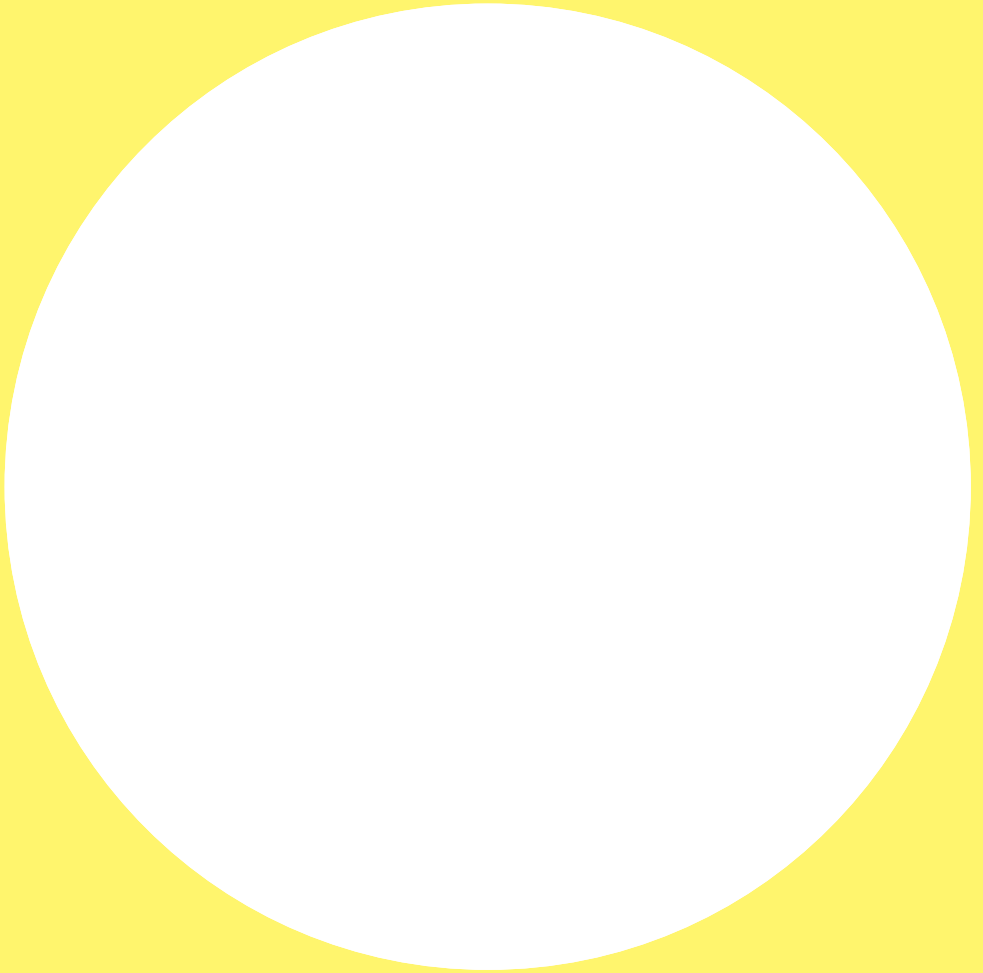


Principles of Good Design



Government
of South Australia

**OFFICE FOR
DESIGN+
ARCHITECTURE** SA

Principles of Good Design

The Principles of Good Design focus on how buildings and places can meet the needs of the people who use them.

Best-practice principles demonstrate the government's commitment to achieving design excellence in South Australia's built environment.

The ODASA Principles of Good Design are:

Context

Good design is **contextual** because it responds to the surrounding environment, and contributes to the existing quality and future character of a place.

Inclusive

Good design is **inclusive** and universal because it creates places for everyone to use and enjoy, by optimising social opportunity and equitable access.

Durable

Good design is **durable** because it creates buildings and places that are fit-for-purpose, adaptable and long-lasting.

Value

Good design adds **value** by creating desirable places that promote community and local investment, as well as enhancing social and cultural value.

Performance

Good design **performs** well because it realises the project potential for the benefit of all users and the broader community.

Sustainable

Good design is **sustainable** because it is environmentally responsible and supports long-term economic productivity, health and wellbeing.

Context

Good design is **contextual** because it responds to the surrounding environment, and contributes to the existing quality and future character of a place.

Good design creates places that improve the local area and reinforce the unique character of a neighbourhood or street.

New projects positively contribute to existing areas by identifying the valuable local characteristics and considering how the scale and purpose of the development will fit in the location.

Effective community engagement provides local insight and ideas to enhance neighbourhood identity and make places work.

Inclusive

Good design is **inclusive** and universal because it creates places for everyone to use and enjoy, by optimising social opportunity and equitable access.

Well-designed places help to build strong communities by respecting the diverse needs and capabilities of everyone.

Accessible and inclusive places make it easy for everyone to engage, offering comfort and safety at all times.

When good design creates a strong sense of belonging, the entire community benefits.

Durable

Good design is **durable** because it creates buildings and places that are fit-for-purpose, adaptable and long-lasting.

The use of appropriate and robust materials guarantees functionality, high structural integrity and cost effectiveness over a long period of time.

Adaptability allows for evolving future requirements and growth, ensuring places retain their relevance.

Value

Good design adds **value** by creating desirable places that promote community and local investment, as well as enhancing social and cultural value.

Well-designed places attract recreational, social and cultural activity and generate investment. Inspiring places reinforce the character of a neighbourhood and generate civic pride, which ensures they will be well cared for into the future.

Adaptive re-use and creative management of heritage places can further enhance cultural value.

Innovative and functional design is enjoyable to use and benefits the broader community.

Performance

Good design **performs** well because it realises the project potential for the benefit of all users and the broader community.

Places that perform to high standards enable people to live and work comfortably, supporting their wellbeing.

Well-designed places achieve the highest technical and environmental performance while reducing ongoing operating and maintenance costs.

Exploring project possibilities can deliver creative solutions that offer high-quality places of lasting economic and social value.

Sustainable

Good design is **sustainable** because it is environmentally responsible and supports long-term economic productivity, health and wellbeing.

Design that responds to the environment promotes the sustainable use of resources, minimises greenhouse gas emissions and builds resilience to the effects of climate change.

Well-designed places allow for sustainable economic productivity. This includes efficient and viable investments that stimulate local business and future opportunities.

Ultimately, good design supports healthy lifestyles and creates successful places that current and future generations can enjoy.

The Office for Design and Architecture SA believes good design improves quality of life and is vital to wellbeing and happiness.

Well-designed places have the power to make people feel safe and socially connected. They create sustainable environments with lasting benefits for future generations.

To talk more about good design in the built environment or to give your feedback on these Principles, please contact us at **odasa@sa.gov.au**

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