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Who should read this manual

This manual of standards has been developed by the City of Adelaide to provide a guide to the design and maintenance of the City's public open spaces. It is designed to establish consistency and continuity, while improving the quality and image of the public face of the City. The City of Adelaide is the State's symbolic, cultural, administrative, commercial and retail centre. Good Urban Design is one means by which we can consciously improve the quality of the City. The benefits to the City are economic, by strengthening economic life and competitiveness; environmental, by minimising waste, energy and pollution; social, through the support of equitable, safe and accessible environments; and functional, by enabling more efficient and effective working of the City.

While establishing a strong Urban Design Framework of consistency and continuity, these standards provide scope for flexibility, creativity and innovation within the framework, ensuring that the City continues to express its history, unique character and future direction with pride and confidence. This manual will provide easy dissemination of information and is recommended to the following groups: Developers, Consultants and Consulting Officers in designing spaces and buildings to meet City of Adelaide policies, Permit-issuing authorities and Councillors in determining the suitability of proposals plus the general public, in understanding City of Adelaide policies, in protecting valued existing qualities and in helping upgrade the amenity of the City's public open spaces.

History

Adelaide's founding in 1836 was based on 19th century colonial ideals:

Relatively liberal political attitudes, a belief in religious freedom and a desire to establish a new paternalistic landed gentry to form an agrarian rather than an industrial society.

The planned structure of the City derives from the original physical plan of Adelaide laid out by Light and Kingston. The City grids relate to the topography highlighted by high points in North and South Adelaide and the deep valley of the River Torrens. Significant within the original plan was the establishment of a belt of common park lands surrounding the ordered and clear city structure.

The enduring quality of the City's plan rests on its clear grid form and the contrast with the surrounding park lands, and despite changes during the 20th century, the original City plan form has remained intact and is just as discernible now as when it was originally laid out.

Although the City is no longer filled with buildings of uniform scale and mass, the underlying spatial patterns are still the dominant feature of Adelaide and continue to influence activities, development and perception of the City. The City's character depends both on individual buildings and on its plan, and most importantly, the relationship between the two. In turn the landscape character of the City is reinforced by the built form, and the relationship between natural and constructed elements.





Plan of the City of Adelaide, 1837 by Col. William Light.

Design Principles

These principles refer to the existing public realm, consisting primarily of the City's streets, squares and park lands.

The design principles can be analysed under the following:

- consistency
- boldness and simplicity
- design quality
- materials and colour
- scale

Consistency

This refers to elements in the public realm showing consistency in their design, installation and maintenance. Streets should be designed as complete streets and not block by block. Variations may occur within this but only to reinforce the identity of a precinct in a manner that allows the continuity of the whole street to dominate.

Boldness and Simplicity

The large scale grid pattern requires comparable bold and simple design solutions. In the public realm elements need to be on a larger scale than elements within buildings or private exterior spaces. The use of similar materials, patterns and colours in large blocks is preferable to more complex design solutions.

Design Quality

The quality of elements reflect their location and properties such as robustness, durability and appearance. Life-span should be a consideration in detail design and the choice of materials.

Materials and Colour

New elements in the public realm should complement, rather than dominate existing materials and colours.

Scale

Major streets and terraces should have visual precedence over minor streets and lanes. The street tree planting's of major streets should be formal and regular in their placement and proportional to the width of the street and height of the building facades. Elements such as planter boxes, small trees, mixed species of trees and isolated trees are not appropriate for major streets.

Overview of Design and Construction Standards

This manual contains information on landscaping, public lighting, paving, furniture, signage, civil engineering, minor structures and city arts.

These items are intended to compliment one another and the urban context within which they are located. They should be designed for efficient functionality, long life and public safety.

Users of this Manual should not consider the design and construction standards provided as an enforcement of rigid design principles, but rather as design guidelines to be considered in conjunction with the specific needs and character of particular urban structures.

In some instances quite detailed information is provided to assist the design process:

Equipment physical dimensions
Material, construction, finish
Maintenance requirements
Current supplier
Typical location

The City of Adelaide is engaged in an ongoing process of developing further design and construction details, to be added as updates to this Manual. Please refer to the end of this section for information on availability and updates of this Manual.



BASIC ELEMENTS

Enquires & Comments

Additional copies

This Manual is available in the following formats:

Hard copy

CD ROM

Internet: <http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/>

A small fee will apply for supply of the manual

Hard copy and CD-ROM versions are available from:

City of Adelaide Customer Centre
Ground Floor, Colonel Light Centre
25 Pirie Street, Adelaide

City of Adelaide Customer Centre hours:
8.30am – 5.30pm (Monday – Friday)

Updates

This manual will be updated on a regular basis. Users should ensure that the version they are using is the latest available. To assist us to let you know about updates for the manual, please complete the enclosed registration form.



To register please complete the following details and post to Customer Service Centre, GPO Box 2252 Adelaide, South Australia, Attn: Design Standards or order online on <http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com>.

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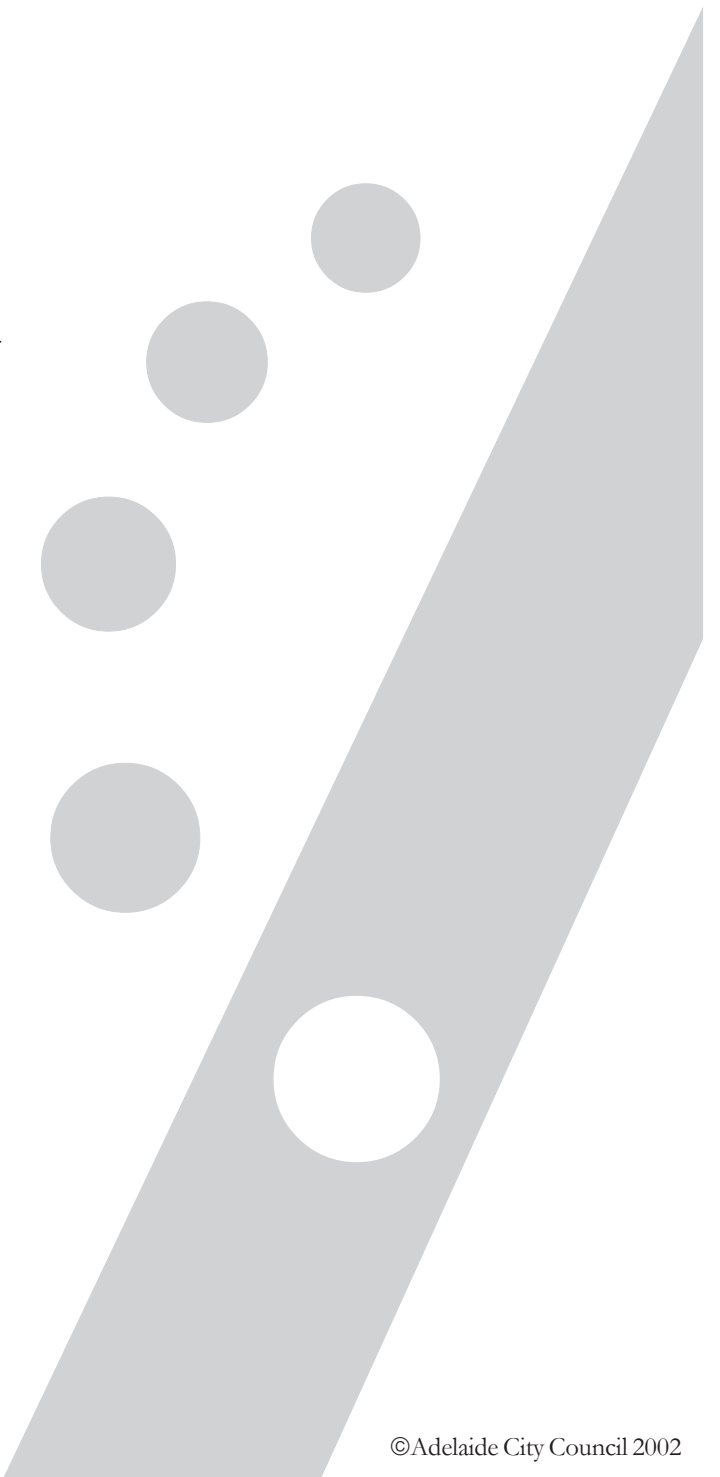
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Access

The City of Adelaide has adopted an access action plan that sets the directions for the use of the road and footpath networks serving Adelaide. The plan provides actions that moves Adelaide City Council towards a public realm environment that can be accessed by all.

The access action plan is an important component of the public realm and includes clearances to street furniture, structures, etc and design principles for the designer that provides for the personal comfort of residents and visitors to the city.

The general objectives for access for all include:

- Promotion of the rights of people with disabilities to participate equitably in the life of the community.
- Freedom from discrimination for all, including people with disabilities.
- Promotion of positive attitudes and behaviours which respects the right to equal access and dignity for people with disabilities.

