

2.17 View toward Garden Island from McMahan's Point, Sydney.



jurisdictional control invested in the local government. Three reasons can be attributed to Sydney's current success – the single-minded determination and political skill of the Lord Mayor, Frank Sartor, the influx of money generated by the Sydney Olympics, and the fact that the State Government did not interfere. Real and long-term change in attitudes toward the physical realm of the city, however, will only be addressed if the State Government of New South Wales elevates planning as a primary undertaking. The Ministry for Planning is a minor portfolio in State politics. Only when planning is taken seriously in Sydney will the city achieve the potential that its remarkable harbor setting demands.

The issue for Sydney is whether it is ready to deal with its own sense of self. Is the city ready to make a statement about what type of place it should be? Is it ready to address the imbalance of the myth and reality of its waterfront? Is it ready to accept the potential of the waterfront to define its own vision of itself?

*This chapter is based in large part upon case material prepared by the City of Vancouver and the City of Sydney, and on presentations by Vancouver City Councillor Lyn Kennedy, by Larry Beasely, Head of Planning for the City of Vancouver, and by the Lord Mayor of Sydney Frank Sartor at the Waterfronts in Post Industrial Cities Conference, 7–9 October, 1999, Harvard Design School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*