Subtropical Urban Design

ACNU08
Brisbane
Subtropical Design

Urban Sustainability
- Relationship of Neighbourhoods to Urban Structure
- Type, Location & Scale of Centres
- Walkability and Connectivity in Movement Network
- Mix of Uses
- Mix of Housing Densities
- Public Transport Integration
- Distribution of Open Space
- Lot Size, Frontage and Depth

Biophysical Sustainability
- Environmental Corridors and Habitats
- Stormwater Management
- Integration of Total Water Cycle Management
- Integration and Diversity of Vegetation

SUBTROPICAL NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGN
- The way in which neighbourhood design is applied in a subtropical climate, and
- Any additional features or features of special relevance to the subtropical climate
Subtropical Design

public places
neighbourhood layouts
passive solar design
street & lot orientation

Gratt, ‘Jacaranda Blinds’, 1946

Feneley, ‘Under the Jacaranda’

Jenings, ‘Brisbane River’, C.1970s

Staley, ‘City of Brisbane’, 1961

Chris Hall, ‘Thread’ 2006

Brownhall, Waterworks Road, 2001

centre for subtropical design

DEICKE RICHARDS
Architecture Urban Design Community Design

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Brisbane
Neighbourhoods aggregate to form a Subtropical Town and City.

Innerwestern area of Brisbane shown as a cluster of neighbourhoods based on a five minute walk.

Clustering of neighbourhoods are defined by regional landscape features (Brisbane River).

Structure of robust urban neighbourhoods within Brisbane’s west.

Clustering of neighbourhoods defined by regional and local landscape features (Mt Cool-tha).

the aggregation of neighbourhoods within the setting of regional and local landscape elements.

Neighbourhoods with varying Scales of Centres with associated land-uses and densities.
Neighbourhoods have a distinctive relationship to their Site and Landscape

- distinctive relationship to the topography of its site.
- collector streets are located along landscape elements
- streets open out neighbourhood to its natural features and setting.
- networks of parks form subtropical journeys through neighbourhoods
Subtropical Streetscapes

streets incorporate substantial avenue planting.

setbacks between buildings and street are varied

front facades of large buildings are stepped and
articulated to allow the planting of substantial
vegetation

front garden design form a rich
transition of outdoor to indoor space.
Sites for Subtropical Buildings

appropriate orientation of streets creates lots and sites for better energy efficiency and good subtropical design.
Subtropical Apartments

Apartments are naturally ventilated.

Apartments create Subtropical Streetscapes.
Subtropical Mixed Use Centres

- Vegetation is maintained and integrated into the development.
- Parks are designed with positive shapes as a focus of the neighbourhood.
- Lots are sized to allow retention of significant vegetation and other site features.
- A diversity of lot types.
- Street design creates a centre in an accessible and visible location.
- Vibrant neighbourhood centre both encourages and justifies the incorporation and integration of a greater variety of housing and densities close to the centre.

- The centre is located in an accessible location that has a distinctive relationship to the topography and natural features of the site.
- Neighbourhood design creates a vibrant and memorable centre through the mix of uses retail, commercial, community facilities, parks and home based business with surrounding housing.
- Street edges form frontages to riparian corridors.

- Variety of housing including shop top housing.
- Recent medium density housing.
- Mixed use commercial and residential.
- Covered outdoor dining areas.
A Subtropical Landscape and allows one to grow

a landscaped setting and allows the landscape to grow and nature over time.

site coverage of building footprints is limited to allow deep planting at the rear, front and sides of buildings.
Padstow Central

1902

- Centre for Subtropical Design
- Architecture Urban Design Community Design

1929

- Subtropical Design

2004

- Padstow, 2004

- Centre for Subtropical Design
- Architecture Urban Design Community Design
Subtropical Design

Interconnected street layout with large blocks and trees in backyards.

Paddington is on a central spine line with panoramic views.

Paddington Central is a supermarket-based centre. It has a good range of housing types and densities.

Good orientation of streets - Generally north/south facing streets, east/west facing on lesser streets.

Character residential closer to the centre forces more medium density to the outer areas of the centre.

Traditional grid pattern ignores drainage lines and overland flow paths.

Topography accentuated by streets, which drain up the steep slopes.

Four street trees, despite ample vegation. Little or no shade over many footpaths and road surfaces.

Overland flows paths are in ditches, loads, and vegetated rear gardens that are visible from the street.

Spaces between buildings look into yard back gardens.

Increase of area of hard surfaces with no forms of mediate drainage development increases surface water run-off.