

DELTAS IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE II

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE, SCIENCE, CITIES AND BUSINESS ROTTERDAM THE NETHERLANDS, 24-26 SEPTEMBER 2014

Deltas in Practice, policy-practice sessions			
Deltas in Practice Theme 3. Urban design and infrastructure			
DP 3.4 Brisbane watershed design charrette			
Chair	N	MSc Stijn Koole, Bosch Slabbers Landscape + Urban Design, the Netherlands	
Organised by	Ν	MSc Stijn Koole, Bosch Slabbers Landscape + Urban Design, the Netherlands	
Presentations	•	MSc Stijn Koole, Bosch Slabbers Landscape + Urban Design, the Netherlands	
	•	James Davidson, James Davidson Architect, Australia	
	•	PhD John Hoal, RA(SA), AICP, Urban Design, Washington University and H3	
		Studio, St. Louis, USA	
	•	Derek Hoeferlin RA, Washington University and James Hoeferlin Architect, St.	
		Louis, USA	
Session topic	•	A comprehensive workshop with conceptual interactions and connections	
		between different experts sketching together a possible future for the	
		Brisbane watershed in dealing with both flooding and drought.	
Objective of	•	Firstly, to offer participants insight into how to create, produce and be part of	
the session		an interactive design charrette. And secondly, to give the local Brisbane	
		community and architect (Davidson) a head start in building towards an	
		ecologically resilient watershed capable of adapting to the effects of climate	
		change and related extremes, whether flood, drought and cyclones.	
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Main conclusions and lessons learnt from the presentations

The presentations give an overview of the issues, challenges and opportunities of the Brisbane watershed. It is stressed that the catchment system should be considered as a whole and that flash floods (summer) should be the driver to think about water and the Wivenhoe Dam. Below the dam there could be a series of strategies for different conditions. There is a need for an overarching authority/management system. Investment should come from growth here. In Brisbane, money (infrastructure, economy etc.) is protected before the people!

It is stated that the Wivenhoe Dam should serve both situations of drought and flood. The growing population increases pressure on water resources. Brisbane already suffers from water crises in times of drought. Moreover, water quality is an issue.

Main conclusions of the discussion

Flood Acceptance in Brisbane is different to the Netherlands: Why?? The participants see a need to make a different urbanism for Brisbane to tackle this; design a city that can absorb water (flood without disaster) (failure system).

For that, four topics are identified:

- 1. Overall Strategies:
 - Adaptive living/housing
 - Major recreational link between zones
 - Recharging the aguifer
- 2. Bay City vs River City: a city that is part of a system
 - Sediment Control
 - Opportunity for development







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- Release/Create Valuable Land
- Eco-bay City
- Room for the Creeks
- The "Emergency Exit": There are no new water exits from the catchment
- 3. Financial/Policy/Planning/Insurance Concessions for Resilient Design
- 4. Different Design Criteria for each area/layer/condition etc.

Main Conclusion

Not just flood but the linkage with drought & economy brings a sustainable future of Brisbane. This will raise the call for new design solutions to address the multiple challenges that Brisbane is facing.

Main result or conclusion of the session

Using drawing as a kind of Esperanto to better understand each other (cross cultural and cross disciplinary) makes it an *experience*. It gives participants a greater understanding, focus and energy for future collaboration and comprehensive planning. Working at multiple scales at the same time is essential. Understanding the issues and finding solutions on the larger scale are better underpinned when they are tested against the smaller local scale. This workshop provided significant information about the future of the watershed that is brought back home to Australia. It is a valuable start to the process of encouraging local authorities and communities to consider implementing smart design approaches.

Most exciting insights or outcomes

- Deltas and watersheds should never be seen as separate entities, they are inevitably related and connected to each other
- Climate change is not a threat, it is an opportunity
- We see a need to make a different urbanism, a city that can absorb and live with water
- Floods and drought are two sides of the same coin which should be both taken into account when designing the future of Brisbane's watershed.



