

# COASTAL DESIGN

CAPABILITY STATEMENT AND SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE



## Capability

The NSW coast is host to 59 active ocean pools - the highest concentration of these structures along a state coastline in the world. Ocean pools are unique structures providing protected access to our beaches, bays and harbours, and are highly valued assets serving as effective recreational infrastructure for the community. In 2014 Nicole Larkin undertook 'The Wild Edge' project with the purpose of recording and studying ocean pools. Through this study and for the first time, NSW's ocean pools have been extensively mapped and catalogued in detail through evidence based documentation and research which also included siting and design analysis. This forms Nicole's deep and broad understanding of the design, functions and features which make ocean pools valued assets within coastal communities. Fundamental to this is maintaining the amenity, natural landscape, views and vistas which are iconic to the waters edge while creating protected and inclusive access to the water.

## Experience

As a platform Nicole's grounding in evidence based design has been further strengthened by coastal and maritime projects which pursue best practices in coastal urban design, the design of coastal structures and public realm along foreshore areas. Recently completed projects such as Port Macquarie Ocean Pool and a revision NSW Coastal Design Guide exhibit the vast spectrum of these projects from a

community-led ocean pool scheme to state government urban design strategies spanning the length of the coastline. Throughout, the approach to these projects addresses uniquely coastal design issues and opportunities including coastal resilience, naturalisation of foreshores and the protection and enhancement of the natural landscape.

## Best Practice Design

Nicole's work employs an evidence based approach and draws on observations and analysis to understand best practice solutions. Within coastal environments this gives a comprehensive and considered understanding of ever changing processes and forces acting upon a site. Important to this is a strong collaboration with coastal engineers who have in depth knowledge and expertise in ocean pool design. James Carley is a principal consultant with UNSW Water Research Lab and has in conjunction with Nicole co-authored discussion papers focusing on best practice ocean pool design. Nicole and James have also worked together providing professional services for the design of Port Macquarie Ocean Pool Scheme. Collaborative design processes are at the foundation of each project Nicole undertakes, ensuring a high degree of interaction and facilitation with the consultant team, stakeholders and proponents.



## OXLEY BEACH OCEAN POOL

Location	Port Macquarie, NSW Australia
Project	Ocean Pool Feasibility Concept Scheme
Year	2020
Proponent	Port Macquarie Tidal Pool Committee
Status	Feasibility Scheme Complete
Team	James Carley UNSW Water Research Lab Nicole Larkin Design

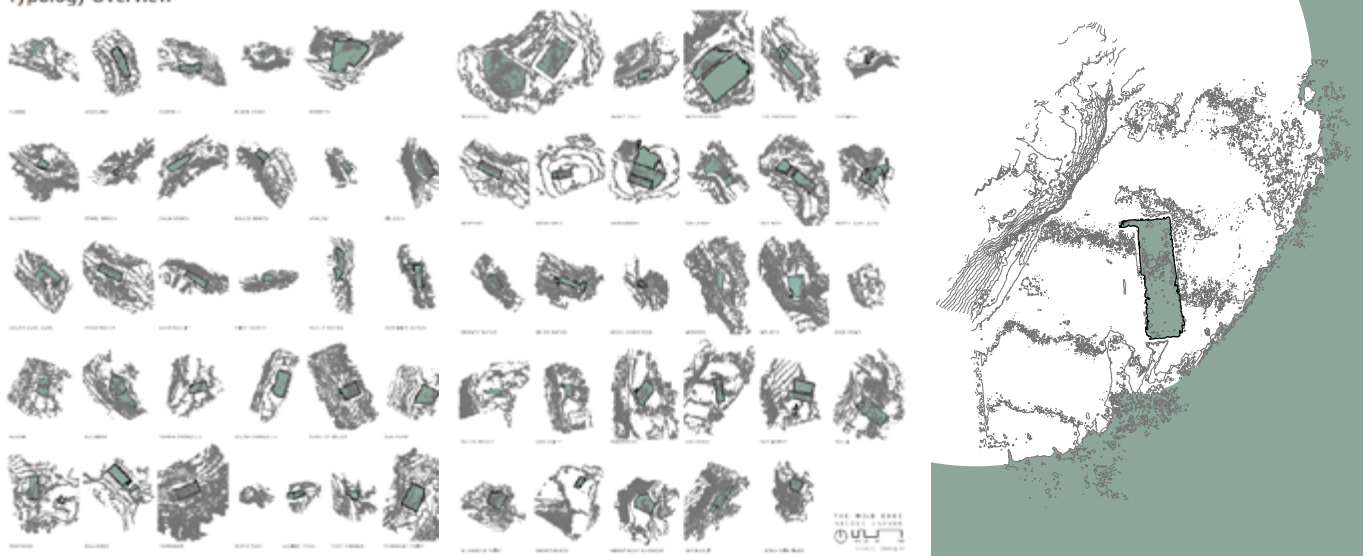
## PROJECT FEATURES

- Children's swimming and discover area
- Rehabilitation and recreation pool zone
- Two semi enclosed lanes for vision impaired swimmers
- Accessible surf viewing platform
- Eight lane lap pool

A concept scheme was undertaken for Oxley Ocean Pool following significant community support for a new ocean pool in the area. The scheme formed part of a broader feasibility study which considered various potential sites for the pool. The scheme proposes an iconic community asset providing recreational infrastructure and activation to Oxley Beach. A key aspect of the design is conservation of the rock platform and enhancement of the unique headland, natural landscape and views. Hard and soft landscaped public domain is provided at pool level and designed to buffer swimmers from prevailing weather and maximise year round use. An accessible ramp extends down and into the pool and with zero grade entries for ease of access and safety. The project will shortly commence design development for planning approval.



Typology Overview



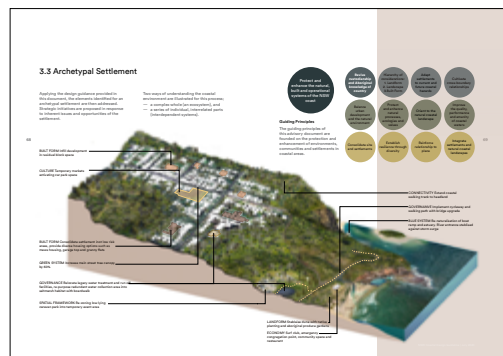
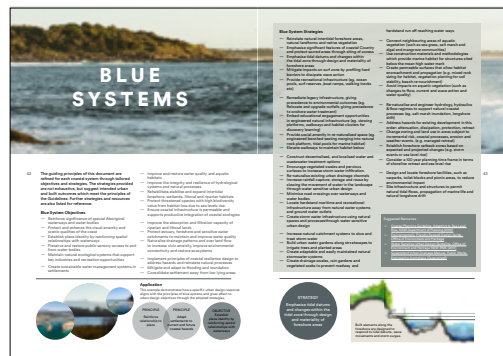
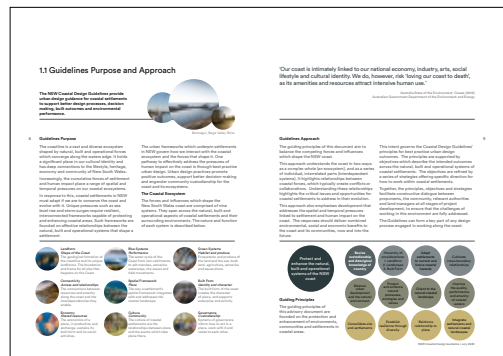
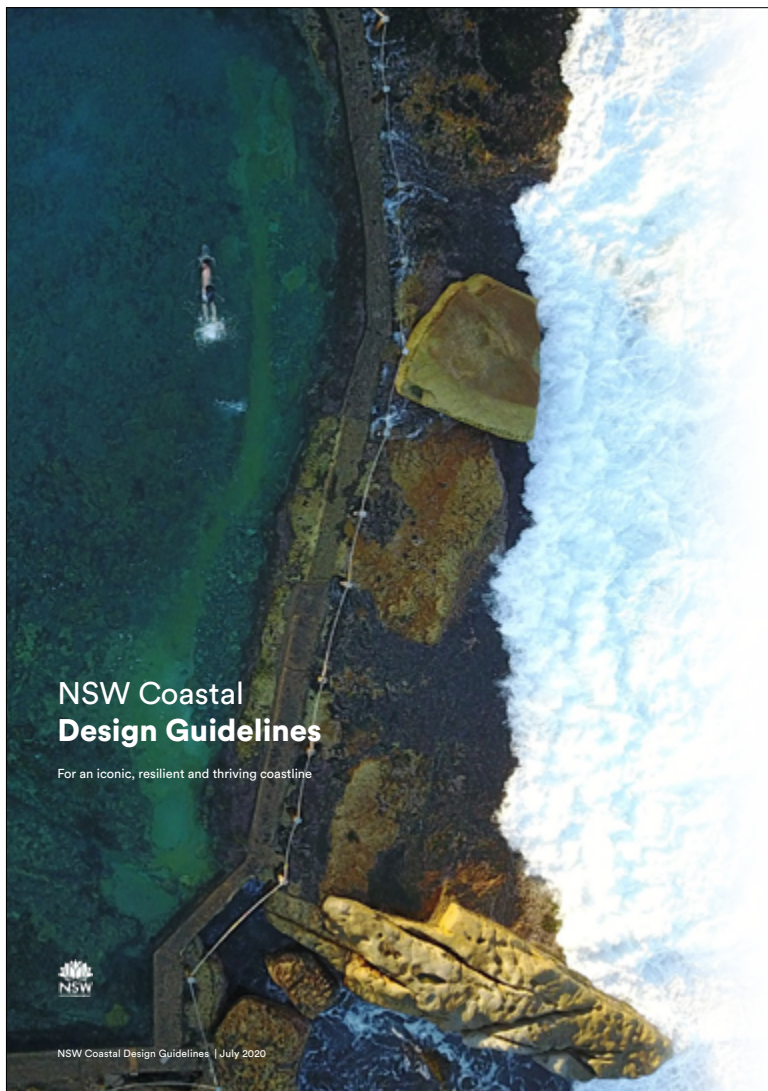
THE WILD EDGE - A SURVEY OF OCEAN POOLS IN NSW

Location	N/A
Project	The Wild Edge A Survey of Ocean Pools in NSW
Year	2019
Proponent	N/A
Status	Complete
Team	Nicole Larkin Design

AWARDS AND COLLABORATIONS

USYD Alumni Excellence Award (Culture) - 'The Wild Edge: A Survey of Ocean Pools in NSW'	2019
The Guardian Australia, 'Liquid Assets' - Digital mapping collaboration	2020

The 'Wild Edge' project is a documentation of ocean pools in NSW and analysis of their design, built structure and siting. The project also challenges concepts of what ocean pools should become and how this integrates with our communities, natural landscape and built environment in adaptive and resilient ways. Many existing ocean pools are under threat from sea level rise and storm surges. But they are also experiencing a revival as an iconic part of Australian beach culture as valued community assets. This presents the community with an opportunity to revitalise this unique type of recreational infrastructure in a considered, vibrant and enduring way. The research undertaken through this project equips the community with a design framework and evidence based research to sensitively adapt or build new ocean pools now and into the future.



THE NSW COASTAL DESIGN GUIDE

Location	NSW, Australia
Project	NSW Coastal Design Guideline
Year	2020
Proponent	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment NSW Government (DPIE)
Status	Complete
Team	REALMstudios Nicole Larkin Design

PROJECT FEATURES

- Place-Based and Country-led approach
- Provides guidance on site mapping, design development and assessment of the proposal
- Addresses coastal hazards and risks and best practice management strategies

DPIE commissioned REALMstudios to undertake a revision of the NSW Coastal Design Guidelines in early 2020. Major updates included a shift towards Place-based and Country-led approach to urban design in alignment with NSW Government Architect policies and strategies. The document provides guidance for the protection and enhancement of the natural, built and operational aspects of the coast. The project involved significant engagement with local council and state departments to understand and address inherent issues such as management of coastal hazards, monoculture economies, town centre densification, foreshore development and legacy infrastructure. Strategies provided focus on balancing and leveraging competing factors which commonly converge in coastal areas to achieve best practice outcomes for the natural and built environment.



## Nicole Larkin

### BArch, MArch

### Architect 10687

#### CURRICULUM VITAE

Nicole Larkin is a Sydney based designer and architect working across the field of design, architecture and planning. She is recognised for her high degree of capability and commitment to design excellence in the built environment.

More recently Nicole was a recipient of the University of Sydney Alumni Award for her contribution to culture through a body of research on ocean pools. This work was recognised for its significant value to the local coastal communities who use and love ocean pools. Her work has provided an important historical document that records the built form of these structures and their value within NSW.

Building upon this Nicole has implemented her evidence based research into the design, strategic planning and urban frameworks which govern coastal structures and regions in NSW and Australia more broadly. The NSW Coastal Design Guidelines and a concept scheme for Port Macquarie Ocean Pool are examples of projects which benefited from this evidence based approach. Both projects are underpinned by a rigorous understanding of the unique pressures, values and opportunities which converge along the waters edge and the role design plays in protection and enhancement of coastal landscapes. Nicole's work on these projects called for a deep understanding of the coastal management framework in NSW and a commitment to design excellence.

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#### Academic Qualifications

B.Design in Architecture	USYD	2011
Masters of Architecture	USYD	2013

#### Architectural Experience

Graduate of Architecture	Tzannes	2011
Designer	Tzannes	2016
Architect	Tzannes	2020
Architect	Nicole Larkin Design	Present
Architect	REALMstudios	Present

#### Awards

USYD Alumni Excellence Award (Culture)	- 'The Wild Edge: A Survey of Ocean Pools in NSW'	2019
Young Australian Designer of the Year		2017
Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarship		2017
	- 'The Wild Edge: A Survey of Ocean Pools in NSW'	

#### Selected Projects

Port Macquarie Ocean Pool Feasibility Scheme	2020
NSW Coastal Design Guidelines	2020
The Wild Edge: A Survey of Ocean Pools in NSW	2019

#### Publications

- 'Ocean pools - Contemporary coastal engineering meets the steam age' *Australasian Coasts and Ports Conference 2019 (Co-author)*
- 'The wild edge: Ocean pool design principles' *Australasian Coasts and Ports Conference 2019 (Co-author)*
- 'The Wild Edge: A Survey of Ocean Pools in NSW' *Nicole Larkin 2020, Architects Registration Board*
- 'Australians love ocean pools – but they are increasingly under threat' *The Guardian, Australia Jan 2020*