Melbourne, Australia

New Metropolitan Mainstream Melbourne

The City of Melbourne, capital of the State of Victoria, Australia, is celebrated for its cosmopolitan character, central location and cultural diversity. It is Australia’s second most populous city and Melbourne’s major competitor, in size, cultural diversity, and economic power. Melbourne is Australia’s design capital, its cultural capital, its financial capital. Central Melbourne and the surrounding inner-city districts have live music and graffiti and street art scenes to die for. An active, government-led stimulatory strategy in the early 1990s resulted in close to 10,000 new and converted apartments being added to the centre. A redevelopment of the docks produced an additional 3,800 apartments with newly built double that of the Australian median. The number of cafes and restaurants in the centre increased by around 50 percent.

Overseas-born residents of Melbourne are predominantly European, with a large group from north-western Europe, and more recently Africa. From the 1960s till now, 21,874 in-migrants added to the expansion that began with the middle-class residents of the industrial base to the suburban fringe in the 1970s and 1980s. Melbourne is a divided city: those with greatest wealth live in the inner city, while those who live further out are forced to rely on car travel on the ever expanding road network.

Seven years ago an urban growth boundary was introduced with the intention of providing 25 years of population growth if the average housing density increased from its suburban low of 10 dwellings per hectare to 15. Since then the boundary has been extended around sustainable population levels. A strong case for those on the green left and xenophobic right is Australia’s delicate ecological balance, in particular the very serious shortage of water.

The prospects of reducing profligate individual consumption levels, introducing recycling, and containing rural Victoria’s rice, cattle and dairy farming practices, rarely enter the public discourse. Instead, Melbourne is concentrating on a building desalination plant and a pipeline from the drier north, and nurturing its main industry: real estate investment. In the land of the fair go, the buying, selling, demolishing, building and renovating of property is the national pastime.

With Melbourne’s population projected to exceed 5 million by 2030, major issues these days for middle-Melburnians include border protection, immigration and the occasional backlash of ‘illegal’ immigration. In addition to the ‘fair go’ and xenophobic right, Melbourne is also under threat of government-led restructuring of the transport network. In Melbourne, Australia’s largest docks.

Melbourne is the home of the mighty Trades Hall, strong unions, the eight-hour working day. Post-WWII immigration built a highly multicultural community with 40 percent of the population born overseas, mainly from eastern and southern Europe, and Australia’s largest docks.

— D. K. Lees

Melbourne is built on the land of indigenous people who were violently displaced. It became one of the world’s largest metropolitan areas where access to public transport is excellent, and those who live further out are forced to rely on car travel on the ever expanding road network. Seven years ago an urban growth boundary was introduced with the intention of providing 25 years of population growth if the average housing density increased from its suburban low of 10 dwellings per hectare to 15. Since then the boundary has been extended around sustainable population levels. A strong case for those on the green left and xenophobic right is Australia’s delicate ecological balance, in particular the very serious shortage of water.

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Melbourne, AUSTRALIA

The new metropolitan mainstream Melbourne is a collection of precincts Docklands, Southbank, the sporting precinct. The university quarter and the theatre precinct. We work in public-private partnerships, where the private role symbolises the Melbourne metropolis. These precincts are mega projects. They use lots of space, with multiple architectural echoes an individual Nabawi within. We think of electrics from overseas, no Richard Rogers or Zaha Hadid here. Inner Melbourne has a multiplicity of architects, more people than any city in the world and we know who they are.

Melbourne focuses on the spectator. We have multiple high-rise mega projects and nearly the linked building in the world. The site has nearly the largest casino and some expensive waterfront promenades. We really know how much they cost. Behind these projects are public roads that lead directly into the leading entertainment facilities and sports - cricket, tennis, etc. Behind these are snorting traffic routes that only the bravest cyclists will tackle. Between the facilities are disconnected, windsworn non-lands, as though pedestrians were somehow forgotten.

People walk safely in Melbourne's bars and restaurants - you guessed it, the best and most popular. The whole thing sends thoughts on the future, but there is something here for everyone. Inner Melbourne's cultural diversity is reflected in its food. At range of prices and presentations, the old city has laneways, arcades, roofs and crannies and it genuinely values heritage. It is within these spaces that the six major cultural, commercial and theatrical venues and one of our greatest urban amenities. We know it is not perfect. The Melbournians are a predominantly French-speaking community, but there is a sharp decline in the tourism activities that we can organise our lives around. We work with local and national government agencies to remove the barriers.