

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Mirroring the motherland: Analysing design quality regulation of apartments in London and Melbourne.

- **Format:**

verbal presentation

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

The importance of apartment living in creating sustainable cities has gained wide recognition and attention throughout many cities including those with long standing traditions of higher density living, such as London, and those forced to rapidly grapple with the idea like Melbourne, Australia. However, like all dwelling types, this mode of housing has experienced increasing pressures in terms of affordability and financialisation, and many practitioners, policy makers and members of the public have expressed concern about the quality of living that current apartment designs offer as a result. The role of government intervention and the regulations that are used to support intervention has as a result also seen increasing attention with debate occurring in both cities on the requirement of evidence in evaluation and the type of quality parameters that should be included and evaluated.

Using a series of apartment case studies from both Melbourne and London, this study has tested planning regulations from both cities against built outcomes to highlight the

different approaches to evaluating design and choosing the elements that each covers, or gives value too. Although both Australia and Melbourne have a history of commonly adopting elements of UK policy and government mechanisms due to a shared cultural and political legacy, it is important to ask whether this mirroring is still appropriate with Melbourne's increasing global outlook. This analysis therefore illustrates how planning policy can be reconsidered to provide improved design quality in apartments, but also comments upon the contextual conditions that are vital to these changes being effectively adopted.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

I am an architecture HDR student at RMIT University, Melbourne who is currently completing a PhD as part of an Australian Research Council industry linkage project team; 'Project Home.' This project will investigate the quality of apartments and its evaluation in Melbourne and internationally from both a design analysis perspective and direct responses from residents living in the studied apartments.