

Stage 2 Research Project B – 2015

School Assessment Cover Sheet for

➤ Assessment Type 2: Research Outcome

SACE Registration Number:

Research Question: "To what extent does the architectural redevelopment of the laneways in Adelaide's Mid-West District contribute to making a more vibrant city"?

Synthesis
S1
S2
S3

ARCHITECTURE SA

SHOWCASING THE BEST ARCHITECTURE OF OUR STATE

ISSUE 01—\$9.95

LIVELY LANE WAYS

Making for a
more vibrant
Adelaide

Story & Photos by



Clever Little Tailor

Take a look inside *Eat Drink Design Awards* 2014 Best Bar Design winner that's taking our city by storm

Proof Bar

Unassuming and tucked away, this cosy little bar is one of a kind packed full of surprises

The Gallery

The three level restaurant including a contemporary art gallery and a hip new rooftop bar setting the standards high

Is architecture key to making a more vibrant city?

Contents

ANSTER ST.

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- 11-14 *The Gallery Case Study*
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- 19-20 *Special Thanks*

A Vibrant City

We watch as the architectural redevelopments of our city's laneways reveal a new side to Adelaide's food and drink culture

Story

Gone are the days of Adelaide's 'slow' and 'sleepy' reputation¹ as the city undergoes mass revitalisation to establish "one of the world's great cities where more people choose to live, work, invest and spend time."² City vibrancy can be considered a significant part of Adelaide's title of one of the most liveable cities in the world.³ Outlining a vision for 'significant growth' and 'development in the city', The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide aims for livelier small streets and laneways filled with people of all ages, "enjoying public art, live music and an exciting choice of dining venues as well as experiences."⁴ So just how much does the architectural redevelopment of the laneways in Adelaide's Mid-West District contribute to making a more vibrant city?

What does it mean to be a vibrant city?

For many, 'vibrancy' in any context means "full of energy and life."⁵ When speaking of our city this asks the question; what exactly is the source and creation of 'energy' and 'life' within Adelaide? Damian Madigan, Architecture Lecturer at Uni SA, mentions that variety of choice is vital to providing a "range of experiences and offerings for people of all ages" within the city.⁶ Whilst planned activities are essential to this 'energy'⁷ and attracting people into the city, they leave opportunity for incidental activities to be stumbled across he states.⁸ "A mix is what the city needs."⁹

To encourage this idea of variety in our city, Andrew Wallace, Immediate Past President of The Adelaide West End Association, suggests "providing an economic climate in which



Photo: The Gallery on Waymouth entrance down Anster Street laneway

people can actually operate businesses"¹⁰ and allowing those with innovative ideas, an opportunity to put them in motion and "get their stuff off the ground", Sarah Maddock, Place Facilitator at the Adelaide City Council explains.¹¹ This is made possible with the introduction of programs such as the not-for profit organisation Renew Adelaide, which cultivates creative enterprise in unoccupied spaces.¹² Their 30 day, rent-free, rolling lease model allows them to connect emerging creative based initiatives with property owners to activate their buildings, giving them the opportunity to trial their business and in the process, socially and economically revitalise urban areas.¹³ Only then can we have a diverse city with new choices constantly available in both the retail and dining sectors.

We need to make our city areas 'sticky'.¹⁴ And no I'm not talking about the stickiness of the gourmet cheese toasties at Proof Bar, but the stickiness where people are inclined to stay within the city longer whether they are working, studying, living or visiting there. Whilst liveability and work are important factors for drawing and keeping people in the city,¹⁵ extending retail opening hours,¹⁶ along with the creation of small venues, is one way to have people 'stick' in the city after-hours. But for starters, I think we could all agree you have to be pretty game to go for a walk after hours down some city streets (namely Hindley) to dine. The Adelaide After Dark Forum, held in June of 2013, saw more than 80 young people discuss ideas for a safer Adelaide nightlife.¹⁷ Observational studies found smaller venues safer and more attractive, which made people feel safer about the street in total.¹⁸ So it's safe to say that streets or laneways filled with

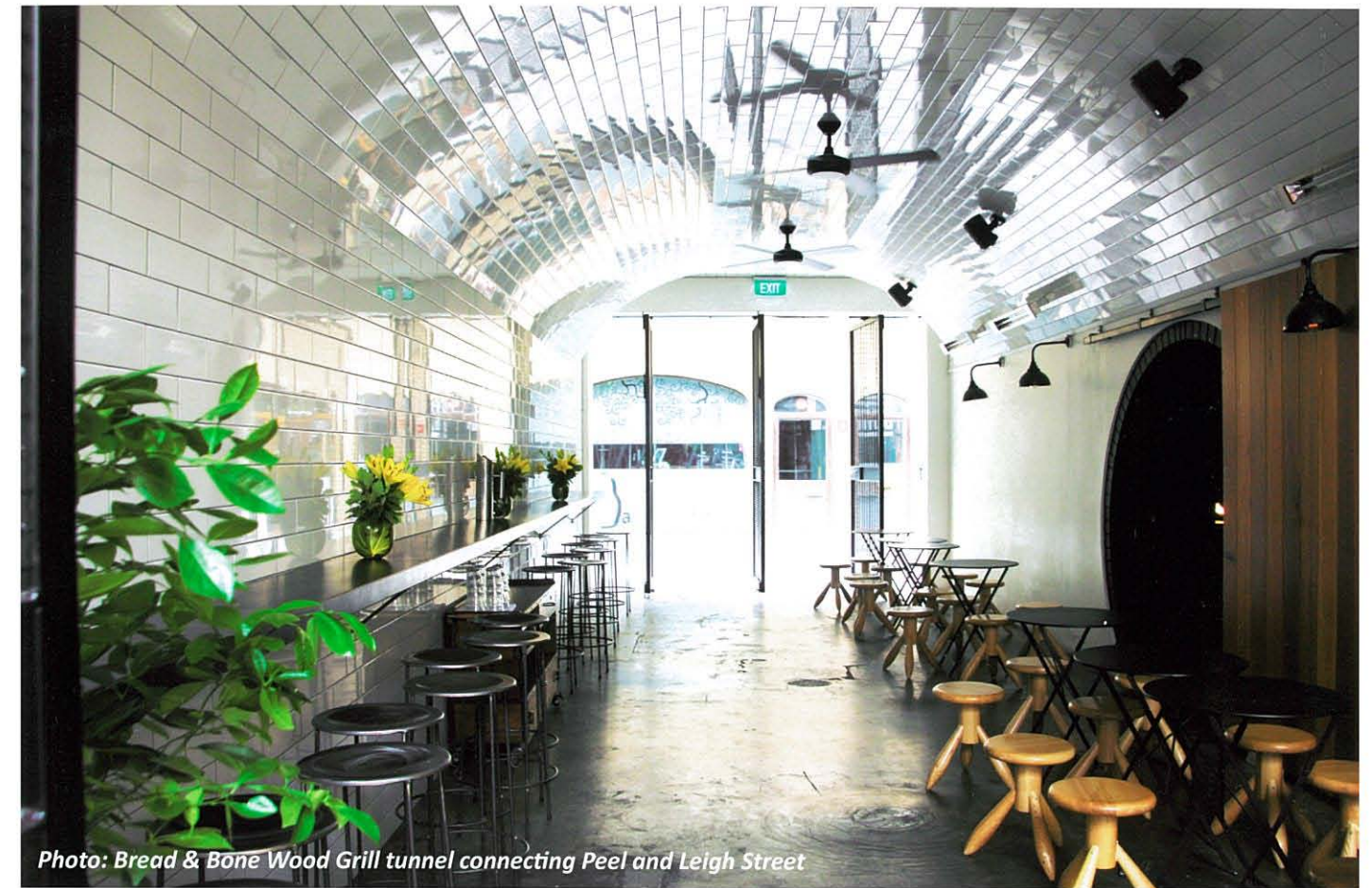


Photo: Bread & Bone Wood Grill tunnel connecting Peel and Leigh Street

people and small venues are the way to go when it comes to creating a sense of passive surveillance that makes visitors feel safe whilst enjoying our city's nightlife.

So what are these laneways like?

During the day they may just appear as a simple thoroughfare, but by night, they come alive as a playground for adults of all ages. Small venues fill the bustling laneways of Adelaide and are perhaps the only 'architectural redevelopments', although they are only one small part of the wider Vibrant City initiative.¹⁹ Whilst chatting to Andrew he chuckled, "It's really funny because you'll see politicians, and you'll see the Premier, and you'll see the Deputy Premier, John Rau, in and around any of those on any particular Friday night."²⁰

The establishment of these small venues has given businesses the opportunity "to diversify and expand such as art galleries, cafes and restaurants" according to Renewal SA's Vibrant City team, as the city's laneways have been activated in "innovative and creative ways."²¹ These architectural expansions are great for the younger ages or those whom are perhaps too hung-over to hit up Clever Little Tailor for the second night in a row, providing people with "variety of choice."²² Passionately he continued, "I think it isn't just about bars, it's not just about cappuccinos, it's about retail, it's about people opening gallery's... you need variety or it just becomes a drinking monoculture... you really want that mixed juice and you want people living there too as part of the mix... raising families in the city, growing old in the city, that's all part of the full spectrum of what a vibrant city is like."²³

Activation of these laneways and small streets through some architectural redevelopment has meant "small scale commerce" and "social cohesion" can be maximised.²⁴ The linking of Adelaide Oval to the Adelaide Railway Station has seen a number of newly activated streets from North Terrace up to the Central Market²⁵ due to foot traffic passing through daily. Streets such as Bank, Peel and Leigh in this 'link' have seen an increase in popularity, being places "where people can meet, feel safe and have a range of different experiences."²⁶ Perhaps the 15,000 pedestrians walking through Leigh Street each day is proof of that?²⁷

How has architecture been used to redevelop the laneways?

Creating a mood and an atmosphere that people want to be a part of through architecture and design is crucial in "giving a venue that almost indescribable quality that you look for that makes you want to be in it."²⁸ It can range from the material the walls have been constructed from to the way the seating has been formed.²⁹ "It's almost a stage set because everything is very choreographed."³⁰ One regular Adelaide diner said, "When I go out I don't want it to feel like my lounge room at home, I want to be going somewhere and spending money because it's not home" and design is perhaps the only thing that can deliver that.³¹

Not only does high quality and excellent design economically activate the city, but it also adds visual impact to the public realm.³² How these buildings interact with the public is directly linked to how they and the street performs, along with how the space is experienced.³³ "The layout and interior spaces are completely critical for the success and appearance of the street", Andrew states.³⁴ People want to have a

Photo: Peel Street alive and vibrant at night



preview of what's going on inside a venue when walking past.³⁵

One thing is obvious – any visitor to the area will see that the bars in the Mid-West laneways tend to be “intimate in nature”³⁶ and people often feel a sense of ownership as they are immersed in the design. For many it reflects the comfort of their own home.³⁷ “It’s all about quality, not quantity” Branko Jaric, Graduate Architect and *Small Bars, Big City* tour guide, makes clear.³⁸ Mystery is a big part of the attraction along with feeling a sense of ownership upon discovering these small venues.³⁹ “I enjoy discovering new venues and places to eat... Adelaide certainly is thriving on variety at the moment and our city’s ‘renaissance’ is generating it’s own vibe and individuality.”⁴⁰ “The idea of surprise is really important” Andrew insists, “...you can read Adelaide as a very obvious city, a very rectangular grid... every main road leads to nothing.”⁴¹ These laneways contradict this.

Whilst chatting to Andrew, I asked the obvious question; do repurposed or architecturally designed venues really attract more people and make laneways more vibrant? His answer was “Yes... the [bars] that are popular, I think are the better designed ones and I think this is because it speaks to more discerning clientele.”⁴² If you take a walk down Hindley Street, Andrew explains “you see some dirty closed down nightclubs... you can’t see inside, you don’t know who’s in there... but if you look into Clever Little Tailor you can see who’s in there, you can see the guys who own the business and they are working behind the bar.”⁴³ Once upon a time, Peel was shabby, but its move to a “better looking street” was entirely due to the interior spaces of small venues.⁴⁴ Take Rundle Street East and Hindley Street for example. Andrew describes Rundle Street as having “really well presented shop interiors, really transparent shop fronts, really engaging with the merchandise, really well merchandised windows.”⁴⁵ Notorious Hindley Street on the other hand suffers “because you don’t have those great interior spaces, you have closed down shop fronts.”⁴⁶ Andrew emphasises “getting active street edge, active frontages and interiors bleeding out into the street” makes the street safer and more appealing.⁴⁷ So could it be said that repurposing buildings is the way to go? “Absolutely!” Andrew exclaims, “repurposing buildings is a great thing to do for all cities.”⁴⁸

Architecture vs Governance – Which is the driving force?

But whilst the architecture is the star of the show in these laneways, digging deeper, governance seemed to be the bedrock. The city is a perfect example of how government can “stimulate growth in any sector it chooses.”⁴⁹ The Small Bar Licensing implemented on the 26th April 2013,⁵⁰ was the turning point in the push for our city’s vibrancy and demand for more choice.⁵¹ Now 2 years on, anyone can see the difference, with more than 30 new bars opening around the city’s CBD.⁵² Andrew saw that this change was less about architecture and more about government, “It’s about governance primarily and how you permit people to operate businesses.”⁵³ Others, including Branko, suggest “good governance is always forgotten as it’s not evident when drinking a fine cocktail and enjoying the space you are consuming it in.”⁵⁴

One final perspective is the impact of people as a driving force. Is it the people who push for change that leads to advancements such as the Small Venue Licence? If the community did not demand diversity it’s fair to say that none of this vibrant city movement and revitalised laneways would be happening. “It’s got to be the community who are the drivers” insists Sarah,⁵⁵ which in turn leads to investment in new buildings and governance stepping in. Henry Holland from Clever Little Tailor agreed, saying city vibrancy is “driven by individuals who are tired of the same old offerings and who truly care about their environment and community.”⁵⁶

As the only Australian city to make New York Time’s list of 52 Places to Go in 2015, and with a number of our bars, restaurants, and cafes specifically mentioned,⁵⁷ Adelaide certainly is breaking out of its old ‘boring’ mould. As a vibrant city, variety is key, along with an economic climate that allows businesses to get established with the support of programs such as Renew Adelaide. “Stickiness” is essential, and with this comes the responsibility of being a safe city for all. Walk down these laneways at night and watch as they come to life. The laneways linking our city are growing in diversity, meaning there’s something for everyone, whether it’s a bar, café, art gallery or temporary event. Not only has architecture revitalised these laneways, but it has created a mood for each individual venue, adding to the entire Mid-West district’s success. Architecture has brought active street frontages, intimacy, and mystery to these laneways. But architecture and governance are intertwined in a collaborative relationship and it’s clear that without targeted governance, none of these vibrant city developments would happen. Nevertheless, it can’t be denied that architecture brings a distinctive flavour to our city. Governance, in my opinion, is slightly less exciting but I’ve found that it’s vitally important. Regardless, I think you’re doing well Adelaide. Watch out Melbourne, you’ve got some competition.

Word Count: 1,955

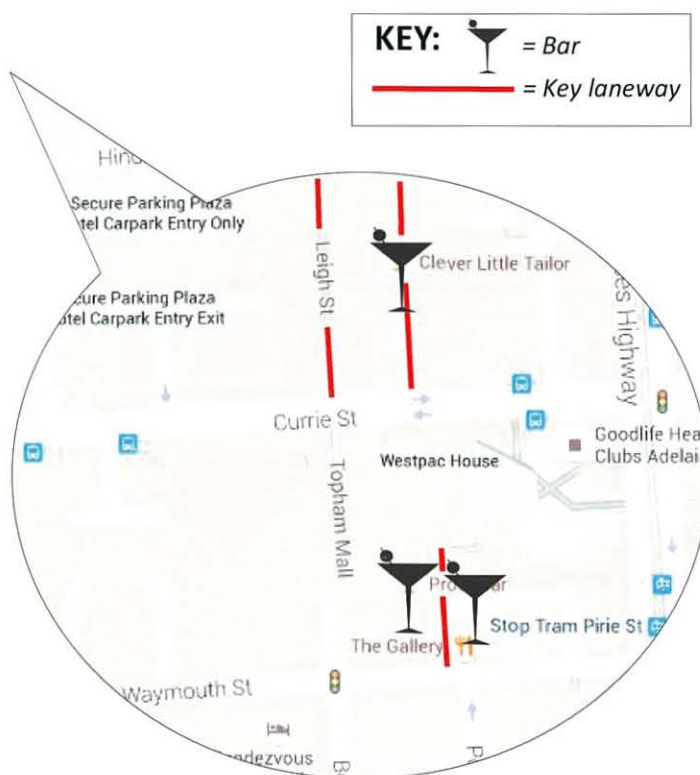


Photo: Anster Street Laneway includes the Gallery and Proof Bar

CASE STUDY N°

1 *Clever Little* TAILOR

19 Peel Street

• ADELAIDE, SA •



01 The booths on the upper level give privacy, yet are still openly immersed in the venues intimate atmosphere

02



03



04



“A welcoming and non-exclusive vibe... all areas of the bar offer a level of privacy but are all connected.”

- Henry Holland, Bartender

02 Key lighting choices, extensive merchandising and a sleek bar top all add to Clever Little Tailor’s warm atmosphere

03 High quality exterior materials and street furniture add to this perfect example of an engaging street presence

04 Windows opening onto the street allow for an active shop front in which patrons activity from the front of the venue can bleed out into the street

POLITES

CASE STUDY N°

2

The Gallery
ON WAYMOUTH

30 Waymouth Street

• ADELAIDE, SA •

01 The spacious rooftop bar caters for all, whether a casual Friday night drink with the guys or a planned Sunday lunch with the girls

02



03



04



“Being a rooftop bar adds a heightened want to attend a place such as the Gallery...”

- Elliot Bloem, Bartender

02 Natural lighting and a minimalistic layout and furniture gives the second floor gallery and multipurpose events room a touch of sophistication

03 A daring exterior with a highly engaging street presence such as the dark exterior paint and clear signage makes The Gallery hard to miss

04 An edgy and open bar design located on the third floor rooftop

CASE STUDY N°

3

Proof **BAR**

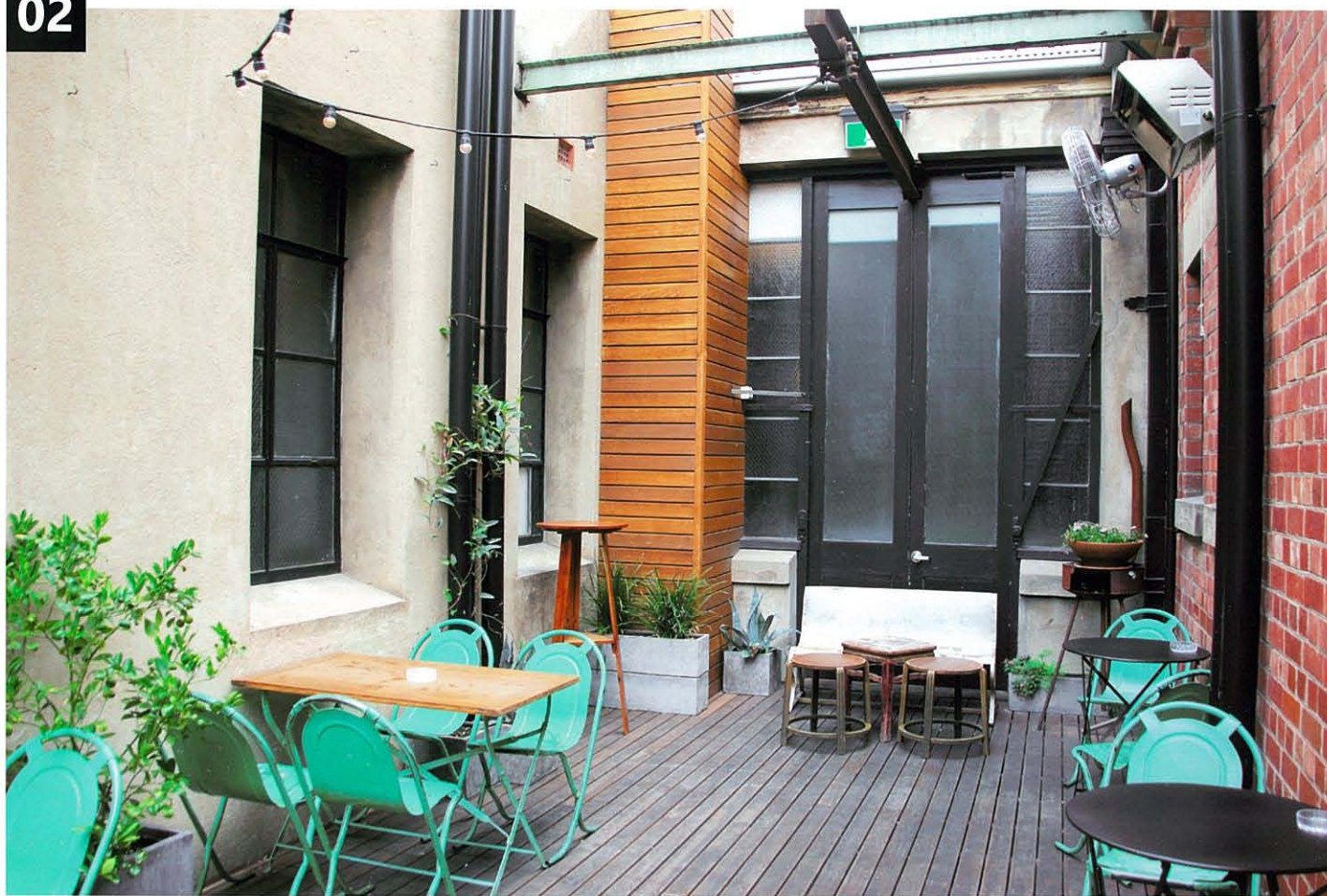
9 Anster
Street

• ADELAIDE, SA •



01 Oozing style and attitude, the upstairs room is perfect for a more intimate experience that cosily carries on into the early hours of the morning

02



03



04



“Inspired by 1950's Danish design the vision was to create a space which had timeless appeal and a sense of belonging.”

- Shane Ettridge, Co-owner & Manager

02 The rustic outdoor deck is just one of the many private spaces and different modes of seating Proof Bar has to offer its guests

03 A rather unassuming, yet mysterious exterior that lets people's curiosity get the better of them to take a look inside

04 Whilst the bar runs right up to the bi fold windows, passers by can't help but look inside this dim lit bar and see bartenders work their mixing magic

Special thanks to:

- *Renewal SA's Vibrant City Program*
- *Andrew Wallace, Immediate Past President of The Adelaide West End Association*
- *Damian Madigan, Lecturer in Architecture at The University of South Australia (School of Art, Architecture and Design)*
- *Sarah Maddock, Place Facilitator at the Adelaide City Council*
- *Branko Jaric, Graduate Architect*
- *Henry Holland of Clever Little Tailor, Peel Street,*
- *Elliot Bloem of The Gallery, Waymouth Street*
- *Shane Ettridge of Proof Bar, Anster Street*
- *Members of the general public whose thoughts and opinions were able to assist in the writing of this article*



Endnotes

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Assessment Type 2: Research Outcome

To what extent does the architectural redevelopment of the laneways in Adelaide's Mid-West District contribute to making a more vibrant city?

**Grade
A+**

	Planning	Development	Synthesis	Evaluation
A	<p>P1 Thorough consideration and refinement of a research question.</p> <p>P2 Thorough planning of research processes that are highly appropriate to the research question.</p>	<p>D1 Thorough and highly resourceful development of the research.</p> <p>D2 In-depth analysis of information and exploration of ideas to develop the research.</p> <p>D3 Highly effective development of knowledge and skills specific to the research question.</p> <p>D4 Thorough and informed understanding and development of one or more capabilities.</p>	<p>S1 Insightful synthesis of knowledge, skills, and ideas to produce a resolution to the research question.</p> <p>S2 Insightful and thorough substantiation of key findings relevant to the research outcome.</p> <p>S3 Clear and coherent expression of ideas.</p>	<p>E1 Insightful evaluation of the research processes used, specific to the research question.</p> <p>E2 Critical evaluation of decisions made in response to challenges and/or opportunities specific to the research processes used.</p> <p>E3 Insightful evaluation of the quality of the research outcome.</p>

Comments

S1:

- The student perceptively identifies a wide range of key ideas (architectural design features of the buildings, economic climate of Adelaide, passive surveillance, the Vibrant City initiative, the importance of social cohesion and active street frontages, the creation of intimacy and a sense of mystery using design, the small venue licenses and so on) and then uses these to discuss and debate the interplay of factors that create vibrancy.
- The student is astute in the way that they produce a resolution to the research question through arguing that while no one factor is solely responsible for vibrancy in the mid-west district, governance is "less sexy" than architecture and may be overshadowed.
- Skills of design, format and photography also contribute to this resolution in the way that they are used to make certain arguments more powerful. In these ways this student's work is an example of insightful synthesis.

S2:

- The student makes excellent use of endnotes to allow the reader to identify the source of every key finding mentioned as well as incorporating the source of the ideas in much of the body of the text which leads to the synthesis being very thorough. In addition the range of sources used shows an awareness and use of each of the key stakeholders involved in the issue.
- The student also uses both images and case studies as a tool to further substantiate key findings. This substantiation is both thorough and insightful.

S3:

- The ideas in this outcome are easily identified because they are clearly and coherently expressed. This has been done in a range of ways – in the format of the magazine (which is easily recognisable as a text type), in the images and case studies that contribute to and situate the key findings and in the body of the text (which once again is recognisable as an appropriate style for the main story in an architecture magazine).
- The use of headings helps guide the reader as well as break the research up into clearly defined and logically sequenced "chunks". Inclusion of features such as a map of the area with corresponding key and the highlighted quotes in bold over the images emphasising key findings in the text, contribute to the coherence.
- The student shows a mastery of the conventions of both visual and written language conventions.