

## **Studies in Collaboration: North Sydney and Chatswood Stations in Sydney**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Urban design is multi-faceted and does not offer a singular definition, however a fundamental aspect of good urban design is the quality of the public spaces and the facility of transitory connectivity within the space generated by the built form. A series of these interconnected spaces can enhance the character of a neighborhood through image-ability and legibility. Mass transit networks and their stations similarly connect the various neighborhoods of the city with the station building as the critical spatial node of the urban experience. The station with its vertical and horizontal streets, interface with transport mode and activated mixed use internal functions can be interpreted as an internal urban space. The introduction of new station buildings or the upgrade of existing infrastructure has the ability to have a profound impact on the existing and future urban grain and potential development of the urban fabric.*

*This intervention can be imposed or a result of a collaborative process. To achieve the aims of connectivity, legibility and image-ability requires active collaboration. The collaboration is also governed by the scale of urban intervention. The divergent agendas of the transport agency and the community (and users) need to be mediated by collaborative interfaces by the architect / urban designer to achieve the desired objectives.*

*The paper discusses levels of intervention through the study of two significant transport projects recently completed in Sydney: North Sydney Station (2008) and Chatswood Transport Interchange (2008). The various design and collaborative principles adopted in the two projects to achieve objectives outlined above will be analyzed. In conclusion, the paper examines the impact of collaborative intervention on both the internal and external urban fabric as minor and major intervention.*

**Keywords:** *intervention, collaboration, Sydney, station, place*