# The Village Revisited

25+ Years of Sustainable and Innovative Village Design by

degenhart SHEDD





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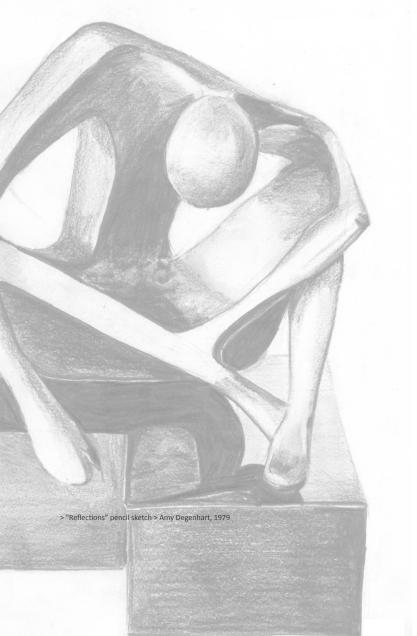








> 2012 > Amy Degenhart: Australian Institute of Architects Queensland Chapter 'Shoot The Architect' Portrait Competition > Tom Anthony Highly Commended Professional





#### ONE OUR STORY

A Vision of Success Amy Degenhart Martyn Shedd Our Services



## two

Apartments
Urban Design
Community
Living Options
Terraces
Homes
Design Management
Impressions



three our awards

# Imagine better places, a better program and a better bottom line.





## OUR STORY



#### A Vision of Success

In July 1987, degenhartSHEDD architecture + urban design—then trading as The Design Forum—was established in sunny Queensland, Australia, by internationally trained and experienced Directors Amy Degenhart and Martyn Shedd.

With a vision to deliver high-quality architectural and urban desgin solutions, degenhartSHEDD proceeded to carve out a unique reputation for delivering flexible village design innovations that meet customer needs and provide sustainable, profitable outcomes.

In its first year, The Design Forum made a splash on the local design scene by opening a studio and art gallery featuring a range of exhibitions, from rare Frank Lloyd Wright 'Wasmuth Portfolio' prints to



The Design Forum - aptly located in The Forum building in Surfers Paradise -had a striking minimalist shop design and was degenhartSHEDD's first studio and gallery.

the works of aspiring local artists and sculptors. After the gallery had worked its magic, introducing the young design team to the Gold Coast, Amy shifted her focus to the growth of the architectural practice while Martyn embarked on a career working with high-profile developers and government agencies that saw him contribute to many significant projects across southeast Queensland.

Early on in this period, when the opportunity of running the Robina Design Service came up, it was a natural fit for Amy to apply skills at a grass-roots level of community creation, while Martyn's involvement with the Raptis Group at the time tackled the same goal at a high-rise scale.

Following three years of operation as The Design Forum, the Directors joined forces with their colleague William Giles and his company to form the Robina-based Giles Degenhart Partnership. A successful five-year association saw the combined practice grow; however, in 1995, Director Amy Degenhart decided to branch out once more in establishing the practice as a boutique firm. With a minor tweak to the name, Design Forum Architects continued its successful track record with a wide range of projects, working with government, private developers, owners and strategic partners to create successful and prospering places by integrating buildings, spaces and landscapes.

The summer of 2011 delivered exciting changes for the business, as Director Amy Degenhart welcomed back Martyn Shedd—original principal of The Design Forum and former Lend Lease Project Manager as Principal Urban Designer and active company Director.





Martyn Shedd and Amy Degenhart with children L-R: Lois, Errol and Noel. Committment and understanding of family life has further enhanced degenhartSHEDD'S creative edge for sustainable village design.

#### A combined 50 years of experience

Working passionately and creatively in their signature office building on Lake Street in Varsity Lakes, Amy Degenhart and Martyn Shedd boast more than 50 years' combined experience in architecture and urban design, a competitive advantage that is reflected in their many award-winning projects. Their portfolio includes significant projects for clients such as the Gold Coast City Council, the Urban Land Development Authority,\* Landmatters Currumbin, Leda and Lend Lease. Many are local projects that have contributed aesthetically and functionally to the Varsity Lakes and Robina communities, ultimately helping to shape the changing face of the Gold Coast.

Collaboration on multi-award-winning developments, including Lend Leases' Varsity Lakes and Landmatters' Ecovillage at Currumbin, has provided degenhartSHEDD with invaluable experience benefitting all aspects of the development process,

from inception to post-delivery management. Furthermore, degenhartSHEDD's understanding of the importance of market-led design options and sustainable outcomes has proved to deliver better project outcomes.

#### A collaborative business culture

Fostering a close-knit and collaborative business culture, Amy and Martyn believe in providing a personal level of service and individual results for clients. Their team boasts a wealth of practical and creative abilities, as well as a high level of customer service and management skills.

With a dedicated range of customer-service focused staff, degenhartSHEDD endeavours to continue its passionate journey in architecture, urban design and innovative village design solutions. Underpinning these skills—and a cornerstone of the degenhartSHEDD philosophy—is the application of innovative design and management strategies in seeking best-practice solutions to client needs. Since its establishment over 25 years ago, degenhartSHEDD has continued to expand its skills and resource base to provide the wider range of expertise required to serve its select group of clients.



## Amy degenhart

#### **DIRECTOR & PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT**

Bachelor of Architecture with High Honours

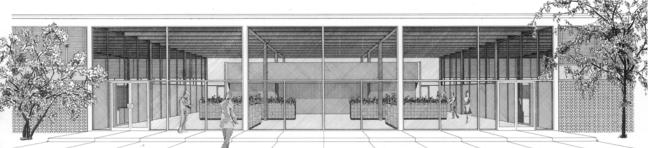
\*\*Illinois Institute of Technology, USA\*\*

Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (FRAIA)



Amy Degenhart, Principal Architect and one of two Directors of degenhartSHEDD, has been practising architecture for almost 30 years, playing a pivotal role in the develoment and design industries throughout southeast Queensland.

Amy's innovative design, passion for place and extensive experience are all evident in her projects completed for renowned clients.



### How did you first develop a passion for architecture and what was your inspiration?

For me, the desire to be an architect started young with a civic motivation, evidenced by an early school project entitled 'Planning a City' — not being content with the city alone, I felt — the need to design key



buildings within it, the 'Aphrodite Hotel' to name but one. Not much has changed since those early days, as the integration of architecture and urban design still offers me the

greatest source of inspiration.

Spending my first few years of life in an architect designed home and as the granddaughter of a highly respected local building contractor and a Freemason inspired me with the concepts of legacy, architecture, geometry and 'building values based on great universal truths'.\* As I grew, the Chicago influence dawned, and I became aware of my illustrious surroundings, with the works of Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe and Louis Sullivan creating a synergistic stimulus that combined both great people and great projects. Later, in my university years, I was driven to perfection by Ronald Krueck and Pua Chi Cheng, although my most influential mentor

would have to be Jerry Horn, now a retired principal of Holabird & Root. Although a master of architecture in the city of masters-Chicago-he always represented to me the human face of architecture, one that was of the people and for the people.

### What drove you and what are your desired project outcomes?

My love of all things art, combined with an insatiable need to be intellectually creative, were the key drivers in pursuing an architectural career. The end result I strive for has always been about creating better places to live, whether it's a child's bedroom or an entire city. I see every dwelling, street or town as an opportunity to enhance lives through good design. My education at the world-famous Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago provided me with the foundational principles of detail, beauty and functionality. These ideologies are still my touchstones today when evaluating original ideas, and they give me the self-belief to see these ideas to fruition.

### What professional and client highlights have strongly influenced your career?

Sustainable design has always been on the agenda for me. I started my career working with environmental engineers (Sheaffer & Roland Inc)

<sup>\*</sup> www.askafreemason.org/topten

and passive solar architects in the USA, long before sustainability was the buzzword it is today. However, my tenure with Holabird & Root in downtown Chicago, working under the wing of my former professor Jerry Horn, was just as influential, giving me a taste of mainstream, big-city architecture. This tenure also resulted in a significant contribution to the Chicago Historical Museum that stands today as a monument to my earliest years of practice.



Chicago Historical Museum - Image by Slutsky & Associates, 1985

My next major professional impact was a consultancy role for Robina Land Corporation that earned me an Innovation Medal from the Australian Institute of Architects. Helping clients to design and position their homes in Robina was a community-building exercise, allowing us to acquire a great amount of expertise in design management along with the codes and strategies employed in the process. This also provided a launch pad for us to work with similar clients, and these experiences with local government and community developers later opened doors for us with Economic Development Queensland.



#### What significant community contributions have enhanced your personal and professional life?

I have participated in many community organisations on the Gold Coast, first as a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Robina, where I eventually served as President for two years. My next contribution was as the founder of the Robina Chamber of Commerce in 1995, which by way of numerous merges now thrives as one of the largest in the region as the Gold Coast Central Chamber of Commerce, In 2006, I was fortunate enough to be invited to sit on the board of Varsity Lakes Community Limited (VLCL), a not-for-profit organisation formed by residential, business and government leaders for the purpose of enhancing community prosperity. In 2011, after five years of service and helping ensure that VLCL gained financial independence, I resigned to become the second female Gold Coast/Northern Rivers Regional Chair of the Australian Institute of Architects, I also served on the Independent Industry Advisory Panel for the Soheil Abedian School of Architecture at Bond University as well as, more recently, their facultywide Institute of Sustainable Development and Architecture Academic Advisory Panel. Wearing the hat of the Institute of Architects Regional Chair, I am also a member of several committees for the Gold Coast City Council, including the Gold Coast Cultural Advisory Group, the Public Art Reference Group, and



Mayor Tom Tate's Technical Advisory Group, providing input on the new Gold Coast City Plan.

## What were some of your most influential project experiences in terms of meaningful, profitable outcomes and personal growth?

I loved our first studio and gallery, The Design Forum (aptly located in The Forum building in Surfers Paradise), with its minimalist shop design that combined the philosophies of both Mies and Wright. Then, SOHO+SOHO on Lake, Labrador Park Urban Village and Sports House at Varsity Lakes have all been significantly influential projects. In terms of key community projects, The Ecovillage and Coomera Waters feature prominently, as well as our Village Housing at Varsity Lakes and Fitzgibbon Chase. The SOHO+SOHO on Lake project challenged us both with its personal nature and complexity, while Labrador Park Urban Village honed my skills in dealing with the vagaries of a tough planning application. On the other hand, Sports House at Varsity Lakes is most notable as a model for 'enhancing community prosperity'. Coomera Waters and The Ecovillage established my high standards for Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) while both Varsity outcomes. Lakes and Fitzgibbon Chase allowed me to challenge lotsize and density conventions in local government, achieving incredible success and unique results.

#### What are your aspirations for degenhart-SHEDD and its clients?

My design aspirations for our current and future clients are to exceed the excellent outcomes we have enjoyed to date by continuing to build on our expertise and collaborative skills. Specifically, we wish to work in that fluid zone between urban design and architecture, ensuring that each enhances the other, creating a whole that is much greater than simply the combination of its parts. Community-oriented projects and new ventures that challenge traditional solutions and strive for triple-bottom-line outcomes are a priority, particularly in the arena of affordable, innovative and enduring housing.

Between Martyn and I, our skills deliver a valuable contribution to a complex world, assisting our clients to conquer the challenges of that world. Whether it be achieving higher expectations or higher densities, our expertise translates to a powerful competitive advantage.

We established degenhartSHEDD with a vision to provide unique architectural and urban design services with a strong customer focus, an outlook that continues to drive us today. Our business aims to deliver high-quality, comprehensive and flexible solutions that meet customer needs with a focus on community outcomes.



### Martyn SHEDD

#### **DIRECTOR & PRINCIPAL URBAN DESIGNER**

Bachelor of Science (Architecture) with Honours—Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology, Scotland

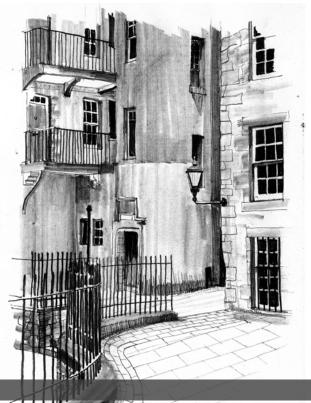
Postgraduate Diploma (Urban Design) with Distinction—Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology, Scotland

Member of the Planning Institute of Australia (MPIA)



A Director of degenhartSHEDD, Martyn Shedd is an internationally trained and highly skilled urban designer with more than 25 years' experience in the United States and Australia.

Throughout his career, Martyn has acquired developer-focused design and delivery experience at both macro and micro levels, and has a proven record in generating increased profits and successful project outcomes.



## How did you first develop a passion for architecture and, more specifically, urban design?

I first discovered an interest in architecture during childhood trips with my parents to see the grand houses of England. While later studying at the Scott Sutherland School of Architecture in Aberdeen, I found that my passion for built form extended beyond just the structural context; my focus on the spaces around buildings, as much as the buildings themselves, encouraged me to undertake postgraduate studies in urban design.

During my postgraduate studies, I ran a small experiment in which I asked members of the public to select an image that most appealed to them from a number of different cityscapes; almost to a person, they selected the city of Siena, Italy.

The image was taken from high above the city and showed an expanse of terracotta tiles and intimate public spaces. The housing form depicted was a stark contrast to the contemporary offerings they were used to. It became obvious to me that people were willing to overlook the modern-day problems associated with the plan of such a city in favour of recovering the benefits of village living.

## What experiences reinforced your drive for sustainable urban design outcomes?

Upon graduating in 1983, I left Scotland for the USA, where I spent a short time in North Carolina working for a local architect. From there, I moved to the windy city of Chicago to work on a bid for the proposed 1992 Chicago World's Fair, an influential social and cultural event. While at university, I had written a major paper on the World's Columbian Exposition-now known as the Chicago World's Fair—that originally took place in Chicago in 1893 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New World in 1492. As a consequence, I was deeply interested in world-fair designer Daniel Burnham and the Beaux-Arts tradition of urban planning. I found participating in the 1992 bid a great opportunity to work with the internationally renowned architecture firm Skidmore. Owings & Merrill. Although the bid was ultimately unsuccessful, the experience reinforced my desire to work in urban design.

### What developer-oriented experience has most influenced your career?

While in Chicago, I worked with a couple of architects who focused on projects for developers.

This time crystallised for me the strong link between developer outcomes and cityscapes the achievement of urban design requires successful outcomes for the developer, and focusing on just the visual outcome of a project is not enough.

I remained in Chicago until 1986 and then left for Brisbane, Australia. Upon arrival, I headed to the sunny Gold Coast in search of developer-oriented work. It was the 1980s and, thanks to Japanese investment and local entrepreneurs, cranes were a natural addition to the cityscape: the combination of opportunity and beach was like paradise. I then went on to implement my interest in urban design, architecture and development to work with local and national developers to deliver exciting outcomes.

## What was your most influential project experience in terms of meaningful, profitable outcomes and personal growth?

In 2000, I joined the international leader in property and infrastructure Lend Lease, a move that would see me dedicate a decade of my working life to a major project: the 343-hectare Varsity Lakes master-planned community. The project benefited from all my interests and provided me with an invaluable expansion of my skills to include construction, development and project management. Bounded by the 80-hectare

Lake Orr, Varsity Lakes comprises 4,500 homes and almost 100,000 square metres of commercial space in the town centre, as well as being home to more than 10,000 residents and 6,000 employees.

#### **Varsity Lakes Town Centre**

My work on this project provided me with the opportunity to innovate and focus on better outcomes for both the urban design and the developer, in some cases resulting in increased revenue of up to 38% per square metre. Many of the project's innovative initiatives challenged local and state authorities' standard practices, requiring determined negotiation. In delivering unique developer-supplied housing solutions. T successfully managed built-form processes and teams to meet budget and time constraints, including contract builder negotiations and construction supervision. My roles also included working with builders to realise design outcomes for challenging sites, securing land sales contracts and achieving increased sales rates in challenging In order to ensure built-form results markets. were meeting company objectives for greenfield housing and town centres, I effectively monitored design outcomes and also managed the design and delivery of innovative urban housing in a range of freehold lot sizes from 125 to 300 square metres.



Spending so much time on a major project of city-building allowed me to investigate and experience the myriad of issues involved in taking a market opportunity from concept through to delivery; accomplishing this within a Tier 1 company like Lend Lease was an exciting journey in village creation for me. It proved that a flexible development plan that can adapt to changing market circumstances is imperative for a successful large development. It also illustrated that maintaining development momentum over time with good urban design delivers rewards for both the developer and the community.

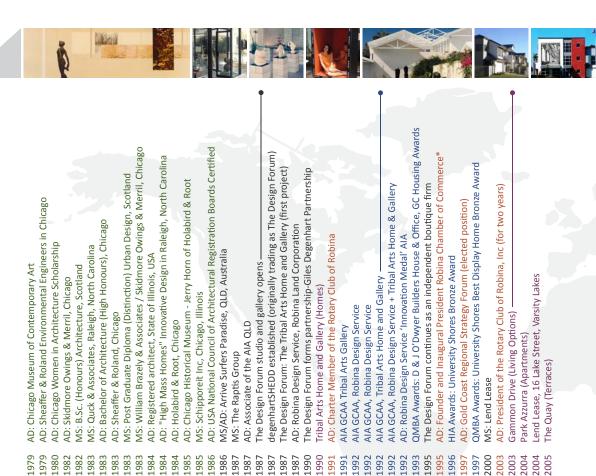
## In 2012 you ran a campaign to represent your local division on the Gold Coast City Council executive. What was your motive?

Our Division is largely comprised of three award-winning master-planned projects: Robina, Varsity Lakes and Bond University. All three were developed under special planning instruments by private enterprise and have delivered many significant community benefits and built-form innovations. I was concerned that many of the lessons learnt from that work were being ignored by the Council and that, as a consequence, future Gold Coast development was destined to repeat the mistakes of the past. I am strongly committed to the concept that 'place making' is a central issue with

regard to dealing with the pressures of modern-day living.

### What are your aspirations for degenhartSHEDD and its clients?

I aim to incorporate many of the early initiatives designed to achieve the live, learn, work and play balance of modern urban living, implemented in the Varsity Lakes project. My focus for the future is to use this experience to meet the imperatives of degenhartSHEDD's clients as well as address the wider community need for housing density, an aspirational built environment and sustainability. My architectural flair and attention to detail are evident in my conceptual designs for projects ranging from affordable housing to international hotels, urban villages and resort communities. The execution and success of these projects is founded on comprehensive product research, innovative design, builder liaison, cost planning, preliminary programming, local authority negotiations, health and safety management, customer service and commercial assessment. The experience I have gained through participating in major trend-setting projects has fuelled my passion for urban design, helping to bring to fruition the degenhartSHEDD mission of working side by side with industry partners to help envision, create, deliver and manage sought-after community places.



1970s 1980s 1990s

International Experience degenhartSHEDD Milestone Community & Industry Contribution Awards\* Category Case Studies













GCCC Urban Design Awards, 16 Lake Street, Coomera Waters Village & Resort AD: Founding member of the VLCL Board (five years service) AIA GCAA, SOHO+SOHO 2005

Cope Martin Lane (Living Options)

OMBA Awards: 44 Tambourine Street, Gold Coast Winner

OOA AD: Registration in New South Wales

AD: Bond University ISDA Independent Industry Advisory Panel for the SASA AD: Fellow of the AIA in Queensland 2008 2009

 2009 Iron Bark (Impressions)
2009 Currumbin Ecovillage (Design Management)
2009 Barcelona WAF Awards-Ironbark, The Ecovillage

2009 GCCC Urban Design Awards, Cape Martin Place 2009 GCCC Urban Design Awards, The Highlands + The Old Dairy 2009 GCCC Urban Design Awards, Lend Lease SOHOs, Varsity Lak

HIA Awards, 1 Yagoi Hamlet / HIA-CSR GC / Northern Rivers Housing Awards GCCC Urban Design Awards, Lend Lease SOHOs, Varsity Lakes 2009 2009

2010 AD: UDIA Women in Development Excellence Award 2010 Varsity Lakes (Urban Design)

2010 HIA-CSR Greensmart Energy Efficiency Award-The Ecovillage
 2011 MS: Rejoins degenhartSHEDD
 2011 AD: UDIA Envirodevelopment Accredited Professional

AD: "Code Green" - International Urban Design Conference, Gold Coast MS: Candidate for the 2012 GCCC elections-division 11 **GCCC Urban Design Awards-AITC** 2011 2011 2011

2011 Labrador Park Urban Milliagolina organization Conference, 2007 Labrador Park Urban Milliagolina (Apartments) 2012 AD: AlA QLD Chapter, Shool The Architect Portrait-Tom Anthony

2012 The Micro (Impressions) 2012 MS: PIA member

AD: Presents "Code Green", in Italy at the Sustainable City Conference AD: Chair of the Gold Coast and Northern Rivers Region of the AIA AD: "Pecha Kucha" CEFP International Conference 2012 2012 2012

Z012 AD: Presents "Code Green", in Italy at the Sust
 Z012 Singapore WAF Awards, Managing the MICRO
 Z013 Fitzgibbon Chase (Urban Design)

AD: GCCC – Cultural Precinct Design Competition Advisory Panel (ongoing) The Gallery (Terraces) 2013 2013

2013 AD: GCCC – Public Arts Reference Group (ongoing) 2013 AD: GCCC – Mayor's Technical Advisory Group (Gold Coast Future)

MS: Green Building Council of Australia Accredited Professional (Communities) AD: Bond University ISDA Independent Industry Advisory Panel for the SASA 'The Village Revisited" published 2013

#### 2000s

AD - Amy Degenhart / AIA - Australian Institute of Architects / AITC - Australian Industry Trade College / CEFP - Council of Educational Facility Planners / GCAA - Gold Coast Architectural Awards / GCCC - Gold Coast City Council / HIA - Housing Industry of Australia / ISDA - Institute of Sustainable Development and Architecture / MS - Martyn Shedd / PIA - Planning Institute of Australia / QLD - Queensland / QMBA - Queensland Master Builders Association / SASA - Soheil Abedian School of Architecture / UDIA - Urban Development Institute of Australia / VLCL - Varsity Lakes Community Limited / WAF - World Architectural Festival

<sup>\*</sup> Now the Gold Coast Central Chamber of Commerce

<sup>\*</sup> See Awards for full details (page 73)

# We specialise in architecture, urban design and innovative village design solutions.





# OUR STORY



#### **Our Services**

A strong administration and project management team supports degenhartSHEDD's consistent and personalised customer service and project delivery. This is provided by qualified and experienced professionals working with a network of contractors and consultants supplying specialised skills.

In order for their clients to benefit from leading edge skills and technology, the Directors are committed to investing in ongoing professional development and the latest software innovations for their team.

The company's vision is supported by a harmonious and enjoyable working environment and the practice celebrates both team and customer successes while conducting business in a way that is both financially and environmentally sustainable. degenhartSHEDD brings a boutique service to grand visions.

#### **Architecture**

The creation and delivery of excellence in buildings will always be a fundamental platform of the degenhartSHEDD brand, and a wide range of basic and complex architectural services are delivered in the process of achieving those outcomes. Our services are always flexible and innovative, tailored to suit the needs of the client, whether they be for a full service from brief formulation through contract administration to as-constructed operations, or just a small design sketch or detail along the way.



#### **Urban design**

degenhartSHEDD employs best-practice urban design principles on all scales and types of projects, from master-planned communities to the smallest place-making details. The range of their urban design services is expansive, and are delivered by means of designs, drawings, diagrams, writings, seminars and advice. Some of the specific tools utilised to create better urban design outcomes include the creation of 'urban design briefs' and 'design controls', both of which are fundamental to the achievement of sustainable urban design goals.

#### Design management

Effective design controls ensure a micro urban design outcome supportive of the master-planned aspirations of a community developer. degenhartSHEDD has significant expertise in the services required to deliver an excellent design management regime, ranging from vision, education and assessment to enforcement, data management and reward.





#### **Project management**

degenhartSHEDD has experience in a full range of built-environment issues, from strategic planning, design codes, research and urban design right through to the traditional architect's roles of residential estate design management, project management and construction contract administration. A unique quality of their service delivery model is that they integrate themselves with existing teams, often contributing service 'in-house', allowing clients greater choice in how and when their expertise is applied.



#### **Eco-design**

The experience gained by working closely with developers and strategic partners in both the feasibility stages and the ongoing administration of eco-centric projects has given degenhartSHEDD a unique perspective on environmentally sensitive design. Their extensive groundwork allows them to display leadership on the most important principles as well as be excellent team players, incorporating the latest 'ecovations' to bring about world class results.

#### Research

When it comes to project planning and feasibility studies, degenhartSHEDD recognises that research is an integral element that contributes to a successful outcome. With this understanding, they can provide qualitative advice and quantitative measures for master-planning, particularly in the areas of site analysis, land tenure and village housing prototypes.

#### **Advisory Panels**

With the impressive breadth and depth of their knowledge and experience, degenhartSHEDD Directors Amy Degenhart and Martyn Shedd are more than qualified to advise, collaborate and work strategically on achieving desired outcomes for private, public and not-for-profit sectors.

#### **Community Engagement**

Aside from the many civic commitments and leadership appointments that the Directors each personally embrace, degenhartSHEDD as a company also seeks to provide opportunities for the community to participate in celebrating the design of their village. One such opportunity is the *degenhartSHEDD Biennial Place Prize*, inaugurated in 2011 and dedicated to the art of landscape photography in the urban environment.

# Imagine better places, a better program and a better bottom line.









#### A Study of Success

'Our Village' captures more than 50 years experience in a range of expertise. Here they are showcased within eight categories, from *Apartments* through to *Impressions*.

These eight categories feature six key projects and two significant case studies, predominately based within Queensland. degenhartSHEDD hope you enjoy reading about them as much as they've enjoyed creating them. Many encompass positive elements of sustainability, financial, time and authoritative constraints and environmental hurdles.

Above all, they underpin what degenhartSHEDD consider to be successful outcomes and as always, collaborative achievements.

APARTMENTS > URBAN DESIGN > COMMUNITY > LIVING OPTIONS > TERRACES > HOMES > DESIGN MANAGEMENT > IMPRESSIONS

# A mini community is formed through the context of the apartment typology.



Park Azzurra > Philco Financial Strategies > Urban design brief\* > Apartment design and documentation



## Euro OUR VILLAGE



#### **APARTMENTS**

Apartment living is becoming increasingly popular as people focus on location, security, amenities and maintenance.

We like to think of the apartment building as another form of village: you meet in the lobby, the elevator, or perhaps the communal garden; naturally lit and ventilated hallways become the street and the apartments the homes upon it.

#### Park Azzurra > Case Study > Philco Financial Strategies

Completion Date: 2004 > Project Type: Apartments > Principal: Amy Degenhart



The urban design of Azzurra Island was of vital importance to Lend Lease, requiring an outcome that would strengthen the association between new development and the principal central park or 'Village Green'.

In keeping with the urban design brief Martyn himself established on behalf of Lend Lease, I ensured that the Park Azzurra apartments addressed this Village Green through contemporary expression of the historical built form of Bath Circuit in England. The primary requirement of the brief was to create a hard edge to the park, providing enclosure to this significant open-space asset. This enclosure is emphasised by the strong base and verticality of the three to four-storey structures, accentuated by a minimal park-front setback. Generous facade articulation and detailed fencing, gate and landscaping elements also contribute to the architectural design, providing visual permeability while still clearly defining the park edge. As the site is on a corner lot with the rear boundary fronting a traditional suburban street, a pair of townhouses

was incorporated with the apartment complex in order to address this street and form an interface the character of the surrounding village. with Unit layouts emphasise sustainable outdoor living and feature large alfresco terraces, with the associated living areas all overlooking the park, enhancing surveillance of this major public open space. Aside from their generous size-up to 200 square metres-the apartments at Park Azzurra offer many of the attributes of a traditional dwelling, with multiple lifts to create virtual front porches and open floor plans that extend from front to back, maximising cross ventilation and the sense of light and space. Appointed with high-quality finishes, these dwellings attracted owner-occupiers, providing the basis for a sense of community caretaking for the adjacent park. The choice of living in a spacious, open, light, airy and well-located apartment has been achieved at Park Azzurra, while the project also complements the Village Green and provides a visual focal point for this island community.

#### Labrador Park Urban Village > Case Study > Castleship

Completion Date: Future > Project Type: Mixed-use Urban Village Apartments > Principal: Amy Degenhart



The vision for Labrador Park Urban Village harmoniously blends apartments, home offices, shops, cafes, restaurants, commercial premises, a transport hub, greenspace, medical facilities and other services.

Enveloped within an innovative village design to create a 'live, work and play' environment that also serves as a gateway to the Gold Coast, the client's dream of creating a sustainable community hub for the Labrador area is assured. This development is expected to create more than 2,000 direct and indirect jobs, serving as a major boost for the Labrador economy. The addition of 175 residences will also ensure that Labrador keeps pace with demand for new accommodation, including an affordable housing component of 16 dwellings. Through the provision of architectural design, presentation and strategic advice for over five years. degenhartSHEDD, under the direction of City Planners, not only patiently ensured that the proposal was ultimately approved—despite being in contradiction to many provisions of the planning scheme-but also delivered a design that reflects the fundamental vision to create a vibrant village environment. To ensure connectivity, the design intent featured a high degree of accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, buses and cars so that the village would become an integrated community hub.

Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) issues were also high on the agenda, with the apartments featuring large private balconies to encourage outdoor living, while the residential towers include naturally ventilated and lit corridors, external drying courts, a northerly orientation and dwellings that consider persons with a disability. The project as a whole integrates photovoltaic systems, water saving fixtures and energy-efficient appliances and lighting, large underground water tanks for rainwater recycling, bicycle storage, productive landscaping and many more strategies that will ensure an environmentally responsible legacy. Obtaining a Material Change of Use Development Approval in 2011 means that the client's vision to deliver stimulus to Labrador and encourgage the spread of rejuvenation projects on the Gold Coast can now be achieved.



#### < Lae Drive

#### Southern Cross Investments

Project design and Development Application documentation

#### Mulgrave Crescent >

**Philco Financial Strategies**Building design and documentation



#### Ranier Crescent v

**Sunrise Developers & Consultants**Building design and documentation





#### ^ Robina Retirement Village

Co-operative Retirement Services

Masterplanning and building
design and documentation <sup>1</sup>



**City Planners** 

Project design and Development Application documentation (Artist impression: Kel Foley)



#### < Various Apartment Towers

**Raptis Group** 

Building design and Development Application documentation <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Amy Degenhart (Giles Degenhart Partnership) <sup>2</sup> Martyn Shedd (through Raptis Group)

# Great urban design is when the whole is more than the sum of the parts.





# CUR VILLAGE



#### **URBAN DESIGN**

We have worked on buildings, and the spaces betweem them, at both the micro scale and macro scale.

Our design philosophy is that these two are inseparable from the other. However, urban design consists not only of these tangible ingredients – it is also about other factors like property markets, community expectations and social imperatives, all of which change over time.

When you throw in our experience in project and development management, we offer a powerful urban design team.

#### Varsity Lakes > Case Study > Lend Lease

Completion Date: 2010 > Project Type: Master-Planned Community > Principal: Martyn Shedd



From inaugural earthworks to project completion, our involvement in this award-winning community spans over 10 years in such areas as on-site urban design, design management and architectural collaborations.

During my tenure with Lend Lease, I contributed greatly to the principles behind the evolution of both the town centre and suburban residential development as enshrined in the primary planning documents: 'The Varity Lakes Concept Plan' and the 'Southern Area Development Plan'. These documents were innovative blueprints that departed significantly from the standard planning instruments used by Gold Coast City Council at the time and, in fact, still seem radical today. Through meticulous and forwardthinking design management and planning, drafting of design briefs, development of control plans, review of third-party proposals, and integration of residential products, I played a key role in much of the built environment delivered at Varsity Lakes, and Amy also authored numerous architectural outcomes within that environment.

The project is made up of village nodes with residential densities that range from 11 to 90 dwellings per hectare. These nodes are supported by three mixed-use precincts designed to deliver a private hospital, a rail station, aged-care facilities, commercial premises and a plethora of retail and restaurant spaces, all linked with residential accommodation to ensure both day and night vibrancy. To date, the project has created more than 6,000 permanent full-time jobs and is home to more than 10,000 residents in over 4,500 dwellings.

One of the key achievements of Varsity Lakes has been the pioneering of innovative housing solutions, including Warehouses, Lofts, SOHOs and 'Living Options' Homes, most of which are unique to Varsity Lakes. Delivering options beyond traditional houses and apartments has contributed immensely to the project's sense of community by catering for different household types and socioeconomic backgrounds; a great outcome not only for the project developer, but also for the Varsity Lakes community.

#### Fitzgibbon Chase > Case Study > ULDA\*

Completion Date: 2013 > Project Type: Master-Planned Community > Principal: Amy Degenhart



Fitzgibbon Chase is a residential master-planned community located 12 kilometres from the Brisbane CBD. Covering 295 hectares of Queensland State Government land, the project will comprise over 1,500 homes in a range of sizes and styles to suit all household types.

Along with neighbourhood parks and a conservation area covering 40 hectares, Fitzgibbon Chase is also the first project in Australia to receive full marks under Enviro Development's Version 2.0 Standards, which recognise six key areas of sustainability: ecosystems, waste, energy, materials, water and community.

Martyn and I first became involved with Fitzgibbon Chase in 2009 at the behest of then-CEO Paul Eagles to prepare an urban design study of its Neighbourhood Centre. We started at this centre and worked our way around most of the village housing precincts, ending up four years later with a second—and quite different—look at the Neighbourhood Centre. This time, with the economy a major issue, the concept of 'micro-retail' was introduced; instead of simply exploiting the

advantages of small, freehold-title lots for dwellings alone, the micro-retail concept extends this strategy to the Neighbourhood Centre, allowing organic and need-based businesses to take hold and flourish.

However, our principal role was to facilitate the delivery of substantial innovations in housing, including the planning approval obtained in 2012 for a precinct of 185 degenhartSHEDD-designed homes on a variety of small, freehold-title lots that equate to a residential density of 60 dwellings per hectare. With most population centres of Australia looking to foster community aspirations as well as preserve surrounding natural amenities, the concepts implemented at Fitzgibbon Chase represent a paradigm shift away from apartment living by exploring the virtues of a more European urban lifestyle that celebrates the street.

By avoiding body corporate fees and ensuring the proximity of amenities such as shopping, public transport and open space, Fitzgibbon Chase has been able to deliver the feel of an Italian street right here in southeast Queensland.



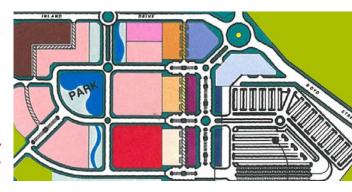
#### < South Bay Lend Lease

Urban design and Project management<sup>1</sup>

#### Pacific Beach Urban Village >

**Pacific Century Developments** 

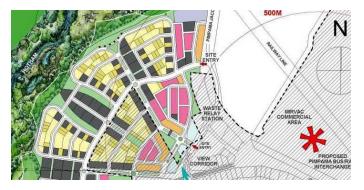
Urban design and Development Application documentation



Pimpama Village v

The Leda Group

Urban design





^The Landing
Lend Lease
Urban design and Project management<sup>1</sup>

Cobaki >
The LEDA Group
Urban design and Development
Application documentation



< Greenacre Drive
O'Brien Family
Urban design and Development
Application documentation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Martyn Shedd (through Lend Lease)

## Any individual project depends on the success of the community of which it forms a part.





## Euro OUR VILLAGE



## **COMMUNITY**

Village housing alone does not make a sustainable community; as architects and urban designers, we are equally committed to assisting with the delivery of the special places that make up the heart of any community.

To enhance the process of place creation with a facility or building that will be used and enjoyed by the same people that live on the village streets is central to our company goals.

## Sports House > Case Study > Lend Lease

Completion Date: 2011 > Project Type: Community and Facilities Buildings > Principal: Amy Degenhart



Sports House at Varsity Lakes was conceptualised and pioneered by Lend Lease as part of the wider Varsity Lakes master-planned community.

Designed as a strategic legacy to support community sustainability, the project is an innovative community leadership model that now provides an enduring source of funding for the not-for-profit community organisation Varsity Lakes Community Limited (VLCL). An exemplary instance of public, private and civic collaboration, Sports House became a joint venture between Lend Lease, Gold Coast City Council and VLCL, assisted by significant contributions from the Queensland Government and other benefactors including degenhartSHEDD itself.

Today, the original project vision and the tangible use of Sports House are evident and flourishing. Boasting striking design elements, the complex showcases a front office facing a busy road and a waterfront boatstorage shed that addresses a larger public gathering space. The design creatively integrates these two very

different buildings, which together allow for a variety of uses, including community and sport-based meeting and office space, watercraft storage and a finishing point for rowing and paddling events.

Through clever site design, all of the sport activities are featured in view of the expansive deck of the community building. Environmentally, the orientation of the building is one of its primary sustainable design responses: Sports House has limited east and west-facing glazing, with generous but well-shaded north-facing windows tinted in locations impacted by direct sunlight. In an effort to save power and improve amenity, the building features skylights, water tanks, solar hot water, and appliances selected for energy efficiency, while natural ventilation is encouraged through the provision of louvre windows.

Martyn provided critical leadership in the formation of the Sports House concept during his tenure with Lend Lease, while I served both as the architect of the project and as a community champion through my directorship of the VLCL board.

<sup>\*</sup> Urban Land Development Authority (now Economic Development Oueensland)

## AITC > Case Study > Australian Industry Trade College (AITC)

Completion Date: 2011 > Project Type: Senior School Trade College > Principal: Amy Degenhart



The AITC is the vision of a few inspired industry leaders that challenged the conventional notion of secondary school education.

In 2005, I was approached by City Planners to provide a design for a trade-oriented high school for the Gold Coast. This concept was eventually realised thanks to a \$10-million Commonwealth grant secured by a determined Board of Directors and their support team of educators and industry professionals. Due to these efforts, practically minded young people now have a genuine education and, indeed, lifestyle alternative.

According to Mark Hands, visionary and Principal of the AITC, the creation of a campus with a 'smart, practical and professional industry flavour' was always critical to the project concept. With the help of Mark and his in-house team and guidance from the Board, the school was expertly delivered in 2011 by City Planners, degenhartSHEDD, Franklins & Associates and Alder Constructions.

I was privileged to be part of this pioneering team, conceptualising a built environment that could enhance the education of senior high-school students and assist them in transitioning into the adult world. The campus design deliberately breaks away from the familiar model of schools today—it is meant to feel more like an office park, offering students a chance to experience the independence that they are expected to exhibit in the workplace environments associated with this style of education.

However, it was equally important that the AITC exhibited the characteristic framework of a formal education. The expression of these two components of the brief came about in a crisply detailed administration building; this commercial facade served as a gateway to a university-style quadrangle, creating an extraordinary courtyard that is the true heart of the campus. Although degenhartSHEDD did not produce the construction drawings, the strength of the design concept—reinforced by our clever colour and finish selections—ensured that the final product was a true expression of the original vision.



< Varsity Lakes Sales Centre Lend Lease Building design and documentation

Robina Woods Club House > Robina Land Corporation Building concept design



Woodlands Sales Centre v

Lend Lease

Building design and documentation





### Fitzgibbon Neighbourhood Centre^

**Urban Land Development Authority<sup>1</sup>**Design and Development
Application documentation



## Labrador Park >

**Castleship**Design and Development Application documents



### < Coomera Waters Recreation Centre

#### Auscorp

Building design and documentation

'Living Options' homes provide a new type of housing choice and create diversity in the suburban context.





## Euro OUR VILLAGE



## LIVING OPTIONS

'Living Options' is a Lend Lease proprietary term describing a new type of multi-dwelling living format that fits comfortably within a suburban neighbourhood.

This type of home addresses a number of urban design challenges inherent in typical greenfield development, providing a strong community structure within the street as well as improved financial returns to the developer client.

## Gammon Drive > Case Study > Lend Lease

Completion Date: 2003 > Project Type: Living Options Dwellings > Principal: Amy Degenhart



Just before the beginning of the new century, another new beginning was taking place: a company called The Delfin Property Group Limited successfully negotiated a deal with the University of Queensland to jointly purchase the land that would become Varsity Lakes.

In 1999, Delfin—subsequently purchased by Lend Lease—began to develop a residential community on the doorstep of Bond University. Along with this new community came an archipelago of innovative housing ideas, and thus the concept of 'Living Options' homes was born.

Living Options homes are an innovative variation of the standard duplex, townhouse or walk-up that delivers increased density, greater household mix and better site utilisation within a community. The Living Options concept is a collection of often unique attached or semi-detached homes on a standard dwelling-sized lot. The concept both echoes the characteristics of the surrounding homes and reinforces the urban structure of the neighbourhood

through increased variety, scale, activity and affordability.

Innovated by the Delfin urban design team—including Martyn—Living Options homes address the desire to deliver better urban design solutions for critical dual-frontage lots. The Living Options concept uses a salt-and-pepper approach to the distribution of increased density, improving the socioeconomic base of the community and encouraging owner occupation.

With Martyn as a key innovator of this new form of housing, I was proud to be the architect endowed with the responsibility of translating Delfin's vision into reality through the design of the first-ever Living Options homes at Varsity Lakes. Situated on a single sloping 509-square-metre corner lot, three dwellings became the exemplar for many more to come. True to the concept of housing choice, each of the dwellings had a distinct form, character and street address, yet they all comprised one harmonious structure that fit appropriately into the surrounding suburban fabric.

## Cape Martin Lane > Case Study > Ray Jennings Builder

Completion Date: 2006 > Project Type: Living Options Dwellings > Principal: Amy Degenhart

"...an excellent use of land to influence future building form in the region. ... [it] displays good articulation to its site and stands out among this group."

GCCC Urban Design Awards Jury Comment (2009)

Address: Corner Cape Martin Lane and Meridien Avenue, Varsity Lakes

Some three years after the inaugural Living Options homes were constructed on Gammon Drive, degenhartSHEDD had designed over 30 unique dwellings of this type within Varsity Lakes.

One of my overall favourites is on the corner of Cape Martin Lane and Meridien Avenue: this project, located on Azzurra Island, was distinct due to the way the site and the design controls encouraged a built form that enclosed the street in a notable way. conjuring the pleasant feeling of being enveloped by a place that one seldom feels in the midst of a modern suburb. One of the principal reasons that this feeling of enclosure served to enhance the street, rather than simply dominate it, was undoubtedly the fact that only the light-weight elements-like the first-floor deck, entry gate and soaring roof-were encouraged to extend virtually up to the street boundary. The visual permeability of these features dabbled beautifully in the art of light and shadow that the Australian sun so generously affords its designers. The housing of this project, which includes three substantial dwellings with indirect views to a linear park, waterway and environmental reserve, makes the upstairs-living concept (including the generous covered decks) an ideal way to utilise a site that afforded fantastic lifestyle opportunities. Another unique feature of the project was its orientation: unfortunately, the dwellings addressed the street to the south, challenging the simplest solutions to achieving solar amenity. However, from each challenge comes an opportunity, and the large raked ceilings extending over the first-floor openplan living areas provided for generous north-facing clerestory windows, allowing the element of light to once again become a feature.

In 2009, this Living Options project was awarded a commendation in the local council's urban design awards, formally recognising the ripening of the Living Options concept as a valuable contribution to the fabric of a residential neighbourhood.



< Carina Peak Drive Triplex Ray Jennings Builder Building design and documentation

## Palma Crescent Quinplex > Bernaise

Building design and documentation



Lonsdale Place SOHO v **Green Street Design** 





Bardon Avenue Duplex >
East Coast Building
Building design and documentation



The Quay Duplexes >
Lend Lease
Multiple building design and documentation



< Corner Ranier Crescent and Ferndale Crescent Quadplex Green Street Design Building design and documentation

## Terraces are a time-honoured style of housing being rediscovered in the new villages of today.





## Euro OUR VILLAGE



## **TERRACES**

Being at the forefront of the reintroduction of this form of home, we have helped to design and deliver the terrace for a new generation of urban dwellers.

These homes are an important component of village living, delivering affordability and convenience whilst also playing a central role in creating sustainable places. In the complex equation that balances various lifestyle aspirations, terraces can provide the perfect solution.

## The Gallery > Case Study > Crown Property

Completion Date: 2013 > Project Type: Village Housing > Principal: Amy Degenhart



Located in the suburb of Fitzgibbon, The Gallery is a residential precinct of 30 affordable homes that offer a wide variety of lifestyle options and a diversity of choice within the framework of an emerging, vibrant and socially connected urban village.

The project is only 12 kilometres from Brisbane's CBD yet is set amidst natural bushland, offering residents a relaxing, peaceful lifestyle with the benefits of public transport, parks, schools, shopping and a range of other attractive amenities at their fingertips.

The project has been approved for the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS), offering investors significant tax rebates over 10 years as an incentive to purchase and assisting those renting under the scheme. The Gallery offers 10 unique architectural house designs with the emphasis on housing affordability, sustainability and amenity, highlighting flexible liveability by combining open, light, well-ventilated spaces within a compact yet functional design. For me, The Gallery epitomises the unique combination of services that Martyn and

and I cherish and which provide the greatest added value to our clients. By designing both the land and the dwellings simulataneously, we are afforded the opportunity of delivering development efficiencies simply not possible when the two processes are approached independently, including the all-important coordination of site services. Adding to this substantial benefit was the progressive planning approach pioneered by the Urban Land Development Authority (ULDA), which in early 2013 morphed into Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) but still expresses its original can-do approach to innovative housing solutuions.

Through the market-preparedness of our client, David Hamilton of Crown Property, The Gallery will enjoy the privelege of being one of the first freehold-title urban villages in Queensand with a density of over 45 dwellings per hectare. Many of those dwellings are single storey and, therefore, being both affordable and accessible, The Gallery represents yet another ground-breaking housing innovation that will undoubtedly influence future building forms.

## The Quay > Case Study > Lend Lease

Completion Date: 2005 > Project Type: Master-Planned Community and Village Housing > Principal: Martyn Shedd



Our involvement in The Quay was two-fold: Amy was a consultant providing design and documentation services for some of the built form, whilst I was involved in my capacity as Urban Designer and Development Manager at Lend Lease.

Nestled in the heart of the mixed-use village of Varsity Central, The Quay is comprised of over 140 dwellings. The rear-lane layout challenged many of the existing Council standards, and the vigorous negotiations to secure critical variations to those standards are a principal reason for its success. To ensure a rich and varied streetscape, in the initial phase of the project I supervised the collaboration of four consulting architects, each working on a different housing product, and Amy was one member of that team. The Quay also includes many innovative housing products designed by Lend Lease and documented by degenhartSHEDD. Each of these products was developed by my project team to address a niche market opportunity that would ensure the precinct enjoyed a diverse demographic and sustainable household population.

The resulting mix of products achieved a gross residential density of 50 dwellings per hectare, providing something for everyone in the heart of the village. From luxury free-standing homes and boutique 'Loft'-style terraces to three-bedroom waterfront units, The Quay pioneered a new way of living on the Gold Coast.

We also managed to achieve a seamless integration of the housing with the adjacent mixed-use centre of Market Square. The use of the SOHO (small office home office) terrace meant we could address Market Square directly, whilst still keeping the residential character of the precinct. The amalgamation of differing terrace designs supported a variety of lifestyle purposes; many of the homes in the precinct include work-from-home design features, including studies, purpose-built commercial space or a utility loft over the rear lane.

Today, when I walk around the precinct and through its mature, tree-lined streets, I can see that the vision has been delivered successfully.



< Market Square SOHOs Lend Lease Building documentation

Hillclose Terraces >

G + D Lawrie Builders

Development Application documentation and Building design and documentation



The Quay Corner House SOHO v

Lend Lease

Building design and documentation





Watts Drive Esplande Homes ^

Lend Lease

Building design development and documentation



**Harmony Drive Terraces >** 

G + D Lawrie Builders

Building design and development documentation



< Lonsdale Warehouses
Lend Lease
Building documentation

## "Home is the most popular, and will be the most enduring of all earthly establishments." Channing Pollock





## CUR VILLAGE



## **HOMES**

The house is the ultimate expression of 'home', and all other interpretations draw upon this fundamental building block of living.

A central theme in the hundreds of houses we have assisted in delivering is the desire to improve the quality of life for those living in them. We approach the design of a large waterfront house or an affordable village home with the same passionate focus on lifestyle outcomes.

## Tribal Arts Home and Gallery > Case Study > Peter Hallinan

Completion Date: 1990 > Project Type: Renovated Dwelling into Home and Art Gallery > Principal: Amy Degenhart



Overlooking a natural waterway and one of the most beautiful green spaces in the central Gold Coast, this project was the first undertaken by our young practice since Martyn and I opened the doors of our studio and art gallery, The Design Forum, in 1987.

This project was particularly significant for me, as it was the ideal outcome of our marketing vision: to attract clients to our practice that truly valued aesthetics. An art gallery—and, coincidentally, a client who also started his life and career in Chicago—was the perfect fit, and we were very fortunate to launch our Australian careers with the Tribal Arts Home and Gallery.

Putting into perspective the outcomes of this project, it is worth explaining that the decision to renovate was in name only: we deliberately ensured that the slabs and many of the original frames were preserved, as to start with completely new construction would have required the structure to be raised by nearly one metre, greatly complicating the loading and unloading functions of the gallery.

However, the play between the organised geometry of a new building and the random layout of the original bungalow actually enhanced the design outcome, as we were forever resolving this conflict through the addition of niches cut into the artificially thickened walls created to resolve those geometric anomalies.

These numerous and varied niches blossomed into a true visual treat: accented by their deep, rich colours in contrast to the 'gallery white' walls, they ultimately became the main feature of the design, beautifully accentuating the artwork that was displayed within them. The external expression of the building was deliberately downplayed, and the architect judges who awarded it a Commendation in the Australian Institute of Architects Regional Awards nearly dismissed it as a contender before the delight of the interior spaces was revealed.

Being virtually our first Gold Coast project, to be bestowed with the acclaim of our peers was truly rewarding.

## Yagoi Hamlet > Case Study > Ben O'Callaghan

Completion Date: 2009 > Project Type: Dwelling and Home Office > Principal: Amy Degenhart



Residing within the macrocosm of The Ecovillage—considered the world's best environmental development—1 Yagoi Place sits mid-way up a hill and, with over 100 individual environmentally sustainable features, is a true role model for sustainability in terms of design, construction practice and enduring lifestyle.

As the client, Ben O'Callaghan, was a member of the Ecovillage team at the time of its design, the mandate to provide an exemplary home embodying the essence of the estate's vision was the minimum expectation. From the initial selection of the land through to the entire design and construction process, all aspects of sustainability were carefully considered by the client and architect team in order to create a project that demonstrated the benefits of the stringent local Architectural and Landscape Code. Concurrently, the client's needs were met to create a comfortable, timeless and distinctive home and office. The streetscape presentation of this home is evident from the main road long before one even reaches the access to Yagoi Place, as the built

form rises from the hill on the low side, displaying a series of distinctive outdoor rooms.

The most prominent feature is the pronounced elliptical deck, anchored to the ground by a series of vertical handrail supports, providing both screening for and glimpses of the numerous water tanks situated under this expansive northern terrace.

The yawning roof cantilevered over the central deck cuts an idiosyncratic image in the sky, with a backdrop of a pop-up roof shading clerestory windows below. These elements were all carefully designed to allow sunlight to fall onto the thermal mass of the concrete walkway inside, while also providing the most efficient angle for the photovoltaic panels it supports above.

Achieving an energy efficiency rating of over seven stars, this project was a rewarding challenge for me and concluded with the achievement of an industry accolade in 2009: the GreenSmart Energy Efficiency Award in the HIA-CSR Gold Coast/Northern Rivers Housing Awards.



< Isle of Capri
Private Owner
Building design and documentation

University Shores > Pacific Century Developments

Housing design and documentation



Tamborine Street v
Richfield Properties
Building design and documentation





Private Owner
Building design and building documentation

Valetta Crescent > Private Owner Building design and documentation



< Perigian Beach
Private Owner
Building design and documentation

## Design Management recognises that successful outcomes start with clever design and end with effective delivery.





## Ewo OUR VILLAGE



## **DESIGN MANAGEMENT**

Over the years, we have participated in the delivery of thousands of homes through our design management services, contributing to improved micro and macro outcomes.

Whether it is through writing design guidelines, preparing sketch plans, providing design advice, or administrating covenants, design management is a tool that we use skilfully to ensure the delivery of the envisioned community.

## The Ecovillage > Case Study > Landmatters Currumbin

Completion Date: Ongoing > Project Type: Master-planned Eco-community > Principal: Amy Degenhart

"degenhartSHEDD have been associated with our sustainable development, over past years...[and] have displayed strong empathy with the project's sustainability...Thanks so much for all your help and partnership."

Chris Walton, Managing Director - Landmatters Currumbin (2009)



In 2004, I sat under the canopy of the great fig tree that shades the forecourt of The Ecovillage Information Centre, meeting Chris Walton for the first time and eager to share his incredible vision: to 'inspire sustainable living and development practice awareness by creating a residential community that exemplifies World's Best Practice in Ecologically Sustainable Development'.

My introduction to The Ecovillage was actually by way of the Architectural and Landscape Code (ALC), the fundamental tool used by Landmatters to fulfil their vision. I had just been working with a legal practice on the Architectural Code at Coomera Waters, another community-titled sustainable residential estate on Queensland's Gold Coast, when the legal team asked for permission to use our co-drafted Architectural Code as the foundation for a new sustainable community on the Gold Coast—The Ecovillage—thus starting a very exciting chapter in my own life.

The mandate for degenhartSHEDD at that time was to assist in the finalisation of that code—later branded

'Code Green' for my presentation at the 7th International Conference on Urban Regeneration and Sustainability hosted in Italy by the Wessex Institute of Technology in 2012. In addition, I was to take charge of another important tool: the 'Lot Evaluations', or a series of diagrammatic controls that prescribed an overall site design for each lot within the estate to ensure the best-practice sustainability outcomes established by the Landmatters Currumbin vision.

We also administered the vetting and approval of the first house plans for the estate through the Village Design Panel, the community-title entity responsible for administering the code and transforming dreams into dwellings.

Representing our significant involvement in this world-class and multi-award-winning sustainable community development, degenhartSHEDD can currently claim 140 'Lot Evaluations', 50 dwelling approvals, six approved house designs and three constructed homes within The Ecovillage.

## Coomera Waters > Case Study > Coomera Waters Village & Resort

Completion Date: Ongoing > Project Type: Master-planned Resort Community > Principal: Amy Degenhart



Coomera Waters was one of the first Enviro Development-certified communities on the Gold Coast. I am proud of my contribution to the application that resulted in its accreditation, publically demonstrating Coomera Waters' achievement of providing a high level of environmentally sustainable design.

degenhartSHEDD was engaged in 2003 to provide design management services to this community-title estate upon its opening, and continued in this role for about six years, while also making substantial contributions to its Architectural and Landscape Codes and planning applications. Being one of the first of its kind as a large-scale residential resort development based on a layered community-title structure, degenhartSHEDD was instrumental in developing many of the protocols of the microurban design processing that was required to achieve on-the-ground results within this attractive and green residential community.

In addition, we contributed to the Coomera Waters landscape even more directly through the provision of our architectural services for the Recreation Club. Our experiences at Coomera Waters have clearly demonstrated the value of design controls in the assurance of outcomes, and often that assurance is exactly what local authorities are looking for when being asked to embrace a new style of development. Although controls can be perceived as restrictive and sometimes challenge individuals to embrace the greater good at the expense of a personal preference, as a whole they are instrumental in delivering and maintaining high-quality built environments.

Coomera Waters continues to be a popular lifestyle choice for good reason, offering a community-based ecologically sensitive environment that consists of a 17-hectare harbour, a 70-berth marina, over 20 kilometres of interconnected eco-walking trails, and extensive parklands. Properties include a blend of waterfront land, villas and dry allotments, with state-of-the-art fibre-optic internet, natural gas, and recycled water supplied to each lot, all centred around the Marina Village commercial and retail precinct.



< Varsity Lakes
Lend Lease
Building guidelines

University Shores >
Pacific Century Developments
Covenant writing and administration



Cobaki v
The LEDA Group
Code writing, Building Design Guidelines
writing and Chair of the Design Review Panel





Robina Projects Australia
Covenant writing and administration

Mudgeeraba Forest, Tallebudgera Park
and Bonogin Downs >
Barrie Miller
Covenant administration



< Coomera Springs
Global Properties
Design guidelines and administration

# 'This world is but a canvas to our imagination.' —Henry David Thoreau



> "Pavilion" paper and photographic collage > Amy Degenhart, 1980



## Euro OUR VILLAGE



## **IMPRESSIONS**

Our impressions of what could be are just as significant as our expressions of what is.

Martyn and I have been privileged to see so much of our work translated into the reality of the built environment around us, but we are just as fortunate to have also had the opportunity to tinker with new ideas that could help shape the future. Evidenced by the fact that some of that 'tinkering' has resulted in awarded designs, we feel confident to keep dreaming of a better world.

## The Micro > Case Study > ULDA\*

Completion Date: 2012 > Project Type: Future 'Micro' Dwelling > Principal: Amy Degenhart



For me, one of the best things about being an architect is the people that I have met, and our Micro home owes much to those people; if it were not for enthusiastic visionaries in strategic positions shaping urban design policy, the Micro simply could not exist.

Designed to fit on one of the smallest freehold-title dwelling lots in Australia—45 square metres—this project is not compact merely to break records, but to innovate within the affordable housing space. The concept consists of many components, and cost competes vigorously with key factors such as connectivity, access, lifecycle, sustainability, health and community: only the perfect combination that incorporates all of these elements will hit the infamous bullseye, a target about as small as this home.

The formula we have proposed for our client consists firstly of a location worthy of the effort: the new urban village of Fitzgibbon Chase. Located 20 minutes by train from the Brisbane CBD, the village borders a large environmental reserve and features a community centre, local park, bus stop

and neighbourhood shops within walking distance. Within this macro context, the Micro addresses a 6.5-metre laneway rather than a street, so its diminutive presence is proportional to its environs, serving to enhance the surveillance and safety of such cherished urban spaces. In fact, the lot frontage has been designed to precisely accommodate the absolute minimum space required for the garage door, front entry, electrical supply pillar and necessary meter boxes and utilities.

Unlike many of its micro-lot predecessors, this prototype design thrives on standard construction techniques, materials and practices, so its affordability is embedded in considered planning rather than gymnastic execution.

To Martyn and I, who have three adult children, this new style of home represents the future—a realistic opportunity for young adults to secure housing that is not only trendy and affordable, but which they can also call their own.

<sup>\*</sup> Urban Land Development Authority (now Economic Development Oueensland)

## Ironbark > Case Study > Landmatters Currumbin

Completion Date: 2009 > Project Type: Future Sustainable Dwelling and Home Office > Principal: Amy Degenhart



From day one, this project was about passion. When approached by Chris Walton of the world-renowned Ecovillage to select a lot in The Highlands for a house-and-land package design, Martyn and I were cynical about this approach to such unique and beautiful land.

However, there was no doubt that this opportunity was the kind that comes around only once in a lifetime, and the chance to work alongside Ecovillage legends Chris Walton and Kerry Shepherd was certainly one not to be missed. The lot I selected was in fact the one that this famous duo had initially reserved for their own home. It was a challenging site: steeply sloping along its extended road frontage with limited depth, and dotted randomly with Ironbark trees—which, naturally, could not be touched!

It also overlooked a small creek at the back and was simply irresistible, reminiscent of an enchanted forest from The Lord of the Rings or similar fantasy tale. To this promising mixture I added my own passion for place, envisioning a mini eco-retreat for this rare natural asset, although it would equally suit a family with adult children, a home business or lodger. My vision included an on-site caretaker's residence, office, carport and entry commanding the high portion of the site. Meanwhile, the balance of the structure would weave its way down the hill and around the Ironbarks with a continuously sloping and suspended walkway; a "Tree Walk," where living pods were designed as self-catering hotel suites. Ultimately, this path culminated at the first floor of the core dwelling, featuring communal living, dining and kitchen areas, a master suite and the formal pedestrian and vehicle entries.

My passion paid off with 'Ironbark' when it was shortlisted at the World Architecture Festival Awards in 2009. This accolade showcased the vision of sustainable human augmentation to the handiwork of Mother Nature for this endangered, valuable and rare site to be shared with the world.



< Southport Towers

Dr Talujua

Design

Chicago Navy Pier Redevelopment >
Student Project
Competition Entry



Telecommunications Tower v

Auscorp

Competition entry





### Ephraim Island^

Raptis Group<sup>1</sup>

Design

(Artist impression: John Scofield)



## Fishermans Wharf >

Raptis Group<sup>1</sup>

Design

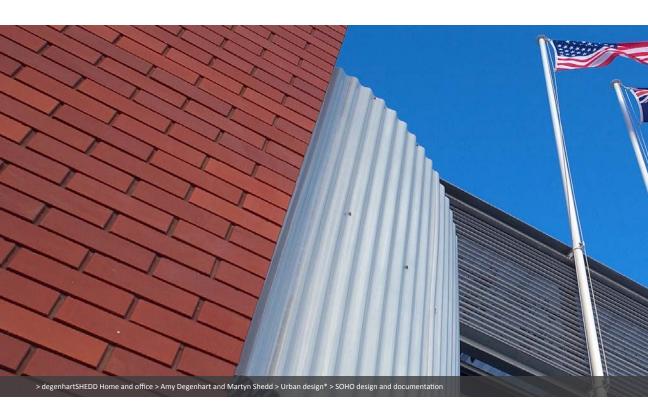
(Artist impression: Warren Pickering)



### < Gold Coast Cultural Precinct

**City of the Gold Coast** Competition entry

## Our awards are a testament to the clients and the community who make exceptional and unique work possible.









We have been fortunate to have experienced the affirmation of our peers and the community through both professional and industry awards.

Looking through this collection, each award represents that rare space where the goals of the client, the needs of the user, the talents of the designer and the craftsmanship of the tradesman have all converged to deliver a strong vision, an urban design success and a building of merit.

#### **World Architecture Festival (WAF) Awards**

Managing the MICRO > 2012

Shortlisted—Future Residential

Ironbark, The Ecovillage > 2009

Shortlisted—Future Residential

Australian Institute of Architects Queensland Chapter Architectural Awards

**Robina Design Service > 1992** 

Winner-Innovation Award RAIA

Robina Design Service > 1992

Regional Commendation

Tribal Arts Home and Gallery > 1992

Regional Commendation

Robina Design Service and Tribal Arts Home and Gallery > 1992

Best Presented Award

Australian Institute of Architects Regional Architectural Awards

SOHO+SOHO on Lake > 2005

Commendation

Tribal Arts Home and Gallery > 1991

Special Commendation

## **Gold Coast City Council Urban Design Awards**

Australian Industry Trade College > 2011

Special Mention

Cape Martin Lane > 2009

Special Mention

The Highlands and The Old Dairy > 2009

Joint Winner-Helen Josephson Award for

Innovation in Urban Design

(with Landmatters Currumbin)

Delfin Lend Lease SOHOs > 2009

Joint Commendation (with Andrew Keag of Lend Lease)

16 Lake Street, Varsity Lakes > 2005

Winner-Award



## **Urban Development Institute of Australia**

Coomera Waters Village and Resort > 2005

Joint High Commendation (with the Coomera

Waters consultant team)

## Urban Development Institute of Australia Women in Development (WID) Awards

#### **Category 3 > 2010**

Winner—Outstanding Achievement by a Women- Professional Services to the Development Industry

## Housing Industry of Australia (HIA) Awards

## 1 Yagoi Hamlet, The Ecovillage > 2009

Winner—HIA-CSR GreenSmart Energy Efficiency Award

#### **University Shores > 1996**

Bronze Award—HIA Top Homes of the Year (from \$125,001-\$150,000)

## **Queensland Master Builders Association** (QMBA) Awards

### Solaz (Tambourine Street Duplex) > 2006

Winner—QMBA GC Housing Awards

Low Rise Multi–Residential Housing total project up
to \$2 million (Jason Bates Builders)

### **University Shores Display Home > 1998**

Winner—QMBA GC Housing Awards Display Home \$85,000 - \$100,000 (Moore Developments)

### **University Shores Display Home > 1997**

Winner—QMBA GC Housing Awards Display Home \$150,000 - \$200,000 (Moore Developments)

## D & J O'Dwyer Builder's Home and Office > 1993

Winner—QMBA GC Specialty Awards Best Use of Timber (D & J O'Dwyer Builders)

#### Miscellaneous Awards

#### "The Archemist" Portrait > 2012

Highly Commended Professional - Tom Anthony, Australian Institute of Architects Queensland Chapter - 'Shoot the Architect Portrait Competition' (Portrait of Queensland Architect Amy Degenhart)

## 16 Lake Street, Varsity Lakes (SOHO+SOHO on Lake) > 2004

Winner-Design Excellence Award from Lend Lease





> A small snapshot of the press clippings that degenhartSHEDD have been featured in since 1987







## Copyright and Acknowledgements

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the permission granted by copyright holders to feature their works in this publication, including photography by Tom Anthony of Tom Anthony Imaging (throughout), Eric Victor (page 56) and the winner of the inaugural degenhartSHEDD Place Prize photographic competition, Steven Underhays (above), as well as architectural renderings by Todocad.com and Reality 3D.

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