

Media release



Tuesday, 13 March 2018

Exploring local character with NSW Government Architect and The Prince's Foundation

More than 120 architecture and design experts, as well as local community groups, gathered at the Sydney Museum last night to discuss the importance of local identity in the planning process.

The 'Exploring Local Character' lecture featuring NSW Government Architect Peter Poulet, and Dominic Richards, Director of the Prince's Trust Foundation for Building Community, explored how local character is a key issue for managing growth and change in our cities, towns and regions.

"It is imperative that as Sydney grows, how to maintain and enhance local character becomes a question of critical importance," Mr Poulet said.

"Respecting and enhancing local character does not mean that new development cannot occur. Rather, it requires a design-led approach which builds on the valued characteristics of individual neighbourhoods and places.

"It is essential that local communities are involved in the discussion on the desired future character of their area before decisions are made. People need to be at the centre of any consideration of local character."

Director of The Prince's Foundation, Dominic Richards said consideration must be given to the impact the built environment has on the quality of life those living and working within it.

"We need to consider what micro-local identity is, because local character is not just about a city or a suburb, it can come down to the significance of a certain street," Mr Richards said.

"Great places are built over time. We need to be in a position where we can work with communities to take a long-term approach."

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Images are available at this Dropbox link bit.ly/2p5MNcs

For more information on local character visit the Department's website, here www.planning.nsw.gov.au/localcharacter

About Peter Poulet

Peter Poulet is the 23rd NSW Government Architect. He has over 30 years' experience in Australia and Japan in both private and government architectural offices.

Mr Poulet's projects have received numerous awards including the Horbury Hunt, the Blakett Award and an Australian Institute of Architects' commendation for Public Building.

Mr Poulet is a member of the NSW Architect's Registration Board, Central Sydney Planning Committee, NSW Heritage Council, Trustee of the ANZAC Memorial, Sydney Opera House Conservation Council, Government Architect's Network Australia, UTS Design Architecture & Building Advisory Board and is a UNSW Adjunct Professor.

About Dominic Richards

Dominic Richards is the Director; Co-Founder and Chief Executive of Our Place, Chairman and Co-Founder, Prosper Education; former Vice Chairman and Director of The Prince's Foundation for Building Community.

Mr Richards has been inspired by the sustainability work of HRH The Prince of Wales and has gained a deep understanding of the impact of the built environment on the quality of life of those living and working within it. Dominic has served as Vice Chairman and Director of The Prince's Foundation for Building Community and is a Trustee of the Prince's Trust Australia.

Mr Richards was raised in Australia and England and educated at the University of Cambridge and the Prince of Wales' Institute of Architecture.

Mr Richards is the Co-Founder and Chief Placemaker of Our Place, a dynamic architect developer specialising in creating places that celebrate local identity, mixed uses, sustainable communities and walkable neighbourhoods.