NZIS Urban Design Strategy

September 2012

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE
OF SURVEYORS
Te Rōpū Kairūri o Aotearoa

What is Urban Design?

There are a multitude of different definitions available on Urban Design

Following are some from well recognised Urban Design organisations and James Byrne making an imaginary pitch to the Minister for the Environment in a lift – winning him the Urban Design LIFT PITCH Competition, UK...

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE
OF SURVEYORS
Te Rōpū Kairūri o Aotearoa

" In a world more populated and connected than ever before we need a profession that understands how places function, how they are experienced and how they can be improved. The strength of Urban Design is its ability to bring together the strengths of the community, the architect, the landscape architect, the city planner, the engineer, and the artist to create places of distinction, character, legibility and quality. Places like the bustling metropolis of Manhattan, the leafy boulevards of Paris, the stunning piazzas of Italy, the majestic waterfront of Liverpool and the regal Georgian squares of London.

Every year more and more people are living and working in urban environments. Evidence consistently shows that cities with strong urban design policies are good for business because they give a clear and concise framework for development. Urban Design can create resilient public spaces that use less energy by reducing the urban heat island effect, avoid flooding through Sustainable drainage, increase safety through natural surveillance, and encourage healthier lifestyles through pedestrian friendly development. Urban design is therefore at the forefront of tackling climate change, helping realise social, ecological and economic sustainability objectives.

We want a nation of happy, productive people living in beautiful, practical urban environments that bring tourism and investment. With a finite supply of development land, getting value added investment cannot be left to chance. Good urban design saves the government money by reducing life cycle costs and helps avoid the mistakes of the past. We cannot allow communities to become alienated from their environment, for entire cities and regions to suffer from under investment. We can and must do better. Urban design can lead the way in creating sustainable communities and lay the foundations for long term economic growth. Ultimately it gives government an effective mechanism for delivering a sustainable future."

James Bryne, UK

What is Urban Design #2?

"Urban design refers to the physical arrangement, appearance and functioning of cities and towns, and the relationship of these to the natural environment."

Dept of Urban Affairs and planning, NSW, Australia

Auckland City , Toni Hill

What is Urban Design #3?

"Quality urban design sees buildings, places and spaces not as isolated elements but as part of the whole town or city. For example, a building is connected to its street, the street to its neighbourhood, the neighbourhood to its city, and the city to its region.

Urban design has a strong spatial dimension and optimises relationships between buildings, places, spaces, activities and networks. It also recognises that towns and cities are part of a constantly evolving relationship between people, land, culture and the wider environment."

NZ Urban Design Protocol, Ministry for the Environment, New Zealand

What is Urban Design #3?

"The definition of Urban Design has many interpretations amongst different professions, but essentially it is about the relationships and connections between the buildings, spaces, and places in our cities and towns, and the people that live in and use them."

"Urban design is interested in the design and community needs at urban scales and ranges in scale from the metropolitan or regional level, to a city or town, or down to a street, building or public space."

"Good urban design is concerned not just with the appearance of development and infrastructure but with the positive impact the built and natural landscapes have on people and land use, and the consequences of design on economic, social, and environmental outcomes and values."

Planning Institute of Australia

"The Group held from its inception that everyone acting in the environment was an urban designer, whether they were positively, negatively or just passively, because the decisions they make (or disregard) affect the quality of urban spaces."
AR Cuthbert

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE
OF SURVEYORS
Te Rōpū Kairūri o Aotearoa

What is Urban Design #4?

"Urban design concerns the quality of cities, towns and smaller urban settlements in their entirety. While, as a process, it involves creating the right conditions to make places work, its focus is on the public environment – a crucial component of urban life comprising all those parts of a city or town that are open, available and inviting to free public use (regardless of ownership). A mix of public and private spaces supports our social needs, but the public environment plays a fundamental role in linking the disparate parts of an urban area. In a sense, the public environment provides the physical framework and the social territory that holds urban settlements together. Good urban design – the making of a good public environment – supports the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of communities that live in, or are affected by urban areas."

The Urban Design Charter for Victoria

Drivers for an Urban Design Strategy

- We act as 'design professionals' in our role; our design development input is broad across private, commercial, residential and industrial buildings and developments.

- We understand all the roles involved in land development design and often lead the team through the feasibility, design, consenting and implementation of new neighbourhoods leaving an indelible impression of the Surveyors' role on the evolution of our communities. For example, when we create primary road, reserve and storm water spaces amongst others, we design:
  - where those spaces go
  - the size of them
  - how they relate to each other.

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE
OF SURVEYORS
Te Rōpū Kairūri o Aotearoa
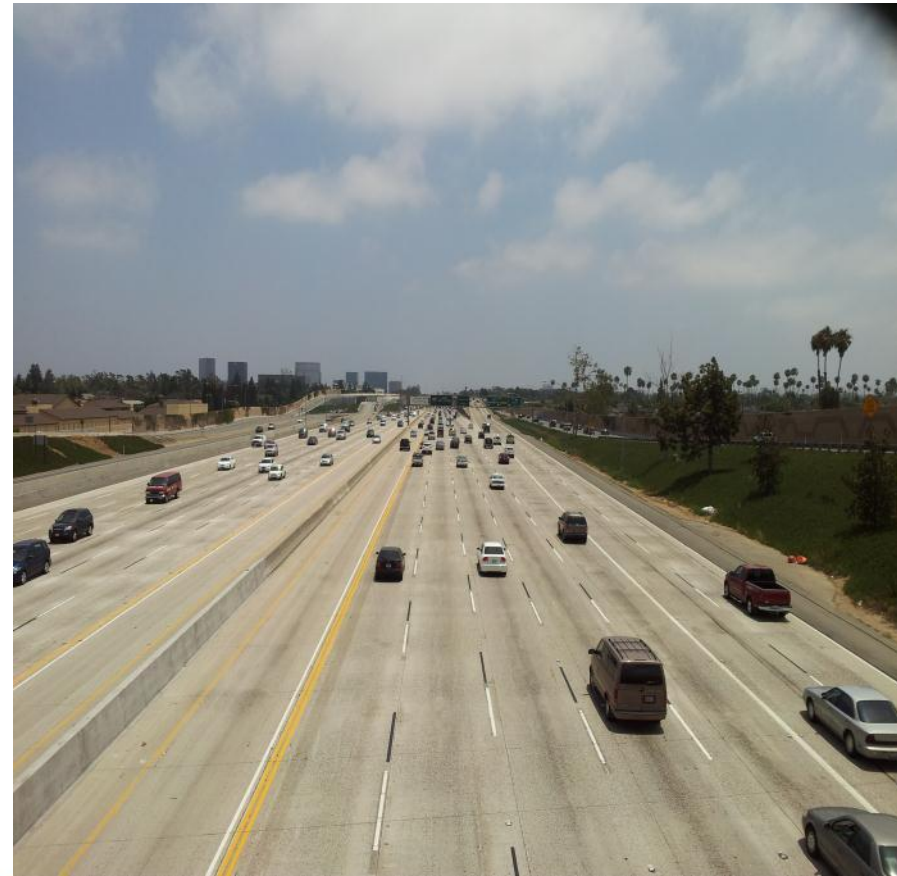
Why NZIS needs an Urban Design Strategy

- Surveyors' work in the urban design arena often goes unrecognized and un-acknowledged

- We need to fully understand surveyors' place in the urban design world to allow us to articulate this

- We need clarity of our relationships with others in the profession such as architects, builders, urban landscape designers, engineers and planners

The Lakes, Tauranga - Harrison Grierson

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE
OF SURVEYORS
Te Rōpū Kairūri o Aotearoa

Benefits of having a clear strategy

- Provides policies relating to Urban Design and surveyors' place in the profession that can be used locally by members and help create a commercial niche for ourselves

- A strategy will give us rigour and visibility

- Clarity of our place in the Urban Design world will allow us to be clear and confident about our role

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE
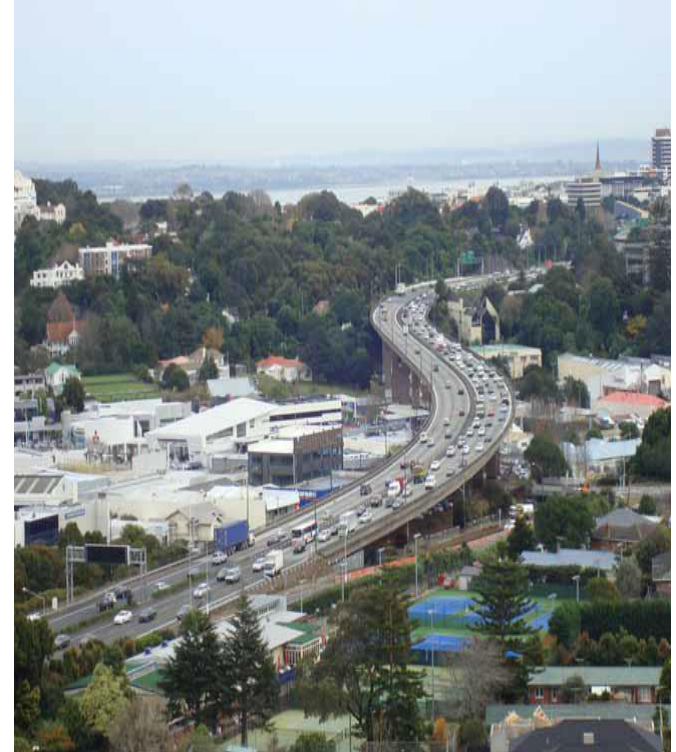OF SURVEYORS
Te Rōpū Kairūri o Aotearoa

NZIS action and the road map we will use get there

The NZIS group leading this strategy work consists of Phil Rhodes, Brett Gawn, Paul Turner and Greg McBride and Mark Allan

Strategies

- Mobilise our Urban Design leaders

- Get a representation on the Urban Design Forum

- Market key messages about surveyors' role and skills

- Develop a Vision, position and policies relating to surveyors' place within the urban design profession

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE
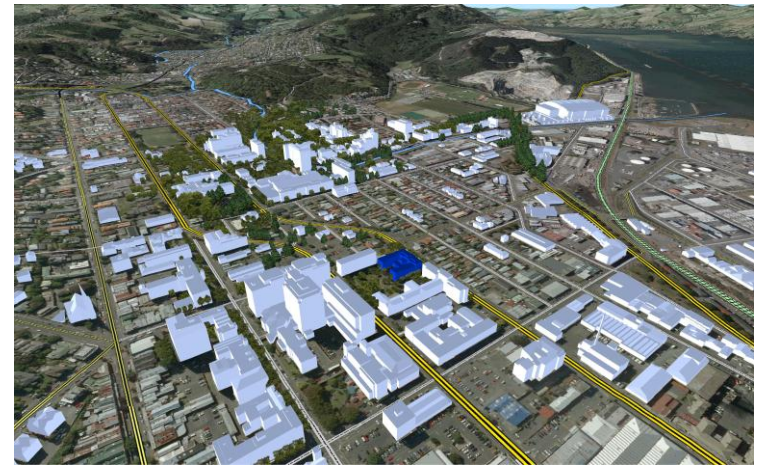OF SURVEYORS
Te Rōpū Kairūri o Aotearoa

Strategies cont

- Provide tools, improved CPD and resources to help members sell their skills

- Collaborate with the profession: NZ Institute of Architects, NZ Planning Institute, NZILA, Urban Design Forum

- Leverage Survey School's Urban Design lecturer

- Speak at Local Government NZ, Ingenium and other professions' meetings, conferences, workshops etc

- Use publication opportunities in other Professional Journals

- Develop plans; 1 year plan and long term 3, 5 year plans.

Urban Design Principles

NZIS needs to decide on the values and principles for a strategy….

As a starting point for discussion, the following 12 Principles of Good Design have been have been adopted by Victoria State, Australia ….

Principles of Urban Design	
Structure Organise places so their parts relate well to each other	**Complementary mixed uses**: integrate complementary activities to promote synergies between them
Accessibility Provide ease, safety and choice of access for all people	**Sense of place** Recognise and enhance the qualities that give places a valued identity
Legibility Help people to understand how places work and to find their way around	**Consistency and variety** Balance order and diversity in the interests of appreciating both
Animation Stimulate activity and a sense of vitality in public places	**Continuity and change** Maintain a sense of place and time by embracing change yet respecting heritage values
Fit and function Support the intended uses of spaces while also allowing for their adaptability	**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.

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE
OF SURVEYORS
Te Rōpū Kairūri o Aotearoa

Proposed NZIS Charter

- NZIS promotes sustainable use of natural resources and care for the built environment

- Members seek to inspire, improve and innovate when accepting design commissions

- Members will have respect for the natural environment and where possible incorporate ecological and other natural features of the landscape into their design work

- Protection and care for the environment is a core value

- Surveyors seek to achieve a built environment that responds to peoples needs and provides a diversity of housing

- Surveyors aspire to the highest professional standards in order to achieve the best outcomes for the community

- Design streets that suit the context and promote appropriate levels of walking and cycling

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE
OF SURVEYORS
Te Rōpū Kairūri o Aotearoa

Year 1 Plan

Action	Timeframe
Urban Design Workshop	
Complete research to find out how many surveyors operate in the urban design space in New Zealand	
Develop the Vision and NZIS position	
Develop Policies , Principles and Charter	
Communicate NZIS position	
Develop Year 3 and 5 plans	
Encourage and assist entry of survey development projects with a design component into the NZ Urban Design Awards	

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE
OF SURVEYORS
Te Rōpū Kairūri o Aotearoa