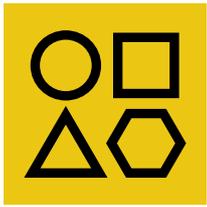
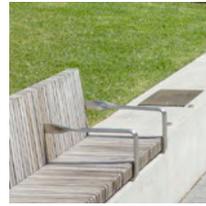
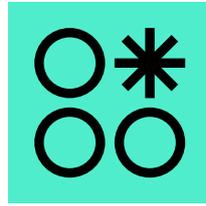
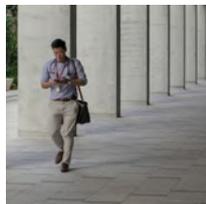
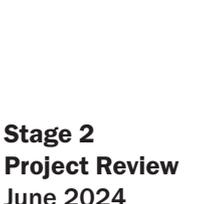
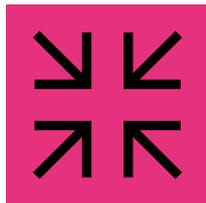
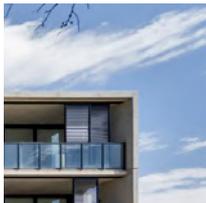
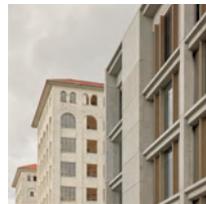
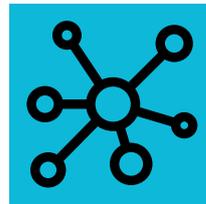




The Six Qualities Framework



Decoding the components of places that deliver for people and planet





The Six Qualities Framework – Stage 2.0: Project Review
Published June 2024

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Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge and respect Traditional Owners across Australia as the original custodians of our land and waters, their unique ability to care for country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past, present and emerging whose knowledge and wisdom has, and will, ensure the continuation of cultures and traditional practices.

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INTRODUCTION

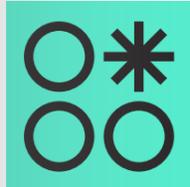
Hassell's 'Six Qualities of Great Urban Places' presents a holistic framework for shaping cities and neighbourhoods that are ecologically sustainable, economically vibrant, and socially responsible – places people love. The qualities were first introduced in 2022, on the basis of a critical analysis of existing frameworks, survey of academic literature, and in-house workshops. Since then, the framework has been tried and tested across a variety of projects.

This publication reiterates the framework as a method for evaluating and shaping successful places. Through the analysis of four award-winning Hassell projects, we demonstrate how the Six Qualities manifest in various contexts and across different dimensions of place. Furthermore, the study was designed to develop and test different uses of the framework in practice.

Our findings underscore the robustness of the Six Qualities as a tool for comparison, and the adaptability of each quality to its unique context. Throughout the project, we also developed two new survey instruments. Our ultimate aim is to further refine this methodology as a means to foster comprehensive discussions about quality in the built environment.

REPORT STRUCTURE

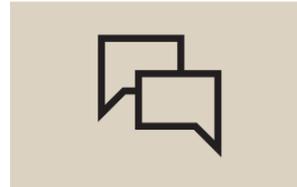
SIX HOLISTIC QUALITIES

					
BEAUTIFULLY ORIGINAL	CONVENIENTLY COMPACT	RICHLY DIVERSE	OPENLY NETWORKED	PLAYFULLY DYNAMIC	NATURALLY REGENERATIVE

FOUR AWARD-WINNING PROJECTS

			
DARLING HARBOUR SYDNEY GADI COUNTRY 200,000 m ²	HERSTON QUARTER' BRISBANE YUGGERA & TURRBAL COUNTRY 55,000 m ²	FLOUR MILL OF SUMMER HILL SYDNEY WANGAL COUNTRY 25,000 m ²	RIVERSIDE GREEN BRISBANE YUGGERA & TURRBAL COUNTRY 6,800 m ²

ONE COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

			
DESKTOP ANALYSIS	SITE OBSERVATIONS	INTERCEPT SURVEYS	STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS

*The analysis of Herston Quarter is focused on the Herston Quarter masterplan generally and the completed redevelopment Stages 1 and 2 specifically.

PRESENTING THE SIX QUALITIES

What makes a great urban place? Across every dimension that makes urban places successful, we have identified six common qualities. We present these as a framework to guide qualitative discussions about buildings, space, and urban life.

What is your favourite urban destination? Perhaps you are drawn to a tranquil pocket park nestled between towering skyscrapers, or a sunlit sidewalk cafe where you can sip coffee and watch the world go by.

Some people revel in the neon-lit crowds of Times Square, while others are captivated by the open vistas from Hong Kong's Victoria Peak.

We all love different parts of the city, and the best cities have something for everyone to love. Simple, right? Not exactly.

As complex, living organisms, cities are shaped and reshaped on a daily basis by their users and their needs.

Through the constant modification of buildings, spaces, and activities, we strive to create places that capture our hearts and minds and become, in every way, integral to our lives.

A great place must deliver a healthy and sustainable ecological

environment, equitable economic prosperity, and inclusive social welfare.

It must meet the needs of every individual and society as a whole.

It must be locally connected, yet participate in global networks.

Additionally, it must function in the present, on the basis of its past, with regard for the future.

We instinctively know when we come upon a great place, and we can sense the missed opportunities in places that fail to deliver. But can we identify what these places have in common?

Decoding common success criteria

It is clear that a 'great place' cannot be determined by a simple checklist or re-created from a recipe of set ingredients.

And yet, within the sublime complexity that makes urban places

great and wonderful, we consistently come upon six essential qualities.

We present these as a discipline-agnostic framework to guide the holistic design of destinations that deliver for people and planet.

How we learn and evolve

The Six Qualities were identified through an analysis of secondary literature and best-practice examples from academia and the global built environment industry.

The framework also draws upon Hassell's international experience in urban design, architecture, and landscape architecture.

Designed with global relevance in mind, the 'Six Qualities of Great Urban Places' was initially published in February 2022. Since then, we have gathered feedback from a variety of sources, including through our own project work.

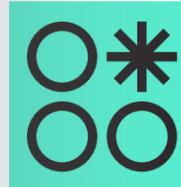
With this report, we present a brief overview of the qualities as they have been refined over the past year, followed by a high-level analysis of four award-winning Hassell projects.

The projects were selected to represent best-practice across different sectors and scales of development. Meanwhile, the analysis was designed to test and exemplify how the framework can be applied in practice.



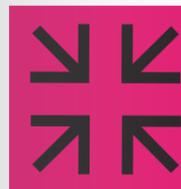
Download a copy of the Stage 1 report from www.hassellstudio.com

Pages 8–19 in this report (Stage 2) presents a brief overview of the Six Qualities. To read a detailed description of the origins of each quality and their aligned metrics, please consult the Stage 1 report.



BEAUTIFULLY ORIGINAL

Beautifully original places celebrate the local landscape, character, and culture, creating outcomes that are as attractive to their daily users as they are competitive on the world stage.



CONVENIENTLY COMPACT

Conveniently compact places bring individuals, destinations, and services closer together, facilitating more productive lifestyle patterns that make the most of our valuable energy, resources, and time.



RICHLY DIVERSE

Richly diverse places combine different amenities and activities, and they invite a variety of audiences and uses, creating ecosystems that become more inclusive and resilient.



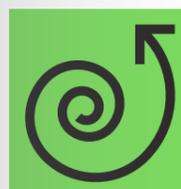
OPENLY NETWORKED

Openly networked places facilitate the movement of people and wildlife, as well as the flow of species and resources, exchanging assets that are essential for sustaining life and livelihoods.



PLAYFULLY DYNAMIC

Playfully dynamic places are readily modified throughout the day and week to meet changing circumstances, creating interesting and agile environments that are always fit for purpose.



NATURALLY REGENERATIVE

Naturally regenerative places grow better, stronger, and healthier over time, supporting people and nature to live well, while also safeguarding the wellbeing of future generations.



Image: Supertree Grove garden in Singapore. By radically greening the city's parks, buildings, and public spaces, Singapore has cultivated its image as a "Garden City", offering an attractive environment for residents, visitors, and businesses alike. © Adobe Stock

BEAUTIFULLY ORIGINAL

Beautifully original places celebrate the local landscape, character, and culture, creating outcomes that are as attractive to their daily users as they are competitive on the world stage.

THE VALUE OF UNIQUENESS

Examples



ECOLOGY

Native plants outperform exotic species in the enhancement of native fauna, in the interaction with soil biota, and in the establishment of other plant species.

C. A. de Carvalho et al. in *Land* (2022)



ECONOMY

Investments in arts and culture can play a significant part in increasing a city's attractiveness and competitive advantage.

World Economic Forum in *The Competitiveness of Cities* (2014)



COMMUNITY

Cities with more picturesque locations such as parks, blue spaces, historic buildings, and landmarks attract more residents.

G. A. Carlino & A. Saiz in *Journal of Regional Science* (2019)

HOW TO STAND OUT BY DESIGN

Examples



OPEN SPACE

Make the most of the natural terrain, native ecologies, and local climate.



BUILDINGS

Find inspiration in heritage structures, traditional construction methods, and locally available resources.



ACTIVITIES

Help local communities, cultures, and commerce to take root, grow, and thrive.



Image: Contained between a hilly landscape and the sea, Hong Kong has risen to be one of the most densely populated cities in the world, with more than 50,000 people per square km in some districts. © Adobe Stock

CONVENIENTLY COMPACT

Conveniently compact places bring individuals, destinations, and services closer together, facilitating more productive lifestyle patterns that make the most of our valuable energy, resources, and time.

THE VALUE OF PROXIMITY

Examples



ECOLOGY

Intensification, rather than the spread of agricultural land, has been the prime driver of increased per capita food production globally.

J. Pretty & Z. P. Bharucha in *Annals of Botany* (2014)



ECONOMY

Increasing urban density by 1% raises wages by 4% and patent activity by 21%, while reducing per capita energy use by 7% and car use by 5%.

G. M. Ahlfeldt & E. Pietrostefani in *Journal of Urban Economics* (2019)



COMMUNITY

Closer proximity to a range of social infrastructure services within neighbourhoods has been positively correlated with the self-reported wellbeing of residents.

M. Davern et al. in *Cities & Health* (2017)

HOW TO GET CLOSER BY DESIGN

Examples



OPEN SPACE

Intensify the ecological properties of open spaces in built-up areas and protect open landscapes from urban sprawl.



BUILDINGS

Thoughtfully stack and arrange buildings to create human-scale environments that foster connection.



ACTIVITIES

Create proximity between essential social and economic activities.



Image: London is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the world. According to the Greater London Authority, there are more than 300 languages spoken in the city every day. © Adobe Stock

RICHLY DIVERSE

Richly diverse places combine different amenities and activities, and they invite a variety of audiences and uses, creating ecosystems that become more inclusive and resilient.

THE VALUE OF VARIATION

Examples



ECOLOGY

Biological communities rich in species are substantially healthier and more productive than those depleted of species richness.

J. B. Grace et al. in *Nature* (2016)



ECONOMY

Cultural diversity in urban areas has been positively correlated with increased wages, rental prices, and the productivity of natives.

G. I. P. Ottaviano & G. Peri in *Journal of Economic Geography* (2006)



COMMUNITY

Having close personal interactions with people from different walks of life leads to a greater understanding of, and empathy with, such people.

J. Boisjoly et al. in *The American Economic Review* (2006)

HOW TO MIX IT UP BY DESIGN

Examples



OPEN SPACE

Combine diverse complementary species and synergistic ecological functions in shared landscapes.



BUILDINGS

Balance different textures, colours, shapes, and functions in visually stimulating and functionally mixed environments.



ACTIVITIES

Support the co-location of varied activities and the co-existence of diverse communities.



Image: Tokyo's Shibuya crossing has been named the world's busiest crosswalk. When vehicles stop, upwards of 1,000 people may attempt to cross the intersection in all directions all at once. The Shibuya City Tokyo neighbourhood also has a Walk Score of 100 out of 100. © Adobe Stock

OPENLY NETWORKED

Openly networked places facilitate the movement of people and wildlife, as well as the flow of species and resources, exchanging assets that are essential for sustaining life and livelihoods.

THE VALUE OF RELATIONSHIPS

Examples



ECOLOGY

Trees can exchange warning signals, search for kin, and transfer nutrients by communicating via latticed fungi networks buried in the soil.

Suzanne Simard in *Finding the Mother Tree* published by Knopf (2021)



ECONOMY

Office and retail space in walkable urban places in U.S. metropolitan areas demand more than twice the rent premium over spaces in driveable suburban locations.

T. H. Loh et al. in *Foot Traffic Ahead* published by George Washington University School of Business and CREUA (2019)



COMMUNITY

Public transportation is an important enabler of social participation and inclusion, especially for older adults.

M. Lamanna et al. in *Canadian Journal on Aging* (2020)

HOW TO MAKE CONNECTIONS BY DESIGN

Examples



OPEN SPACE

Protect ecological corridors in built environments and reduce the impact of linear infrastructure on living environments.



BUILDINGS

Design buildings that are permeable, accessible, and seamlessly integrated into their surroundings.



ACTIVITIES

Enable people to move, build connections, and exchange resources freely.



Image: Home to many of the biggest technology companies in the world, San Francisco has embraced innovation across every aspect of the city, from the private sector to the public realm. © Adobe Stock

PLAYFULLY DYNAMIC

Playfully dynamic places are readily modified throughout the day and week to meet changing circumstances, creating interesting and agile environments that are always fit for purpose.

THE VALUE OF AGILITY

Examples



ECOLOGY

Modularity can help stabilise local ecological systems, while anti-modularity can greatly destabilise ecological networks.

J. Grilli et al. in *Nature Communications* (2016)



ECONOMY

Enterprise agile transformations have been linked to improved customer satisfaction, employee engagement, and operational performance.

W. Aghina et al. in *The impact of agility: How to shape your organisation to compete*, published by McKinsey & Company (2020)



COMMUNITY

Adaptable public space is used by more people in more diverse ways over a longer period of time than spaces designed for specific functions.

D. K. Shehayeb at The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (1995) quoted by New Zealand's Ministry for the Environment (2005)

HOW TO BE FLEXIBLE BY DESIGN

Examples



OPEN SPACE

Leverage nature's ability to adapt and transform landscapes as the weather and seasons change.



BUILDINGS

Use modular methods of construction, standardised components, and flexible structures and systems.



ACTIVITIES

Design spaces that can be easily customised by their daily users to meet changing needs.



Image: Mexico City's plant and wildlife count nearly 4,000 species of flora and fauna. The City has made a strong commitment to the conservation of biodiversity and reconstruction of green corridors. © Adobe Stock

NATURALLY REGENERATIVE

Naturally regenerative places grow better, stronger, and healthier over time, supporting people and nature to live well, while also safeguarding the wellbeing of future generations.

THE VALUE OF LONGEVITY

Examples



ECOLOGY

Older trees are much better at absorbing carbon from the atmosphere than younger trees – in just the last quarter of their lifetime, trees accumulate up to 50% of their final carbon stock.

M. Köhl et al. in *PLOS ONE* (2017)



ECONOMY

The cost of climate and weather disasters in the United States in 2022 totalled more than US\$165 billion.

C. Vahlsing in *The Importance of Measuring the Fiscal and Economic Costs of Climate Change*, published by The White House OMB Briefing Room (2023)



COMMUNITY

Strong and resourceful communities emerge from a culture that consistently places a high priority on the cultivation and dissemination of knowledge.

T. Robertson & S. Engström in *The Conversation* (2020)

HOW TO THRIVE BY DESIGN

Examples



OPEN SPACE

Harness the natural environment to mitigate climate change and secure the future health of critical ecosystems.



BUILDINGS

Adapt existing structures, minimise new construction, and prioritise long-term sustainability in every project.



ACTIVITIES

Build the capacity of people to live sustainably and play a part in addressing tomorrow's challenges.

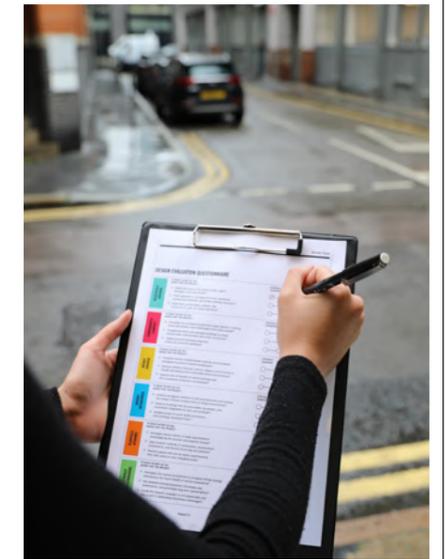
FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

The Six Qualities is a versatile framework designed to guide the planning, design, execution, and management of urban development projects of any scale and nature.

With its adaptable metrics and holistic measures (detailed in the Stage 1 report), the framework is applicable across every phase of a project's life cycle, from beginning to end.

Serving as a research and evaluation guide, the Six Qualities can uncover a place's assets and unrealised potential. When used as a consultation and design tool, it can stimulate conversations and spark new ideas.

Ultimately, we believe that every situation is unique and will require its own methodology to put the framework into meaningful use. The following chapter illustrates a practical application of this principle.



SUGGESTED USE CASES

	<p>Research</p>	<p>What? The Six Qualities framework can serve as a holistic research guide to gain a deeper understanding of a place's existing context and its potential for enhancement.</p> <p>How? Combine quantitative and qualitative metrics to discern the presence and absence of each of the Six Qualities.</p> <p>When? Pre-briefing / Project Briefing</p>
	<p>Consultation</p>	<p>What? The Six Qualities framework can function as a consultation medium to engage communities in comprehensive discussions about their current and desired place qualities.</p> <p>How? Uncover how the Six Qualities align with local needs and values through stakeholder interviews, dialogues, and surveys.</p> <p>When? Project Briefing / Concept Design</p>
	<p>Design</p>	<p>What? The Six Qualities framework can be employed as a design tool to facilitate the creation of exceptional urban spaces.</p> <p>How? Find inspiration in the Six Qualities throughout the creative process and evaluate different design options against the framework to make more informed decisions.</p> <p>When? Concept Design / Design Development</p>
	<p>Evaluation</p>	<p>What? The Six Qualities framework can be utilised as an evaluation mechanism to gauge the environmental, social, and economic impacts of various design interventions.</p> <p>How? Measure changes in the manifestation of the Six Qualities in the place or system over time to learn and improve.</p> <p>When? Post-completion / Pre-briefing</p>

PROJECT REVIEW

Through the examination of four distinct yet equally acclaimed projects, we illustrate how the Six Qualities can surface in diverse contexts. The analysis further demonstrates the versatility of the framework as a research and evaluation tool.

In 2022, Hassell introduced the Six Qualities as a cross-disciplinary framework to guide the creation of exceptional urban destinations. We also identified several potential applications of the framework across a project's life cycle.

In the following study, we test the robustness of the Six Qualities against four award-winning projects from the Hassell portfolio.

Project selection

The projects have been chosen to represent various scales and types of urban development:

- **Darling Harbour** is an urban waterfront regeneration project situated on the edge of Sydney's central business district. Hassell has been involved in various phases, including the completion of 200,000 m² public realm in 2018.
- **Herston Quarter** is an ongoing 55,000 m² health-focused

development within the wider historic Herston Health Precinct, located in Brisbane's northern suburbs. Stage 1 was completed in 2021 followed by Stage 2 in 2022.

- **Flour Mill of Summer Hill** is a 25,000 m² industrial site transformed into a residential neighbourhood in Sydney's inner suburbs.
- **Riverside Green** is a 6,800 m² green space and public pavilion located in the vibrant South Bank Parklands along the Brisbane River.

The selection process also took into account the industry recognition these projects have received as leading examples in their respective categories.

In 2019, Darling Harbour won an award for excellence in the 'cultural and urban landscape' category from the International Federation of Landscape Architects, and Flour Mill of Summer Hill won the 'local and neighbourhood scale' category at the Australian Urban Design Awards.

In 2022, Riverside Green won the 'Landscape and Urban' category at the Sustainability Awards, Australia's longest-standing awards programme dedicated to sustainable design and architecture. And in 2023, Stages 1 and 2 of the Herston Quarter redevelopment project was honoured with the Australian Institute of Architects' National Award for Urban Design.

Approach

Considering that all four projects are widely recognised as good examples of urban development, we expected to find manifestations of the Six Qualities across all sites.

Consequently, the study is focused on investigating the ways in which the different qualities reveal themselves, rather than merely determining their existence.

During May and June of 2022, we conducted brief user observations and intercept surveys at the four sites. With 40 responses on average, this component represents anecdotal, rather than statistically significant, results. Our findings further build on insights from the project design teams, accompanied by site maps, drawings, and photographic evidence. Additionally, we employed desktop research techniques to gain a deeper understanding of each place within its broader contexts.

The main objective of this high-level analysis was to trial the Six Qualities framework in practice, with a purpose to develop complimentary survey instruments in support of future projects.



DARLING HARBOUR

Sydney / Gadi Country

With a rich mix of event spaces, restaurants, retail, and cultural venues, Sydney's Darling Harbour draws large numbers of daily visitors and tourists from near and far. The project exemplifies the Six Qualities in the context of large-scale culture-led regeneration.



HERSTON QUARTER

Brisbane / Yuggera & Turrbal Country

With new pedestrian through-ways and a lush public realm, the Herston Quarter redevelopment project, situated within Brisbane's Herston Quarter Health Precinct, manifests an integrated health-led design approach. The masterplan embodies the Six Qualities in the context of sector-led campus redevelopment, exemplified by the completed Stages 1 and 2.



FLOUR MILL OF SUMMER HILL

Sydney / Wangal Country

Through the innovative adaptation of industrial buildings, Flour Mill of Summer Hill, Sydney, has created a new characterful residential neighbourhood with a growing sense of community. The project exemplifies the Six Qualities in the context of heritage-led residential development.



RIVERSIDE GREEN

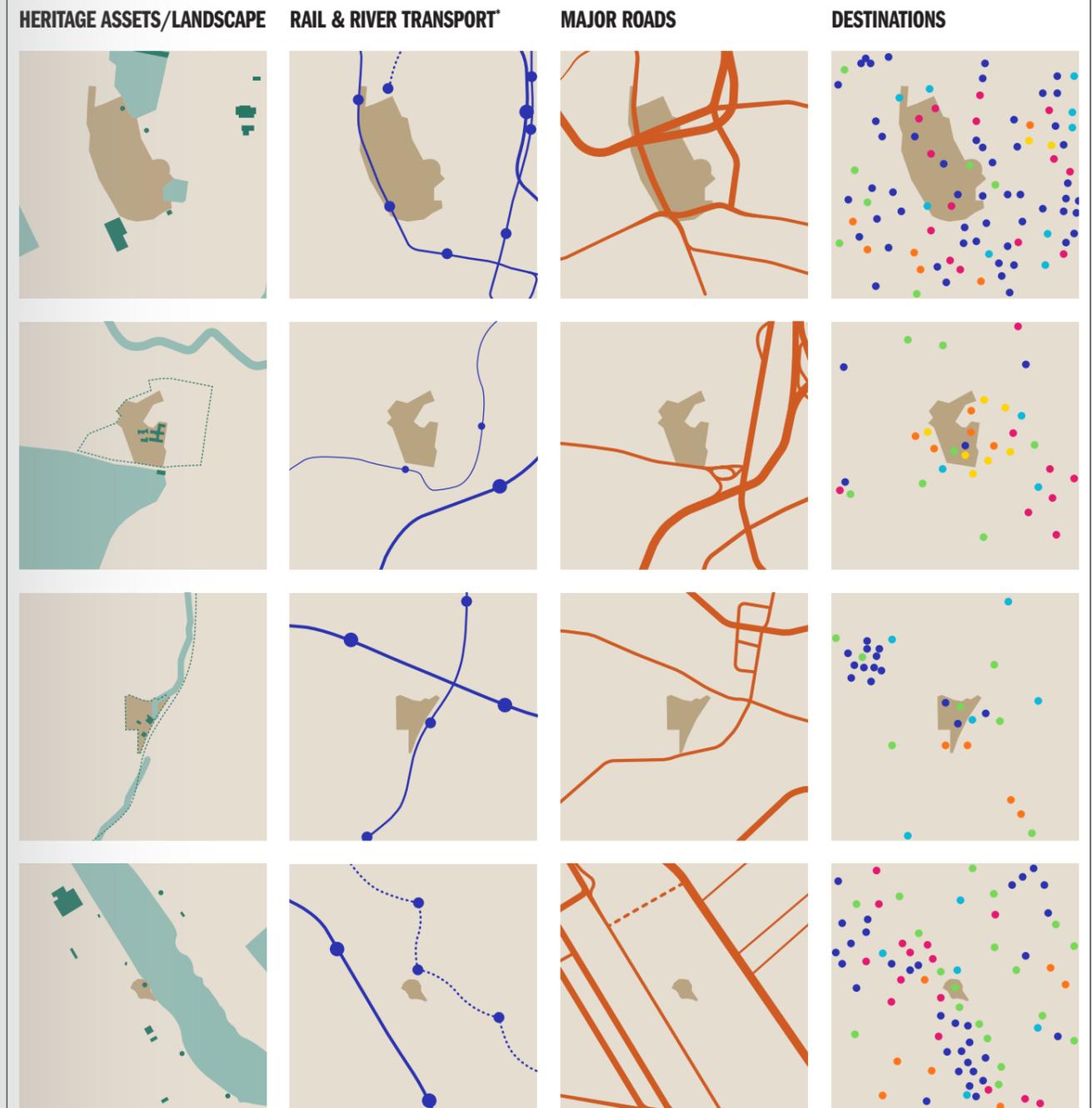
Brisbane / Yuggera & Turrbal Country

Located in South Bank Parklands along the Brisbane River, Riverside Green has become a much-loved oasis for the wider precinct's approximately 14 million annual visitors. The project exemplifies the Six Qualities in the context of nature-led placemaking.

CONTEXT COMPARISON



The four projects exist in different spatial contexts, as illustrated by a diagrammatic comparison of the built form, green and blue space, heritage assets and heritage landscapes, rail and river transport corridors, major roads, and destination density surrounding the sites.



*Brisbane's bus rapid transit network is also included in this diagram.

DARLING HARBOUR

Location
Gadi Country
Sydney, Australia

Study area
200,000 m² (2018 public realm design)

Years
1988-1994 (public realm), 2013-2016 (ICC Sydney, JV with Populus), 2016-2018 (public realm), 2022-ongoing (Harbourside)

Project components
Landscape architecture, public realm design, architecture

Typical audience
Tourists, event participants, conference attendees, cultural audiences, urban commuters

Usual activities
Cultural events, civic events, conferences, entertaining, dining

- Awards**
- 2019 Singapore Institute of Planning Awards: Best Urban Design (International Category) – Gold
 - 2019 International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA): Award for Excellence – Cultural and Urban Landscape
 - 2019 Good Design Award: Architectural Design: Urban Design – Gold
 - 2019 WLA Awards (World Landscape Architecture): Built Large Category – Merit Award
 - 2018 Australian Institute of Architects National Architecture Awards: The Walter Burley Griffin Award for Urban Design
 - 2018 Australian Institute of Architecture (New South Wales) Awards: The Lloyd Rees Award for Urban Design
 - 2015 Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (New South Wales) Awards: Award for Urban Design in Landscape Architecture

Anchored by The International Convention Centre (ICC Sydney), which opened in 2016, Darling Harbour has emerged as one of Sydney's most-visited cultural and commercial destinations. With a familiar history of industrial decline, the precinct has also become a prime example of urban waterfront regeneration tactics.

The transformation of Darling Harbour is recognised as one of Sydney's most significant urban renewal initiatives over the past two decades.¹

Located within Gadi Country by the Parramatta River estuary, the place (originally named Tumbalong) has been an important frontier for the Wan(gal) and Gadi(gal) peoples for more than 7,000 years.

European settlers first arrived in 1788.² Together with the establishment of Sydney as the capital of the British colony of New South Wales, the bay soon became a hub of industrial activity. The 19th century saw the construction of wharves, warehouses, factories, and railways, cementing the area as Sydney's primary working port.

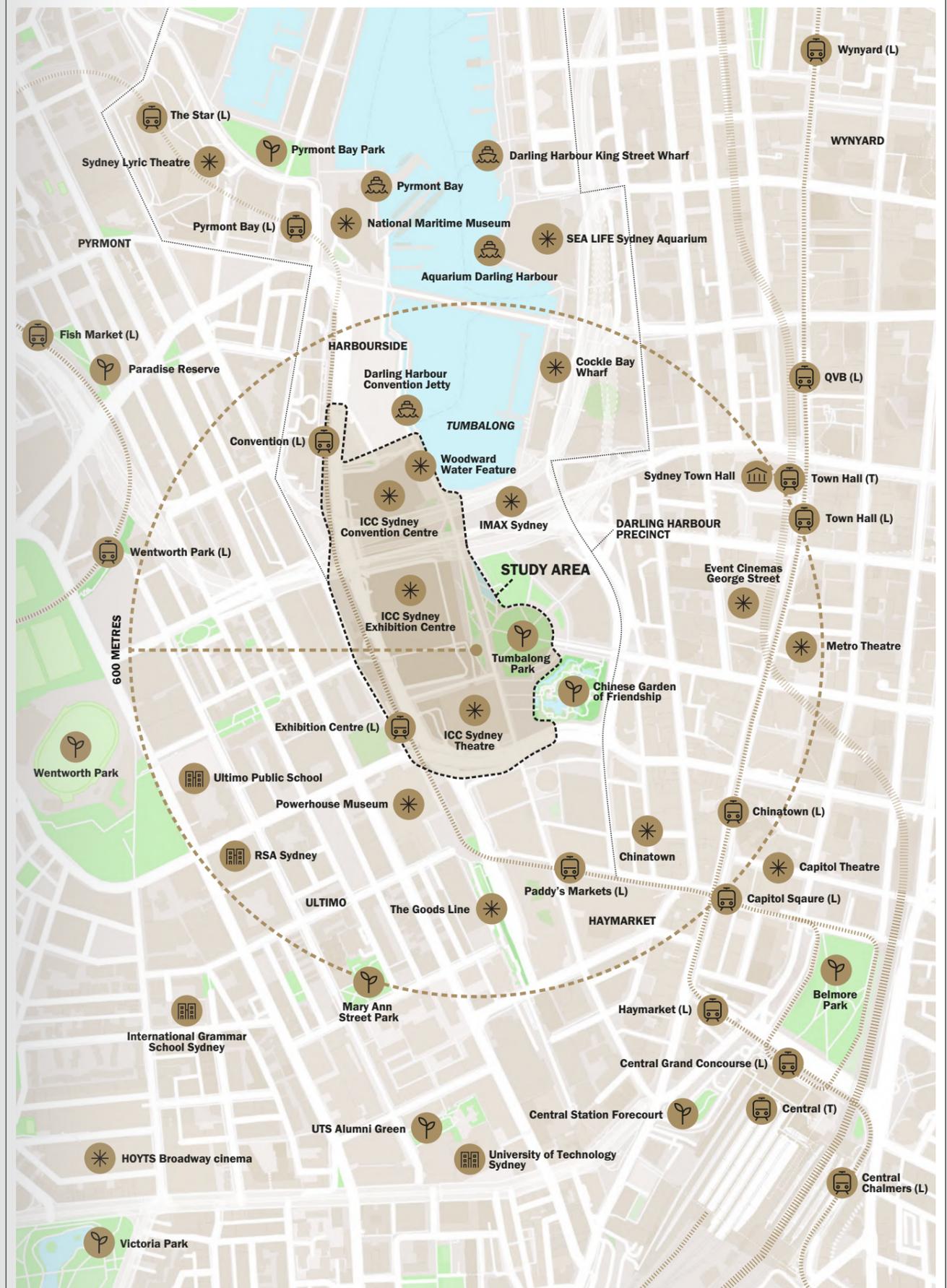
The decline of the precinct began with the economic downturn of the 1930s and became final with the construction of a container terminal at Botany Bay in the 1960s.³ Two decades later, in 1984, the Darling Harbour Authority was established to oversee the redevelopment of the

area into a public destination.

Hassell has played a role in Darling Harbour's transformation since work began on the Chinese Garden in 1988. From 2013-2016, Hassell together with Populus delivered the architectural design for ICC Sydney – a 250,000 m² integrated theatre, exhibition, and convention venue, which contributed A\$600 million in expenditure to the NSW economy in FY2022/23.⁴

Working closely with Infrastructure NSW and Lendlease, we also created a new urban design and public realm framework for the 20 ha area around these venues, which was upgraded between 2016-2018. With better connectivity and additional public spaces, Darling Harbour welcomed 1.1 million visitors in 2022.⁵

Hassell remains involved in Darling Harbour's continued evolution through Harbourside, a A\$2 billion development by Mirvac that will significantly expand the precinct's offerings, adding new workplaces, apartments, commercial venues, and 10,000 m² of public open space by 2026.





With an abundance of public venues and a rich programme of activities, Darling Harbour brings the Six Qualities to life at an international scale.

Darling Harbour is generally recognised as a successful large-scale harbour-front redevelopment. In just a few decades, the area has transformed from an isolated post-industrial zone into a vibrant public destination. With this analysis, we investigate how the Six Qualities contribute to the area's success across the 20 ha site that was reshaped by the urban design and public realm framework between 2016–2018.

Beautifully Original

Darling Harbour is located in Gadi Country, on a site with deep connections to the land, sands, and water. Darling Harbour's Traditional Place name, Tumbalong,

is recognised through the naming of the harbour's main boulevard and grassy park, and its connection to Country is commemorated through the thoughtful design of landscapes and buildings.

The public realm also integrates four major public artworks, which weave the area's past into its future. These are the 'Sandstone Pollen' sculptures by Maria Fernanda Cardoso, which offer insights into the area's botanical history (image 6), Ryoji Ikeda's visually moving 'Data.scape' (image 3), a soundscape of native birds by Janet Laurence, and a heritage-inspired concrete tapestry by Danie Mellor.

Conveniently Compact

By compressing a world-class convention centre, exhibition centre, and theatre into one walkable district, Darling Harbour has become a powerful catalyst for cultural creation and enjoyment. The proximity of several public transport connections additionally drives footfall and encourages visitation.

On event days, the precinct's vast public realm easily fills up, while on ordinary days, people tend to cluster



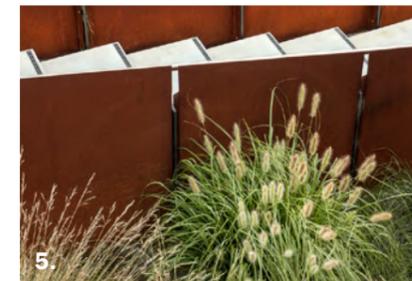
around sculptural elements and water follies, under tree canopies, and along the commercial edges of the buildings.

Richly Diverse

As a primarily cultural and commercial destination, Darling Harbour has an abundance of activities and experiences for visitors to enjoy.

"It's pretty great to see all the different groups of people using the space in their own way." – Visitor intercept survey response

The quality of being 'richly diverse' is expressed through the variety of venues, events, and public realm facilities, which cater to locals and tourists alike. The introduction of play fountains has been particularly popular with the area's children (image 4). Additionally, the architecture of the venues has been inspired by differing geographic contexts.



Openly Networked

The transformation of Darling Harbour has opened up several key connections across the city, improving pedestrian permeability and public transport access with both internal and external pathways.

A 680-metre long north-south boulevard (image 1) brings the bay within easy reach of Sydney's Central Station, while the precinct's meandering east-west routes link the commercial heart of the city to the rapidly developing neighbourhoods on Pyrmont Peninsula.

"The precinct feels vital, engaging and safe. It has been given a clarity that previously evaded it." – AIA 2018 National Architecture Awards Jury

Playfully Dynamic

Darling Harbour's public realm has been designed to operate with a high

degree of flexibility. The wide, open surface areas can handle both large volumes of footfall and support the implementation of temporary, small-scale interventions like market stalls and art installations.

The public programme of events, managed by Place Management NSW, ensures that no two days in the precinct feel the same. Throughout the year, the public realm is continuously transformed to celebrate city-wide annual festivals, like 'Vivid' and 'Pride', and support local events, like 'Kids Yoga' and 'Open Air Cinema'.

Naturally Regenerative

When Darling Harbour was initially identified for urban renewal, the area was degraded from a century of heavy industrial use. The 2018 urban design and public realm framework set out to create a more regenerative future, for example by adding 9,000 m² of green space and planting 650 trees.

The irrigation system for these new planted areas relies on rainwater harvesting, collected through stormwater canals and stored in underground tanks.

30%

The Darling Harbour urban design framework added 30% more public space and 650 new trees to the precinct.

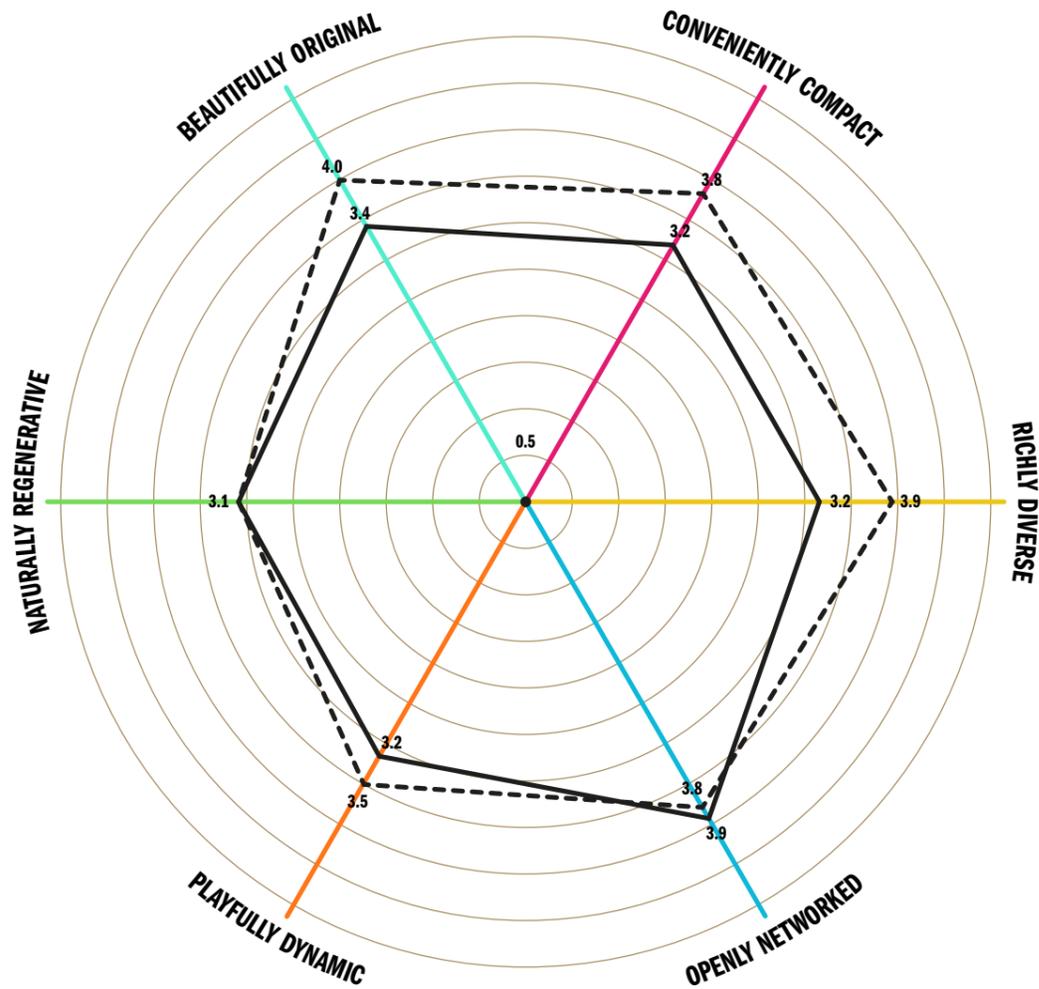
Reflections

Darling Harbour exemplifies how the Six Qualities can be interpreted in the context of large-scale urban redevelopments.

The Darling Harbour transformation is perhaps most successful in creating an 'openly networked' destination. This quality is particularly pronounced as the site was once severely disconnected and inaccessible.

With its mix of large-scale venues and everyday amenities, Darling Harbour also illustrates the importance of combining 'convenient compactness' and 'rich diversity' across multiple scales. Additionally, the site relies on a curated programme of activities to bring life to the public realm.

QUALITATIVE SURVEY TOOL *



*Indicative assessment

DIAGRAM KEY

RAPID AUDIENCE INTERCEPT SURVEY
 Time: August 2022
 Responses: 35
 Profile: 20% weekly visitors

DESIGN EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE
 Time: January 2024
 Respondents: Hassell project team

Darling Harbour was often described by intercept survey respondents as an openly networked destination, defined as a place that is 'very easy to get to and easy to get around'. However, the site's inherent regenerative qualities were not as widely recognised.

NOTE: The diagram represents the responses from 35 intercept surveys and 5 project team members. While these results are not statistically significant, they showcase how the Six Qualities framework could be put into practice as a quantitative survey tool. The relatively high assessment of Darling Harbour across all Six Qualities is indicative of the project's overall positive recognition.

NOTE: Scale from 0 = 'strongly disagree' to 5 = 'strongly agree'. See a list of the full evaluation criteria on pages 52–53.



HERSTON QUARTER

Location
Turrbal and Yuggera Country
Brisbane, Australia

Study area
55,000 m² (masterplan)

Year completed
2015 Masterplan
2021 Stage 1 redevelopment
2022 Stage 2 redevelopment
Precinct ongoing

Project components
Landscape architecture, public realm design, architecture

Typical audience (precinct)
Healthcare professionals, tertiary students, researchers, patients, visitors, Herston residential community

Usual activities (precinct)
Work breaks, recovery, reflection, lunch breaks, social connection, thoroughway

- Awards**
- 2023 AIA National Awards: Herston Quarter Redevelopment Stages 1 and 2 won the *National Award for Urban Design*
 - 2023 Australian Institute of Architects, Queensland Chapter Awards: Herston Quarter Redevelopment Stages 1 and 2 won the *Queensland AIA Karl Langer Award for Urban Design*
 - 2022 Property Council of Australia's National Innovation and Excellence Awards: the Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Services (STARS) won *Best Public Building*
 - 2022 Queensland Government Minister's Award for Urban Design: Surgical Treatment and Rehabilitation Services (STARS) and Public Realm received a commendation
 - 2021 AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards: Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS) and Public Realm won the *National Award of Excellence for Health and Education Landscape*

Situated within the Herston Health Precinct, the Herston Quarter redevelopment project has transformed an isolated medical campus into a vibrant mixed-use community. Navigating a steep site, the masterplan is characterised by inviting public spaces, useful pedestrian links, and well-integrated buildings.

Located just 2 km north of Brisbane's CBD, Herston Health Precinct has a proud history of delivering healthcare dating back to 1867.¹

Since then, the area has gradually evolved as a destination for teaching, research, and care, marked by the establishment of the University of Queensland Medical School in 1939 and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research in 1977.²

By the 2000s, Herston had carved out a reputation as a premier academic health district, anchored by esteemed institutions such as the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, and the University of Queensland's Medical, Public Health, and Dentistry schools. However, due to the lack of a unified vision, the area had also become relatively fragmented and disconnected from its neighbouring communities.

As a result, in 2012, Hassell was commissioned by the local government to envision a future for the 17.7 ha Herston Health Precinct.

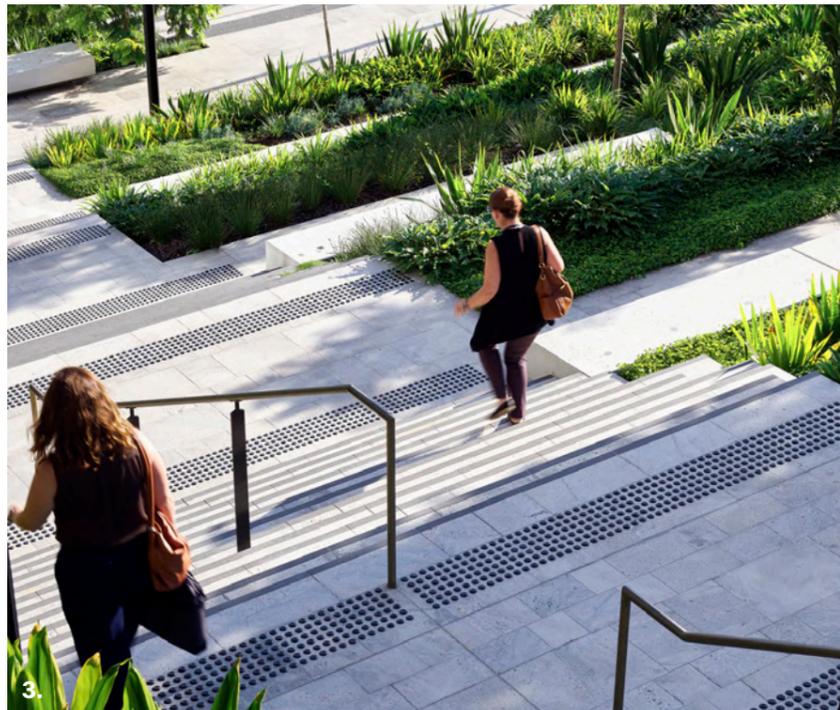
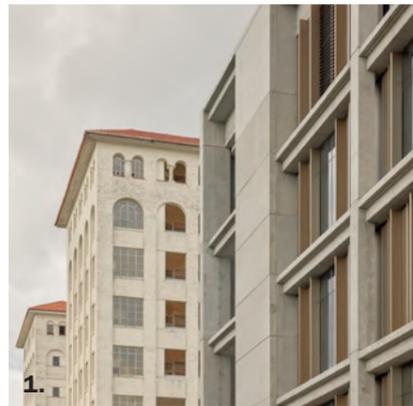
The project aimed to enhance the area's place qualities, implementing a uniform landscaping and urban design strategy that caters to the varied needs of the area's daily users.

In 2015, we developed a detailed masterplan for the 5.5 ha 'Herston Quarter' site, and in 2016, Australian Unity was chosen by the Queensland Government to deliver the project, valued at \$1.1 billion.³

Conceived as a vibrant mixed-use community, this masterplan combines healthcare, education, housing, retail, and community spaces within a cohesive landscape, designed to foster wellbeing and innovation beyond a clinical environment. Stages 1 and 2 were completed in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

Additionally, we designed the new Surgical Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS), which was inaugurated in 2021. The building has been lauded as a 'revolutionary model for healthcare services, centred on patient care and facilitating recovery'.⁴





The Herston Quarter redevelopment project breathes new life into a historic health precinct by harnessing the restorative qualities of nature and community.

The 10-year Herston Quarter redevelopment project began in 2017. With the completion of Stage 1 in 2021 and Stage 2 in 2022, the project has already gained global recognition for its integrated approach to designing healthy places.

This analysis investigates both how the Six Qualities have been embedded in the masterplan and how they are found across the project's completed components.

Beautifully Original

Herston Quarter has been carefully designed to reflect the unique qualities of the neighbourhood's history, topography, and climate.

The project sets out to honour the area's heritage by revitalising iconic historic structures, including the Spanish Mission-style Lady Lamington building that proudly stands at the site's peak (image 1).

With the completion of Stages 1 and 2, visitors are welcomed into the Heritage Core via the 'The Spanish Steps', a dramatic outdoor staircase that celebrates the significant grade level differences of the natural landscape (image 3). The steps, along with the rest of the public realm, come alive with a rich and voluminous selection of plants that naturally flourish in Brisbane's subtropical climate.

Conveniently Compact

Herston Health Precinct brings together some of Australia's leading medical institutions in the fields of education, research, and clinical care, with more than 13,000 people collaborating to deliver 'excellence in health'.⁵ Within this precinct, Herston Quarter enhances the area's robust concentration of health functions with the addition of world-class facilities, such as the Surgical, Treatment and

Rehabilitation Service (STARS). The masterplan also incorporates new complementary functions, including student accommodation, childcare, and hospitality.

In addition to fostering the co-location of functions, Herston Quarter is designed to forge a close connection with nature. The STARS building embodies this principle with its lush inner courtyard, open balconies, and verdant public realm.

"The best part of STARS is the landscaping and the greenery." – Visitor intercept survey response

Richly Diverse

Long term, Herston Quarter will be adding a mix of commercial spaces, student accommodations, green public spaces, and community facilities to an area previously dominated by health institutions. This diversification of functions has already broadened the neighbourhood's appeal, attracting



a wider audience and encouraging better integration with the surrounding communities.

The concept of 'rich diversity' is also embodied in the landscaping approach, incorporating a wide variety of plant species to create an environment that is visually appealing and mentally stimulating.

Openly Networked

Situated at a busy intersection next to a high-frequency busway station, Herston Quarter is easily accessible by both car and public transport.

However, it is the site's network of pedestrian paths, stairs, and lifts that truly make it well-connected and secures its integration with the surrounding communities (image 6). The routes through Herston Quarter provide a welcome alternative to the surrounding busy roads, and helps to promote active travel.

Playfully Dynamic

Stages 1 and 2 of the Herston Quarter redevelopment project have established a new public

realm for the neighbourhood, which caters to everyday life as well as pedestrianised events.

The planted landscape softens the environment and creates an ever-changing experience throughout different seasons and weather conditions.

"Herston Quarter has reclaimed a part of Brisbane that has long felt inaccessible and given it back to its neighbourhood." – AIA 2023 QLD Awards Jury

Naturally Regenerative

As part of a world-leading health precinct, Herston Quarter has been designed to harness the healing power of nature and greenery.

Already, patients and visitors of the recently completed STARS building can benefit from the well-established health benefits of verdant views and

nature-filled surroundings, which also invite in the broader community. Over time, the diverse landscape may also serve as an ecological bridge for birds and pollinators, connecting Victoria Park and Enoggera Creek.

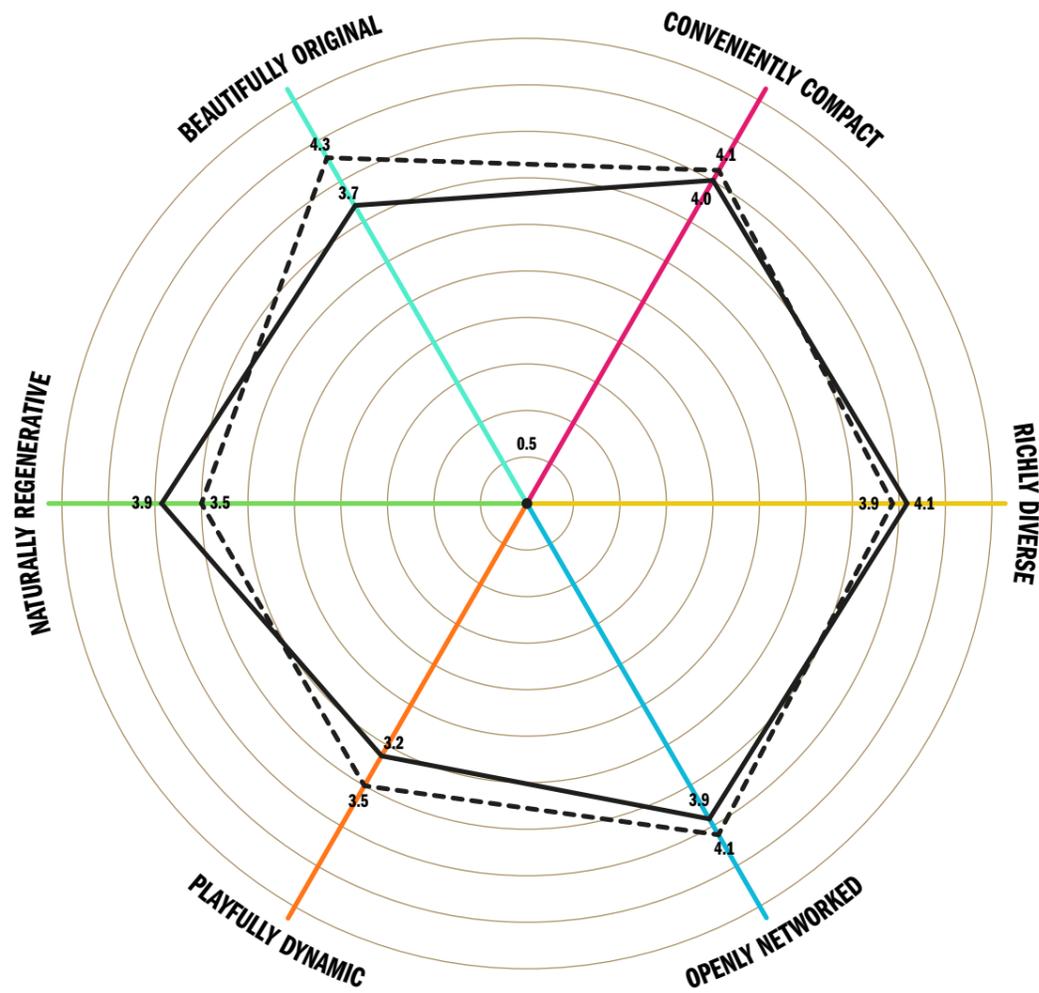
Reflections

Integral to the Herston Health Precinct, the Herston Quarter masterplan exemplifies how the Six Qualities can be interpreted on a campus scale, specifically in the healthcare sector. This architectural typology itself represents an endeavour to create 'convenient compactness' through the co-location of complimentary functions.

Through the completion of Stages 1 and 2, the site has become more 'openly networked', which has created a positive ripple effect within the local community.

By incorporating elements of the local context and considering health from a holistic perspective, the masterplan is on track to deliver a precinct that further embodies the essence of being 'beautifully original' and 'naturally regenerative'.

QUALITATIVE SURVEY TOOL *



*Indicative assessment

DIAGRAM KEY

RAPID AUDIENCE INTERCEPT SURVEY
 Time: May 2022
 Responses: 37
 Profile: 81% weekly visitors

DESIGN EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE
 Time: January 2024
 Respondents: Hassell project team

Herston Quarter was considered by many survey respondents to be richly diverse, offering ‘a good mix of things to see and do’, and conveniently compact, with most daily amenities ‘very close by’. On the other hand, fewer people felt that the place was playfully dynamic.

NOTE: The diagram represents the responses from 37 intercept surveys and 5 project team members. While these results are not statistically significant, they showcase how the Six Qualities framework could be put into practice as a quantitative survey tool. The relatively high assessment of Herston Quarter’s completed public realm across all Six Qualities is indicative of the project’s overall positive recognition.

NOTE: Scale from 0 = ‘strongly disagree’ to 5 = ‘strongly agree’. See a list of the full evaluation criteria on pages 52–53.



FLOUR MILL OF SUMMER HILL

Location

Wangal & Gadi Country
Sydney, Australia

Study area

25,000 m²

Year completed

2019

Project components

Landscape architecture, public realm design, residential architecture, interior design

Typical audience

Residents, neighbourhood locals, club/class participants, families, friends, market-goers

Usual activities

Community events, after-school activities, neighbourhood hang-out, market day

Awards

- 2019 Australian Institute of Landscape Architects – Winner, Urban Design – Landscape Architecture Award
- 2019 Australian Urban Design Awards – Winner, Built Projects – Local and Neighbourhood Scale
- 2019 Urban Developer Industry Excellence – Winner, Development of the Year – New Communities
- 2019 NSW AILA Architecture Awards – Winner, Urban Design
- 2019 Urban Development Institute of Australia National Awards for Excellence – Finalist, Excellence in Urban Renewal / Adaptive Re-use and Excellence in Mixed Use Development

Respecting the historical significance of the Mungo Scott flour mill, the revitalisation of the Flour Mill of Summer Hill has given rise to a unique residential neighbourhood, shaped by its industrial heritage, seamlessly blended open spaces, and sprouting community spirit.

Situated just a 30-minute tram ride from Sydney's CBD, the Mungo Scott Mill has been an integral part of the city's history since its establishment in 1922 as a milling and storage facility.¹

The 2.5 ha site was initially recognised as a prime location for industrial operations due to its proximity to the WWI goods railway line connecting Wardell Road and Darling Harbour.² During the 20th century, the complex became a major manufacturer and employer within the local community.³ In the 1950s, Goodman Fielder expanded the Mill's capacity by constructing four iconic grain silo towers, which were operated by Allied Mills until 2009.⁴

In the subsequent years, the industrial precinct fell into neglect. Its acquisition by EG Funds Management and Daiwa House Australia in 2012 marked a pivotal shift towards regeneration.⁵

Nearly a century after the site was first closed off as an industrial complex, Hassell was appointed

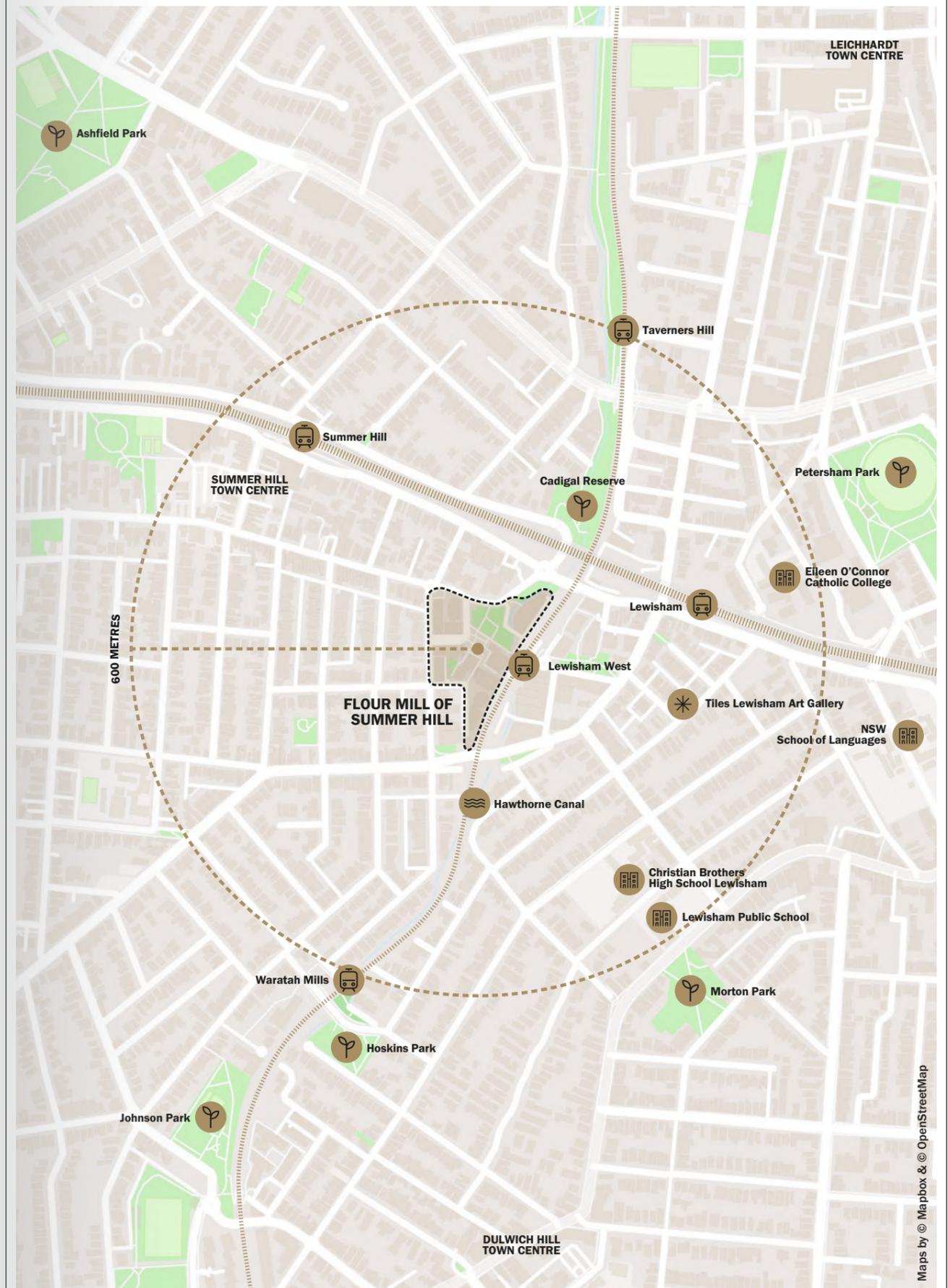
by EG to design a new mixed-use neighbourhood comprising homes, shops, offices, parks, and plazas.

By preserving the six-storey Mungo Scott Mill, and the 4-silo and 6-silo towers, the masterplan honours the area's cultural and industrial legacy. At the same time, it significantly improved the site's accessibility and the value of its public amenities.

In 2019, 'Flour Mill of Summer Hill' emerged as an exemplary model of well-executed density, comprising 360 apartments, duplexes, and terrace houses distributed across 11 buildings.

The development has also emphasised the importance of the public realm, with 40% of the site retained as open space.

As a testament to the scheme's success, EG were happy to report that 98% of the apartments sold before completion.⁶ Harvest Park and Mungo Scott Plaza have also been instrumental to fostering community spirit and raising revenue generation.⁷





The regeneration of the Flour Mill of Summer Hill is simultaneously a celebration of Sydney's industrial heritage and a catalyst for new urban communities.

Since its completion in 2019, the Flour Mill residential development has quickly become an integrated part of the larger Summer Hill neighbourhood.

In 2019, the project won the 'Local and Neighbourhood Scale' category at the Australian Urban Design Awards, due to outstanding achievement in meeting the challenges of transforming a former industrial site into a new urban residential community.

In the following analysis, we investigate how the 'Six Qualities' framework manifests in the Flour Mill of Summer Hill site.

Beautifully Original

Embedding an industrial vocabulary, Flour Mill of Summer Hill reflects the site's historical use as a milling and storage facility. The new development is anchored by the retrofitted Mungo Scott Mill (image 2) and ten grain silos, which have been transformed into apartments.

The apartment blocks maintain a historical narrative through their allocated names, for example 'Durum Silos', 'The Wheatstore' and 'The Granary'.⁸

30%

of floor space accommodated in retained buildings.

Through extensive consultation with the local community, the neighbourhood has been thoughtfully designed to respect its surroundings.

On every first and third Sunday of the month, the Flour Mill Markets

continue this commitment to localism with a celebration of local artisans and culture (image 6).

Conveniently Compact

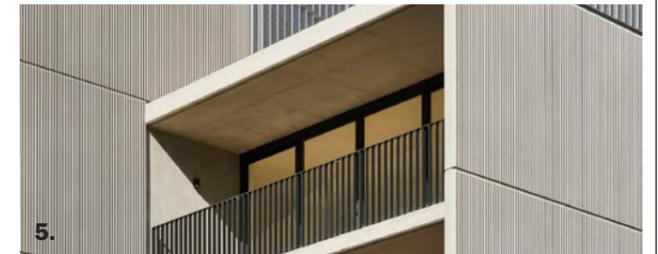
Convenience and compactness define Flour Mill of Summer Hill, where inner pedestrian streets and open spaces create a human-scale neighbourhood that is both closely-knit and welcoming of visitors.

With a density of 144 units per hectare, the development strategically centralises taller structures and reserves 40% open space, seamlessly integrating much-needed homes into its suburban surroundings (image 1).

Richly Diverse

Flour Mill of Summer Hill is primarily a residential development, which also includes a mix of hospitality venues, offices, and community areas.

The neighbourhood's open spaces offer a variety of conditions such as shaded seating (image 3), grassy patches, hard surfaces, play areas,



and BBQ facilities, catering to a broad spectrum of users.

The Little BIG House, a shared third space, plays a pivotal role in bringing together diverse communities with an extensive schedule of activities and classes.⁹

"It's incredibly diverse, but it never feels too busy." – Visitor intercept survey response

Openly Networked

Flour Mill of Summer Hill is intersected by pedestrian routes, lanes, parks, and squares that seamlessly connect buildings, amenities, and transport links.

Along with the many events and activities on offer, this permeability is key to generating a safe, integrated community.

The development sits adjacent to Lewisham West tram stop, which

offers 30-minute links to the CBD (image 2). The Summer Hill and Lewisham trains stations can be accessed by a short walk.

Playfully Dynamic

Mungo Scott Plaza and Harvest Park are both adaptable public spaces designed to facilitate a wide range of events, such as markets, yoga sessions, and family picnics.

The Little BIG House plays an important role in organising community activities, while EG maintains an active role in curating the development's commercial spaces and ongoing activation.

Naturally Regenerative

By adapting existing buildings, Flour Mill of Summer Hill has regenerated an industrial complex into a well-loved residential neighbourhood.

The new landscape also retains several mature trees from when the site was a working mill, ensuring ecosystem stability and providing natural shade.

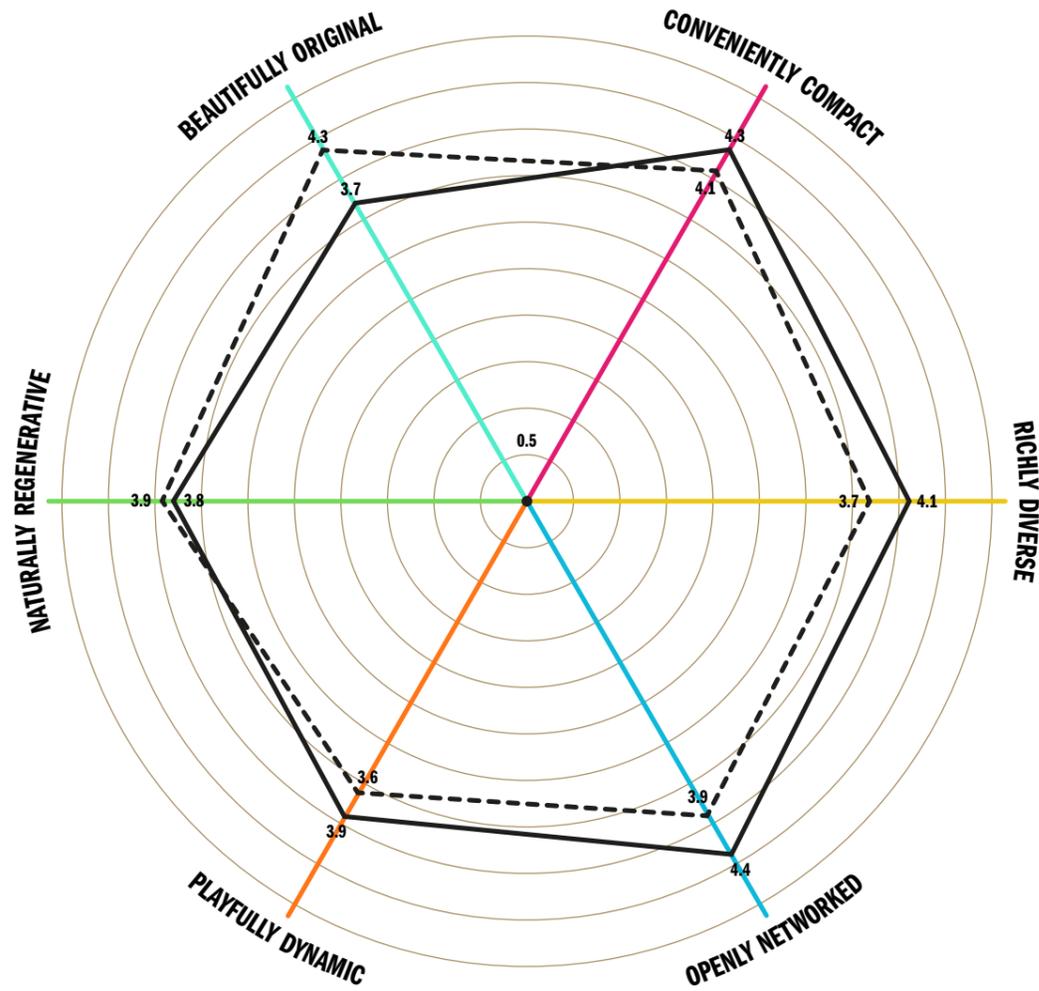
"This flood prone site adjacent to the Hawthorne Canal has been carefully designed to moderate the overland flow and improve water quality by the use of permeable paving and planted swales." – AILA 2019 Awards Jury

Reflection

With a staggering 98% of apartments sold prior to completion, Flour Mill of Summer Hill stands as a powerful example of adaptive reuse and community integration, fostering a destination that is both 'beautifully original' and 'openly networked'.

The development further underscores the importance of embracing a 'playfully dynamic' strategy in curating community and commercial spaces within rapidly transforming neighbourhoods.

QUALITATIVE SURVEY TOOL *



*Indicative assessment

DIAGRAM KEY

- 
RAPID AUDIENCE INTERCEPT SURVEY
 Time: May 2022
 Responses: 41
 Profile: 59% weekly visitors
- 
DESIGN EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE
 Time: January 2024
 Respondents: Hassell project team

The majority of survey respondents agreed that Flour Mill of Summer Hill is an openly networked and conveniently compact neighbourhood, with most daily amenities nearby and easily accessible. However, the project's beautifully original qualities were slightly less recognised.

NOTE: The diagram represents the responses from 41 intercept surveys and 5 project team members. While these results are not statistically significant, they showcase how the Six Qualities framework could be put into practice as a quantitative survey tool. The relatively high assessment of Flour Mill of Summer Hill across all Six Qualities is indicative of the project's overall positive recognition.

NOTE: Scale from 0 = 'strongly disagree' to 5 = 'strongly agree'. See a list of the full evaluation criteria on pages 52–53.



RIVERSIDE GREEN

Location
Turrbal and Yuggera Country
Brisbane, Australia

Study area
6,816 m²

Year completed
2021

Project components
Landscape architecture, public realm design, rainforest deck and pavilion architecture

Typical audience
Local students and workers, passing commuters, business visitors, families and groups of friends

Usual activities
Outdoor studying and working, lunch spot, picnic destination, friendly gatherings, quiet time

Awards

- 2022 The Sustainability Awards, 'Landscape & Urban'
- 2022 AIA Queensland Architecture Awards, The Hayes & Scott Award for Small Project Architecture
- 2022 AIA National Commendation for 'Urban Design'
- 2021 AILA National Award of Excellence for 'Parks and Open Space'
- 2021 AILA Queensland Landscape Architecture Award for 'Parks and Open Space'

**South Bank is an important meeting place for the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples with oral and documented histories of marriages, trade, and other ceremonies taking place here.*

Conceived in response to the severe floods that struck Brisbane's South Bank Parklands in 2011, Riverside Green has emerged as a popular green urban oasis, with prime riverfront vistas, a sprawling events lawn, and a lush rainforest and subtropical pavilion.

Originating as an important gathering place* for the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples,¹ Brisbane's South Bank has undergone several significant transformations throughout the centuries, shaped by its close connection to the river.

The wetland-dominated region² became the focal point of European colonisation in the 1840s, which saw the area transform into a hub of business. Floods in 1893 prompted the relocation of commercial activities to the river's northern bank, paving the way for the establishment of an industrial port in 1930.³

An ensuing period of industrial success was halted by WWII, initiating the subsequent decline of the southern bank, which became marked by run-down hotels and boarding houses. This situation prevailed until the 1980s, which saw the opening of the architecturally impressive Performing Arts Centre and the 1988 World Expo.⁴

The Expo served as a catalyst for philanthropy and the activation of public land, igniting a collective effort among locals to preserve the southern bank as public parkland.⁵

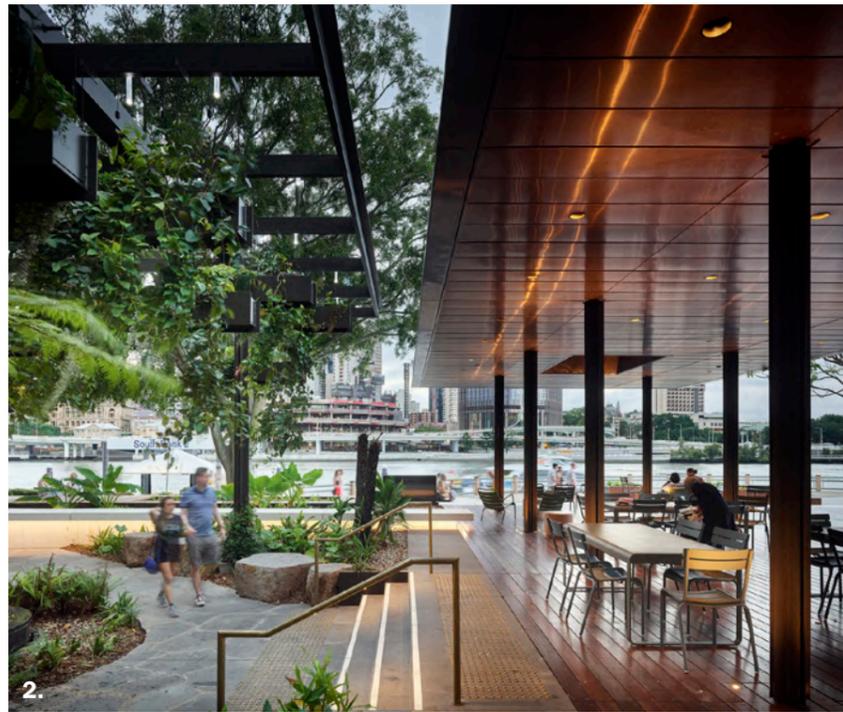
The South Bank Corporation was founded to oversee this development, with a commitment to rekindling the destination's identity, diversifying functions, and improving access and connectivity to surrounding areas.⁶

However, no matter the level of intervention, the land remains at the mercy of the river. This was clearly demonstrated in 2011 when floods inundated the South Bank Parklands, causing significant damage to riverside amenities.

In 2018, the South Bank Corporation engaged Hassell to transform one of the flood-affected areas. The project set out to remove damaged structures, enhance river views, and establish a more open and resilient public space on the 6,816 m² site.

Opened in 2021, Riverside Green has reimagined the previously dormant site as a meeting ground for the broader precinct's estimated 14 million annual visitors.⁷ The design is marked by an open layout that seamlessly connects various flexible activity zones through a lush subtropical planting scheme. Most notably, this landscape is designed to withstand occasional flooding.





Hassell's transformation of Riverside Green has created a flood-resilient biophilic haven on the bustling south bank of the Brisbane River.

Riverside Green opened as a public green space in 2021, following the 2017 demolition of buildings that were damaged by the 2010–2011 Queensland floods.

In 2022, South Bank was once again challenged by rising water levels, which saw the Brisbane River peak at 3.85 metres AHD (Australian Height Datum).⁸ Riverside Green recovered with only minor damages.⁹ Later that year, the project aptly won the 'Landscape and Urban' projects category at the 2022 Sustainability Awards.

Employing the Six Qualities framework, we dissect key elements instrumental to this success.

Beautifully Original

Collaborating with local stakeholders, Riverside Green was conceived with a deep appreciation for the site's indigenous history and environmental conditions.

The landscape embraces Queensland's sub-tropical climate with a lush rainforest deck and a vine-covered pergola featuring 80 hanging plants, showcasing a selection of endemic species (image 1).

A water feature by contemporary artist Elisa Jane Carmichael, a Ngugi woman from Quandamooka Country, flows through the site towards sculptures of traditional dilly bags, referencing the original creekline and traditional indigenous practices.¹⁰

The water additionally threads the sensory vocabulary of the river throughout the landscape.

Conveniently Compact

Riverside Green's diverse collection of open spaces vary in scale and level of intimacy. Stepping away from the wide expanse of the river and open

lawn, visitors are encouraged to gather under the pavilion's comforting canopy or amidst the dense foliage of the rainforest.

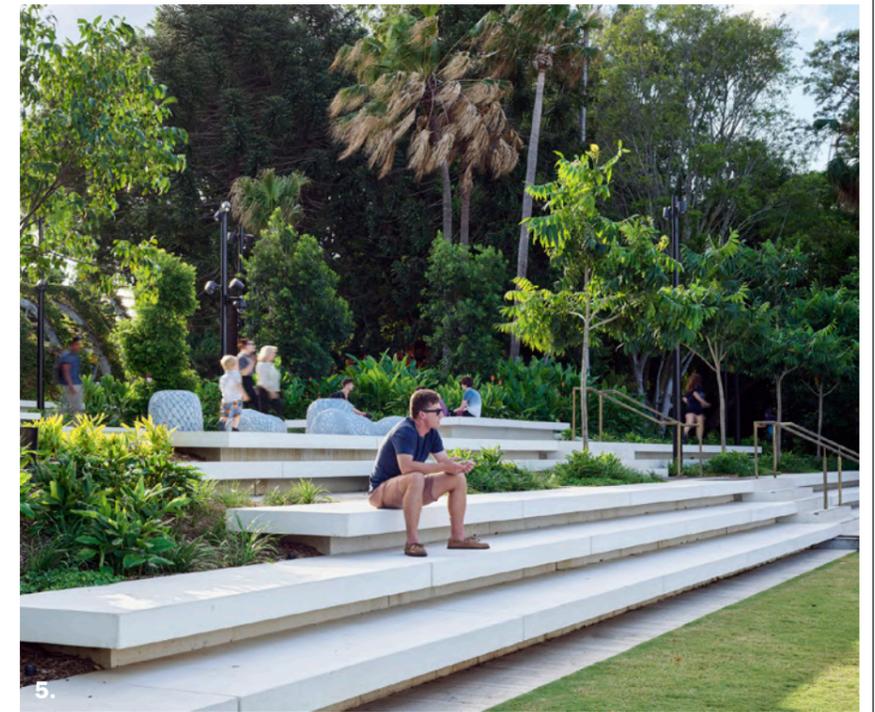
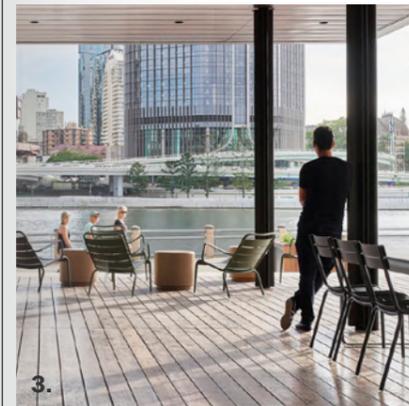
Amenities for food and drink are within close proximity, and frequently used throughout the day. Additionally, Riverside Green is conveniently located just a 15-minute walk from the city's central business district.

"Riverside Green is a great place to relax or hang out with friends." – Visitor intercept survey response

Richly Diverse

Riverside Green provides an open lawn, shaded areas, timber decks, and quieter sheltered spaces, that cater to a wide range of comfort levels and activities, planned or not.

Throughout the day and week, these different zones attract a variety of visitors. For instance, as well as a popular remote-working spot, the



pavilion serves as a morning coffee stop for commuters and an evening retreat for friends and family.

Openly Networked

As one of the city's most popular attractions, South Bank is designed with accessibility at its heart, and Riverside Green is no exception.¹¹

The site is intersected by two primary pedestrian paths, the Arc and Axis, which integrate seamlessly with South Bank's pedestrian-friendly environment, namely the famous Arbour pathway and Clem Jones Promenade (image 4).

Playfully Dynamic

Featuring a selection of movable chairs and tables, the pavilion at Riverside Green offers a flexible visitor experience. Throughout the day, the landscape of social interaction continually evolves as individuals and groups adjust the furniture to fit their needs (image 3).

Meanwhile, the open sides of the pavilion and the spacious lawn can

accommodate a variety of layouts for both spontaneous and planned activities. They also allow for easy cleaning and refurbishment following events.

Naturally Regenerative

Riverside Green's sustainable ethos is epitomised by the removal of a flood-damaged building to make way for green space.

The design expands the adjacent urban rainforest by 650 m², incorporating over 50 trees and 10,000 plants. This creates a porous and ecologically rich landscape that enhances the site's resilience, enabling it to recover naturally and swiftly from events like the 2022 floods.

The site's built structures, specifically the pavilion and pergola, are designed to be lightweight yet

650 m²

of extended urban rainforest and 50+ new trees for South Bank's urban canopy

durable, reinforcing the concept of a robust and timeless destination

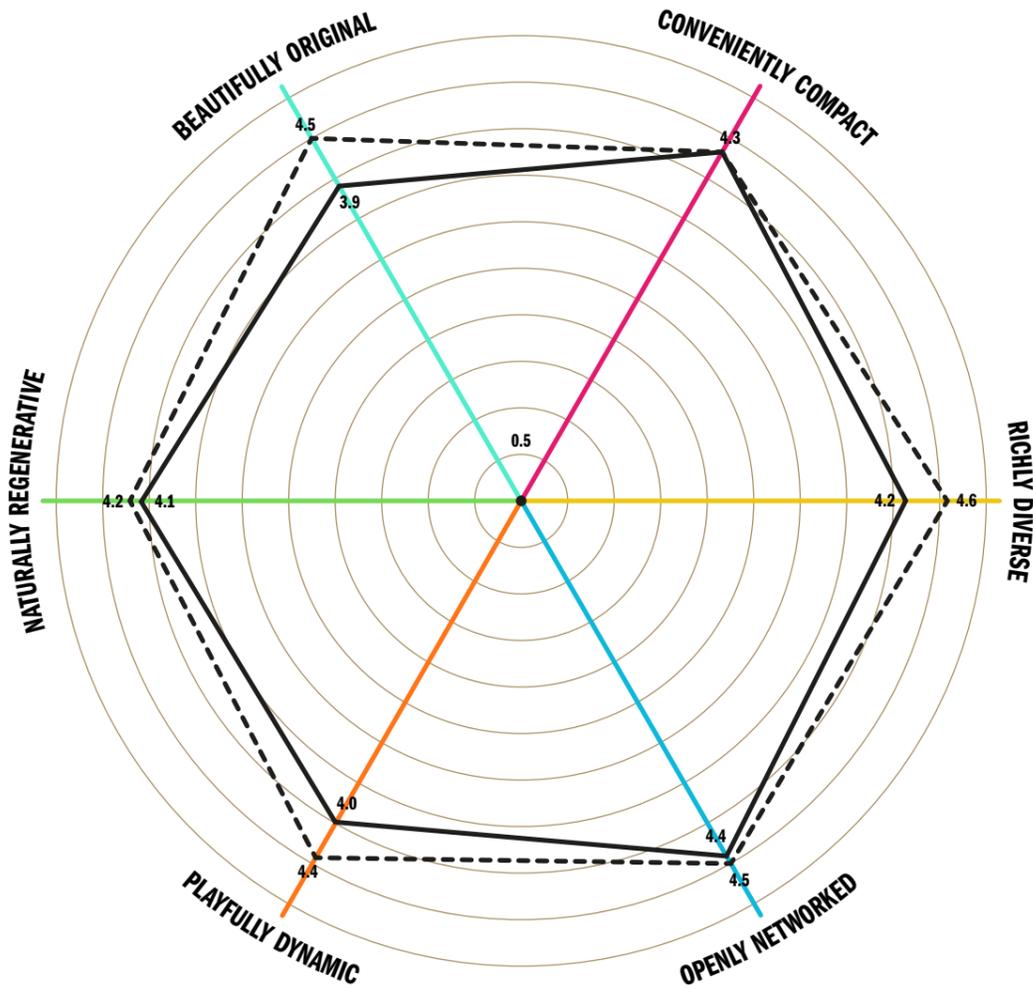
"The resilience and sustainability of [the] Riverside Green landscape and pavilion is centred around being well-made and built to last." – 2022 Sustainability Awards

Reflections

By prioritising social value over commercial return, Riverside Green has not only become a popular destination, but also a symbol of the city's multifaceted resilience.

With a permeable network of diverse open spaces, the site is capable of adapting to various settings and caters to different needs. It is this adaptability, coupled with the design's capacity to foster social and environmental connections, that reveals its 'naturally regenerative' quality.

QUALITATIVE SURVEY TOOL *



*Indicative assessment

DIAGRAM KEY



RAPID AUDIENCE INTERCEPT SURVEY

Time: May 2022
Responses: 54
Profile: 28% weekly visitors



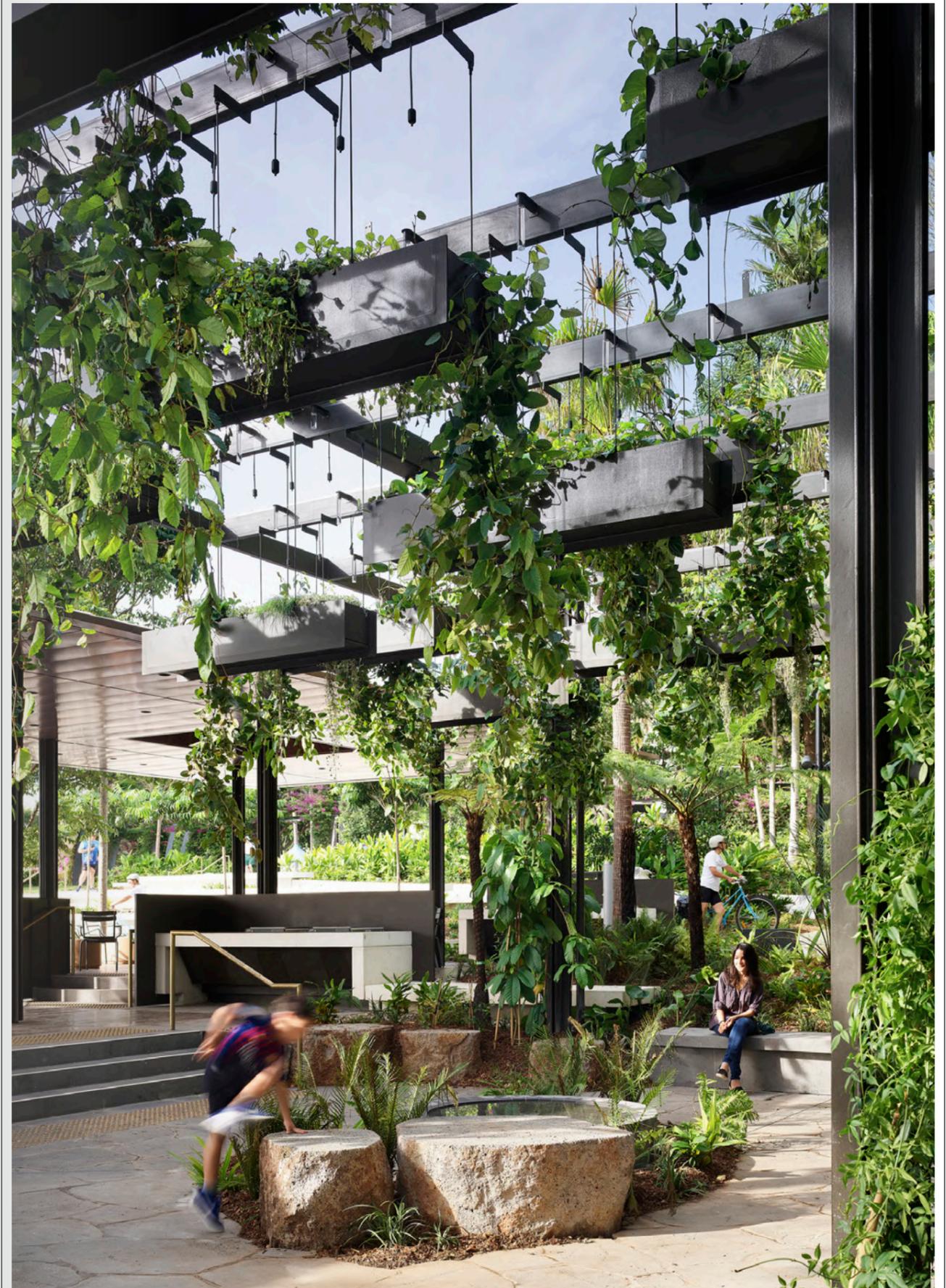
DESIGN EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Time: January 2024
Respondents: Hassell project team

Riverside Green was highly rated in the audience intercept survey across all aspects. It was most commonly perceived as an openly networked destination, a place that is both 'easy to get to and easy to get around'. The site's lush landscape also received several positive comments.

NOTE: The diagram represents the responses from 54 intercept surveys and 5 project team members. While these results are not statistically significant, they showcase how the Six Qualities framework could be put into practice as a quantitative survey tool. The relatively high assessment of Riverside Green across all Six Qualities is indicative of the project's overall positive recognition.

NOTE: Scale from 0 = 'strongly disagree' to 5 = 'strongly agree'. See a list of the full evaluation criteria on pages 52–53.



CONCLUSION

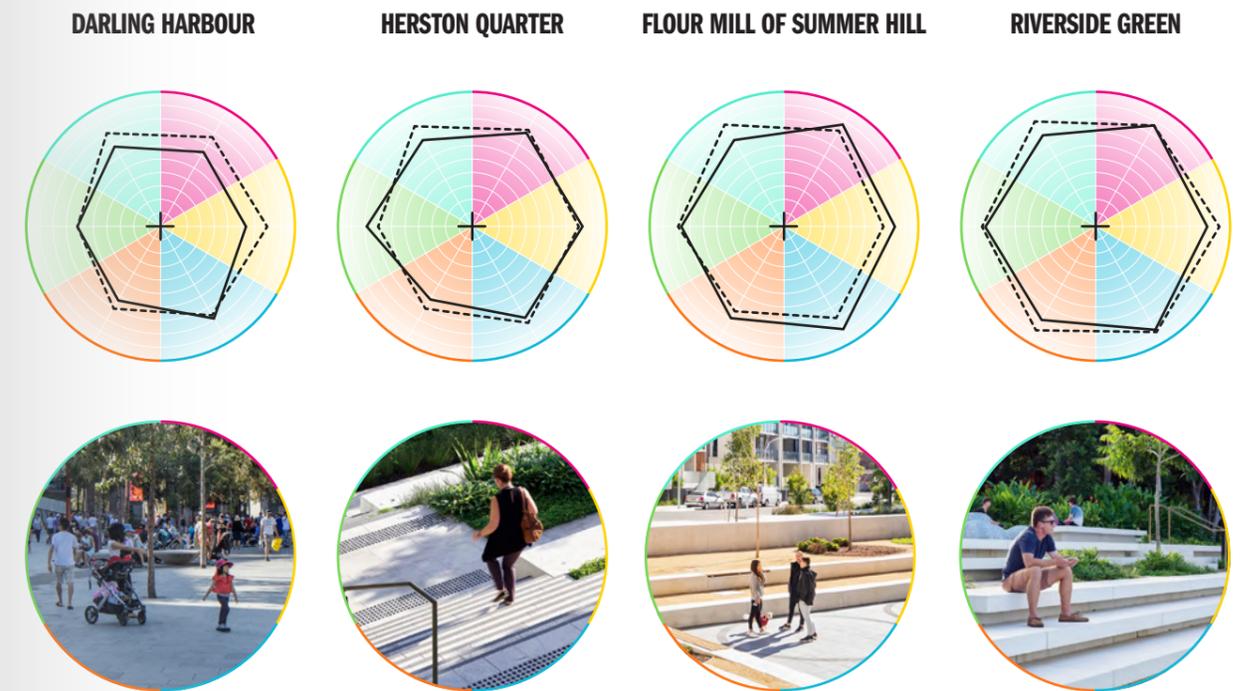
Darling Harbour, Herston Quarter, Flour Mill of Summer Hill, and Riverside Green are all award-winning projects that are evolving into cherished destinations within their respective communities.

Although varying in scale, scope, and character, a consistent thread has been identified through this analysis – the presence of attributes defined by the ‘Six Qualities’ framework across all contexts. We infer that these qualities are, to a certain measure, associated with the emergence of great urban places.

The study underscores the adaptability and relevance of the Six Qualities framework in diverse urban development situations. It also highlights the framework’s potential as a versatile guide for research, consultation, and evaluation, thereby paving the way for more informed and effective urban planning and design strategies.

As we continue to apply and refine the Six Qualities framework, we look forward to uncovering further insights that can contribute to the creation of vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive urban spaces.

INDICATIVE COMPARISON



Through the experimental analysis of four Hassell project, we have developed a rapid audience intercept survey and a design evaluation questionnaire. The details of these tools are available upon request.

As anticipated, the indicative results of this exercise did not uncover any significant shortcomings in any of the award-winning ‘great urban places’ studied. However, we did find some opportunities for fine-tuning.

For example, we could enhance the naturally regenerative qualities

of Darling Harbour or amplify the playfully dynamic features of Herston Quarter.

In conclusion, this exercise has established a high benchmark for excellence in placemaking, as viewed through the Six Qualities framework.

Moving forward, we aim to also systematically apply the framework to sites that are perceived to be under-performing.

- BEAUTIFULLY ORIGINAL
- CONVENIENTLY COMPACT
- RICHLY DIVERSE
- OPENLY NETWORKED
- PLAYFULLY DYNAMIC
- NATURALLY REGENERATIVE
- RAPID AUDIENCE INTERCEPT SURVEY
- DESIGN EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

ENDNOTES

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RIVERSIDE GREEN

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IMAGE CREDITS

Darling Harbour

Photography by Simon Wood

Herston Quarter

Image 1 on page 34 by photographer Tom Ross

Images 4 & 6 on page 35 by photographer David Chatfield

All other photography by Scott Burrows

Flour Mill of Summer Hill

Image 1 on page 40 by photographer Binyan

Image 2 & 5 on pages 40-41 by photographer Mark Syke

Image 3 on page 40 by author

Image 4 on page 41 by photographer Guy Wilkinson

Image 6 on page 41 and image on page 43 © DS Oficina

Image on page 43 © DS Oficina

Riverside Green

Photography by Scott Burrows

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