



KING GEORGE SQUARE



King George Square has been and always will be a major point of interest for Brisbane residents and its visitors. Currently it is underutilised as a public square – the events held there are exclusive and disconnect other users within the area, the restaurant and cafe areas do not have a wide target market and there is barely any shading and escape from the concrete jungle of the city. Breaking up the form of the city and folding back its geometry has informed a design intervention that encourages public access, use and engagement.

The new King George Square aims to give the public realm back to the people. Providing a clear thoroughfare, through the use of an arbour, for pedestrians aims to be less disruptive for users of the green space at the centre of the site. It also provides access points to the bus way and aims to integrate the system of transport into the site. Allowing for green space within the site was a give-in – not only does the site have no shading and is often hot and harsh in the summer, it is a concrete square that offers no relief from the city living. Further, providing an area for loose and permanent seating towards the sites North-East allows for a more clear area for food stalls, encouraging more activity in the site.

The form of the design proposal was influenced by a need to break up the rigidity of the cityscape. Cutting away forms using the circular nature of Brisbane City Hall's dome both in plan and section assisted in creating a rolling wave like form, as if the topography of the land attempts to rise up again under the weight of the city.

