

Suburbs to cities – moving to where the grass is greener

Melbourne, 27 October 2016: Demand for green public amenity in major cities is on the rise as future challenges, including growing populations, higher levels of density and the need for more communal recreational facilities are atop everyone's list.

Previously just a focus for suburban communities, inner-city developments are recognising the value of family-friendly parks, playgrounds and gardens to attract buyers in a competitive, residential market.

These amenities equally appeal to businesses, with employers seeking offices that help connect people with nature in buildings to increase their staff's productivity and general health and wellbeing.

The success of a public space is dependent of the elements of desire and surprise; a desire to linger in these spaces and surprise with places that can change 'personality' from day to night.

Lendlease's Managing Director of Urban Regeneration, Mark Menhinnitt, said future considerations in development planning require an increase in convenient, open space close to public transport networks for people to meet and socialise in.

Referencing Lendlease's Melbourne Quarter project, he said more than half of the development will be filled with open space and has been registered for a green star communities rating.

"Public open space plays an essential role in providing social, environmental, aesthetic, wellbeing and recreational benefits to residents, workers and the general public, creating better places which foster vibrant communities," he said.

"These open spaces help facilitate community development, health and fitness initiatives and provide trade and value for nearby businesses and retailers.

"Creating places that redefine the way people choose to live, Melbourne Quarter will offer the public a variety of amenity including Melbourne's first elevated Skypark, a new CBD square, a neighbourhood park and retail laneways.

"Lendlease is committed to creating beautiful and sustainable environments. This project's green open spaces, streetscapes and built environment will be inspirational and act as a catalyst to encourage interaction in the broader community."

Landscape architects Aspect Oculus will deliver over 10,000sqm of public and private domain at Melbourne Quarter, including the precinct's Skypark and Neighbourhood park.

Aspect Oculus Director, Bob Earl, said the viability of green space and amenity in cities will continue to become more precious with increased density and population.

"The precinct will be a mix of both green vertical and horizontal layers, with over 40 storeys of planter boxes and vertical green trellis designed to run along the northern and eastern façades of the first residential building, East Tower," he said.



“Elevated above Collins Street, Skypark will give distinct views down into the square, onto Collins Street and out to the city, offering a variety of opportunities for people to linger with benches, landscaped rooms, shelters and moveable furniture.”

Founding Director of Fender Katsalidis Architects, Karl Fender, the architects for the site’s residential towers, said Melbourne Quarter’s public spaces will help create new active layers to the city.

“Melbourne Quarter provides the opportunity to live and dwell in a green precinct that contributes to Melbourne’s rich cultural tapestry, blending the energy of inner city living with green open spaces often found in outer suburbs.”

Lendlease currently holds \$17.5 billion worth of Urban Regeneration projects nationally, with eight national projects achieving or targeting green certification.

For further information visit www.melbournequarter.com.

ENDS

For further information, please contact:
Celeste Greinke
Communications Advisor – Melbourne
0427 673 717

Liz Sleeman
Manager, External Affairs - Victoria
0459 823 718

About Lendlease

Lendlease is a leading international property and infrastructure group. Listed on the Australian Securities Exchange and with circa 11,900 employees worldwide, Lendlease’s capabilities span the property value chain.

In Australia we offer development management; investment management; project management & construction and asset & property management. Our expertise covers multiple sectors including commercial, residential, retail, retirement and infrastructure.

About Aspect Oculus

As a joint venture company, Aspect Oculus is an urban design and landscape architecture studio creating public spaces throughout Australia, New Zealand, the USA and South East Asia. Aspect Oculus’ involvement with Melbourne Quarter extends its long-standing collaboration with Lendlease.

The relationship commenced with Barangaroo, currently the largest waterfront renewal project in Australia, and is continuing with Victoria Harbour, a 30 hectare mixed use development in the heart of Melbourne Docklands.

About Fender Katsalidis

Fender Katsalidis has evolved from a Melbourne-centric architectural practice, to a highly awarded, multi-disciplinary international design firm whose work now influences built environment thinking across the globe.

Specialists in multi-residential, cultural, commercial, aged care and hotel typologies, we seek and deliver holistic solutions in architecture, masterplanning, urban design and interiors—solutions notable not only for their design quality, but also their civic contribution and economic mindfulness.

