



The Healthy Neighbourhood Audit Instrument: Understanding the Environmental and Socio-Cultural Conditions to Support Healthy, Happy and Resilient Residential Communities

Never Stand Still

Faculty of the Built Environment

Healthy Built Environments Program

Emily Mitchell & Susan Thompson

City Futures Research Centre, UNSW

7th Australian Housing Researchers' Conference

Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA, 6 – 8 February 2013



THE HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENTS PROGRAM

Outline

Research context

Background to the audit

Methodology

Overview of audit components

Where to from here?



Australian Research Council Linkage Grant

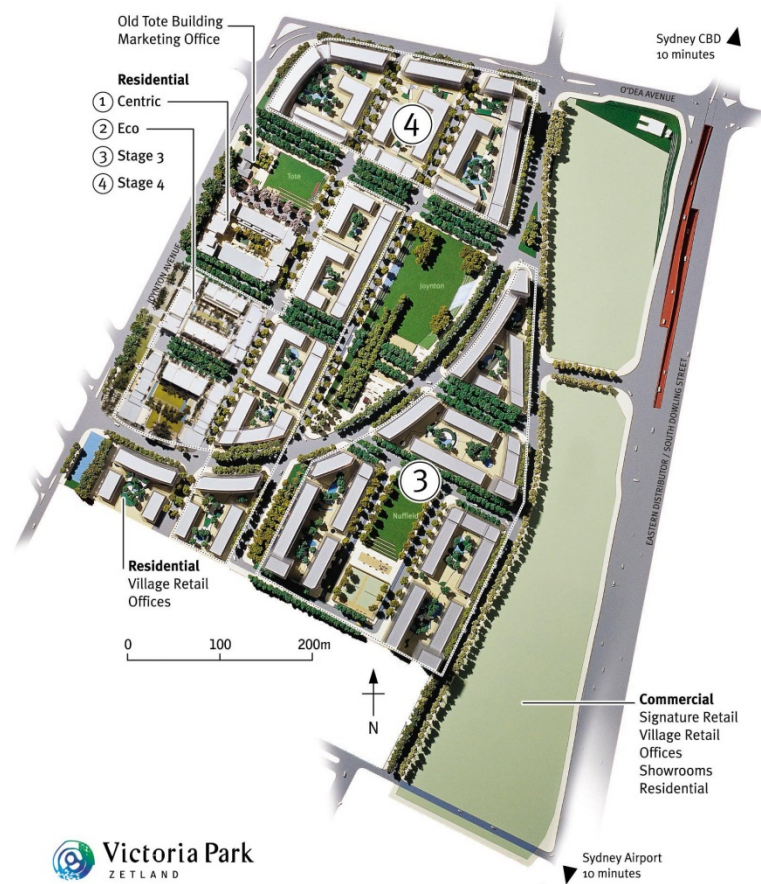
Planning and building healthy communities

Research partners from health and the built environment

Four sites being examined



Victoria Park



Airds Bradbury



All street names are subject to Council approval.



How do these neighbourhoods support people being healthy as part of every day living?



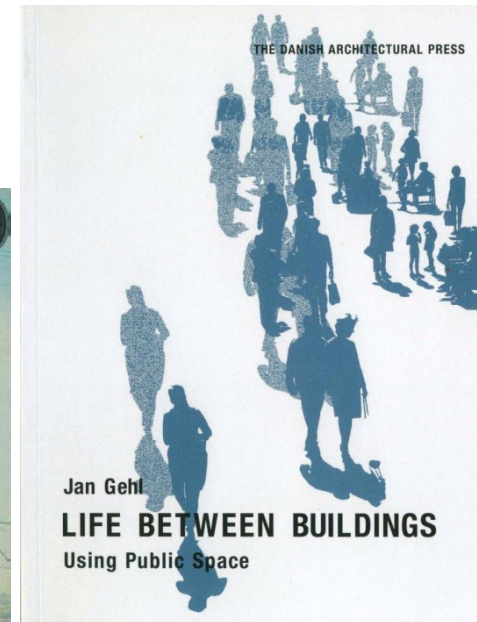
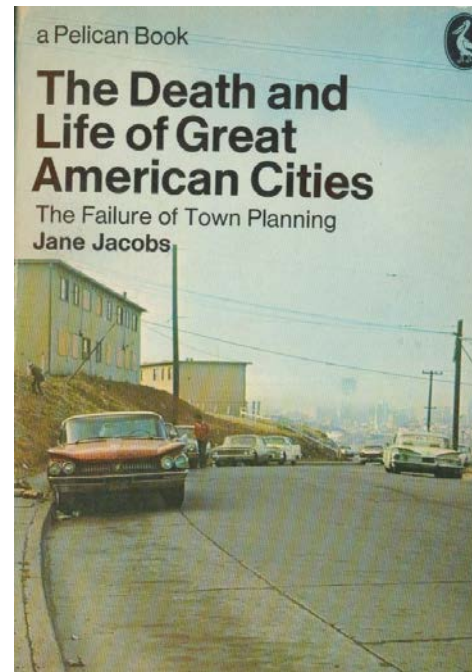
Background to the audit

How can healthy behaviour be supported?

An urban planning approach

Detailed observations of environments and people

In-depth understandings of place

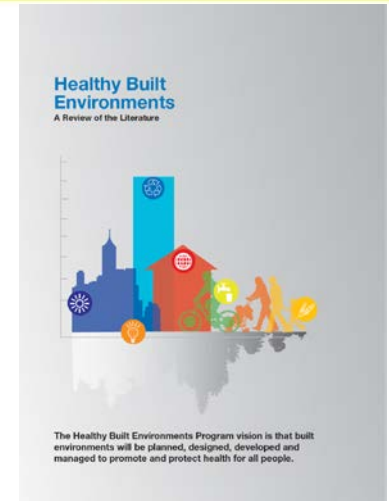


Background to the audit

The three domains:

- Getting People Active
- Connecting and Strengthening Communities
- Providing Healthy Food Options

Long term evolution and on-the-ground testing



Methodology

Completed by a team of interdisciplinary auditors

On foot – immersion in the locality

Cadastral maps sourced from councils

Note taking, iPad, GIS software

Qualitative observations as well as quantitative measurements

Detailed visual record



Audit components

Land use

Residential types

Quality and character

Nature of land use		Ref. on map
<i>Residential:</i>	Detached dwelling	R1
	Terrace/ townhouse	R2
	Duplex/ semi-detached	R3
	Dual occupancy	R4
	Unit (up to 3 storey)	R5
	Unit (3 storeys and above – note the amount of storeys on the map)	R6
	Other	Describe on map
<i>Mixed use:</i>	Commercial/Residential - Note the specific uses on the map	MU
<i>Recreational:</i>	Open/ green space	Rec1
	Park	Rec2
	Playground	Rec3
	Equal access playground	Rec4
	Sports field	Rec5
	Recreational walking path/cycleway	Rec6
	Outdoor gym	Rec7
	Basketball/tennis court	Rec8
	Swimming pool	Rec9
	Lawn bowling green	Rec10
	Amenities for people with physical impairments (describe on map)	Rec11
	Water Sensitive Urban Design/open space	Rec12
	Private open space	Rec13
	Other	Describe on map

Residential land uses



Recreational land uses – type, quality, character



Institutional/community uses



Commercial uses

Availability, quality and affordability of food



Community gardens Airds Bradbury



Community gardens Rouse Hill



Street network

Street pattern
Quality and maintenance
Walking infrastructure
Street furniture
Public transport

Walking/Footpaths:

Footpaths	W1
Signalised pedestrian crossings	W2
Painted pedestrian crossings	W3
Note whether crossing the street is accessible for all (e.g. people with limited mobility or parents with prams)*	Accessible (Acc.) Not accessible (N/Acc.)
Material of footpaths	Dirt (D) Concrete (Con) Bitumen (Bit) Paving (Pav) Cobblestone (Cobb) Other (describe on map)
Quality of footpaths (i.e. consistency and evenness of surfaces, presence of trip/slip hazards)	Poor (M-P) Average (M-A) Good (M-G)
Width of footpaths	Measure and note the width of footpaths on the map
Gradient of footpaths	Flat (G-F) Moderate (G-M) Steep (G-S) Other (describe on map)
Type of buffer between footpath and street (i.e. trees, fence/railing)	Note and describe on the map
Types of obstructions along the footpaths (e.g. overgrown vegetation, café dining)	Note and describe on the map
Visibility along footpaths	Poor (V-P) Average (V-A) Good (V-G)
Connectivity of footpaths	Continuous (Cont.) Abrupt end (Abr.)
Type of shading of footpaths	Awning (Awn.) Shade structures (Sh.St) Vegetation (Veg) Other (describe on map)
Quality of shading of footpaths	Poor (Sh-P) Average (Sh-A) Good (Sh-G)
Other	Describe on map

Airds Bradbury



Street network

Cycling infrastructure

Parking provision



Victoria Park

Street network Rouse Hill



Evaluative commentary

General observations of the site –
qualitative assessment



Where to from here?

Writing up the audits

GIS mapping

Exploring relationships to health data

Market basket survey

Informing question schedules

Focus group interviews



