

International Congress on Adaptive Urbanism

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On the 23rd and 24th of October 2014, Christchurch hosted the [International Congress on Adaptive Urbanism: Thinking Big, Acting Small](#), organised by Gap Filler with support from Lincoln University (and Dr Vallance's Marsden Fast Start project), Christchurch City Council (CCC), the US Embassy, Goethe-Institut, Warren Trust, and the Festival of Transitional Architecture (FESTA). The Congress was attended by nearly 70 people from around the world, with guests from Australia, USA, South Africa, Germany, Venezuela, France, Poland and Denmark. Participants were planners, architects, developers, community activists, government officials, artists and more. All were interested in the diversity of adaptive urbanism projects undertaken in Christchurch since the earthquakes, from street art to the Re:Start Mall.

Adaptive urbanism is a term referring to a range of practices also associated with DIY and/or insurgent urbanism, often undertaken by residents, artists, community groups, and others who are actively involved in conceiving, designing, implementing, activating and maintaining flexible urban places. This empowered mode of urbanism differs from conventional public and

private city-building (where most residents are passive consumers of 'permanent' developments created for them) because participants are active producers of evolving public space.

Some of the themes addressed at the congress were:

- Bohemians, outlaws and anarchists or tools of the state;
- (Why) did it take an earthquake;
- A taxonomy of adaptive urbanism;
- Scaling up or scaling out.

A copy of the congress report is available here:

<http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/Documents/LEaP/adaptive%20urbanism%20report%202014.pdf>



Photograph by Suzanne Vallance.