

URBAN VOICES

Celebrating urban design in Australia

This new book is published by
Urban Design Forum

**URBAN DESIGN
FORUM**

Hard cover, 53 authors, 220 pages, 400 photos.
Printed in Australia

Published June 2013

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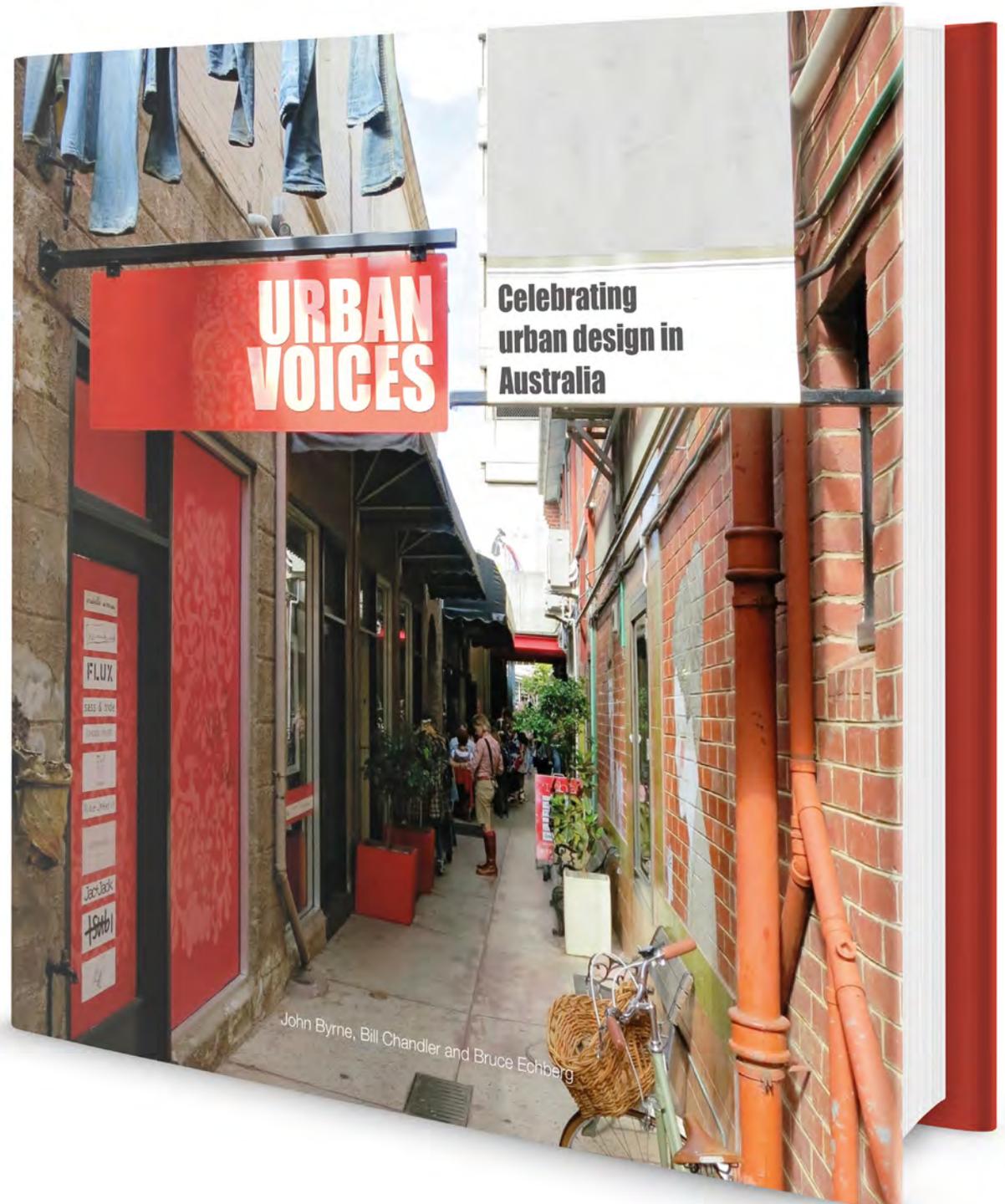
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URBAN VOICES

The idea for this book arose from the publication of the 100th edition of Urban Design Forum, the quarterly publication initiated by a small group of enthusiasts in Melbourne in 1986. The intention is to celebrate that significant marker and urban design progress in Australia since that time.

Urban Voices reflects on urban design in Australia over the past 25 years as we confront the challenges of the next 25 years. It is a compendium of contributions from a wide range of people interested in how our cities and towns function and the quality of life they deliver.

By intent, it is neither a comprehensive record of all that has happened, nor the final word on the subject. It is a snapshot, a 'peg in the ground' of what has been achieved and where the challenges still lie. Our aim has been to encourage a diversity of personal, rather than institutional or corporate, contributions. The ideas, observations and opinions are those of the individual Authors in their own voice, not necessarily those of the organisations that the authors are or have been involved with.

An open invitation to contribute was given through the UDF quarterly and website. With interest by more than 80 potential authors, the Editors selected the included contributions as being representative of key themes and dimensions of the subject.

A brief biography and email contact for each author is included so that readers can follow up issues and continue the dialogue. It is hoped that the publishing of this book will also stimulate others to write, with *Urban Design Forum* continuing to publish short articles.

Urban design in Australia is a work in progress. The intention for this publication is to provide a useful reference book, a resource that can assist future planning and design action in our cities and towns.

The past 25 years have seen radical changes in nearly all spheres of life in Australia, and the world. Think: climate change, population and household structure, immigration movements and urbanisation, as well as media and communications, finance, and governance.

Few people doubt that the challenges facing Australia (and the world) are immense and urgent, although there might be a desire in all of us to ignore the challenges and simply enjoy a happy and prosperous life.

What has energised the Editors (shared by the Authors in their own voices) is the contention and confidence that creative and skilled urban design has made a very important contribution in the past 25 years and, more importantly, will be a key tool in addressing the challenges ahead.

**John Byrne, Bill Chandler
and Bruce Echberg, Editors**
June 2013



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