‘Queensland is a vast state with a variety of landforms and climates providing the setting for a network of cities and towns. To be sustainable, these cities and towns need to be liveable and functional. Places that attract, engage and retain people. Places where people choose to live. These aims are only achievable through high quality urban design focused on context and place making, and which complement infrastructure requirements and human needs.’

— Malcolm Middleton, Queensland Government Architect

Urban design across Queensland

The Queensland Government is influencing urban design outcomes through initiatives such as the work of the Office of Government Architect, the Board for Urban Places, Next Generation Planning Handbook, the charter of the Urban Land Development Authority, 2020 Design Strategy managed through Arts Queensland, and the HEAT program lead by the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation to promote emerging Queensland architectural talent.

The Queensland Growth Management Summit in 2010 discussed how to best manage growth. Building urban design capacity and initiating a program of leadership in urban design were two actions endorsed by the state government.

The Urban Design Champions program is a long-term strategy across multiple government agencies, to build capacity and experience through formal training, network meetings and shared learning.

The Board for Urban Places is an independent advisory body, established in 2009, to advise Government on urban design, and to champion high-quality urban design in Queensland. It is fostering a holistic approach to land use and infrastructure planning to create vibrant and adaptable urban places for people in Queensland.

The Urban Design Alliance of Queensland is a collaborative alliance of built environment professionals, institutions and related groups to deliver coordinated urban design outcomes with the aim of improving the quality of public spaces across Queensland.

Award winning urban design in Queensland

- SW1 South Bank Urban Village, 2011 Australia Award for Urban Design
- Kurilpa Bridge, 2011 World Architecture Festival Award
- Broadwater Foreshore Park, 2011 Gold Coast Urban Design Awards
- Brisbane Inner Northern Busway, 2010 Australia Award for Urban Design
- Bowen Foreshore, 2010 AILA QLD Design Award, PIA Qld Urban Design Award
- Bond University Mirvac School of Sustainable Development, 2009 AIA Qld Architecture Award, 2009 RICS Sustainability Award
- Gallery of Modern Art and Queensland State Library, 2007 RAIA Qld Architecture Awards
- Roma Street Parkland, 2006 RAIA Qld Award
- Cairns Esplanade, 2003 Australia Award for Urban Design
- Kelvin Grove Urban Village, 2002 PIA National Award for Urban Planning Achievement
Examples of urban design charters, guides and handbooks in Queensland

National
- COAG Objectives and Criteria for Capital Cities
- CREATING PLACES FOR PEOPLE

State
- State Policies and plans

Region
- Land for Queensland Regional Plans
- Transit Oriented Development Guidelines

Town/District
- Local Area Plan
- Greenfield structure plan

Neighbourhood
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Town Centre masterplan

Street
- Street-scale plan

Site
- Site Plan

A Charter for Queensland Places – Board for Urban Places
Next Generation Planning—A handbook for planners, designers and developers in South East Queensland
Active Healthy Communities
Transit Oriented Development Guidelines
Residential 3G Guidelines
Complete Streets: Guidelines for Urban Street Design – Institute of Public Works Engineers QLD
Crime prevention through Environmental Design: Guidelines for Queensland
A People Oriented Vision for Brisbane
A Charter for Urban Quality – Urban Design Alliance QLD
A Plan for Urban Quality – Urban Design Alliance QLD
Subtropical Design in SEQ Handbook