



NZIS Urban Design Charter

2012

“Everyone acting in the environment is an urban designer, whether they are acting positively, negatively or just passively, because the decisions they make (or disregard) affect the quality of urban spaces “

what is urban design?

Urban Design relates to the way people use towns and their neighbourhoods. It seeks to design places that provide environments that are of a quality to ensure people live, work and play efficiently and comfortably.

We all use the built environment in varying ways. We connect with it every day. We rely on its ability to provide for our needs, enhance our lives and improve our futures. We all have a stake in making sure it works the best for us.

NZIS's urban design goal is therefore to support surveyors involved in urban design and provide guides to ensure we make places that improve communities, from the region as a whole to neighbourhoods and precincts and to individual public spaces, streets and buildings.



why urban design?

People use the urban environments of the region. They use the centres, streets, civic spaces, community facilities, neighbourhoods, transport and shopping services that provide the urban settings in which they live, work, play, learn, shop and more. The design and planning of the different parts of the urban environment, and how they are connected and interact, are central to how well these urban environments meet the communities' needs.

The urban design of the region significantly affects its economic vitality, community well-being and environmental sustainability. It influences how well our regional community will be able to respond proactively to important trends such as climate change, changing lifestyles, innovative communications technology and an ageing community.

Surveyors' work in the urban design arena needs to be recognized and acknowledged. We need to fully understand surveyors' place in the urban design world to allow us to articulate this. We also need clarity of our relationships with others in the profession such as architects, builders, urban landscape designers, engineers and planners. We will need to work together to achieve this clarity of place and role.

To provide the basis for urban design NZIS has adopted some core values that it believes are essential to developing quality places.

core urban design values

NZIS will promote the sustainable use of natural resources and care for the built environment. Surveyors are encouraged to underpin their urban design projects with the following values.

Seek to inspire, improve and innovate when accepting urban design commissions

Seek to apply innovation in engineering enabling places to function properly and sustainably

Respect the natural environment, be responsive to natural settings 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 for surveyors undertaking urban design projects

Seek to achieve a built environment that is aesthetically pleasing and 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

Surveyors design streets that suit the context and promote appropriate levels of walking and cycling.



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

nzis position

To provide the basis for urban design NZIS has adopted twelve key principles that it believes are essential to developing quality places.

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.



Photos Cover: Te Rewa Rewa Footbridge New Plymouth, Ralph Winmill; Pergola , Paul Turner; Auckland Scene, Toni Hill; Bridle Track Wellington, The Lakes , Excellence Award Winner, Harrison & Grierson, Tauranga.