

Sydney Streets Code

2013




Version	Amendment
24 June 2013	Adopted

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“Looking to other cities in the world it is evident that change is happening in a number of cities... Common for all of them is a movement toward a more balanced traffic system, a strong focus at public space and an understanding of how a high quality public realm can invite more people to use the city in a variety of ways.”


(J. Gehl, Public Space – Public Life, 2007)

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Using the Guidelines



PART A



“Sydney is a world class city enjoying a beautiful landscape setting and a wonderful climate offering the best possible conditions for a thriving public life.”

(J. Gehl, Public Space – Public Life, 2007)

CITY RECITAL HALL
ANGEL PLACE

Using the Guidelines

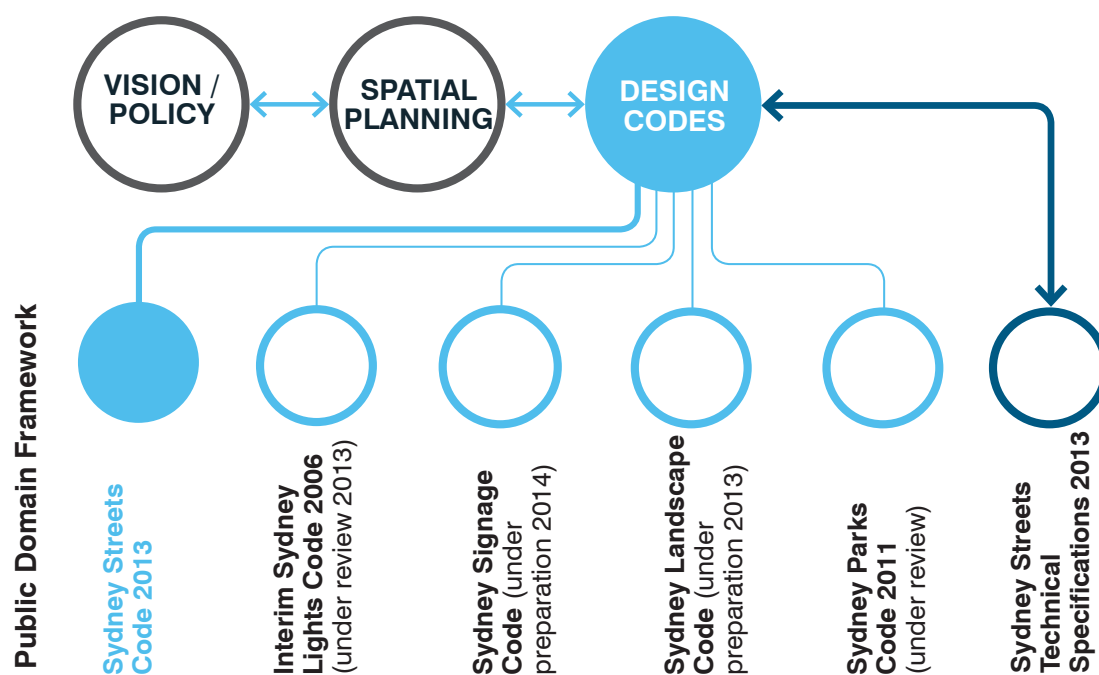
A.1 PURPOSE

Public Domain Codes guide the design of Sydney's public domain. There are five Codes; *Sydney Streets Code*, *Sydney Lights Code*, *Sydney Signage Code*, *Sydney Landscape Code* and *Sydney Parks Code*.

The *Sydney Streets Code* (the Code), sets the guidelines, design coordination and material palettes for public domain works in the Local Government Area. The companion document, *Sydney Streets Code Technical Specifications* provides written specifications and standard drawings for constructing street works in the public domain in accordance with the guidelines set out in this Code.

The City's public domain planning framework includes a number of strategic plans, planning controls, policy codes and technical specifications that together form a holistic vision for the City (refer to figure 1.0). The Code forms part of a family of Design Codes within the City's broader public domain planning framework (refer to figure 1.0). The family of Design Codes provide key design guidelines and principles for all parts of the public domain.

Figure 1.0 City of Sydney Public Domain Framework



For access to other City documents that are part of the planning framework, refer to the City of Sydney website, www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

A.2 WHY UPDATE THIS CODE?

Since the previous review of the Code in 2010, a significant shift in thinking for the role of streets has occurred. This updated Code aligns the City's public domain vision with the principles of sustainability, active transport (pedestrian and cycling), accessibility and public domain quality, established by Sustainable Sydney 2030 and Public Spaces, Public Life Sydney 2007, Gehl Architects.

The Code updates and supersedes earlier public domain policies, including the *Interim Sydney Streets Design Code 2011*, the *Central Sydney Paving Design Policy*, the *Interim Pavement Design and Construction Guidelines*, the *City of Sydney Construction Specifications for Civil Works (Design and Construction)*, and the *Ultimo-Pyrmont Public Domain Technical Manual*, however some elements of these policies may apply in specific areas as advised by City officers.

A.3 SCOPE

The Code applies to all areas within the City of Sydney Local Government Area that are under the City's control. The City of Sydney also encourages the use of the Code in the areas within its boundary that are not under its control in order to achieve a coordinated and consistent palette of materials, to support long term maintenance benefits and recognise the character of Sydney villages.

A.4 USER

The Code should be used by all stakeholders involved with planning, design and approval of public domain works for the City's streets.

A.6 READING THE CODE

The Code must be read in accordance with other documents in the City of Sydney public domain planning framework (refer to figure 1.0), as well as relevant strategic documents including the *Street Tree Master Plan 2011*, *Liveable Green Network Implementation Plan 2012* and the *Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017*. As the Code is a planning and design guide only, all works are subject to council approval and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

This Code relates directly to the companion document, **Sydney Streets Technical Specifications** (to access this manual visit www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au), providing standard construction details and installation requirements for the selected palette of materials and elements.

HOW TO USE THE CODE

STEP 1 Understand the 'New Thinking' on street design by referring to Part B.

STEP 2 Review the City's key design principles in Part B.

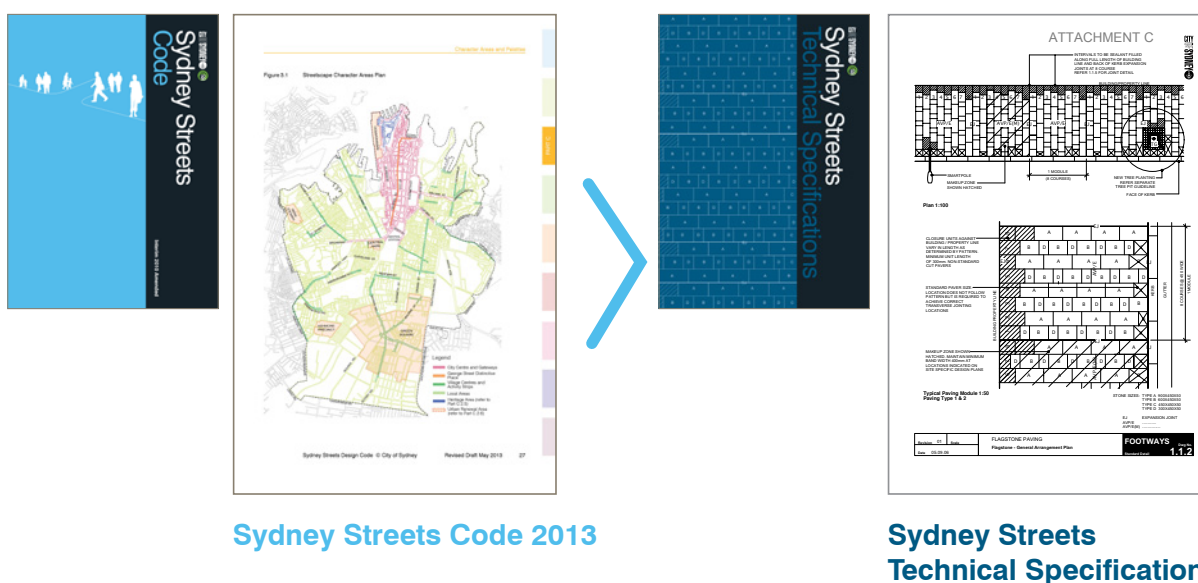
STEP 3 Identify and locate your street Character Area by using the map in Part C.

STEP 4 Use the relevant public domain furniture and materials palette choice listed in Part C to prepare your detailed street designs.

STEP 4 Review Part D for best practice street layout, function and relevant street type definitions.

STEP 5 Use Part E Street Design Coordination to assist with space allocation and guidance for street element design coordination

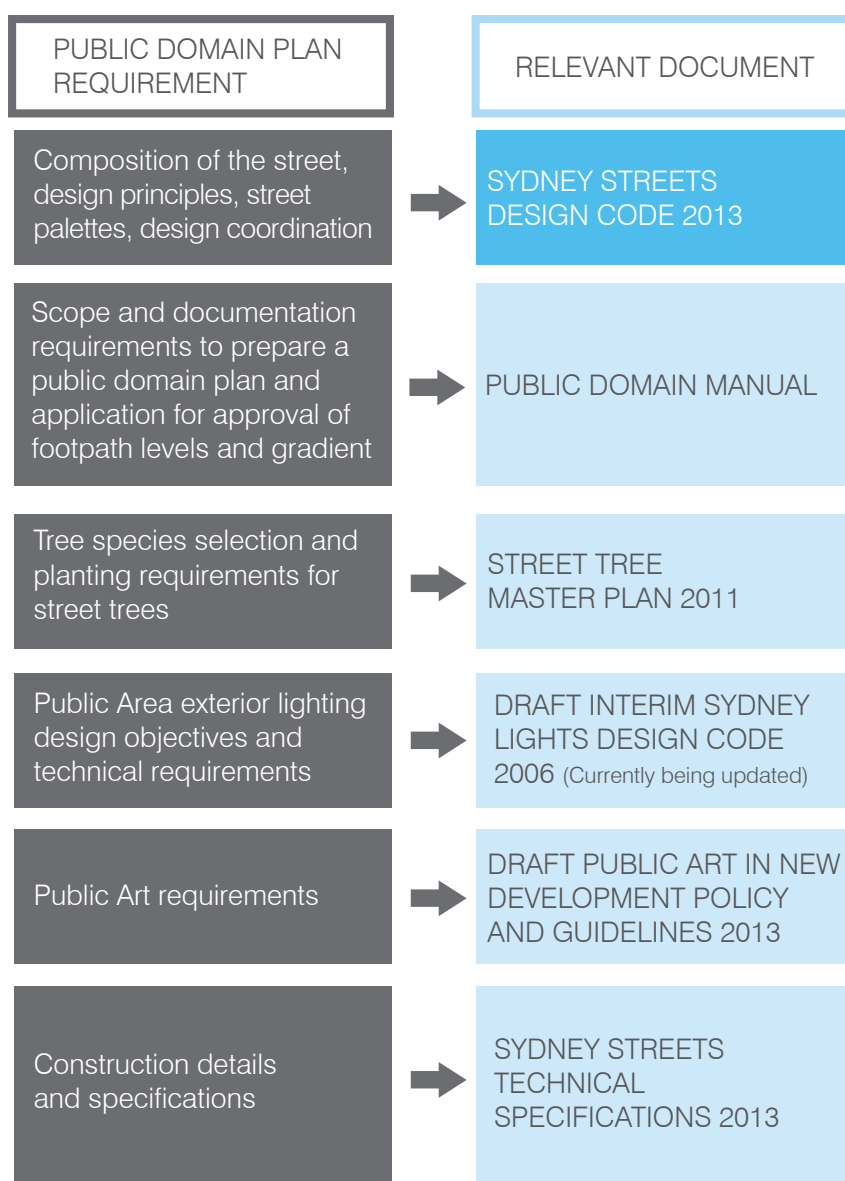
Figure 1.2 Pages from the Code and the companion Sydney Streets Technical Specifications



A.7 DESIGN AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Approval is required to carry out works on land that is owned or managed by the City of Sydney, and land that will be dedicated to the City. When a development application involves an impact upon the surrounding public domain, a condition may be applied to the development consent requiring the submission of a Public Domain Plan.

The Code is one of a number of documents to guide applicants in the preparation of a Public Domain Plan, shown below are the most relevant reference documents. Refer to www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/development for full details of the design and approval process.



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New Thinking on Street Design

PART B



PART B

“Great streets do not require lavish materials or fancy street lights and furniture to make them comfortable, attractive and functional places... the appeal of great streets stems more from ample footpaths and appropriate street trees, and from the presence of building frontages whose windows, doors and awnings are oriented to the street.”

(C. Bohl, 2002)



New Thinking on Street Design

B.1 IMPORTANCE OF STREETS

Streets are the most important element of the public domain and are fundamental to the form and function of the urban environment. Traditionally streets were 'shared spaces' with a diverse set of vehicular and pedestrian uses, however in recent times the focus has predominantly been on facilitating vehicle movements and parking, resulting in a decline in the social and civic activity on streets.

Considering people as important users of the street as a public space has a number of positive outcomes:

- Promotes healthy population;
- Creates safer streets by increasing activity and passive surveillance;
- Builds community by promoting informal social interaction;
- Attractive and pedestrian friendly streets build community; and
- Pride and ownership, and promote economic activity.

In every type of street, the safe and efficient movement of people should be of prime consideration in the design of the street.

This Code promotes a balanced idea of street design that recognises the need to accommodate public life and amenity as well as cater for traditional linking and transport corridor functions.

Streets and Sydney 2030

Sustainable Sydney 2030 sets out key Targets, Big Moves and Strategic Directions relevant to Sydney Streets. In particular, the following targets specifically apply to street design:

- Target 6: 80% of City workers commuting on public transport – 80% of work trips by City residents in non-private vehicles;
- Target 7: 10% of trips made in the city by cycling, 50% of trips made by walking;
- Target 8: Every resident within a 10 minute walk (800m) to a main street;
- Target 9: Every resident within a 3 minute (260m) walk of a continuous green link; and
- Target 10: 45% of people believing most people can be trusted.

Five Big Moves
Number 3: A liveable green network; and
Number 4: Activity hubs as a focus for the city village communities and transport.

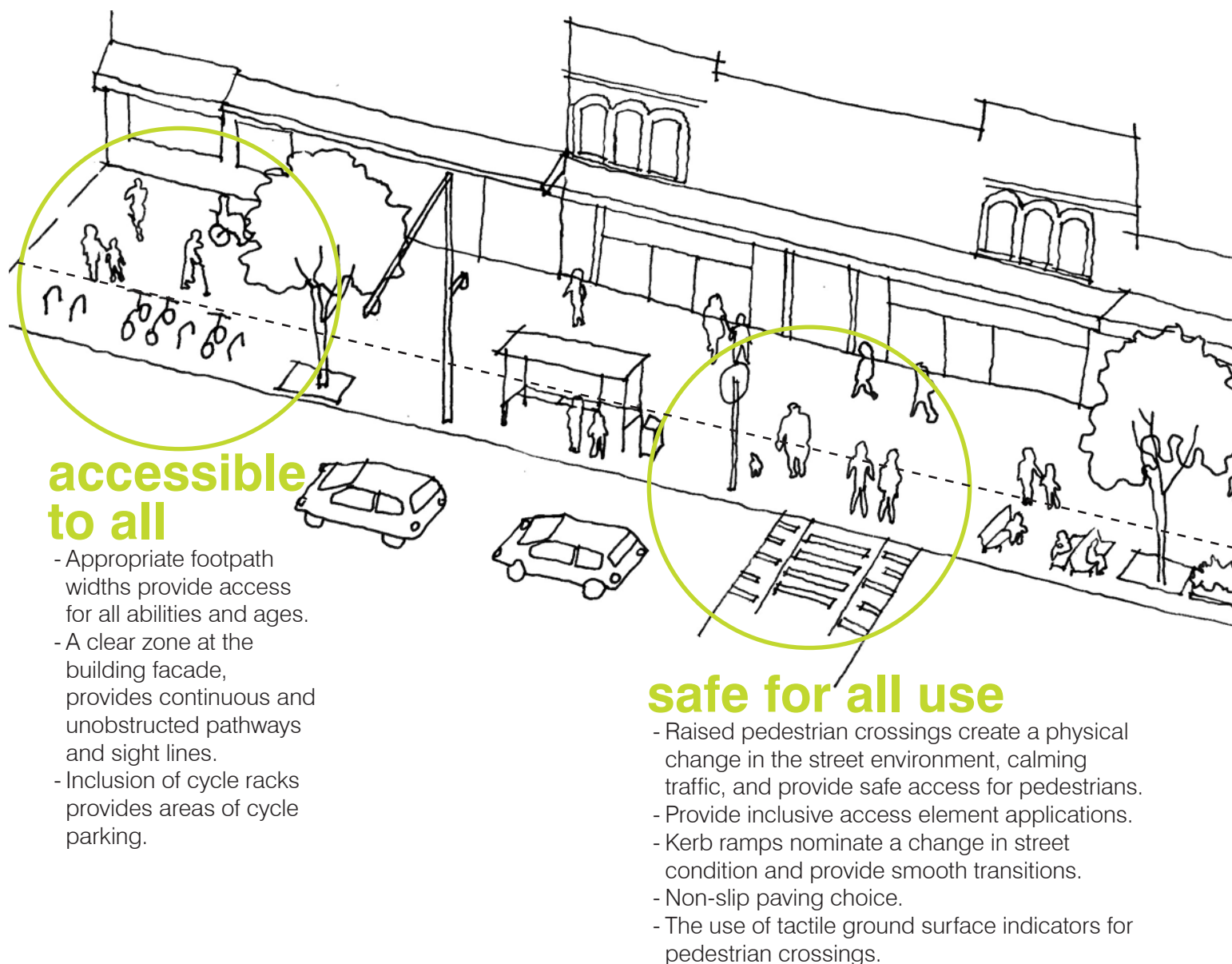
Ten Strategic Directions
Direction 4: A City for Pedestrians and Cyclists.
Direction 5: A Lively, Engaging City Centre.
Direction 9: Sustainable Development Renewal and Design.

B.2 KEY DESIGN PRINCIPLES

The following five key design principles guide the development of Sydney's street layout and function. They support the Sustainable Sydney 2030 objectives to define and improve the City's streets, enhancing their role for pedestrians and public life.

To achieve these principles, the City has nominated Streetscape Character Areas to guide both future development and street design projects, refer to Part C of the Code.

Figure 2.1 A typical streetscape illustrating key principles for Sydney streets.



PRINCIPLE 1: PUBLIC SPACES, PUBLIC LIFE

This principle supports the Sustainable Sydney 2030; Direction 5; A Lively, Engaging City Centre and supporting Public Space: Public Life Sydney 2007 study, Gehl Architects.

Streets are critical to the liveability and sustainability of urban environments and are important places for people to meet and socialise.

The Code promotes the following principles:

- Provide unified streetscapes that are of high quality, are durable, and are timeless in design.
- Create streetscapes that provide a setting and backdrop for vibrant street life and activity.
- Integrate trees and landscape treatments to provide shade, unify streetscapes and provide interest and amenity.



Martin Place, City Centre

all-weather access

- Awnings provide shelter from rain and shading from direct sunlight.

visually attractive

- Street trees, landscaping and greening sets a streets character, adds scale to the street and provides shade on hot days.
- Consistent palettes of paving and material choice reinforce legibility of the street.
- Wayfinding signage assists pedestrian directional movement.

lively street life

- Providing outdoor seating enhances the activity on the street.
- Kerb extensions provide more space for pedestrians and opportunity for outdoor seating, cycle parking and street landscaping.

Pedestrian Through Zone

Public Domain Furniture Zone

PRINCIPLE 2: PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

This principle supports the Sustainable Sydney 2030; Direction 3: Integrated Transport for an Active City, and Direction 9; Sustainable Development Renewal and Design.

Streets occupy a large part of the City's public domain area. This provides significant opportunities to contribute to sustainability outcomes.

The Sydney Streets Design Code promotes the following principles:

- Integrate Water Sensitive Urban design (WSUD) into the streetscape to treat urban stormwater to meet best practice water quality objectives for reuse and/or discharge to receiving waters.
- Creating green corridors with increased tree planting and landscape treatments to reduce the extent of hard surfaces and improve canopy cover, biodiversity, microclimate and the pedestrian environment.
- Selecting materials with low embodied energy, high recycled content, local provenance, high durability, long service life and low maintenance.
- Encouraging and designing for pedestrian, bicycling and transit use to minimise contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and reduce local air pollution.



Bourke Street dedicated cycleway

PRINCIPLE 3: PROMOTE INCLUSIVE DESIGN

This principle supports the Sustainable Sydney 2030; Direction 4; A City for Pedestrians and Cyclists.

The Sydney Streets Design Code promotes the following principles:

- Street design must include a universal design approach to provide inclusive access and use for people of all ages and abilities; and
- Include specific design objectives for inclusive design layout and for location of elements within each Sydney street typology



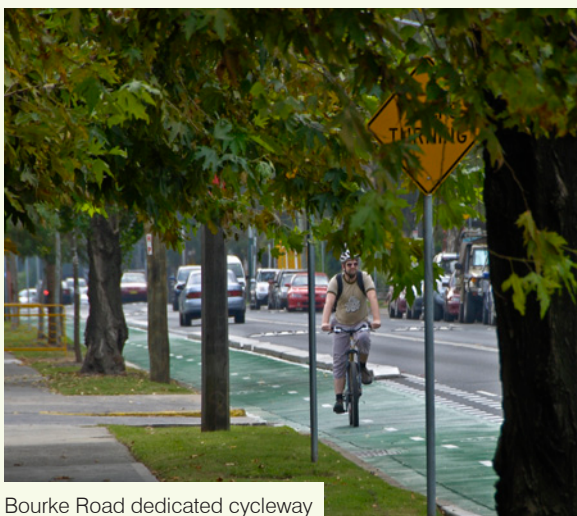
Crown Street raised pedestrian crossing

PRINCIPLE 4: PROMOTE ACTIVE TRANSPORT

This principle supports the Sustainable Sydney 2030; Direction 3; Integrated transport for a Connected City, and Direction 4; A City for Pedestrians and Cyclists.

The Sydney Streets Design Code promotes the following principles:

- Providing a connected and legible pedestrian and bicycle network that facilitates safe, accessible, and convenient connections to desirable destinations; and
- Providing amenities such as seats, bubblers and bike racks to support pedestrian and bicycle use.



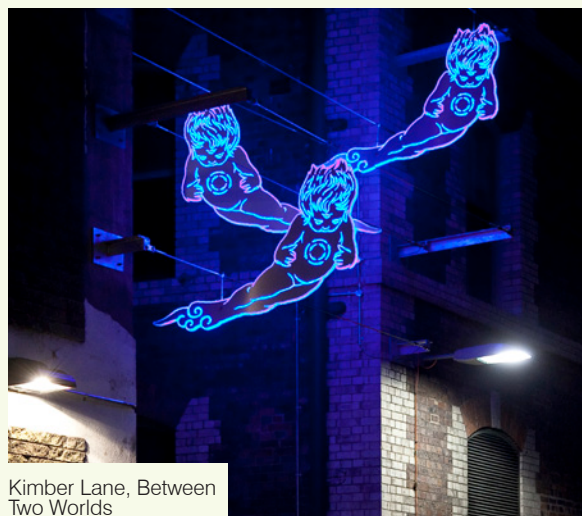
Bourke Road dedicated cycleway

PRINCIPLE 5: RESPECT DISTINCTIVENESS AND 'PLACE'

This principle supports the Sustainable Sydney 2030; Direction 5; A Lively, Engaging City Centre, and Direction 9; Sustainable Development Renewal and Design.

The Sydney Streets Design Code promotes the following principles:

- Promote the 'place' function of streets by clearly defining the role of individual Sydney street types;
- Acknowledge the unique character of the City's villages by allowing design flexibility within the materials palette to express and reinforce the sense of place and local identity. This may be expressed through the selection of unique materials and elements and the introduction of public art; and
- Expressing local distinctiveness and character through retention of Streetscape heritage elements such as stone kerbs and gutters, stone sets and furniture.



Kimber Lane, Between Two Worlds