Urban Dystopias: Lofty Ideals to Shocking Realities
Jane Burry (Editor), Marcus White (Editor)

DESCRIPTION

Guest-edited by Marcus White and Jane Burry

Cities are facing several coinciding global crises. There is the dominant existential narrative of the impact of and adaptation to climate change, itself powered by cities. In a time of unprecedented urbanisation and growth, resilient architecture and urbanism is needed in response. New modes of transport, renewed anxiety about robots taking jobs, AI, and the humbling recent experience of a global pandemic are all challenging norms and expectations. All of these are forces of social division, all are changing life experience, evoking strong-arm politics, and giving a sense of teetering between radically different possible futures. This is a story about reclaiming the urban design narrative and being alert to the potential impacts of socio-technical decision-making and design in cities. It is a story for its time. The issue explores the dichotomy of idealised visions for the design of urban settlements and the potentially shocking realities that may emerge from the same impulses and intentions. It examines the slippery territory between utopias and some of the ensuing dystopias that may unfold.

Contributors:


Featured architects:

Carlo Ratti Associati, ecoLogicStudio, Harrison and White, and Turenscape.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Professor Jane Burry is the Dean of the School of Design in the Faculty of Health Arts and Design at Swinburne University of Technology, formerly Professor and Director of the Spatial Information Architecture Laboratory (SIAL) at RMIT University. Professor Burry is lead author of The New Mathematics of Architecture, T&H, 2010, editor of Designing the Dynamic, Melbourne Books, 2013 and coauthor of Prototyping for Architects, T&H 2016 and has over a hundred other publications. In 2020, she co-chaired and coedited Fabricate 2020, Making Resilient Architecture. She has practiced, taught, supervised and researched internationally, including many architectural projects and involvement as a project architect in the technical office at Antoni Gaudí’s Sagrada Familia church in Barcelona.

Professor Marcus White is an award-winning architect and urban designer, Professor of Urban Design at Swinburne University of Technology, the director of the Spatio-Temporal Research Urban Design and Architecture Laboratory in the Centre for Design Innovation, and is a director of Harrison and White. His research focuses on designing for liveability using data and emerging technologies. Professor White is the creator of pedestrian network analysis tool www.pedestriancatch.com web platform. He recently led the City of Melbourne 3D Sunlight Study of Public Open Space study with interactive solar map, www.citiesoflight.xyz).

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