

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 & 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 & VARIETY

BALANCE ORDER AND DIVERSITY IN THE INTERESTS OF APPRECIATING BOTH

CONTINUITY & 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 & INTERACTION

CREATE PLACES WHERE ALL PEOPLE ARE FREE TO ENCOUNTER EACH OTHER AS EQUALS

URBAN DESIGN CHARTER FOR VICTORIA

THIS URBAN DESIGN CHARTER IS A COMMITMENT BY THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AND OTHER SIGNATORIES TO MAKE CITIES AND TOWNS IN VICTORIA MORE LIVEABLE THROUGH GOOD URBAN DESIGN. THE CHARTER WILL PROMOTE GOOD URBAN DESIGN PRINCIPLES AND HELP TO EMBED GOOD URBAN DESIGN IN DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES ACROSS METROPOLITAN AND REGIONAL VICTORIA.

VICTORIA'S LEGACY OF WELL-PLANNED CITIES AND TOWNS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY DESIGN, NOT BY ACCIDENT. AS OUR URBAN AREAS CONTINUE TO GROW AND EVOLVE IN RESPONSE TO OUR CHANGING NEEDS, GOOD URBAN DESIGN WILL BUILD ON THIS LEGACY AND CREATE MORE EFFICIENT, SUSTAINABLE AND INSPIRING PLACES, SUPPORTING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE.

OVER 91 PER CENT OF VICTORIANS LIVE IN URBAN AREAS. THE IMPORTANCE OF CITIES AND TOWNS IN OUR STATE IS UNDISPUTED. THEY ARE PLACES TO LIVE; THEY ARE OUR MOST IMPORTANT SETTINGS FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE; AND THEIR CONSTRUCTION AND USE HAVE IMPACTS FAR BEYOND THE URBAN FRINGE.

What Is Good Urban Design?

Urban design is the practice of shaping human settlements to create practical, comfortable and delightful places for people to live and go about their daily lives. It is also about making well planned, logical connections between people, places and buildings.

Urban design focuses on the public environment, which includes all places, regardless of ownership, that are open, available and inviting to public use.

The Value Of Good Urban Design

When a place is designed well it confers measurable social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits. It can:

Environmental, social and economic benefits
/ offer significant benefits to the community in terms of wellbeing, productivity, efficiency and creativity

Long-term cost savings
/ demonstrate long-term returns in the management of and flexibility of a space

Health and sustainability
/ offer health benefits and make more sustainable cities by encouraging physical exercise and sustainable transport modes

Community safety
/ help make towns and cities safer and more secure

Encouraging Good Urban Design

The complexities of urban environments and city-building processes call for a variety of strategies to support good urban design.

Organisations and individuals can focus on particular approaches to suit their purposes and capabilities. Some of these approaches are to:

Leadership by governments, corporations and professional organisations
/ develop policies supporting good urban design

Establish awards to acknowledge and celebrate good urban design
/ provide access to urban design expertise

Raise awareness among the public, the development industry and at all levels of government, and cultivate attitudes likely to result in good urban design
/ establish a process of peer reviews

Strategic planning
/ anticipate and plan for change with urban design frameworks and structure plans – review plans regularly to maintain their relevance

Integrated project delivery
/ integrate urban design in projects from their inception

Analyse and report on design impacts of all projects using expert third-party assessments or critiques, where appropriate
/ support multi-disciplinary input and collaborative design

Alliances & interdisciplinary collaboration
/ ensure inter-departmental cooperation in large organisations

Develop partnerships between state and local government
/ develop public-private partnerships with developers, professional associations and community groups

Consultation to represent everyone's interests
/ maintain dialogue with interest groups and undertake stakeholder and community consultation

Provide access to information and policies that influence decision-making
/ invite public comment and debate of plans and designs

Education at professional, academic, corporate and community levels
/ undertake research through project reviews and post-occupancy evaluations

Quantify the public benefits of good urban design
/ support technical innovation by exploring and analysing new design approaches

Share information by publicising good projects, publishing manuals and guidelines, and support awards for good urban design projects
/ support training and professional development via formal education in courses and informal education through staff exchanges

Business practice improvements
/ establish performance standards
/ agree on milestones, monitoring and reporting mechanisms, including third-party reviews where appropriate