



2.11 Circular Quay, Sydney.

in the squandering of opportunities to integrate new pieces of city with the existing fabric. Even today, territorial disputes between the state and local governments continue to compromise long-term planning efforts in the city.

Sydney describes itself as an accidental city. Sydney's physical history has been shaped by commercial and political motives above any sense of a public realm (City Spaces, 1999 "City Spaces – Sydney's potential"). However, there is a growing sense that the public realm needs to be a priority. Documents such as the "Central Sydney Local Environment Plan" of 1996 and "City Spaces" of 1999 make a series of long-term proposals for the city's public realm and aim for design excellence in the creation of urban places.

Development attitudes have changed significantly over the past three decades. The 1960s produced a series of large-scale redevelopment projects, analogous to many urban renewal projects in the United States. The redevelopment of Woolloomooloo, The Rocks, Victoria Street and the demolitions that occurred in Redfern are examples. The 1980s produced the "Festival Market" model, most clearly found at Darling Harbour, on the western edge of the city center.