



## Renowned Urban Designer Chris Melsom joins Urbis

Director appointment of Chris Melsom, an esteemed architect, planner and urban designer with 30+ years of experience concerning strategic urban change. Chris brings significant local and international experience to the Urbis National Design team. As an urban design specialist, Chris has worked in senior roles at HASSEL, Tract (WA) and East Perth and Subiaco Redevelopment Authorities, unlocking the potential of cities, places, and sites across Australia and South East Asia. He was recently the Director of the Australian Urban Design Research Centre, where he also taught in the Master of Urban Planning program at The University of Western Australia before joining Urbis. With 30+ years of experience in strategic urban design, Chris brings to Urbis broad expertise in the leadership and management of multi-disciplinary design teams for large scale, complex projects. His arrival complements the National Design team's already diverse range of skills and will cement Urbis as an industry leader in the arena of city shaping and place building. Ray Haeren, Regional Director Perth said, "We are pleased to welcome renowned Urban Designer Chris Melsom to Urbis. His skills and experience will be a fantastic complement to the diverse and talented team locally, nationally and internationally. "Chris is more than a designer, he brings a strategic perspective and insight... with a grounded personality to boot," said Ray. James Tuma, Group Director National Design added, "We are delighted to confirm the appointment of Chris Melsom to the growing international team of designers at Urbis. Chris brings a wealth of local market knowledge and a design pedigree that cements our position as the strongest urban design and strategy advisors in the West Australian market." Carl Thompson, Director National Design said: "It's an exciting time for Urbis in Perth. Chris has a strong urban design presence in Western Australia and South East Asia and brings both an international perspective and a deep appreciation for the local context to the table." "Chris is a city-shaping expert of the highest calibre and we look forward to his design leadership as we continue to deliver great outcomes for our clients," said Carl. On his appointment, Chris Melsom said, "It's no accident that Urbis is becoming one of the leading thinkers in the urban design space, locally and abroad, combining economics, planning and a passion for creating places that really work." "I'm looking forward to joining the bright minds of Urbis and contributing to the important goal of shaping cities and communities for a better future." Reflecting on his career, Chris added: "The best solutions aren't always the ones we thought we'd find. Sometimes, it's having a good process of exploration, rigorous testing and engaging with real people that opens up all sorts of possibilities for creating more liveable and resilient outcomes." "I think it's fantastic that Urbis sets its sights on city-scale thinking, so that projects not only work independently to exceed our clients' needs and aspirations, but work together to create something that enriches its context socially, culturally, economically and environmentally as well," said Chris. "The Urbis Design team is well placed to bring together strategic planning, urban economics and design thinking for new communities, whether developing a complex urban renewal strategy, preparing a site development master plan or building an integrated landscape and built form solution." "Having worked on large scale urban renewal and development projects internationally for over 30 years, I look forward to making the most of that background with the Urbis team in Perth," said Chris.

### Contacts

Rebecca Parry  
02 8014 5033  
mailto: r.parry@decpr.com.au  
Duyen Nguyen  
0280145033  
mailto: