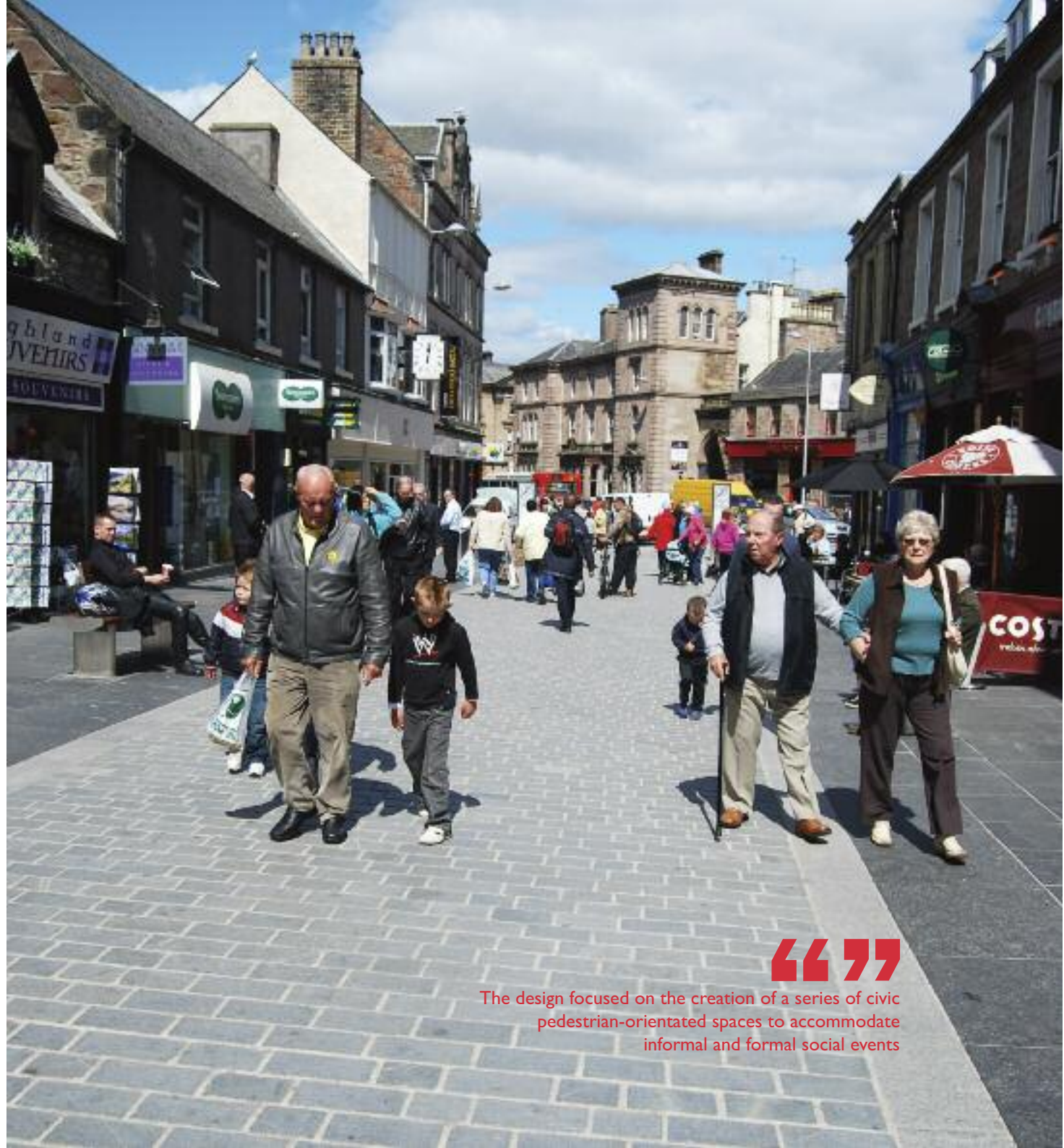


FROM TOWN TO ACTIVE CITY

The landscape-led approach to the refurbishment of Inverness city public realm clearly identified 'people' and 'place' at the forefront of the design process. The city centre now has a growing economic confidence, a new café culture and active, pedestrian-friendly streets. By **Duncan McLean**

Inverness is Scotland's newest city and the centre of Highland culture. As such it is undergoing rapid transformation through development, environment and cultural initiatives. Largely in response to Inverness' new city status in 2000, the concurrent rapid growth and development, and the perception that Inverness City Centre was an unattractive destination and suffering economically, The Highland Council commissioned Land Use Consultants (LUC) in October 2005 to develop a design and administer the contract for the comprehensive refurbishment of the city centre streets and public realm, traffic management, a public art programme and new lighting.

The LUC design team and The Highland Council worked together to develop a number of key design objectives to guide the development of the streetscape project: improve the pedestrian environment; facilitate safe access and movement throughout the city centre; decreasing traffic



The design focused on the creation of a series of civic pedestrian-orientated spaces to accommodate informal and formal social events