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“Living City 2010 Workshop”

Research Component

This program was designed in direct response to Queensland Government *Design Strategy 2020* mandates, building on previous learnings from the 1999-2009 *Living City* Programs, with a specific focus on raising awareness of the complexity involved in the design of shared city spaces, showcasing the role of engaged consultants, and empowering young people, as future citizens, to be involved in the evolution of their cities, within a framework of ecological, economic, social and cultural sustainability.

The program, through mentoring from stakeholders, educators, public artists and design professionals, uniquely encouraged students to connect the bigger challenges of global urbanism with local sites under development scrutiny, providing them with a multi-dimensional toolkit to respond creatively. Through its website, the *Living City 2010 Workshop* program provides layered documentation and resources for participating students and schools and for a wider educational audience. Ideas generated by students were included as part of council youth consultation for the target development site and published online and to city authorities.

This program has been a catalyst for further programs and discussion about design-based learning in Queensland which link design practice, research, government and education to consider design as integral to creating adaptive communities.

It is an important model that may influence the potential future integration of design into the Queensland and National curriculum and educational programs for younger generations.

Outcomes from the program provide a foundation to address the lack of evidence-based research necessary to improve understanding, integration and delivery of design thinking in K-12 classrooms, in order to inform policy makers and future curriculums.