

# Determining the Social Value of Extreme, Mixed-Use Urban Developments: A Case Study of Adelaide's U City Building

In an increasingly urbanised world, cities must meet the needs of disparate and often vulnerable communities. Denser, increasingly diverse urban populations require serious consideration of how to create resilient neighbourhoods and thriving communities.

There is growing consensus about the impact of architecture and design on wellbeing and placemaking; and that buildings themselves have an inherent social value in the way they can influence social connectedness, healthier lifestyles, sense of belonging, and positive emotions. The value of this 'social good' can be determined through a series of metrics using a Social Values Framework.

Based on an Adelaide case study, U City, this project will investigate the social benefit of building mixed-use vertical communities in the Australian urban context. Using the innovative Social Values Framework, the project will establish and demonstrate the multi-dimensional impacts of such mixed-use, high-rise developments in practice.

The project utilises citizen science for real time auditing of the built environment by residents and users; smart technologies for environmental and behavioural monitoring; and data analytics and design automation for spatial analysis of building use.

The results will inform new models of sustainable high-rise, mixed-use buildings, providing evidence for a Social Values Framework to become a core consideration in Australian Industry.



## What next?

- To establish how extreme mixed-use building design impacts user behaviours, perceptions of placemaking, and well-being.
- To establish how U City, as an extreme mixed-use building in Adelaide, performs in terms of indoor environmental quality, energy consumption and water user.
- To establish how building performance intersects with user behaviours and wellbeing, by mapping key approaches and design elements that determine the social value of U City.
- Develop a social values toolkit and metrics relevant for the Australian building, planning and development industries.

## Research Team

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## The Future

- The provision of quality, innovative building design that has an inherent social value, creating a sense of belonging and wellbeing in urban spaces.
- Promoting sustainable design that is good for communities as well as good for the environment.
- Providing evidence for urban spaces that can become resilient, supportive communities for all residents to thrive in.
- Evidence-based Social Value tools and good practice guides for Australia industry.
- Addressing the market opportunities for innovative, vertical urban communities with alternative forms of housing for more vulnerable populations groups in supportive, sustainable environments, co-located with social services, opportunities for social connectedness and commercial businesses.

## Partners



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