

KARMI PALAFOX

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I have over 17 years of international experience in strategic urban planning and design, economics and policy. I am a qualified planner in the United Kingdom, Philippines, and Australia. I have led the development plan of communities, islands, new and historic cities, infrastructure, and public places.

The teams that I have managed successfully delivered projects that range from mixed-use, new townships, residential and airports, to post-disaster rehabilitation. I have served leadership roles in different organisations, including as:

- Head of Urban Planning and Design, Partner and Managing Partner of Palafox Associates, a highly regarded planning and architecture firm in Asia. I led the multidisciplinary team of architects, planners, designers, engineers and support staff in winning landmark projects, streamlining processes, and upholding quality service for our clients.
- National Director and Vice President of the professional association of planners in the Philippines.
- Director of companies in a range of sectors including property market research (BCI Asia), real estate consultancy and valuations (Aviso), property management, and resort development.
- Board Adviser and Council Member of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) in the Philippines and in Sydney

In my previous role as Associate Director at Urbis, I worked closely with multidisciplinary teams on master plans and planning reform studies. I concurrently held the Innovation and Business Development Manager role the company's largest business unit.

I am particularly proud to have led the strategic plans of well-loved places in the Philippines and to have advised governments in generating more jobs in the regions, bringing in tourists to a destination, mainstreaming resilience in the planning processes, and rebuilding after a disaster or conflict.

My experience in policy includes working with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and with the Philippine Senate. I advised the Senate's Chairman of the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement and his legal team on key national legislation affecting the 110 million population.

The opportunities to share my knowledge have helped mold me into a better professional. I am truly passionate about shaping cities and communities for the better, and have contributed thought pieces on affordable housing, real estate trends, transport and mobility, and the environment. I have also spoken at numerous international conferences and media interviews. I have served in international ULI Advisory Panels and given recommendations on Detroit's tactical preservation of historic buildings and in activating destinations in Sanya and Foshan, China.

I host and produce *Beyond Places with Karmi Palafox*, which features conversations with professionals around the world about the planning, design, and leadership of cities.

EXPERIENCE

DPIE, NSW Government Manager, Infrastructure Planning
March – July 2021

Urbis Associate Director
September 2018 – June 2020

Palafox Associates

- Senior Adviser and Consultant, October 2016 – September 2018, July-Nov 2020
- Managing Partner, July 2014 – September 2016 and Partner, July 2009 – June 2014
- Urban Planner, November 2005 – June 2009

Philippine Senate Consultant to Senator John Victor Ejercito
2014 – September 2018

I provided advice on the housing sector, post-disaster and post-conflict redevelopment, transport and mobility. Highlights include the first national housing summit, a new law that created the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, and numerous Senate hearings to investigate key issues such as the Marawi siege, Metro Manila traffic management, and proposed legislation to address in-city affordable housing and reform in the urban planning system.

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Urban Planning Oxford Brookes University, 2005
Urban Design Specialisation

Master of Science in Industrial Economics University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), 2003

Advanced Management Program, UA&P and IESE Business School, Spain
Manila, Jakarta, Hong Kong and Barcelona, September 2013 – March 2014

Certificate in Entrepreneurship and Building a Business
University of Oxford Said Business School, United Kingdom, 2005

DIRECTORSHIP

Palafox Architecture Group Founding Director
January 2014 – Present

BCI Asia Philippines Director
2016 – September 2018

AVISO Valuation and Industry Corporation Director
2015 –2018

Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP)

- National Vice President, 2015-2016
- National Director, 2011-2012

MEMBERSHIPS

Royal Town Planning Institute United Kingdom, Chartered Member

Planning Institute of Australia Associate Member

Urban Land Institute (ULI) Member

AWARDS

UNESCO and MASHAV Fellow Weitz Center Israel, 2016

Urban Land 40 Under 40 Global Awardee, 2014

PUBLICATIONS

Urban Matters, Columnist for the national newspaper The Manila Standard, 2014 – 2016

Women Stepping Up Column Contributor & Coordinator

- “Inclusive infrastructure”, 09 October 2014
- “Women and place-making”, 02 May 2014

ULI Advisory Services Panel Member

- Tactical Preservation: Detroit, Michigan USA, 2018
- Sanya, China, 2013
- Strategic Advice for Foshan, China, 2015

SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

CITIES

How can architects and planners plan for a Big Australia, Speaker Series
DesignBuild Expo, ICC Sydney

Vertical development in schools, retirement, childcare and student living,
Australian Property Institute National Conference, Gold Coast

TOURISM

Tourism Planning – Lessons from Our Neighbours, Planning Institute of
Australia National Congress, Gold Coast Australia

Planning for Tourism Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners National
Convention, Manila

ECONOMICS & BUSINESS

Agenda: Building Better Futures, San Miguel Corporation

Connectivity, Trade, Transit and Traffic in Maritime Southeast Asia, Asian
Development Bank

HOUSING & REAL ESTATE

Lamudi Affordable Housing Fair

Affordable Housing Conference, Kuala Lumpur

Growing Your Wealth through Investing in Real Estate, Anvil

RESILIENCE

Building Resilient and Healthy Communities, ULI Philippines

ENVIRONMENT

Designing Our Waterfront, Manila Urban Design Festival

ENGAGEMENT

Mentor University of Sydney, course on Building a Sustainable World

Urban Planning Adviser: Tindig Marawi, a nonprofit helping rebuild Marawi after the 2017 militant siege

Volunteer Natasha Goulbourn Foundation, a depression awareness nonprofit

Volunteer Lecturer Capacity building of environmental planners in regional areas in the Philippines