



**August 2018**

## **CIB W101 – Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Development New Commission Coordinator**

In August 2018 the CIB Programme Committee appointed Dr. Morten Tor Gjerde as new Coordinator of the Working Commission W101 – Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Development.

### **Contact details**



Dr. Morten Tor Gjerde

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### **Short CV**

Dr. Morten Gjerde has been at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand since 2000 and is currently Head of the School of Architecture. His research interests and expertise are supported by 18 years spent in professional practice in the United States and New Zealand before that.

### **Research interests**

housing at density, managing urban transformation and (architectural) tectonic performance

### **Qualifications**

Assoc.Arts(Architecture) , B.Arch(Hons),  
PGCert(Urban Planning) , M.Research(Urban Design)  
PhD in Architecture

### **Teaching and research**

His teaching and research reflect his background as a practicing architect and urban designer. From this perspective, he views the built environment holistically, across space and time. Details and discrete development projects should connect with and reinforce ideas at progressively larger scales, up to that of the city.

His work around urban transformation builds on curiosity about how incremental redevelopment can best be managed. He studies people's perceptions and aesthetic preferences and link these back to development control processes. The earthquakes that struck Christchurch in 2010-11 provided the opportunity to study management processes around large-scale city making.

He also collaborates with others to discover how culture affects change and perceptions. The Imagining Decolonised Cities project is one such collaboration; through this project he and his colleagues have added to our understanding of Māori perspectives on the built and natural environment.

Ongoing viability of the built environment over time is also an area that drives his research and teaching agendas. In this respect he looks for evidence that can suggest better ways of building to optimise the lifecycle value of the initial investment. At a building scale he is interested in how material choices and detailing can influence the life cycle performance of the facility. Where building maintenance and renewal are undertaken, how can this be done in ways that improve building performance so as to extend their useful life? At an urban scale he is also interested how the material qualities and maintenance standards influence people's perceptions.

### **Personal Statement**

I have academic and professional expertise in spatial planning. I am an architect and urban designer and through my PhD explored spatial planning processes around urban streets. Through my ongoing interests in how cities change I have become interested in the hard and soft infrastructures and the support they provide.

My research addresses important questions about how transformation of the built environment can be directed to achieve the best outcomes. I have a particular fascination with responsibilities that come with building and am motivated to understand how places can change to meet the needs of all stakeholders.



At the scale of the city this has led me to question the ways people experience streets and other public spaces and how redevelopment of individual sites along the edges of public spaces affect their perceptions. Discovering answers to the key questions about people's experiences of and preferences for buildings and spaces requires us to engage with them. My research methodologies have been developed with reference to social science, providing me with rich data sets and leading to evidence-based findings.

I am deeply committed to ensuring that Commission W101 will have a stronger presence in CIB, engage more closely with the Membership and also with external communities that share its interest in spatial planning and infrastructure. It appears that we are moving into a period of intense urban growth and change, the relevance of the Commission has never been higher. We should work effectively to contribute to the discussions taking place around the world. I will help orchestrate opportunities for us to do so.

How can the Commission be re-activated? My plan involves regular meetings of the membership through digital platforms such as WebEx and Skype. I believe it is important for members to connect regularly to plan our activities. Communication is key to the health and vitality of any organisation. Through the infrastructure of CIB, I will facilitate communication between Commission Members and the wider CIB Membership, utilising newsletters and media releases among other platforms. It is unfortunate that the Commission has not been represented more regularly in these media in recent years and I will work hard to make sure we are.

There is the opportunity for the Commission to convene conferences and other meetings to discuss and disseminate research. I will look for relevant partners amongst the other CIB Commissions to broaden the focus for such conferences and to stimulate research papers bridging between their respective interest areas.

Those that appear most relevant to such collaborations include:

TG87 - Urban Resilience Benchmarking and Metrics

TG91 - Infrastructure

W110 - Informal Settlements and Affordable Housing



W116 - Smart and Sustainable Built Environment

I welcome the opportunity to coordinate the efforts of W101 to work toward increased relevance to its membership, the CIB community and society more widely.



## Information

More information on CIB Commission W101 – Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Development can be found [here](#).

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