The objective is to create one of a series of City Gardens, spaces that are colourful and full of planting that is specific to this site. The intent is to draw the proposed Water Square into the space and open up the constrained spaces behind The Paragon.

- Extend the Water Square into the space and create outdoor dining and public seating area, well connected to Loftus Street and Customs House Square
- Replace degraded turf areas with gardens of seasonal planting, with intimate seating areas and meandering paths
- Retain all existing monuments within the gardens, in existing or resited locations (subject to further development and consultation)
Macquarie Place is rich in history and may be the oldest planned town square in Australia. Macquarie Place Precinct is listed on the NSW Heritage Register and Sydney LEP 2012 as an item of environmental heritage. Both Macquarie Place roadway and Macquarie Place park are identified as a place of National significance in the draft Australian Heritage Commission "Colonial Sydney' listing. In spite of its difficult geometry, shaded environment and predominance of memorials, is well used as a break-out space by surrounding office workers.

Issues

- Very shaded space
- Worn and degraded lawn areas
- Outdoor dining barriers and quality of infrastructure impacts on park
- Multitude of artifacts and memorials but difficult to appreciate and interpret
- Few seating options

Planned changes affecting Macquarie Place:

- AMP Quay Quarter redevelopment on opposite side of Loftus Street will provide increased activation, pedestrian movement and usage
- Siting of new east-west connector artwork by Tracey Emin “The Distance of Your Heart”.

The Macquarie Place monuments

A Mens Lavatory, 1807
B Canopy Fountain, 1870
C Salvaged Anchor from HMS ‘Sirius’ , 1907
D Salvaged Cannon from HMS ‘Sirius’ , 1907
E Macquarie Obelisk, 1818
F Queen Elizabeth - Tree Planting 1954
G Duke of Edinburgh - tree planting 1854
H Remembrance Drivea Plaque 1995
I Statue of TS Mort (Pierce Francis Connelly), 1883
J Bronze Memorial Fountain (Gerald Lewers), 1960
K The Distance of Your Heart (Tracey Emin)
Macquarie Place proposals

- Extend Macquarie Square to the surrounding buildings with flush, paved shared surfaces.
- Lighten space by selective removal of trees, thinning of tree canopies and possibly uplighting to trees.
- Removal of shrub planting to open up views through the park and reveal historic artifacts and memorials.
- Remove areas of worn and shaded turf and replace with low level seasonal planting and seating areas.
- Removal of obstructions to pedestrian movement, and consolidation of outdoor dining. Consider introducing Special Precinct controls for Macquarie Place to the City’s revised Outdoor Dining guidelines.

It is recommended that a new Conservation Management Plan be prepared for Macquarie Place to guide these and future works. The report should be prepared by a suitably qualified heritage consultancy team, including a Heritage Landscape consultant, a Monument and Artefact conservator and a Built Heritage consultant. In addition a new Archaeological Assessment should be prepared. Both documents should include both the park and the roadway of Macquarie Place.
Farrer Place & Loftus Street south currently

Farrer Place is a triangular public space bordered by Bent Street, Governor Macquarie Tower and the Education Department building. Farrer Place contains a group of three significant Washington Palms. The park forms an important part of the City’s public open space and is scheduled in the City of Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Sydney City Heritage Study. The palms are significant in terms of their visual, aesthetic and historic values. An Energy Australia substation is located beneath Farrer Place.

Issues

- steep gradient limits useable public space
- limited seating and amenity
- kiosk located in footway

Planned changes affecting Farrer Place:

- Potential work to Farrer Place planters to upgrade the Energy Australia substation underground (by Energy Australia)
- Change of use / redevelopment of the former Education Building & Lands Department
- Potential changes to bus infrastructure, with a new bus stop on Bent Street in Farrer Place being considered.
To enliven and activate Farrer Place to make it more comfortable and inviting and allow free pedestrian movement.

- Relocation and redesign of the kiosks to allow for better pedestrian circulation.
- Create better opportunities for seating and gathering.
- New planting palette to enliven the space and inspired by the poetic descriptions of the pre-settlement landscape character.
- Reinterpret 1970’s paving pattern to enliven space.
- Long term vision to create a shared zone in Loftus Street south (subject to RMS approval), following the completion of Sydney Light Rail works and reevaluation of street’s role in the bus plan. Proposed granite setts or similar, and new tree planting (Livistona palms).
- All elements located to protect the significant urban view line from the Governor Phillip Tower through-site link to the Clocktower on the opposite side of Farrer Place.

Opportunities

- Relocated and redesigned kiosks.
- Seating applied to existing planters.
- Application of pavement graphic.
- New planting palette.
- Flush paving in Loftus Street.
- New planters incorporating edge seating element.
Richard Johnson Square

currently

Richard Johnson Square remains rundown, and is yet to be formalised as a quality public pedestrian space that recognises it’s meaning within the city.

Issues
- Multiple paving types in poor condition
- Steep level change across the site
- Lack of greenery or landscaping

Planned changes affecting the area:
- Redevelopment of 33 Bligh Street (Ausgrid)

In 2009 the proposed redevelopment of 33 Bligh Street presented the opportunity for renewal of the square. The City engaged Aspect Studio to prepare a concept design, which was endorsed by the Design Advisory Panel and was to be delivered as part of a VPA package by the developer. The development did not proceed and 33 Bligh Street was subsequently acquired by Ausgrid for a substation (refer to Part 1.3 Development Activity).
A concept design for Richard Johnson Square was prepared for the City of Sydney in 2009 by Aspect Studios. The Concept Design established the following design principles:

- **Clear Connected Paths**
- **Create a hierarchy of public spaces and clear movement paths**
- **Stair / wall facing and sculptural furniture create opportunities for interpretative artwork**

A streetscape design for the Ausgrid project was prepared by Aspect Studios to align with the future Richard Johnson Square renewal concept. A monetary contribution to the City for the upgrade of the square has been required as a condition of consent by the State Government. The implementation of the concept design for Richard Johnson Square can now be explored as part of the City North Public Domain Plan implementation.

**Key:**

1. Proposed sandstone paving area. The sandstone material links strongly to the surrounding context and colonial history of the site.
2. Relocated Richard Johnson Memorial. The location addresses Hunter and Bligh Streets and defines the space of the 'square'.
3. Communal sandstone seating tables. Slender steel supports and under lighting with red glow.
4. Grove planting of *Livistona australis*. Referencing the original Tank Stream tree species the layout creates a roofed ‘Cathedral’ space. Possible use of water misters and up-lighting of trees.
5. Individual sandstone seating: appropriate to the contemplative mood of the space.
6. Sandstone steps. The steps and platforms reveal historic and artistic elements through vitrines behind the stair facing. Red lighting illuminates the stairs at night.
7. Trench drains set into stone paving.
8. New stone paving to street.
10. Proposed Development: includes pedestrian access from O’Connell Street.
11. Emil Soderstone Building.

**Richard Johnson Square proposals**

Opportunities

Farrer Place concept design plan
(HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)
To extend the network of pedestrian-priority space in Central Sydney, the opportunity to extend Pitt Street Mall to the north has been raised. This is the subject of ongoing discussions between the City, landowners and developers to explore potential access arrangements, with a view to eliminating the need for cars to use the block of Pitt Street between King Street and Martin Place.

**Opportunities**

- to connect Martin Place to the retail core of the city
- to expand the city’s existing pedestrian network
- to establish new public space for active uses such as outdoor dining

This opportunity is flagged for ongoing development and additional stakeholder consultation. Impacts on traffic, transport and cycling within the surrounding area need further study prior to the development of a concept design.
Due to the role of Gresham Street in the Bus Plan, through access needs to be retained and the long term vision outlined in the City’s 2007 design (POD Landscape Architects) is not currently achievable.

While Gresham Street continues to provide a major bus dropoff and pickup location, the following minor upgrade works are recommended:

- New tree planting (Livistona palms)
- Maximise footway widenings (NB some works have already been carried out by Transport for NSW)

It is recommended that opportunities for Gresham Street are reevaluated following the completion of Sydney Light Rail, and once proposals for the former Lands and Education buildings are known.
6.2 Precinct-wide overlay projects

In addition to the place-specific projects, this plan includes recommendations for wider overlays to the area to improve the quality of the public domain, signage, wayfinding, events and experiences. Many of these overlays are already under way within the City. It is intended that the outcomes of these urban design overlays be integrated into the individual place-specific projects as they progress.

- New outdoor dining guidelines, specific precinct guidelines as required (e.g. Circular Quay and Martin Place);
- City-wide events strategy and guidelines;
- City granite paving and Smartpole rollout;
- CBD laneway upgrades;
- New public domain furniture rollout;
- Temporary seating program;
- Wayfinding signage; and
- Creative lighting masterplan (Martin Place).
Appendix B

City North streetscapes and spaces study