Streetwise Design – A Practical Guide published by Think City (Malaysia) is the third and final book in a series of Streetwise books by Australian conservation architect, Elizabeth Vines. It provides practical design advice for local communities, which are challenged by the need for new, appropriate infill development and adaptive reuse of existing heritage buildings. While the book focuses on the Asian context, it outlines principles which are applicable worldwide, and is comprehensively illustrated in colour by international and Australian examples.

“Cities can and should evolve. By building on the past there can be a continuous narrative for the city, which can help ensure that residents maintain a connection with the place in which they live. Think City is a community focused urban regeneration organisation, … We are working to make Malaysian cities more liveable, and we are committed to preserving their cultural and historic heritage. As part of this process, Streetwise Design provides a useful resource for city planners and architects to assist in maintaining the liveability of our cities.”

Hamdan Abdul Majeed, Executive Director, Think City (Malaysia)

“In Streetwise Design, Australian architect and heritage practitioner Elizabeth Vines takes the reader through key topics such as mapping and inventories, conservation plans, impact assessment, …. linking these processes to the increasingly vital sustainability agenda. Tackling the most pervasive challenges in urban conservation, infill development and adaptive reuse, the book provides a straightforward commentary on how to encourage and assess appropriate new development in the historic urban realm.”

Susan Macdonald, Head, Buildings and Sites, Getty Conservation Institute

“This book addresses the importance of designing “polite” infill buildings and sensitively modifying heritage buildings for suitable new uses. Elizabeth draws on a broad cross-section of compelling international examples and aptly describes, through clear photographs, the reasons for the success or failure of a project…. The examples offered in this book integrate the principles of heritage conservation within the broader arena of development, and their application will provide communities with new opportunities for conservation activities.”

Prof. Lynne D. DiStefano (Adjunct Professor) and Dr Lee Ho Yin (Associate Professor and Head of Division), Division of Architectural Conservation Programmes (ACP), The University of Hong Kong

The book has 88 pages with over 180 colour photographs and diagrams, and covers issues of:

- What is a Liveable Heritage City?
- Significance and Authenticity of Place
- Taking Action to Retain your Heritage City
- Design Principles for Infill Development
- Design Principles for Adaptive Reuse
- Streetwise Design Checklist
- Bibliography and Further Reading

The book will be for sale at the launch. Cost - $25AUD

All book proceeds are being donated to the Streetwise Asia Fund for Urban Heritage Conservation, (as administered by Australind Children’s Fund). The school project being supported will be described at the launch.