

Megan Hender ([00:00:00](#)):

Good morning, everyone. My name's Megan Hender I'm an elected member of the Adelaide city council and I'm here to chair today's session, welcome to the 2016 festival of ideas and today's session making better cities. This session is proudly presented by the Adelaide city council, and it's part of a celebrations, our celebrations to mark. The fact that we have this year reached the milestone of 50, 50 men and women representation in our chamber. That's not unique actually. We've met a number of women this morning because we've had a women's in local government session breakfast this morning, and there are many, many councils who have achieved that, but it's still, well, there are some councils have achieved that it's still quite rare. And I have to say it was off a very low base in Adelaide's case. And so we've been decided that we would celebrate that by making a contribution through this festival to to the idea of, of cities and the role that women play in it.

Megan Hender ([00:01:06](#)):

I'll introduce you to our panel in a moment. But before that, I want to do a few things firstly, to acknowledge as we always do that, we're meeting on the traditional lands of the Ghana people at the Adelaide Plains, and that we pay our respect to their cultural heritage beliefs in relationship with the land and acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the garner people living today and that we pay respect to their elders past and present a little housekeeping. If you haven't already, could you please switch your mobile phone to silent? You're very welcome to connect with the festival via Twitter and Instagram. The the hashtag is at all, if I, and the Twitter handle is at all at adult FOI and Instagram is at adult FOI. It's pretty easy, really unauthorized recordings of any kind are not permitted during the session, but the session is being audio recorded by radio Adelaide for broadcast for future podcasts.

Megan Hender ([00:02:07](#)):

We will have an opportunity for some questions at the end but we'll probably keep that opportunity fairly narrow because we've got a number of people on the panel and I need to make sure that they all get a good chance to speak. The program directors also asked me just to indicate a couple of program changes for those of you who are here for longer. Firstly indie, Joe ha has had to cancel his appearance at the festival for, so for those of you who were attending that session that won't be happening tin Tim Dunlop programmed at Hitsville at five 15 is now going to speak at the open state hub at 4:00 PM. So can you please note though that earlier time and the program and the festival apologizes any inconvenience that might cause so quickly? Let me introduce our speakers for extremely impressive women.

Megan Hender ([00:02:56](#)):

I have here that to my right each with a substantial CV that could keep me going for quite some time. So I hope they'll forgive me if I jumped through each of the CVS pretty quickly. So the first, our first panelist is Jane. Joe's sitting closest to me. Jane studied English literature at Adelaide university and then had a very, has had a very varied career. ABC journalist owner, a PR agency, a counselor, and deputy Lord mayor, a consultant here in Adelaide and more recently in Sydney. And she's currently an and she moved to Sydney to join the central Sydney planning commission. She had a longstanding interest in cities. She's currently C CEO of the city community foundation. She is also the author of this book. Places. Women make unearthing the contribution of women to our cities and this lovely little book is available at the bookshop outside.

Megan Hender ([00:03:52](#)):

It, it has recently won the Australian Institute of architects, Bates smart award for architecture in the media. So I recommend it to you alongside Jane is another Jane who's very well known to all south Australians. Jane Lomax Smith, Dr. Jane Lomax Smith am. Jane was a pathologist by training. She worked in London, Boston, and Adelaide, where she ran her own pathology practice in Adelaide. She was three times elected a counselor, twice elected as Lord mayor, twice elected as a state MP for the ma for the, as a member of Adelaide held several, several portfolios, including education and tourism. She's still very active in a huge range of community activities and is a director of the jam factory center for contemporary craft and design and chair of the south Australian museum. And in 2013, she was made a member of the order of Australia for significant service to the parliament and to the community of south Australia

Megan Hender ([00:04:49](#)):

To her, right,

Megan Hender ([00:04:51](#)):

Is Elisa. So an architect born in Italy who describes herself as an urban nomad. She's worked in places as varied, as an interesting as Los Angeles, Portugal, Southern Italy, Palestine, China, Yemen, Mongolia. She has experienced both teaching and practicing her craft and is now the senior lecturer of urban design and landscape architecture at the school of architecture and built environment here at Adelaide university and to her right, Christine MCI, also an architect educated as an architect in, in Glasgow had worked between in the compulsory gap year between her degree and her diploma. She worked as an architect in, in London when she tells me amongst other things, she worked on the London eye, which was designed by a woman. She then went back to Scotland to complete her studies and establish her own practice, which grew to a practice of about 12 architects, which he ran for about 15 years before she moved into government.

Megan Hender ([00:05:55](#)):

Starting as a head of design at the commission for architecture and built and built environment. Got interested in south Australia because of the work Tim Horton was doing over here and moved to Adelaide to join the office of design and architecture, south Australia ADESA. And she now heads that as our government architect. So just very briefly to let you know how this session is going to run. We're going to start with a short address from Jane Jos cause she wrote the book, so she gets to speak. She'll talk to you for about 10 minutes and then she'll join the rest of us down on the pedal for a discussion. So if you could join me please in thanking and welcoming the panelists and particularly in welcoming Jane to the podium,

Jane Jose ([00:06:46](#)):

Thanks very much, Megan. And it's an absolute delight to be here. I'd also like to acknowledge that we meet on Ghana country. Place is so important and in a way this country is their country, but it's all our country as well. It's places important to us because it, it defines us. And we all want in the chaos of modern life to feel that we belong somewhere. It's interesting for me to be talking this morning in this hall, I did exams in this hall and last time I was on this stage, I was strangely handing out degrees cause I was a member of the council and just across the river, my children were brought up and we were always walking through those wonderful Parklands that Adelaide is so blessed with Adelaide is a blessed city, I think in many of the qualities of that city.

Jane Jose ([00:07:55](#)):

And it's certainly where I fell in love with the idea that it would be good to be involved in making great places in cities because in the end cities are about places and we're here all of us because we're interested in making better cities and you're here I guess, because you care about that too. This city, but if we, if we think stop for a moment to set up this conversation and think what are places, places are physical places, cultural places are also open space and they're the connections. The way that we get around in this city, it's got that fabulous sort of mantle of the Adelaide Hills that sits around it and a vast sort of sky that I think points to the desert. So what made me write this little book? And I must acknowledge, there are a lot of women in the room today, but there are also a few good men here.

Jane Jose ([00:09:04](#)):

And, and one of them is Michael Paulin, publisher of Wakefield press who, you know, supported me in this journey of telling a different story, which in which I hoped to, to capture and tell stories of the way that women across Australia in different cities had influenced and made better places. And when you start things, you have a good idea and you think this is going to be easy, I'll do this. And then you begin and you think more deeply. And I had to explore that question, you know, really, would it make any difference if women were more involved in shaping our cities? When I got involved in leading change I've just been in the town hall for breakfast and there's a, there's a photo board of women who've been on council. I was actually number eight as a woman and the Adelaide city council is the oldest council in Australia.

Jane Jose ([00:10:07](#)):

And I was number eight in 1989. And at the time I arrived, I thought it would be polite to tell the incumbent Lord mayor that I had this idea. I could contribute something. I was 34. And he said, oh no, we run the city now. You know, you're a housewife and I wasn't really welcome. Since then, one of the dedications in my book is partly a celebration of Jane Jacobs, the great American urbanist and the dedication I wrote is designing a dream city is easy rebuilding a living, one takes imagination. And this conversation is really about how do you rebuild a living one and that we need the imagination of women to help us do that? Well, when I first became involved, I was really motivated by the preservation of Australia's. I think most intact colonial heritage, which was the city, the 19th century buildings that are both in the city, in north Adelaide and actually beyond through the suburbs of Adelaide.

Jane Jose ([00:11:29](#)):

And it was extraordinary that it was such a radical idea to think to conserve that, but it was really the motivation of why I ran for council. And I was there, you know, for two years learning in a way. And I read that Jane Jacobs book given to me by the late professor Hughes, Stretton the life and death of the great American city he'd said to me, this is all you will need to learn how to shape cities. And the architects in the room are nodding. But I worked out, you know, we do nothing alone. We, we can never lead change. It takes courage to do it. And in a way, many of the stories in my book about are about the courage of women to stand up and question and lead change in the cities. But I gathered around me, it seems sensible to get other women into the council.

Jane Jose ([00:12:29](#)):

So when I was asked to do this, it was quite delightful to think that I had encouraged Jane Lomax Smith. I had been encouraged by the late alderman, Rosemary Boco. I encouraged Jane Jane encouraged the deputy Lord mayor, Megan hinder. So there's a thread there, but also Jackie Shannon Gillan who's here

today was a young, really passionate environmentalist architect when she joined council at the time that I was there, she'd been working with Peter Garrett in the, in the Australian conservation foundation, Francine Connor who's also here was a resident and we thought that we could make change. And I think we did in a way we began change. It's 50 50 here now in the council, but it's still relatively rare to have that kind of involvement. I've had the privilege in a way and the pleasure over the last 15 years in Sydney of working quite closely with Lord mayor Clover Moore, she's just managed to do women seven men three.

Jane Jose ([00:13:47](#)):

And she has Monica Peroni who she's worked with as CEO for 12 years. And it has been interesting because while she has surrounded herself with advisors who have been great advisors to her and commissioning architects to do great work, she's really focused on that city as a city of villages and the idea. And it's an idea I write about in the book that in the end, we're all villages at heart, and we want to have a place where we can accidentally connect to people that we know or people we don't know. And that the way we design the shared spaces of the city can make that happen. It's a very recent change in my book. I write cause I, I tried to write stories of people from across Australia city and to honor some of the women that are not so well known or not known for what they actually did in relation to cities.

Jane Jose ([00:14:52](#)):

So I wrote about Elizabeth McQuarrie, who was really behind the idea of a government architect. Well, it's only been in the last really two years that there's been a woman government architect. Kirstein MCI is one of the first Jill Garner in Melbourne's just been appointed and Catherine Townsend in Canberra. And this is a really important role for women to be able to have a voice in the decision-making around what happens in our cities and in a way, again, it's that critical mass when you have three it tips the balance. One voice is never enough. So I thought to set up the conversation, I might read a little bit from my introduction, which is the idea that the city is now our living room cities of the playrooms of our lives, holding our past and promising our future. As we crowd into cities to live and work.

Jane Jose ([00:16:04](#)):

And as jobs force us to become more mobile, our cities are becoming shared places, places in which we stay and spend time when we are not at home and not at work. People are increasingly aware of how cities can make them feel and they choose one over another because of what it offers. And Adelaide's always been quite focused on that idea. The generation born in the 1980s, who the urban is called, the millennials are likely to be Australia's first apartment dwelling nation, a generation they've opted many of them to live closer to work and to choose the sense of belonging and convenience and can Nexion to a more urban life rather than a suburban lifestyle. And then there are those who leave the city for a town by the sea or in the mountains or for a house in a smaller city. And they still want good places to share village life places where they can connect and make community now with more mobility and with more people living alone, belonging to a community becomes even more important to a meaningful life.

Jane Jose ([00:17:25](#)):

Although cities have grown hugely over the past 100 years, people do remain villages at heart children growing up in apartments, still need trees to climb. We need to see the green of the garden and the blue sky above the city is now our living room. We want the house and garden comfort and style of home in our local streets and parks and the shared places at weekends, we go out for coffee to galleries and libraries too talks, or just to walk and hang out with strangers in charming, lively public places that

enable us to feel alive stimulated. And as citizens aware that we belong to a shared humanity at each stage of our life. And as we live longer, we're redefining our needs and where we want to be places women make is mostly concerned with Australia's major cities and the Australian women who have contributed to shaping them.

Jane Jose ([00:18:30](#)):

And for each of the women that are in there's another one that didn't make it. But it is in the end, a collection of a body of work by women. And I hear news stories every day in my work in communities about what women have done. I wonder how many of you knew that a woman had designed the London eye? Okay. So our CTS are really places that have largely been designed by men in Australia. Women, I write are the uncelebrated urban heroines of our cities. They've actually done much to make Australia cities and communities better places to live in, but their stories are not as visible as those of the men who mostly designed the buildings in our cities. Cities are manmade places and mostly the work of men. The no worries I've told, have been remembered and gathered over 20 years of working in communities and show just what women have done in Australia.

Jane Jose ([00:19:45](#)):

Men have been the hero architects of most of our buildings leading in the design and the authorship, even if women yeah. We're invisibly designing and detailing behind the scenes. What I've tried to do is explore the question of, would it make any difference if more women were the designers of our cities, is there a different sensibility? How do women work and think? And when, when you look over many of the inspired decisions and magnificent plans for change, I found that there were often women behind them. I'll, I'll just close with a local example, which is sort of part of my story and part of James' story which is the rethinking of north terrace. In 1995, I ran as Lord mayor and really lost the election over the idea of the north terrace renewal which seemed radical because it would remove some of the Ash trees, the old senescent Ash trees, but 15 years later well, 15 years later you have, or twenty-five this wonderful public space, but it was really Jane Lomax Smith as Lord mayor, Jude Munro, who revisited that idea with Diana laid law, a minister and her advisor, Janet worth who realized how important it was to get this to happen for Adelaide.

Jane Jose ([00:21:24](#)):

And given that culture is so much at the heart of Adelaide's reality and its idea of itself as a city. I'm very pleased that it, that the capable hands of others made that happen. I'll leave it at that.

Megan Hender ([00:21:46](#)):

Thank you, Jane. Thank you so much for setting up our conversation. And I want to pick up on some of the ideas that you've raised in Jane's book. She talks about how she started this, the writing of it by walking through a city through the city of Sydney and recognizing that pretty much all of the built environment around her had been designed or built by men. And so I'd like to address my first question to the architects on the panel. Is it, is it a radical idea to think that a women might design buildings or, or cities or contribute to buildings and cities in a different way to men, is, is there a gender element at least you want to do you want to start

Dr Elisa Palazzo ([00:22:26](#)):

Is something that we have been talking and we have been discussing I think is it's clear that female perspective on, especially my profession, urban design female perspective is different from men

perspective. And I think we can identify a few elements that make this true. I don't think it's about necessarily how we design space out production of new forms is not that it's more about the process about the way we perceive the pers the profession, the discipline of urban design and also the objectives of urban design and landscape architecture. That's my, my case in, we would do things differently. We, we, we we D w w w the disciplines we, we approached the discipline in different ways in the way we, how we do things and also in the, in the priorities that we set as in our profession.

Dr Elisa Palazzo ([00:23:28](#)):

So I think the first point is important to me is to see that women have first of all, a completely different approach to authorship and especially in, in urban design, Alaska architecture. So woman look more, as Jane said before to the collective practice and to collaboration into design rather than mend and look more at self-accomplishment and individual authorship as a central, and actually it's true. We recognize in men, we acknowledge the importance of styles or individual contribution. Well, generally, if I look at round me around my colleagues, that the women that I have met in my life, in my traveling around the world we look more at nurturing the collective, the habitat, living habitat as a collective practice, we look at service to the community and something that you have touched very well in your book and showing the work that women did.

Dr Elisa Palazzo ([00:24:34](#)):

So many times we are underrepresented, let's say, in the, in the profession for that reason, because we, we working in teams, we, we give our contribution to interdisciplinary teams are more prone to, to help the others in, in solving the problems. But that doesn't mean that necessarily we don't have impact in our profession. Actually the opposite is just as different way of, of contributing. So it's just that the collaborative work is not a knowledge as authorship and therefore is not credited. So my question is maybe w w w probably we need to start thinking about our profession as something different. My point is that cities as was said, cities are artworks, but if they are artworks are collective artworks, I'm not pieces of you know, one, my production of one mind only they have been produced during time and layer, you know, with different people the work of different competencies, different people, different stories, and Easters,

Megan Hender ([00:25:55](#)):

Because that been your experience too, your view of how cities or how women impact. Well,

Jane Jose ([00:26:02](#)):

My view probably is the, I think different different designers design differently rather than it being a specific gender issue. And I do think we're talking more about buildings not being of a single authorship. I think that's really, really important. A lot of touch on that in a second. And there is no doubt that it's clearly a professional. Certainly the architectural profession is one that's dominated by by men. And this was again confirmed this week with the architectural practice board of south Australia, releasing their latest survey, which we've got 755 registered architects and south Australia, 82% men, 18 women, which is pretty pronounced, but not unusual, actually similar in the UK, even though the professionals are about 40,000, it's 22 to 78. So it's a, it's a universal problem. And what's sort of been graduating as architects. That's exactly right. And it hovers around 50 50, and that's also universal.

Jane Jose ([00:26:58](#)):

That's also, that's something that women in the profession needs to, I think help address, but it's also important to think about women in leadership roles within the design team. So whether they're the project architects, the project leads rather than just being the, you know, the name on the door or the single author. And we've got a lot of great examples of that here in Adelaide. So if we think about recent development on north terrace and even in the west of the city if we take summary case Russel woods bag, it had a huge role to play in the actual, the, the shaping of that building. Abby Galvin is the project architect for the URC medical school that we can see coming out of the ground at the moment by Morphett street bridge, and was also the architect for the Adelaide uni brags building.

Jane Jose ([00:27:43](#)):

So you Phillips and Meghan Dwyer were the leads for the Jeffrey smart building. You need to say again, Kate color tee was obviously instrumental in all of the work that's happened outside the front door here. So if you Clelin from air Emma's as a project lead in festival Plaza, we've got very senior members of staff as women at both architecture skills now, which is great, and also the presiding member and deputy chair of the development assessment commissioner. Now also both women. So we are doing pretty well here. It's maybe that it's just slightly it's hidden. And I get firsthand experience of that. And the work that I do every day when we're looking all the development that's coming through through the cities, that there's a very strong women and very experienced female architects leading the significant development projects in the city. So

Megan Hender ([00:28:33](#)):

It's good to hear, isn't it? We just don't know about that. That's, that's great. I'm wondering then, you know, we've talked about gender in the building of the buildings and the, and the, the way the city's put together, but what about in the sort of governance and leadership? And I wondered if I could ask the other two panelists to talk a little about that, about whether it makes a difference having women on council and on, you know, in, in positions where you're making decisions about cities. And we've had some really interesting discussions over at town hall. So I wondered if you could start by just describing some of the experiences when when women were in a very clear minority, when, because I know when you first joined council, both of you women, the numbers of women were much smaller than they are now. And then tell us how that might've changed over time, or just, you know, describe your experience of governance. Well,

Speaker 5 ([00:29:27](#)):

I think that women in all walks of life know that when there's only one in a room you're treated as if you're unimportant and we all talk about how, if you have an idea, no one hears it. And it only gets traction when a man repeats. And this is not specific to council or government or anything. It's just the way we speak. And over the years, I've come to realize that part of it's about the way we present ideas. I'm not saying that it's our fault, but sometimes I'm, I can be too polite. I know it's hard to believe, but you can sometimes say things in a suggestion, perhaps you could do this, or wouldn't it be a good, you can't do that. If you're in public life, you've got to say, this is what I think we should do, because unless you actually grab authoritarians power, no, one's going to listen to you. I think the other thing that's evident from my experience in local government and they were pretty badly behaved. I mean, I've got small boys, but some of the things those boys did were really appalling. It works much better when there are a few more of you because it tips the balance. And if I can offer any advice, the best way to tip the balance is to be in charge. If you're in the chair, everyone listens

Jane Jose ([00:30:42](#)):

Well, in a sense, I was going to pick up on that idea that having women who are in a position to make the decision really is a game changer. And in this city, if I just give a few examples and some of them I've written in the book Jane, well, I realized that the only way we would introduce local heritage listing was if we could get a majority of people on the council who would support that. And so I guess I understood, although I was deputy Lord mayor, I was chairman of planning and we drove through policy change that wouldn't have happened including quite simple things like letting people know when a development was happening next door, fundamental, citizen rights, repeat and introducing the radical idea of engaging communities in the design of place. The Parklands management strategy, which was an, it was an idea we knew, had to happen.

Jane Jose ([00:31:47](#)):

And Jane delivered that to try to bring more certainty and clarity about not building in the Parklands in other cities. Well, Clover Moore is a really significant example. She has both taken on climate change. And how do you make Australia's global city, more, a more sustainable city. It underpins everything that she has done. She has, I write about one project, which is the remaking of a very large public park prince Alford park that probably serves a community. Well, it does serve a community of around a hundred thousand residents. It was redesigned by Sue Barnsley, a landscape architect with Rachel Neeson who worked on the pool. It was commissioned by two women and it was going to be the remaking of a park, but it's become a really significant public place. So Clover has through having she's out, seeing five state governments, five, I think six premiers actually in her time.

Jane Jose ([00:32:57](#)):

So having the ability to decide, and then Anna Bligh had really had a disproportionate influence, you know, in a short time when she was arts minister, she in Brisbane came up with the, the notion of rethinking Brisbane, south bank as a cultural precinct. She was then premiere and supported over time. Others delivered it, but the making of it really changing Brisbane's image I think is really important. So, you know, in my role, a lot of what I'm doing is fulfilling a mandatory rule to review significant development coming through the city. There's no way the majority of people would listen to my opinion of their work, unless they actually had to go through this process and knew that the independent advice that we formed through design review actually helps them get a development approval. So there was a structure put around to force people's through a process, but then also was an open-minded minister and an open-minded C E who thought that it was really important, but a woman in that role, and then you can affect systemic change by the way you conduct yourself in that role. So I completely agree that you need some, whether you're an elected member or you're put in some position where you're actually able to affect change, because you're empowered to do it. Do you

Megan Hender ([00:34:17](#)):

Think women address different issues of Jane you've mentioned heritage that that was something that in your experience that was taken up by the women in Adelaide and, and driven by them. Are there other issues that you think women take up both in the governance and in the design of buildings or, or cities that are different from the way men might address it? I think

Jane Jose ([00:34:37](#)):

Women are innately nurturers. Those of us who wish to make life, you know, have children, we are nurturers and, and women take that responsibility in family life. I think some of that taking a long view

is, is very central to women. Also women are not afraid really of maybe looking silly and making a suggestion because they're actually there because they want things to happen. I mean, I'm sure all of us have sat in a meeting and thought, I'm just going to say this. Why would you do that? And Clover Moore said to me, people ever just always said to me, oh, you'll never do that. And so I think there is a doggedness about making sure that everybody matters in, in terms decisions being made. I,

Speaker 5 ([00:35:40](#)):

I have a theory about the local government in the era that I was in local government. The men were driven by monetizing the buildings. They saw them in terms of return on investment cranes, lettable floor areas. They didn't actually really care about the design, the appearance or the usefulness or the interest dis-ease. Whereas I think in my generation, particularly it may change. Women are outside the system and they loiter and look outside the buildings. They walk, they push babies in prams. They sit around outside, they go shopping and they're in a different space. And whilst time don't think I'm a victim. I grew up at a time where I was not fearful, but I was aware of the surroundings enough to be a little bit anxious about the lighting, the bushes, people jumping out. I'm not saying I'm fearful, but I think that I'm more aware of between the buildings, the livability of the urban space and the appearance from outside.

Speaker 5 ([00:36:47](#)):

And I have been criticized over the years for it saying, you know why we can't have those Kailua chairs. They're beautiful, but they got metal strips. Have you done the bomb test? Can you sit on them on a hot day? You know, that kind of trivial stuff that men don't see because they see the buildings, not the comfort and the ease. And I think that's one of the differences I've noticed in the way I operate, which is more in the detail of what it's like to be in the wind tunnel in the sun, in the heat out there. And I think that's one of the things that women bring, maybe the next generation, it won't be just women who look at the foot path and with the crossovers with friends, maybe that everyone will do it. Maybe that's a good thing. I'd love it to happen. But at the moment I think women bring a different set of experiences.

Megan Hender ([00:37:37](#)):

So the architectural experience too well from

Dr Elisa Palazzo ([00:37:41](#)):

The urban design perspective, I think it's really true. And I was just, I'm not dissing that. You know, women are interested in different things in different topics. So the other day I made an experiment. I was looking for talks given by women related to urban design and landscape architecture. So I looked through the TEDS talk online. And of course in this, interestingly that the number of talks given by women on that topic are significantly lower than the numbers of talks given by men. But what is interesting is most of the talks given by women, women is about streetscape design, urban farming, greening the city, urban revitalization, especially in, in, in of neighborhoods of local small neighborhoods and for disabilities. So it's all true. It is, you know, w w what we've heard, yes, the focus is absolutely different. So, and all this, these interests are related to me to one quality that women have, which is empathy. So the capacity of listening and understanding the others, and it's something that we can not delete in 1, 2, 3 generations. We have, have been doing this for years, you know, looking after the elder Lee, looking after a kid, the little kids et cetera, taking care of the family. So it's something that we've learned in several centuries of

Megan Hender ([00:39:17](#)):

To add to that, because I do feel it's, I sometimes get

Jane Jose ([00:39:20](#)):

A little bit uncomfortable when women's contribution is characterized as something that's maternal, but I think a lot of the language that was being used there about being more sensitive, and I don't totally disagree, but I think it is it, we need to be careful that we're not neces, we're stereotyping ourselves no contribution. And I'd also like to say, I think things are changing. The conversations that we have with architects across the city and was interstate colleagues, is that while the conversation may be started by, you know, someone with different sensibilities in the room, the discussion is, you know, different people are making a contribution to that discussion. So is the, maybe a raising of awareness, but I think, I think it is actually changing. I think there's changing here.

Megan Hender ([00:40:03](#)):

So w we knowledge then that women have got a significant contribution to make, and that it has, it comes from for whatever reason, but perhaps from a different angle. So why are we so bad at it? I mean, picking up your your point about the number of women who are involved in architecture, who actually practicing architects. I mean, other professions have got really got much stronger representation. Now, there are women on the high court what what's going, what's going on for architecture, do you think it's I think there's

Jane Jose ([00:40:33](#)):

Probably a few things going on. Women are often, I think, overlooked, and there's an apparent, lack of experience if women do that, take time off to take a career break, to, to start a family. And that can lead to a lack of confidence. And then the knock-on may be that they might not get registered and then they might not be, you know, the career might not be working out. It's the way they, they thought it might. There's a culture of not supporting flexible working. That's changing in government now, which is fantastic, but I know there's a long way to go in the profession. And there are a few practices out there now who actually proactively managed returning to work, which I think is a really big issue. And pay inequality is is, is still a problem. And really shouldn't be in this day and age, but, but it certainly is. So I think there's, there are some combination of things that put women off continuing their career in architecture, and then apply their education to, to other areas.

Megan Hender ([00:41:34](#)):

And in governance, in taking on the role of, of, of decision-making what's getting in the way

Jane Jose ([00:41:39](#)):

I was going to say about, you know, why aren't there more architects, there are doctors and lawyers, why isn't that more equal? Partly it's because it's really hard. It's really hard to build a building. It might take 10 years. It's the most complex thing to make cities it's controversial. It involves managing usually multiple stakeholders. It's hard. Men love doing it. If they're good at it, they're not going to move over easily and lose the opportunity. Opportunities are relatively rare. More women seem to choose landscape architecture. It's an urban design. The spaces between the buildings. That's a bit easier, you know, Zahara did who won the Pritzker prize, which is like the Nobel prize. She said, it took her 20 years to actually get a building built in London, despite her obvious genius, really whether or not you like her

work. And she said, I think I could build a skyscraper too. You know, it's being able to have to have the chance

Speaker 2 ([00:42:52](#)):

Environments working well,

Jane Jose ([00:42:53](#)):

The challenges are there are, you know, the projects are complex and difficult to deliver and you have to be persistent and long, but I think it's more, how long can you work in that environment when you're actually, you're constantly challenged by the construction sector? You know, you can be supported by your colleagues in the practice that you've chosen to work in, but actually to be in the construction sector and working with people, perhaps who aren't as open-minded or as accepting or supporting that's tough. The challenge of delivering a building is equal to every architect, but I think it's actually what you put yourself through to see a project built can be really quite hard.

Dr Elisa Palazzo ([00:43:30](#)):

I think in urban design is the same and it's, it's hard. It's really difficult, but things are changing. So the first woman to win a drum pre deliver bunnies, which in Europe is the equivalent to a Pritzker prize or a Nobel for urban design and urban ism is, was in 2013, Paul Levy. So we have, we see that things are improving little bit, you know, there's a lot to do, but things are happening. And also women are more into that. No doubt I'm knowledge for their work also for their collective work, not just for single individual authorship,

Megan Hender ([00:44:11](#)):

Jane genomics Smith, as you talked about earlier with me about the fact that you took on the role when your children were very small and they impact that head on the capacity to make a contribution. You want to talk about that?

Speaker 5 ([00:44:25](#)):

Yeah. So we've spoken a lot about how to encourage more people into local government, particularly. And I think there are of enablers and inhibitors. The biggest enabler in south Australia for me was the fact that there was childcare fee payment by the council. And people are sometimes shocked that that occurs, but frankly, I would not have joined the council without it. My, my youngest son was one year old. My was, was three years old and you can't count on husbands to be there, to get them out of childcare on time you get fined, you know, you need help. If you've got evening meetings, all the meetings were in the evening. I needed help. And at the time, you know, 30 years ago, I wasn't as financially comfortable as I am now. I just could not have afforded all the targets. So that childcare was a great enabler.

Speaker 5 ([00:45:14](#)):

The other thing that I think is an enabler is there's no law, no politics, no political parties in local government. And believe me, if the boys are doing the pre-selection, the girls don't get in the fact that you can, self-nominate, it's a great opportunity for women. So that's another enabler. Also, the electorates are small. So the startup costs and opportunities or easier to get into the difficulties I think getting into local government are really to do with your own decision to be involved. And I think that

local government is so attractive because for women, particularly you have a huge impact. And so I think that when it's hard and it's difficult and you want to do something, then it's really not an inhibitor. You'll just get on and do it. I think the only, the only observation I'd make, and I hate to be a killjoy on this sort of day of joy about women being equally represented.

Speaker 5 ([00:46:13](#)):

I think that maybe the men have realized it's not the seat of power it used to be, and they have stopped kicking us out of the way. Believe me, they'd put their feet on our throats if they thought it was important. And basically in this state that Mo most of the planning power has been removed in state governments involved in, you know, licensing food trucks. So in reality, the captains of industry just make political donations and speak to the ministers. And so they've cleared the way for us. And so we've, we've got to not think that this is a joyful occasion, and we've got to take over state government take over the federal parliament and go up the food chain. I

Megan Hender ([00:47:00](#)):

Think that's a bit of a cool direction actually, because the number of women that we spoke to this morning, who are all feeling the same way about it and thinking, well, you know, if we actually organize, if we get organized and we can perhaps start to take back some of that power, and I think that's exactly what local government ought to be doing. So thank you for that comment. The other thing I wanted to get people's to comment on just briefly was also, we've talked about to some extent how how men don't facilitate, you know, you're saying that they've got, they're only prepared to get out our way when they think it's not important. Because, you know, I know you've, you've had a good experience too, and you've spoke to me prior to the session about the way that men can facilitate and can assist with them. And do you want to comment about that?

Jane Jose ([00:47:41](#)):

Yeah. I've had a very positive experience within my own department, which is planning, transport and infrastructure, where we had a new chief executive who came in and could see them as a real problem with the demographic should I say, at the executive level, and was very determined to be able to make sure that there was gender balance in his executive team, but he also practically went out and saw younger talent as well. So I think if you have that, open-minded CE who they, it goes back again to that you need, you know, it helps if you're empowered to then be able to influence change. Like he elevated a lot of women up to senior roles in his department, but then importantly, so you can break the glass ceiling, but you also need the support once you're there. So it can't just be that you get nominated into position. Then your left is to fight out. You actually need to continue that, you know, there needs to be continued support. And I've, I've found that that's also driven cultural change within the department in quite a short period of time.

Megan Hender ([00:48:40](#)):

I'm going to throw the questions in a minute, but I just thought I'd ask each of the women to on the panel before I do that, just to quickly mention one, each, a woman who you think has made a contribution to the building of cities one of one or many of the cities that you love and why, so if I could just go down the panel and then I'll, I'll see whether there's anyone who'd like to make some to ask some questions. I'll be,

Jane Jose ([00:49:04](#)):

Well, I think I have to say Mary and Marnie Griffin, who it's now recognized with Walter Burley Griffin is really the author of our national capital. The idea that was Canberra. She's a really fascinating woman, which I, who I write about a little bit tragically. She was just, she is buried in a porpoise grave in Chicago. There's not a statue in Canberra of Mary and Manny Griffin. And one of the really interesting things I read a lot of books about her was that actually, she got the competition entry into the post on time. So that had never been even in it without Marianne, apart from her beautiful renderings of, of what that city could be. Well,

Speaker 5 ([00:49:50](#)):

A local example. I don't think you can go past Diana Laidlaw. I think she was incredible. She stuck to it. She never gave up, she had attention for detail. She got the money. And at the end of the day, if you don't get the money, you can't do anything. You have lots of ideas, but you've got to extract the money. She got the money and she waited and fought and she produced some amazing buildings in this town. You look at the art gallery that's a lot more money than any treasurer wanted to spend, and she did it and everything she touched, she thought about she fought about and she never let the experts tell her what was so wonderful. I've got great respect for experts, but a lot of men in public life. So with the architects designed it, we wouldn't do that. If it was your own house, knew the customer. She always put herself in the position of the client and she would hang out till the best solution was there. I just have nothing but admiration for her.

Speaker 2 ([00:50:49](#)):

Elisa,

Dr Elisa Palazzo ([00:50:50](#)):

I have a few names in mind and both in urban design or, and landscape architecture. But I would like to say, I'd like to remind all the women that have been in the last years have been working hard to make our cities better place to live, because there are so many girls, ladies that have been doing that job, a hard job. You know, that to me is really important to remind collective constant work of, you know, of that Jews on, on how to improve our space is more important than reminding single people

Jane Jose ([00:51:33](#)):

Who are doing good work in Adelaide. But another city, I love very much London where I spent most of my career. And you mentioned the formative experience. I had marks Barfield who designed the London eye, and I want to mention two women if I can January and I can Julia Barfield. So Jane Warnick was actually the engineer behind the the structural gymnastics of the, of the whale. She was Arabs at the time and then went off to work on her own and Julia Barfield. So one half of Mark's Barfield, but both of them together actually not only made it look as good as it does now. And that was a, there was a lot of work in making it look as simple as it does. But they actually initiated the project as well. So they sought the funding, they got all, they overcame all of the illegal and property obstructions that came with building over the Thames and building over the Queens walk.

Jane Jose ([00:52:23](#)):

So they were inspirational. And th the significance of that project is not just that it's now a new London icon, but at the time nobody was using the south bank in London. So they also stage in argument, which was 80% of tourists crossing Westminster bridge were turning their back to big bend to take the photograph and then go back into, to the north side of the Thames. But actually what was on offer in

the site bank, if you could get people over where major cultural institutions and national theater led to bang side. So that, that one project has had an influence from Westminster to blindside all the way to London bridges and had, and has had a huge impact in terms of economic and cultural regeneration. So they're pretty extraordinary women. Yeah. So

Megan Hender ([00:53:10](#)):

Audience members, we've got a microphone up there. Anybody who'd like to ask a question, can you please go up and stand at the microphone and ask away so I can see a hand up, but if you could just go up

Speaker 6 ([00:53:26](#)):

Thank you, Megan. And thank you ladies. I want to be a little bit provocative and it's a topic that's been mentioned in passing by several of you Jane in particular. It's regarding open space and the city of Adelaide. So it's a little bit parochial. The is, is open space, just a 19th century anachronism that we can get rid of. Now, that seems to be the thinking by men at the state level.

Megan Hender ([00:54:07](#)):

Can we get some questions, get some answers to that? Well, I

Jane Jose ([00:54:10](#)):

Would say no on the contrary in fact, my book really the motivation is, was to talk about how important open space or shared space is in cities. So I would say globally, there's an interest in urban design. There's more focus in a way in urban design and not just the design of a building and how that will be plumped into the city, but actually how it can also contribute to the shared space, the street space equally the making of green space. We used to talk about pocket parks. And that terms probably not used as much now, although I love it actually, the opportunity to make a pocket park. It's so important in Adelaide. I know that there's a degree of apartment living in the city, in other cities. There's probably even more and therefore public space, open space is so important and activism is needed. All of you to keep the Parklands a green belt. I mean, Jane's done her bit, so it needs to continue. It must, it's, Adelaide's most distinctive and wonderful quality green space. If I can

Megan Hender ([00:55:39](#)):

Add just a tiny little plug for the Adelaide city council, we've just started a process where we will now, for anything that happens, we will be always looking at whether the I'm measuring any decrease in the Parkland so that we can measure that. And mainly so that we, as a stick to beat the state with so that we can make sure that we are always looking first of all, for return to Parklands where it's available and and making sure that, that we are the, any decreases visible, because I don't think there's too many people in our state who want to see any decrease in our Parkland space. There's a, there's some good neuroscience around this now, too, that people need those green spaces to get to. And it's part of the it's part of wellbeing. So we're very hold on it, next question.

Speaker 6 ([00:56:26](#)):

Thank you. May I search it, pay a proposal practical example central market center market is part of Adelaide's heritage. It's one of Adelaide's pantries and also one of other light living rooms. So may I ask,

as women may ask your perspective from a planning and an architectural point of view about this redevelopment.

Speaker 5 ([00:56:56](#)):

Thank you. Probably feel more strongly about that the most. Well, I feel strongly about the Parklands, you know, I forget me going, I'll be telling you it's not cheap land. It's priceless. So I'm with you stand in front of the bulldozers. The PA the central market is interesting because I've always grown up with markets and I like it to be slightly earthy and a bit untidy. I think the worst thing that could happen to the market will be to redevelop it, to turn it into a sterile supermarket, like a Westfield [inaudible].

Speaker 5 ([00:57:27](#)):

And the other observation I'd make is that every now and again, someone comes up with the idea. They're going to build a tower with residential and more car parking over the top. It's perennial. It's actually one of the things I fought on my first council election, 1991. The point is, if you do that, you'll have to build pylons through the shopping center. You'll put at least 40 stalls out of business and they will never come back. So I actually am very conservative. I love new buildings. I love new development. I like to do lots of good things, provided the open space and the Parklands are preserved, but the central market should not be redeveloped. It's seen as cheap land. They've got the air space, people salivate over it, and we should stop it happening.

Speaker 2 ([00:58:13](#)):

Next question.

Speaker 6 ([00:58:16](#)):

We're on a rural council, Claire and Gerbert valleys. Somebody has to live there. It's it's, God's, it's God's own earth, but a number of times in the conversation here, we've talked about the difference way that women make decisions.

Speaker 2 ([00:58:35](#)):

And

Speaker 6 ([00:58:37](#)):

I believe that if men took the same process, where when male men make decisions, you have a problem, they find a solution. Bang, let's go. I find blood observing. When women might start going through the decision-making process, you'll have a problem. There's a solution. Pause what ramifications to people, processes or infrastructure will my solution impact on if there's too many negatives, they go back and work through it again. Do you believe that if this process was increased, in other words, men started thinking a lot more like this, that we would have better spaces, better buildings that met the needs of communities

Megan Hender ([00:59:34](#)):

Who would like to come in on that one. We both work.

Speaker 2 ([00:59:37](#)):

Can I just warn

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Megan Hender ([00:59:38](#)):

The speakers, her lining up before we do? I think we might have to make that our last question. I'm sorry, because of the time constraints, but let's have an answer. I'll have two answers. I'll be really quick.

Jane Jose ([00:59:49](#)):

Don't lose the idea of the central market is Adelaide's pantry. It's a brilliant idea and way of describing it. I think men and men can have that sensibility of thinking in the way that you've described. I do think women default to, to thinking in that way, but the best male architects problem-solvers also can do that.

Dr Elisa Palazzo ([01:00:18](#)):

It's possible to teach the young generation how to do that. Yes. It's about everything space

Speaker 5 ([01:00:24](#)):

Decision-Making and it's about a scientific background. I think everyone should be able to do it. I think what you're highlighting is the fact that sometimes men have been in a position of power for too long. They get a little bit arrogant, but one of the downsides of course, of having 50% women in councils is that you might end up with some that are as mediocre as the men that they sit. And we thought about that. So

Megan Hender ([01:00:46](#)):

On that cheerful note, I wonder if you could help join me in thanking our panel speakers again, I've just got a few houses.