

■ 017 The Sustainable Sydney Section

Project Name: The Sydney Section: Local Upgrade with Global Benefits

Location: Sydney, Australia

Client: N/A

Type: Urban Design Initiative

Size: N/A

Status: Completed

Work Scope: Short Film - <https://vimeo.com/59687544>

Due to climate change, we are now experiencing more extreme weather, such as heavy rain, storms and droughts. We need to embrace the environmental changes and work with them in a positive way in order to turn what seems to work against us into something that we can benefit from. Furthermore, we need to start a new positive discourse if we want to make a change towards a more sustainable future. The traditional Australian street section has a lot of commendable qualities, such as the open ground floor and the overhang which gives protection from the sun. But how can we upgrade this section in order for us to benefit from global climate change and extreme weather conditions?

The existing building structure with the overhang gives us an opportunity to make green roofs in order to collect rainwater for reuse in the household. This will upgrade the living situation and the value of the property, and at the same time adding to the life in the streets.

To avoid storm water runoff we need to make our cities more permeable and green. So by creating a green dividing strip for slow filtration we avoid some of the pollution from storm water runoff and add more nature value to our streets. Because space is scarce we need to use the term "green infrastructure" and consider it as being just as important in our cities as roads, sewage, electricity and water.

So by looking at the climate changes as a positive and turning the challenges into possibilities, we can make a few minor changes to the existing built environment to benefit both environmentally, health wise and aesthetically. We call this "a local upgrade with global benefits"!



By opening the ground floors of the existing shops, it breathes new life into our city and places people on the streets.

Ann, 44 - Citizen in Sydney, AU