



CREATING PLACES FOR PEOPLE

AN URBAN DESIGN PROTOCOL FOR AUSTRALIAN CITIES

'If we accept that the quality of urban design and architecture affects the quality of lives – and considerable evidence now demonstrates that this is the case – then it makes sense and is responsible to put in place processes that enable such quality to be achieved.'

— Geoffrey London, Victorian Government Architect

'Urban Design is the glue that holds our cities together. Cities will continue to fail on a social, environmental and financial level without the considered design and management of their public realm. This is what the Urban Design Protocol is all about.'

— Prof. Rob Adams AM, Director City Design, City of Melbourne

Urban Design in Victoria

Victoria has a history of excellence in urban design and is committed to upholding the State's proud civic legacy. The Office of the Victorian Government Architect (OVGA) provides leadership and strategic advice to Government about architecture and urban design, and promotes awareness about how good design can enhance living spaces and urban areas. The OVGA has recently established a new Victorian Design Review Panel to advise on the design quality of government buildings, places and infrastructure.

The Victorian Planning Provisions includes recognition of the importance of urban design to the quality of the built environment. This value is upheld within the State's planning system by the Urban Design Unit within the Department of Planning and Community Development. The Urban Design Unit also engages directly in urban design projects on behalf of the State and is the custodian of the Urban Design Charter for Victoria, a commitment by the Victorian Government and other signatories to make cities and towns in Victoria more livable through good urban design.

Outside of the State Government, the City of Melbourne boasts one of the strongest and most experienced in-house urban design teams of any local government in the country. Over several decades, the City has created an outstanding urban design legacy for central Melbourne, contributing significantly to Melbourne's international reputation for livability.

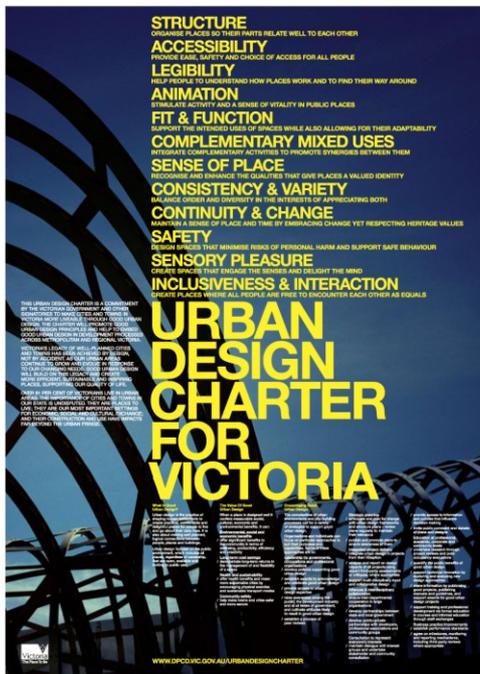


BENDIGO CITY CENTRE
2008 AUSTRALIA AWARD FOR URBAN DESIGN

Award winning urban design in Victoria

- Geelong Youth Activity Precinct, 2010 Australia Award for Urban Design
- Transforming Australian Cities, 2009 Australia Award for Urban Design
- Bendigo City Centre, 2008 Australia Award for Urban Design
- Coastal towns Design Framework, 2007 Australia Award for Urban Design
- Balaclava Walk and Community Housing project, 2006 Australia Award for Urban Design
- Places for People and Melbourne CBD and Pedestrian Traffic Study, 2005 Australia Award for Urban Design
- Melbourne Docklands, 2004 Australia Award for Urban Design
- Steampacket Place, Geelong Waterfront, 2002 Australia Award for Urban Design

Urban design charter for Victoria



STRUCTURE

Organise places so their parts relate well to each other.

ACCESSIBILITY

Provide ease, safety and choice of access for all people.

LEGIBILITY

Help people to understand how places work and to find their way around.

ANIMATION

Stimulate activity and a sense of vitality in public places.

FIT AND FUNCTION

Support the intended uses of spaces while also allowing for their adaptability.

COMPLEMENTARY MIXED USES

Integrate complementary activities to promote synergies between them.

SENSE OF PLACE

Recognise and enhance the qualities that give places a valued identity.

CONSISTENCY AND VARIETY

Balance order and diversity in the interests of appreciating both.

CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

Maintain a sense of place and time by embracing change yet respecting heritage values.

SAFETY

Design spaces that minimise risks of personal harm and support safe behaviour.

SENSORY PLEASURE

Create spaces that engage the senses and delight the mind.

INCLUSIVENESS AND INTERACTION

Create places where all people are free to encounter each other as equals.

WWW.DPCD.VIC.GOV.AU/URBANDESIGNCHARTER