

CHOW:HILL URBAN DESIGN MATRIX

PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL PLACES

COMPOSITION

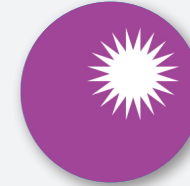
The physical structure of the built environment, particularly the composition of buildings, spaces, landmarks, vistas and focal points, defines, enriches and gives unique character to a place.



- City / Town / Villagescape
- Neighbourhoods
- Scale & Density
- Streetscape
- Landmarks & Vistas
- Edges
- Nodes
- Civic & community places

CHARACTER

How a city / town / village looks and feels and the way its neighbourhoods express their character and personality are crucial to its identity.



- Heritage
- Identity
- Sense of Place
- Natural Features
- Cultural Associations
- Uniqueness
- Experience
- Social Interaction

CIRCULATION

Movement networks define the urban pattern of every place. Successful streets are more than roads; they are spaces that encourage pedestrian movement, social interaction and connectivity with external networks.



- Public Transport
- Vehicles
- Access & Servicing
- Pedestrians
- Cyclists
- Accessibility
- Connectivity
- Networks

DESIRABILITY

Desirability, whilst difficult to define is a fundamental characteristic of successful places (& people). Desirability of place is influenced by location, environment, visual amenity, materiality, architectural quality, aesthetics and beauty.



- Location
- Environment
- Views & Vistas
- Beauty & Aesthetics
- Materiality
- Architectural Quality
- Surprise & Delight
- Smell - Sound - Touch

DIVERSITY

Successful urban environments comprise a rich mix of uses, activities, cultures and demographics and provide for the old and the young, as much as they do for the rich and the poor.



- Mixed Use
- Mixed Tenure
- Mixed Age
- Mixed Income
- Mixed Cultures
- Mixed Demographics
- Mixed Abilities
- Adaptability

LIFESTYLE

As a place reflects the lives of its inhabitants, it should also acknowledge life as a 24-hour / 7-day / 365-day experience. Successful places accommodate a full spectrum of lifestyle expectations, including civic events and celebrations.



- Daytime - Night time
- Mornings - Evenings
- Weekdays
- Weekends
- Events
- Celebrations
- Seasons
- Work / Rest / Play

PUBLIC REALM

The design of streets, parks, squares and other public open spaces, and the manner with which the buildings interact with them should ensure that they are attractive, animated, well used, well supervised and easily maintained.



- Streets
- Parks & Reserves
- Squares & Plazas
- Village Green
- Play Areas
- Public Art
- Infrastructure
- Detail and decoration

STEWARDSHIP

The design, layout and orientation of buildings and spaces can actively promote or compromise community stewardship, security and civic pride within urban environments



- Surveillance
- Connectedness
- Facing Public Spaces
- Civic & Community Pride
- Self Expression
- Ownership & Responsibility
- Defined public/private space
- Visibility

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable design requires a holistic approach embracing social, environmental and economic dimensions. Urban environments should seek to meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.



- Social
(equity, belonging, wellness, recreation & education)
- Environmental
(energy, ecology, water cycle, climate & topography)
- Economics
(employment, investment, development & prosperity)

BEHAVIOUR

Places are shaped by the activities and behaviour of their citizens. Rules, regulations and the behavioural expectations we place on each other have significant impacts on the quality of our built environments.



- Governance
(structures, consultation, representation & communication)
- Rules
(rules, regulations & policies)
- Expectations
(guidelines & codes, reviews & assessment, education & demonstration)

PHYSICAL

EMOTIONAL