ACNU08

2008 NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR NEW URBANISM

Brisbane

6th - 9th February, 2008
Collaborative Design Processes in Australia and Internationally

With input from preceding NCI Course and EBD Masterclass

Chip Kaufman, Ecologically Sustainable Design
Melbourne, esdesign@netspace.net.au
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Purpose

Suite of Processes, Internationally, with Australian adaptations, and Case Studies (and with input from preceding NCI Course and EBD Masterclass)

History

Key Success Factors

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Purpose

“For every complex and difficult problem there is an easy solution, and it is wrong.” —H. L. Mencken

Stakeholders are defacto clients, because they’re the end users. People as important as the plan.

Conventional ‘Public Consultation’ is often self-defeating.

A solve-one-problem-at-a-time approach will only paint the the complex inter-dependent whole into a corner.

Interlocking problems usually require interlocking solutions.

Collaboratively test, by means of indicative designing, where, when, how, and therefore whether a proposition and its related Objectives can be achieved, for a specific place.

Enable the Power of Reason to prevail.
Enquiry by Design
(this term generally covers the suite of processes)

Enquiry by Design is a transparent, multi-day, stakeholder-collaborative, design-based process for resolving complex and controversial urban projects. Because the factors influencing urban development, sustainability and amenity are so inter-dependent, Enquiry by Design deals at the same time with all environmental, economic and social issues, and at all scales ranging from architecture to the sub-region. Before the process, EBD outputs are usually positioned as non-binding, until we have determined whether they work or not, by means of this method.

Simultaneously Interactive
instead of
Sequentially Reactive

This writing courtesy of ESD
Alexis LeMaistre, 1889
The NCI Dynamic Planning Process

- A three-part process for achieving transformative change in public and private planning efforts
- The overall process in which the charrette is the transformative event

[Diagram showing three stages: Charrette Preparation, Charrette, Plan Implementation]
Charrette
(5 days usually, other EBD processes equally integrative)

Charrettes for public, when project requires very significant citizen participation, included in specific sessions

Introductory Public Meeting includes Public Consultation, but only after an Introductory Presentation clarifying the whole project context and opportunities
On-site designing and consultation is common across all EBD’s

Set up the design studio & Project Briefing

Study & tour the site, Government Agencies Meeting/s
Community and/or Stakeholder Consultation for Charrettes

Topical and/or area-specific meetings
‘Open Studio’ sessions for the public
Meetings with landowners
Day 5 (more design/production)

In-house Iterative Design Resolution iterative with Measuring of Outcomes, Preparation of Concluding Public Presentation, common to all EBD approaches
Concluding Meeting
(time afterwards for review and possible revisions)

When Charrette, it’s public. When other EBD’s, this meeting may be for invited stakeholders only, depends on consultation needs of the project

Sufficient detail (at all scales) to enable participants to see, understand, and test proposals, in terms of where, when, how and whether
ACNU08 Mastersclass and NCI Course
How EBDs relate to normal approval processes.

Often in Oz, the normal approval process does not support EBD, despite its demonstrated benefits.
High Risk, High Return Preparation is Crucial, or Risk Catastrophe
EBD/Charrette announcements
only part of the ramping up toward the event
Charrette/EBD brochures (10-20 pages) instrumental in informing, promoting and sustaining momentum.

Post-EBD implementation is crucial, and by no means dependable, yet.
History

First New Urbanist Charrettes, such as for Seaside, Florida (before NU had its name) in early 1980’s, in response to need for a holistic collaborative response to the straightjacket of sprawl regulation. Largely pioneered by DPZ.

Early Efforts

The first new urbanist town to get built from the ground up was Seaside, on the Florida coast.
History

Congress for New Urbanism established in 1992 (www.cnu.org), Charter signed in 1994

Practice expands beyond US by early 1990’s, with ESD introducing process to Australia in 1992 and NZ in 1996

Cranbourne Charrette, Melbourne, 1992
Beacon Cove Charrette, 1992
Port Melbourne, Victoria, led by Paul Murrain with Wendy Morris at State as ‘client’ and ‘champion’ to implement A controversial government-owned infill site that catalysed medium rise development in inner Melbourne. New public waterfront and village node.

Best selling development in Melbourne for 5 years
History

2003: National Charrette Institute (NCI) established
2004: Urban Design Alliance forms in Brisbane, and leads EBDs
2005: Andres Duany leads eleven simultaneous Mississippi Renewal Charrettes in response to Hurricane Katrina

Now NU and EBDs are becoming basis (at least in part) for informing growth management and healthier communities across many countries, and hopefully for Climate Crisis

Processes have co-evolved in North America and Australia, with differing adaptations
Contentious Coomera Charrette on Gold Coast Railway, 1995
Liveable Neighbourhoods Code
State-wide Code, WA www.wapc.wa.gov.au

CNU 2001 Charter Award winner

Code Design Elements
E1. Community Design
E2. Movement Network
E3. Lot Layout
E4. Public Parkland
E5. Urban Water Management
E6. Utilities
E7. Activity Centres & Employment
E8. Schools

Jindalee Design Workshop, 1996
Sustainable Design Training Workshops

Waitakere WSDTW, in preparation for New Lynn Charrette with joint ESD/Council Team, NZ’s first in 1996

Newcastle-Lake Macquarie SDTW, 1996
Bill Grant, CEO Newcastle (now Chair ULDA), Jason Waziak, Trevor Allen, et al

Ecologically Sustainable Design Pty Ltd, Melbourne
Midland Revitalisation Charrette, 1997 • Enquiry by Design, 2007

1997 Charrette Citywide Plan

2007 City Centre Plan

Ecologically Sustainable Design Pty Ltd, Melbourne
1999: ESD advances Enquiry by Design for UK, with success of Northampton EBD (now partly built as Upton) resulting in imprimatur of both Government and the Prince

Sustainable Urban Extensions:
Planned through Design

An executive summary
Sustainable Urban Extensions: Planned through Design describes a type of participatory planning exercise new to the UK known as Enquiry By Design. The work described in the report points to the significant contribution Enquiry By Design can make to towns and cities — extensions that deliver a much higher environmental, social and economic performance than has been the case.
2008 UK Royal Town Planning Institute’s National Sustainable Communities Award

Upton, UK, born of an EBD, and a recognised sustainability exemplar
Is this UK ‘pedagogical’ and non-binding approach a model for enabling NU/EBDs more widely? Is this a means of fusing and further enlivening the NCI Course and Mastersclass?
Urban Land Release, 2004
Western Sydney, NSW

State Government-led large-scale sustainable regional planning initiative for two new major city regions.

Born of 2 week-long EBDs led by Evan Jones as NSW Director of Sydney Strategy, each involving about 80 stakeholders, who collaboratively designed for 2 of the five days with consultant design facilitators.

Growth Centres Commission established; innovative infrastructure funding mechanisms set up; mixed use transit-supportive development must be delivered.

Update coming from Stephanie Barker during ACNU08

CNU 2005 Charter Award winner
Edmonton EBD, Cairnes, sponsored by QT, 2007
Ambergate Bussleton WA
Design Workshop, 2007
Annand Alcock Urban Design, Lead Consultant
Australian Process Adaptations
(not necessarily Australia-wide, but at least done by ESD)

Scoping Workshops, to inform project approaches

Enquiries by Design (not Charrettes), when for key stakeholders but not public, during which stakeholders also design in facilitated teams (Western Sydney Urban Land Release)

Joint Client/Consultant Teams, to better engage and ‘skill up’ client staff/implementers, to reduce consultant costs, and to augment implementation

Sustainable Design Training Workshops for Government and others who want to internalise these skills (Waitakere SDTW produces many of Auckland’s leading NU designers/leaders)
Key EBD Success Factors (not there yet)

1. Inherent legitimacy
2. EBD Objectives
3. Transparency
4. Required outcomes specified
5. Sufficient preparation
6. Sufficient existing conditions information/drawings/aerials
7. Client commitment to support the outcomes (if worthy) over the long haul, and/or a local ‘Champion’
8. Right team with technical, consultation and collaboration skills, and no conflicts of interest
EBD Vulnerabilities

Risk of preparation insufficiencies, including engaging stakeholders to participate

Implementation Challenges, when Charrette leaders are remote

Risks of lost continuity in project implementation

Perceived Conflicts of Interest, when developer funded
Should we be enabling NU and EBDs, Systemically?
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