

Bridgewater Polytechnic

The intent behind the Bridgewater Polytechnic Landscape project in Tasmania is to establish a 'whole site environment' that is environmentally responsive but also an inviting space for the staff, students and visitors.

Architects
Designhaus
and Tasmanian
Polytechnic

The new facilities were placed at a discrete distance from the High School buildings but close enough for the ease of movement of staff and students between the school, the workshops and the administration areas.



Pavement and bollards



Entry forecourt seating

THE URBAN LANDSCAPE WORKS OF URBAN INITIATIVES

Melbourne City Square

This public space was designed in-house by the City of Melbourne. Urban Initiatives was engaged to support council with design development and contract documentation services.

City of
Melbourne

The landscape component of the City Square redevelopment had a value of approximately \$6 million. The final result is a carefully detailed, well-resolved and pleasant space that has become a much loved part of the city of Melbourne.



Relaxing in City Square



Melbourne City Square during the working week



URBAN LANDSCAPE



Urban Initiatives Pty. Ltd. is one of Victoria's most established and respected specialist landscape architecture and urban design practices. We are based in central Melbourne and service clients throughout Victoria and Tasmania. We work for a wide range of private and government clients on a mix of built projects and policy and planning studies.

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University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay Central Mall



University of Tasmania

The brief for the University's central mall called on Urban Initiatives to realise the potential of the 'University Heartland'. The university planned a student amenity 'core' that was to be complementary to adjacent functions and facilities. It also had to be safe and 'barrier-free'; a flexible space able to cater for large events and a variety of activities.

Additionally the project aimed to create a space that was inviting and comfortable while demonstrating a high degree of design resolution and finish which would reflect the UTAS 'Edge' agenda, the UTAS 'Brand' and reputation.

The distinction of the project lay in 'amplifying' the unique attributes of the Sandy Bay Campus site, its heritage and setting. The designers were challenged to develop an understanding of the spatial qualities that typically characterise successful, vibrant 'collegiate' spaces.



Urban Landscape

Well designed and finely detailed urban landscape projects form an important part of our core practice at Urban Initiatives.

The public space of the street, the square, the civic precinct, the campus and the retail strip are the vital social spaces of the city. In our view public space should be fit for purpose while still flexible; the landscape robust and attractive, practical yet welcoming.

Over many years our design team have produced a sequence of public spaces that are rich in form and material detail. These spaces demonstrate the attention paid by our office to the myriad questions posed by busy urban settings. Questions of circulation and access, light, shade and shelter, built form and historical context, social program and economic development.

We dig into the qualities or character of a site, and analyse both the local conditions and the anticipated program for the space.

Our landscape architects and urban designers have the required experience in all stages of the development of urban projects. From the critical early phase of engagement with client and community through the design stages and the final phase of construction supervision we provide a professional design service tailored to the exacting demands of urban projects.

We believe that our responses are imaginative in form but functionally practical. The ground of the urban landscape should provide safe and stimulating connections between the buildings of the city but also great meeting, gathering and trading spaces, both places of repose and of those of great activity.

At Urban Initiatives we see the role of the landscape architect as imagining and creating these durable urban places.

Our specialist landscape architecture and urban design team have developed the broad skill set required for successful project design and management. These skills include community consultation, the use of sophisticated mapping techniques, 3D modelling, policy writing and desktop publishing, as well as the conventional design and detailing methodologies of architectural practice.



Planting and pavement



Custom designed furniture



Seating elements and streetscape



Gateway design at Buckingham Avenue

St Kilda Town Hall Forecourt

City of Port Phillip

In 2008, with the addition of a new office wing on Carlisle Street, the City of Port Phillip consolidated their administration at the St Kilda Town Hall. The forecourt to the new building was conceived as a new public space that would serve the council staff on site as well as the general public. A clean, contemporary design built upon certain retained elements from the earlier 1992 plaza. The design also responded to the functional requirements and architectural language of both the new office wing and the adjacent Victorian building.

Urban Initiatives documented the project, which was designed by Council landscape architect Andrew Brophy. He, with designer Andrew Gibbs, developed the custom designed furniture for the Forecourt.

Buckingham Avenue Springvale

City of Greater Dandenong

The Buckingham Avenue project began with a public art and landscape design brief that aimed to dramatically improve the northern section of this Springvale street. Urban Initiatives worked with artist Patti Wong, the City of Greater Dandenong Council and the local community to generate a plan for this section of the street and a wider area beyond the immediate study precinct.

The 2002 Buckingham Avenue concept design achieved 'Pride of Place' funding for construction during the 2004/5 financial year.

Stage 1 was documented and built during 2004/5 and had a contract value of approximately \$600,000. Between 2005 and 2007 Stages 2 and 3 were also designed and built.

Further master-planning has considered the street design for the entire shopping centre and other future signature gateways in the precinct.