

Jason Twill

Position / company:

Director, Urban Apostles
Director, Citymakers Guild
Adjunct Professor,
University Technology of Sydney

Qualifications:

LEED Fellow;
MSc Real Estate
Finance & Development,
New York University



With a career spanning over 20 years' in urban development, Jason has been at the forefront of built environment transformation.

A globally recognised pioneer in innovation districts, alternative housing and regenerative urbanism, Jason's work is informing the next generation of city making. His career experience includes mixed-use developments throughout New York City, the South Lake Union Innovation District in Seattle and serving as Head of Sustainability and innovation for Lendlease Development.

As Director of Urban Apostles, Jason leads a property consulting firm specialising in equitable and regenerative growth strategies for cities. Urban Apostles offers leading-edge urban solutions by working at the intersection of the sharing economy and the art of city making.

Jason is a regular lecturer at multiple Australian and international universities and was appointed Innovation Fellow within the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building at the University of Technology Sydney from 2016-2018 where he led research into regenerative urbanism, housing affordability, and property economics.

He is a co-founder of both the International Living Future Institute and the Green Sports Alliance and originator of the Economics of Change project. In 2018, Jason founded and launched the City Makers' Guild, an education, advocacy and research group promoting more equitable and inclusive cities.

Jason was designated a LEED Fellow by the United States Green Building Council in 2014, was named a 2015 and 2017 Next City Global Urban Vanguard and is an appointed Champion and advisor to Nightingale Housing in Australia.

Professional background

Summary of qualifications:

20 Years' Experience in Urban Real Estate Development & Construction Management

Management and Delivery of 14 LEED Certified Mixed-use Developments

Expertise in Urban Regeneration, Regenerative Development and Design, Placemaking, and Affordable Housing

Co-founder of the Green Sports Alliance, the International Living Future Institute and the City Makers' Guild.

2018–Present
The City Makers' Guild
Sydney, Australia
Founder / Director

Founder and Director of The City Makers' Guild, and education and advocacy organisation focused on supporting more equitable, inclusive and just cities through citizen and community-led development models. The Guild is comprised of a collective of global urbanists who view urban development as a craft, not a commodity and provides a robust platform for more collaborative, cutting-edge and intelligent city making between citizens and government. Education is offered through public talks, training seminars and international study tours. The Guild represents small business owners, artists, community groups, workers, ethical investors and social entrepreneurs who believe there's a better way for us all to shape the future of our cities.

2017–Present
Urban Apostles Pty. Ltd.
Sydney, Australia
Founder / Director

In 2017, Jason founded and launched Urban Apostles, a real estate development and urban strategy advisory firm specializing in ecologically and socially responsible growth strategies for cities. With trans-disciplinary expertise in property development, finance, infrastructure, urban design, place making, urban retailing, alternative housing, and sustainability, the firm offers 'whole of city' advisory services to both public and private sector clients including local councils, state and national governments, architecture firms, planning agencies, developers, non-profits and community groups.

Urban Apostles is a pioneer of Collaborative Urbanism, a 21st century approach to city-making predicated on social resilience, economic practicality, and ecological stewardship. Our work enables the creation

of unique and inviting places that have the power to ignite the human spirit, engender a sense of belonging and fulfil people's innate desire to connect to one another and the world around them. Urban Apostles also specialises in advanced regenerative development models such as Living Buildings, Eco Districts and One Planet Communities as well as creative financing and funding models supporting next generation urban precincts.

Key Clients: Urban Growth New South Wales, New South Wales Department of Land and Housing, Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation, Venues New South Wales, Property New South Wales, Yarra Valley Water, Village Building Company, ICD Property, Aqualand Development, New South Wales Office of Environment & Heritage, Auckland City Council, New Zealand Development Authority of Christchurch (Otagaro), City of Sydney Council.

2017–2019
University of Technology, Sydney
Sydney, Australia
Innovation Fellow, School of Architecture, Faculty of Design, Architecture & Building

Appointed by the Faculty of Design, Architecture & Building in November 2016 for five year academic research and teaching fellowship focused on regenerative urbanism, housing affordability and green building economics. Key research work explores a new field of science-based investment through creation of economic models for our built environments that incorporate natural and social capital value streams. Jason is the course leader for Finance and Project Management and Prototyping Practices, a new entrepreneurial incubation course to train students on starting a business. He is also the resident lecturer on regenerative design and development where he gives talks across the university.

2013–2017

Lendlease

Sydney, Australia

*Head of Sustainability,
Property / Senior Development Manager,
Urban Regeneration*

Responsible for managing the overarching sustainability function of the Australia Property business including the Retirement Living, Communities and Urban Regeneration business units which included a staff of 18 and \$4.5M annual budget. Supported the development and the implementation of Lendlease's global sustainability framework including strategies to embed framework into core business processes. Advised development teams on project-level innovation strategies and sustainability plans across entire pipeline including key initiatives to increase profitability and enhance the value of Lendlease's brand, reputation and legacy. Developed and maintained oversight of budgets, resourcing plan and overall function structure to align with Group and regional business goals and objectives. Mentored and developed a staff of eleven sustainability managers across the function with aim to transition staff into key business roles. Served on Regional Advisory Committee for Social Sustainability to oversee and support social capital investments across the Australian portfolio including job skilling and training.

Supported urban innovation strategies and initiatives across the Australian Urban Regeneration business including initiating partnership concept with WeWork, research and policy strategy for development of micro-unit product, and identifying project opportunities for crowdfunding/crowdsourcing public domain infrastructure. Aided project director's with overall precinct visioning process, developed portfolio-wide community engagement framework and led development of Urban Regeneration's customer solutions platform. Supported advancement of Lendlease's Living Utilities business in delivery of bespoke district-scale energy and water infrastructure.

Supported new business team on identifying innovation opportunities and defining key strategies to win new major projects. Key Projects: Melbourne Quarter, Victoria Harbour, Waterbank, RNA Showgrounds, Darling Harbour Live.

Selected to lead an innovation pilot development project exploring next generation urban housing solutions addressing global trends in affordability, disruptive technologies, the Sharing Economy aligned to the changing lifestyle choices of millennials, young families and babyboomers. Completed and tested a new customer engagement framework and new customer-driven home design concepts for Lendlease apartment's portfolio. Key Project: GTVg Richmond, VIC.

Responsible for all aspects of development including resource and business planning, commercial assessments, creation of research and project briefs, identifying innovation pathways, team selection, urban design framework and planning approval strategy.

2007–2013

Vulcan, Inc.

Seattle, Washington

*Senior Project Manager, Design
and Construction / Innovation and
Sustainability Lead*

Responsible for supervising all aspects of development projects undertaken by the company including contracts, feasibility studies, planning, budgeting, entitlements, design and construction oversight. Key Projects: 2201 Westlake/ENSO (LEED Gold), The Stackhouse Apartments, Amazon.com Office Campus (LEED Gold), Littlewing Office Building (LEED Platinum), South Lake Union District (LEED-Gold ND), Experience Music Project, Seattle Seahawks Pro Shops, Serrengetti Residence (Tanzania), The Hospital Club (London).

Managed innovation initiatives for the organization including defining company-wide policies, principles and goals to guide future business/investment decisions, South Lake Union sustainable infrastructure plan, development of staff education programs, portfolio benchmarking and devising internal and external media/communication strategies to enhance owners brand and public profile. Firm liaison on public policies surrounding climate change and the built environment at local, state and federal levels.

Founded and launched the Green Sports Alliance, a non-profit organization focused on advancing sustainability through sports which now includes over 600 professional teams and venues across 22 major leagues in 14 countries.
www.greensportsalliance.com

2006–2007

DBI Construction Consultants

New York, NY

Senior Project Consultant / Owner's Rep

Supported creation of new real estate development business within established construction consulting firm. Responsible for business planning, budgeting, due diligence acquisition analysis, joint venture partnerships and new business strategies focused on mixed-income housing project in New York City's outer boroughs.

Oversaw all aspects of the development process including idea inception, site analysis, team selection, masterplanning, entitlement process, construction oversight, marketing, and close-out.

Responsible for three new, ground-up residential mix-use projects in Brooklyn, NY and served as Owner's Representative for St. Johns University in Queens, NY on a \$700 million, five-year campus master plan including the University's first LEED certified facility. Key Projects: 428 10th Street, St. Johns University theater renovation and student center, Bread of Life.

Education

2003–2006

**Leviev Boymelgreen
Brooklyn, NY**

Senior Development Associate

Conducted acquisition analysis, financial modelling, team selection and development management of large-scale, residential mixed-use developments in Manhattan and Brooklyn. Key Projects: Beacon Tower, 88 Leonard St., 10 Chelsea/Highline, Gowanus Village

Responsible for design process management, planning approval, construction oversight, and project closeout.

Inaugural employee to earn LEED accreditation. Volunteered as program coordinator for USGBC NY Chapter (Urban Green) and co-founded NYC chapter for Congress of the New Urbanism.

1998–2001

**Structure Tone, Inc.
New York, NY**

Superintendent

Managed multi-million dollar commercial fit-out projects simultaneously in Manhattan. Key projects completed: IBM, Shearman & Sterling, Kaplan Testing Centers, Meredith Corporation, Fossil & Victoria Secrets

Responsible for overall site management, risk & safety reviews, project scheduling, budgeting and close-out.

Supported inaugural “green team” on development of paper and waste reduction strategies for the head office and job sites.

2002–2004

**New York University;
New York, NY**

Master of Science, Real Estate Finance and Development – Distinction/Honors

1994–1998

**The Colorado College;
Colorado Springs, CO**

Bachelor of Science, International Political Economics – Cum Laude

1996–1997

Junior Year Abroad; Florence, Italy

Concentration in Renaissance Art & Architecture and European Economic Relations

Computer skills / software:

Argus, Expedition, Ecotect, AutoCAD, Microsoft Office Suite, MS Project, SharePoint, Aconnex

2001–2002

**Mancini Duffy, Architecture/Design
New York, NY**

Design Associate/CAD Operator

Produced construction documents on AutoCAD for various retail and commercial projects throughout Manhattan. Key projects: JP Morgan Chase, EMI, Shearman & Sterling, Structure Tone.

Conducted on-site base building and existing conditions field surveys and punch lists.

Supported internal audit of materials library to develop a green products specification program.

Publications and podcasts

Talking Cities with Jason Twill.
25th September 2018, AECOM Talking Cities Podcast.

Collaborative Urbanism: Disrupting the Paradigm of Market-led Urban Regeneration.
August 2018, The Fifth Estate.

Moving Beyond 'Green': Towards Regenerative Development.
10 May 2018, The Fifth Estate.

Community Wealth vs Individual Wealth.
27 March 2018, On Purpose, Podcast of Bank of Australia.

Supersized Cities: Residents Band Together to Push back Against Speculative Development Pressures.
27 December 2017, The Conversation.

Has the Sharing Economy Been Co-opted?
29 May 2017, The Fifth Estate.

From 'White Flight' to 'Bright Flight': The Looming Risk for Our Growing Cities.
15 May 2017, The Conversation.

Making New Housing Affordable.
15 December 2016, The Fifth Estate.

The Economics of Change: Catalyzing the Investment Shift Toward a Restorative Built Environment.
October 2011, Earth Economics, Tacoma, WA.

The Conflicted City: Hypergrowth, Urban Renewal and Mass Urbanisation in Istanbul.
September 2012, Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

The Economics of Change: Integrated Policy Approaches to Unlocking the Value of a Restorative Built Environment.
November 2013, International Living Future Institute, Seattle, WA.

Interests and affiliations

Urban Studies, Architecture, Archaeology, Surfing, Travel, Sailing, Music, Art, Triathloning, Guitar & Tenor Saxophone

U.S. Green Building Council (LEED Fellow), Urban Land Institute (Australia Executive Board Member), International Living Future Institute (*Past Chair & Co-founder*), Natural Resources Defence Council, Garrison Institute (*National Leadership Council*), Green Sports Alliance (*Co-Founder & Founding Chair*), The Climate Reality Project, Clinton Global Initiative, Congress for the New Urbanism (*Founder NY and Cascadia Chapters*)

Awards and honors

Winner, City of Sydney Alternative Housing Ideas Challenge, 2019

Juror Appointment, Planning Institute Australia Awards, 2018

Next City Global Urban Vanguard, 2017

Next City 40 under 40 Urban Vanguard, 2015

LEED Fellow honorary designation, United States Green Building Council, 2014

Juror Appointment, European Solar Decathlon, 2012

White House Environmental Leadership in Sports Honoree (Green Sports Alliance), 2012

Pivotal Leader Award, 2012

Juror Appointment, American Institute of Architects Code Green Awards, 2012

Mayoral Appointment, Seattle Green Ribbon Commission, 2012

Fellow Appointment, Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Washington, 2012

Change Agent in Residence Appointment, Bainbridge Graduate Institute, 2012

Advisory Committee for Utility Transformation, President Barack Obama's Better Buildings Challenge, 2012

Special Advisor to the Clinton Global Initiative and Cliton Climate Initiative's Building Renewal Program 2010/2011

Better Brick's Leadership Award, 2011

Climate Hawk Appointment, Al Gore's Climate Reality Project, 2011

Cushman and Wakefield Scholarship Recipient, 2003.

Selected lectures and presentations

Design Futures Council, *Emerging Business Models in Housing*, November 2019, Sydney NSW AUS

New South Wales Ministry of Education Sustainable Schools Symposium, *The Future of Sustainability Education*, October 2018, Parramatta NSW AUS.

Sherman Centre for Art & Architecture, Ethical Architecture Series, *Affordable Housing: Dream or Reality*, October 2018, Sydney NSW AUS

Kyoto Smart Cities Expo, *Sports-oriented Urban Regeneration and Smart Cities*, October 2018, Kyoto, Japan.

City of Port Phillip Big Picture Thinkers Series, *The Changing Nature of Cities*, August 2018, St. Kilda VIC AUS.

University of Technology Faculty of Business, *Rethinking Design and Planning in the Anthropocene*, August 2018, Sydney NSW AUS

New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage Executive Leadership Symposium Keynote, *Urban Liveability and the Future of Cities*, August 2018, Sydney NSW AUS

City of Canberra, Canberra Talks, *Indigenous Urbanism and Cultural Reciprocity*, August 2018, Canberra ACT AUS

Planning Institute of Australia Emerge Series, *Living Small*, August 2018, Sydney NSW AUS

City of Auckland Auckland City Talks, *Collaborative Urbanism: Innovation in Housing & City Making*, July 2018, Auckland NZ

The Urban Developer Thought Leadership Summit, *Predicting the Future of Residential Development*, May 2018, Sydney NSW AUS

Commonwealth Bank of Australia's AMAZE 2018, *The Future of Cities*, May 2018, Sydney NSW AUS

Cities Leadership Institute's NSW CEO & General Managers Lunch, *Innovation in Urban Housing*, April 2018, Sydney NSW AUS

Purpose 2018, *Future Lab: How Might We Live Together in the Future*, February 2018, Sydney NSW AUS

City of Christchurch, *Christchurch City Talks, Collaborative Urbanism: Innovation in Housing & City Making*, December 2017, Christchurch NZ

DeFrost: Frost Collective Thought Leadership Series, *Emerging Business Models in Property*, November 2017, Sydney NSW AUS

Architecture and Design New Zealand Conference Keynote, *Collaborative Urbanism: City Making in the Age of the Sharing Economy*, October 2017, Wellington NZ

Living Future Symposium Keynote, *Moving Beyond Sustainability Toward a Regenerative Living Future*, September 2017, Sydney NSW AUS

New Economy Network Annual Conference Keynote, *Valuing Natural and Social Capital in Our Built Environments*, September 2017, Brisbane QLD AUS

Place Leaders Conference, *Collaborative Urbanism: City Making in the Age of the Sharing Economy*, May 2017, Sydney NSW AUS

Australian Institute of Architects, *Urban Co-housing*, May 2017, Sydney NSW AUS

New South Wales Federation of Community Housing Associations, CEO Summit, *Collaborative Urbanism and Inclusive City Making*, March 2017, Sydney NSW AUS

Committee for Sydney, *Changing the World Through Sport: The Story of the Green Sports Alliance*, December 2016, Melbourne VIC AUS

University of Melbourne Housing Exposition Workshop, *Solving the Puzzle, Perspectives on Housing Affordability*, November 2016, Melbourne VIC AUS

University of Sydney Sustainability Graduate Course, *Built Environment Transformation*, May 2016, Sydney NSW AUS

Australian Alliance to Save Energy

(A2SE), *Sparking an Energy Revolution, International Perspective*, June 2015, Canberra, ACT AUS

University Technology Sydney Architectural Practice Masters Course, *The Forces that Shape our Cities*, April 2015, Sydney NSW AUS

Australia Sustainable Built Environment Council, *Policies that Work: Private Sector Perspectives on Building Sustainable Cities*, March 2015, Melbourne VIC AUS

University of Melbourne Regenerative Design Masters Course, *The Economics of Change*, March 2014, Melbourne VIC AUS

United States Advanced Research Project Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), *Reimagining the Grid*, February 2013 Washington D.C. USA

International Interior Design Association, *Focus on Design Key Note: From the Age of Specialisation to the Age of Integration*, October 2012, Seattle, WA USA

Bainbridge Graduate Institute Sustainability Masters Course, *Transforming Our Built Environments: Root Causes, Current Trends and the Next Leap Forward*, October 2012 Seattle WA, USA

European Solar Decathlon Competition, *Transforming Our Built Environments*, September 2012, Madrid, Spain

American Institute of Architects, (RE) generation Conference, *Industry Transformation*, June 2012, Seattle WA USA

University of Washington Construction Management Master Program: *Managing Sustainability in the Construction Process*, June 2012, Seattle WA USA

International Living Future Institute, *Living Future UnConference: The Economics of Change*, May 2012, Portland, OR USA

International Living Future Institute, *Living Future UnConference: Urban Infill Projects of Tomorrow for the Youth of Today*, May 2011, Vancouver BC, Canada

References available upon request

Selected projects

South Lake Union Innovation District

Seattle, Washington USA
2000–present



One of the largest urban revitalisation projects in the North America, South Lake Union is a 40-hectare dynamic mixed- use community comprising of bio-technology firms, university and private sector medical research institutions, a mix of affordable and market-rate housing, and tech-based commercial office buildings with diverse retail offerings.

A former industrialised area on the northern edge of downtown Seattle, Washington, South Lake Union has transformed into one of the world's leading innovation hubs and is now home to tech giants including Amazon.com, Google, Facebook, Microsoft, and Alphabet that intermix with the precincts bio-technology firms such as Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre, University of Washington Medical Centre, and the Allen Institute for Brain Science.

Jason supported the project as Senior Project Manager supervising all aspects of development projects including master planning, contracts, feasibility studies, budgeting, entitlements, design and construction oversight. Jason also served as the lead innovation, place and sustainability advisor working closely with the public sector on research and policy measures to support implementation of innovative infrastructure new technology solutions. South Lake Union has become one of the world leading innovation districts demonstrating how well-structured public private partnership can lead to ecologically, socially and economically successful urban precincts.



Waterloo State Significant Precinct

Sydney NSW



Catalysed by the State's investment in a new metro station, the Waterloo State Significant Precinct is one of the largest urban regeneration projects in Sydney's history comprising an area of over 20 hectares of government owned land in the Waterloo community in southern Sydney.

With an existing stock of over 2000 social housing units, the precinct is being master planned to redevelopment 2300 new social housing units with an additional yield of 4500 new affordable, intermediate and market rate dwellings. Since 2017, Jason has served as an urban strategist for the project focusing on innovation in retail, placemaking, sustainability, housing and design. To steer the design and stakeholder group, Jason devised a world leading set of principles and performance metrics to guide the project through planning, design, construction and operations.



(top) Aerial Map of Waterloo State Significant Precinct, NSW Department of Planning. (bottom) Waterloo State Significant Precinct - Indicative rendering of Waterloo Metro Quarter

Hunter Park

Newcastle, NSW



Hunter Park considers the regeneration of the existing 63ha Broadmeadow Sports Precinct in Greater Newcastle currently owned and managed by Venues NSW and the Department of Industry (Crown Land).

The proposal considers the regeneration of the existing stadium, event centre and showground assets into a mixed-use precinct integrated with hotel, retail, commercial office, event space and over 3000 residential apartments to realise a new 365-day-a-year destination within the Hunter region.

Jason served as an advisor to Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation and Venues New South Wales supporting the overall urban regeneration strategy for housing, retail, commercial and placemaking taking precedence for the international movement toward stadium-led urban regeneration business models.



(top) Aerial Map of Broadmeadow Sports Precinct
(bottom) Indicative precinct masterplan for Hunter Park