



## CREATING PLACES FOR PEOPLE

AN **URBAN DESIGN PROTOCOL** FOR **AUSTRALIAN CITIES**

*'Canberra is a planned city and its growth and development have exemplified contemporary planning principals.'*

Alastair Swayn, Australian Capital Territory Government Architect

### Urban design in the nation's capital

Canberra, Australia's planned capital, is a laboratory of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century planning and urban design. Selected by surveyor Charles Scrivener and designed by Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin, Canberra is nestled within a landscape setting.

It is the nation's eighth largest major city, and the largest inland city. Since the original city beautiful design, Canberra's planning and design has been progressively updated – building on past plans with whatever the current practice was at the time.

Canberrans rate their city highly for liveability, in particular its economic opportunities and attractive look and design.

In late 2011 the ACT Government released the draft *ACT Planning Strategy* for public comment. The draft Strategy was developed following extensive community and stakeholder engagement.

When finalised, the *ACT Planning Strategy* will guide Canberra's development for the next 30 years and beyond, and is focussed on making Canberra a compact, efficient city by building on its key strengths – its metropolitan structure, its position in the region and place as the 'bush capital'.

In 2010-11 nearly two flats and apartments were built for every free standing house. This represents a remarkable outcome for a generally low density city developed in the era of the car.



Photographer: Dianna Snape

**NEW ACTON EAST AND PAVILION**  
2008 AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
CANBERRA MEDALLION AWARD RECIPIENT

2008 PLANNING INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA AWARD FOR  
PLANNING EXCELLENCE IN URBAN DESIGN, IDEAS AND  
ACHIEVEMENT

### Award winning urban design in the ACT

- Australian War Memorial Eastern Precinct - AIA National Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Architecture, 2011; AIA National Award for Urban Design, 2011; AIA (ACT) Canberra Medallion for Public Architecture, 2011
- National Portrait Gallery – AIA National Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Architecture & Award for Interior Architecture, 2009
- Brindabella Business Park Stage 1 – AIA (ACT) Sir John Overall Award for Urban Design, 2009
- New Acton East and Pavilion – AIA National Award for Commercial Architecture, 2008; AIA (ACT) Multiple Housing, 2008; AIA (ACT) Commercial Architecture, 2008; AIA (ACT) Art in Architecture, 2008
- Canberra Glassworks – AIA (ACT) Award for Heritage, 2008
- John Curtin School of Medical Research - Stage 1 Redevelopment – AIA National Award for Public Architecture

# Australian Capital Territory

## Examples of urban design charters, guides and handbooks in Australian Capital Territory

