The Swan River has been flowing the same course for some sixty million years. This book traces the relationship of European-Australian culture to this ancient river system. This historical narrative is viewed through the lens of schemes proposed for Perth's foreshore, the city's symbolic front garden.

The foreshore has been contentious since the first plan for Perth was drawn up, and has subsequently acted as a sinkhole for hundreds of proposals. An investigation of this archaeological stratum of foreshore drawings allows us to understand changing ideas of what Perth was, what it could have been, and indeed what it can be.

This fascinating book uncovers hundreds of ‘lost’ proposals for Perth’s foreshore – and sets out a compelling vision for how the city should relate to its river in the 21st century. It is essential reading for those who have a stake in the future of Perth and the Swan River.

- Janet Holmes à Court AC

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Julian Bolleter is an Assistant Professor at the Australian Urban Design Research Centre (AUDRC) at the University of Western Australia. His role at the AUDRC includes teaching a master’s program in urban design and conducting urban design related research and design projects. Julian is an awarded landscape architect and urban designer and has worked in Australia, the USA, the UK and the Middle East on a range of major projects. He has completed a PhD concerning landscape architecture in Dubai and has published two other books, including Made in Australia: The future of Australian cities (with Richard Weller), and Scavenging the Suburbs – a book which audits Perth for ~1,000,000 possible urban infill dwellings. In 2014 Julian was awarded the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects WA gold medal award (in conjunction with Richard Weller).

Media Release

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER
The Story of Perth’s Foreshore

A new book by Julian Bolleter

Published Sept 2015
ISBN 9781742586489
$40.00 pb 300 pages

MEDIA ENQUIRIES
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