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**BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP**

APPENDIX C

Adolescent Focus Group Report

**The Future of Residential Housing
Northern Beaches Secondary College
Manly Selective Campus - Year 10**

**31 March 2004
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APPENDIX C:

Adolescent Focus Group Report

The focus group discussion was arranged in two parts. In the first, a group of boys were asked to predict what the world would be like in 2025, and a group of girls were asked to identify the key features of what they would like the world to be like. In the second part, two mixed groups of boys and girls were asked to identify the kind of housing that would be, or should be, available in 2025.

1. The World in 2025 – Predicted

The world predicted by the boys for 2025 was one marked by dramatic technological change and strongly contested power bases leading to major geo-political shifts.

Among the technological-based changes were:

- interactive 3-D television, which provided the basis for virtual holographic conferencing
- smart clothes capable of responding to ambient temperature (e.g. warming you up when it gets cold)
- continuing dominance of transport by cars, but powered by new energy sources
- space tourism well established
- genetically modified food widely consumed
- cloning of human organisms to provide spare parts.

The major geo-political and social changes resulted from:

- the US loss of world supremacy
- a high level of convictions of CEOs of global companies for fraud or other misconduct, leading to a loss of public faith in globalisation
- the abolition of the concept of privacy through the pervasiveness of IT-based information capture, storage and analysis.

The World in 2025 – Preferred

The preferred of the girls, in contrast, focussed much more strongly on issues of value and equity. The features of their 2025 included:

- international government
- a single global currency
- politics is open, with much more opportunity for direct public involvement
- poverty and starvation no longer exist
- cures are available for most physical and mental diseases
- universally accessible Internet
- all 'machinery' is eco-friendly – non-polluting and driven by renewable energy
- plastic bags are only seen in old films.

2. Residential Housing of the Future

There was no strong differentiation between the probable and preferred futures. Major themes appeared to be higher density, decentralisation, use of new spaces, diversity, and internal flexibility. Key suggestions included:

- housing with a smaller footprint, particularly in the form of multi-purpose buildings ("tiered cities") providing for work, leisure, housing and other services all in the one extended high-rise location
- cities composed of a single building providing all needs, with extended green space for leisure, agriculture and adventure, around them
- most growth in housing to occur outside the capital cities, as telecommuting no longer requires you to live near where you work
- construction of housing in the sea, above and below sea-level (allowing that this level might change with global warming)
- complete internal flexibility in fit-out, such that rooms could easily be rearranged to fit changing needs of families at different stages
- new materials that remove the dominance of the straight line and the square in construction creating more organic spaces.

Participants

Rebekah Hitchenson
Michael Jin
Matthew Karcz
Kierstan Liddy
Emily Pollett
Allan Szewczyk
Lynn Thompson
Tommer Vardi
Shouhei Yamauchi

Teacher – Adrienne Cobby

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