

DOCOMOMO / Australia ICOMOS / AIA – Sydney Talk Series

The dark side of building cities: unimagined futures

By Peter Phillips



Why did 1970s office buildings have splayed corners and projecting windows? Why do most old buildings have a civic presence that few modern ones achieve? Why don't modern builders use durable materials?

The answers to such questions are not always straightforward. There are many reasons why cities of the past look very different from those of today, and most of them have nothing to do with architects, planners or builders. This paper looks at some of the background forces (such as the taxation laws) that have shaped our cities past and present. The design and construction implications of these forces are not always recognised, and often have unintended physical consequences for buildings and cities which we attempt to deal with through planning legislation without appreciating the underlying causes. Tackling the problems at the source may be a better way to build heritage of the future.

Peter Phillips is the principal of Orwell & Peter Phillips Architects, a practice that has been active in building conservation since the 1950s. Peter also lectures on conservation and heritage at the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building at the University of Technology, Sydney, and is a former President of Australia ICOMOS.

Members of the public are welcome!

Time & Date: Thursday 5th December 2013, 5.30pm for 6pm start

Cost: Members \$7, non-members \$12 payable at the door. Wine and nibbles will be provided.

Venue: Godden Mackay Logan, 78 George Street, Redfern

RSVP: Miss Jane Vernon janev@gml.com.au or 02 9319 4811. Please note RSVP is essential as places are limited.

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