



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**4 December 2017**

### **Importance of Urbanism to New Zealand**

A sector driven conference focusing on the issues of urban development within New Zealand is being held in Wellington in May 2018.

Emerging from concern within the sector regarding the lack of discussion focused on the state of urban settlements, the conference aims to tackle the issues from a collective viewpoint.

The conference will engage the cohort of urban designers, architects, planners, engineers, surveyors and landscape architects together with the property development and construction sector. In addition, with central and local government decision makers, the aim is to identify the key areas to bring about an improved change in our cities and towns.

Sponsored by the Wellington City Council and the Urban Design Forum, Urbanism New Zealand 2018 will build on thought provoking international speakers combined with the best and challenging sector leaders within the country to develop an action statement on urbanism for New Zealand.

“The outcome of the conference is to send a message to the central government about the importance of urbanism,” said Gerald Blunt, Design Manager Build Wellington, Wellington City Council.

“This is something that has not been sufficiently debated in the round with the sector together.”

Topics for discussion focus on the elements of living, moving, community, identity and the delivery of the urban environment in the context of urban design and planning.

“Urban concerns across New Zealand are broad but the issue of providing affordable housing in our expanding towns and cities is a major focus,” states Alistair Ray, Head of Urban Design at Jasmax.

“In this context our discussion points at the conference will include the impact of planning policy and the value of good quality design in the development and maintenance of healthy and thriving communities.”

The conference is calling for the submission of abstracts from people who are interested in presenting. Information about can be found on the conference website [www.urbanismnz.co.nz](http://www.urbanismnz.co.nz)

- Ends -

### MORE INFORMATION

For further information about the conference and to follow the latest announcements:

Web: <http://www.urbanismnz.co.nz/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/urbanismnz>

Blog: <https://urbanismnz2018.com/>

### MEDIA CONTACT

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