



Queensland University of Technology
Brisbane Australia

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(2010)

Subtropical Design in South East Queensland: A Handbook for Planners, Developers and Decision-Makers.

The Centre for Subtropical Design, QUT, Brisbane, Qld.

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<http://www.subtropicaldesign.org.au>

RM Reference: 2011003087
NPA3
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“Subtropical design in South East Queensland. A handbook for planners, developers and decision makers”

Research Component

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Generally, urban and regional planning documents have little to do with design principles. The handbook combines city planning and design and brings them together with climatic concerns and concepts of regional identity. This juxtaposition makes a significant contribution to sustainable approaches to planning in the subtropics to support sustainability goals.

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION

The handbook content combines architectural science, urban design theory and social science perspectives, drawing on both an established body of knowledge as well as the author’s research and findings in relation to new typologies for higher density residential buildings and their ability to support acceptable, or even desirable, standards of urban living that are significantly less reliant on fossil fuel energy, in warm humid climates. Particular attention is paid to the design of accessible open space systems, pedestrian connectivity and amenity, and active public spaces. Established principles and strategies are adapted to the idiosyncracies of the warm, fully humid subtropical climate, where life outdoors enhances the quality and health of urban living. The handbook shows how this preference for outdoor living year-round can be channelled to keep demand for energy and carbon emissions low.

RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

This handbook provides the nexus between good policy and practical implementation by building on a set of urban planning principles published in the *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031* (Qld Govt), and required to be adopted by regional councils. Since publication it has been influential in informing State and Local planning policy.