vehicle, these streets do not provide any human scale or sense of public domain. This thesis looks at Sydney's great pedestrian streets, seeking to discover what makes them great and what makes them so successful. By providing an in-depth analysis using urban design based criteria the intention of this thesis is to help make future great streets – streets where people want to be.

Ada Wong

**Designing a Healthy Environment: The case of Hong Kong**

Creating healthy and sustainable communities is a high priority for many cities around the world. There is increasing recognition that improvement of our social and physical environment can have significant impacts on human health and well-being. However, health issues are not always incorporated into planning decision-making processes and into urban design even though the quality of the environment and the nature of development are major determinants of health. This thesis examines the urban planning and design factors that contribute to a healthy urban environment in Hong Kong. Two residential developments are chosen as case studies. Exploring and interpreting the two cases on a series of urban design criteria and a set of health determinants indicates how and what changes in planning and urban design are undertaken in moving towards creating healthier residential places.

Mandy Man Wing Wong

**Towards 'intelligent public spaces': The implications of technological advances on designing the public domain**

Throughout history, cities have been the source of technological innovations. Technology is a dynamic force that is continuously restructuring the city. In recent years, emerging technologies have transformed the notion of public space. There has been considerable debate on the desertion of public space, in which urbanity and usage are threatened by the increase in 'virtual' transactions, eliminating the need for 'real' social interactions. However, technology is indeed creating new potentials for designing physical spaces. What of more radical visions of the electronic age and its impact on public space? The aim of this thesis is to explore how technologies can be used to enhance the use of the public domain and support the emergence of public spaces to create a positive, innovative and democratic blend of urban cultures and experiences to be accessed and used by anyone. It involves untangling the complex interrelationship between the city and technology, identifying their social and spatial implications, as well as investigating international cases on the intervention of technology in the public space. The challenge for urban design and planning is to develop a new understanding of the expanding roles of technologies to become aware of the issues and trends associated with technological innovations in contemporary cities.

Peggy Wong

**Providing Access to Public Spaces: A study of mixed use waterfronts**

In harbour cities all over the world, the experience of post-industrialisation has taken hold and changed not only the economy but the physical setting of the urban environment. The global service-based economy has given rise to the 'new middle class', a group which strives for quality living and recreational environments. As urbanisation takes hold of cities, the function and value placed on the ability to access quality open spaces has become a priority to the community. Public spaces for social, cultural, recreational and leisure activities should be available for the use by all

members of the public – with the exclusion of no groups. However, the provision of these spaces is not enough. Accessibility *to* public spaces is also a key component to the success and functionality of public spaces in cities. Public spaces need to encourage social interaction and cultural exchange, which is considered an important contributor to the quality of life. This thesis establishes the role and influence of planning controls on the provision of access to quality public space. Urban waterfronts comprising mixed used development are of particular interest given the unique physical setting and environmental value attached to such locations and will be used to analysis how planning controls balance the needs of the public and private sectors.

Roy Wong

### **Heritage Conservation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: In the context of Inner Sydney**

The issue of heritage conservation is a topic that is under continual debate among the disciplines of the built environment. In the Australian context, heritage significant items and places have been on the agenda of governments in terms of finding solutions to its adaptability into an evolving urban landscape affected by factors of economics, public perceptions, demographics, technology and a whole host of variables. This thesis examines evolving notions of heritage conservation in the Australian context and in particular their effect on the makeup of Inner Sydney. What impact has the evolving trend of conserving ‘cultural heritage’ had on the current state of Inner Sydney and what lies ahead in the future? This thesis concludes that Inner Sydney faces a challenging future that will require a trade-off between the rationalism of economics and heritage conservation. There is no doubt that controversy will be ever present throughout this challenging task. However, as recent examples of adaptive re-use and development of heritage items and places within Inner Sydney have demonstrated, economic viability and heritage considerations are achievable through balanced integration.

Olivia Yana

### **The Importance of Surplus Land Management towards the Continuation of Railway Operation: Investigation of intricacy in railway land disposal**

Over a period of 150 years, the NSW railway system has experienced tremendous changes. At present, the railway organisation has amended its identity into RailCorp (Railway Corporation NSW, Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation), formerly the State Rail Authority (SRA). Improvements in technology have transformed the modus operandi of the modern railway. Surplus land is the by-product of system improvement. The extent of impacts is reflected in the extent of state budgeting for maintenance of subjected lands. This practice is unfavourable in obtaining state revenues, especially with surplus lands spread all around NSW. The study of current land use demand shows the significance role of surplus railway land. Properties around railway station are more than ever in demand. Profits gained from the disposal of surplus railway land are beneficial to railway operation. The importance of railway surplus land management in light of the continuation of railway system is analysed. Investigation of the intricacy of railway surplus land disposal management is approached through the delineation of relevant legislative resources.