



ALLEN JACK + COTTIER 2003

no.1

# NEWSinbrief

## BOOKlaunch

Allen Jack + Cottier celebrated its 50th anniversary in May this year. To mark the occasion *Allen Jack + Cottier 1952-2002* was launched at a celebratory function at Redleaf. Written by Trevor Howells from the Sydney University School of Architecture, the book chronicles the development of the organisation from John Allen's one man practice to today's multifaceted 90+ organisation.

The launch, attended by all Directors past and present, was held in and around the historic Redleaf House at Woollahra Council Chambers – itself a heritage and environmental award winning Allen Jack + Cottier commission. Glen Murcutt – the only Australian Architect to receive the Pritzker prize – launched the book and spoke of the early days in the Practice working for the firm's original principals, John Allen and Russell Jack. The evening was as much a meeting of friends and clients who have worked together over many years as it was a formal book launch. Accompanied by Emma Pask and her jazz band people spilled out in the garden catching up with old acquaintances and toured the building with Keith Cottier and Michael Heenan, who were responsible for the restoration and refurbishment.

In the tradition of Allen Jack + Cottier a second 50th anniversary celebration for all past and present staff was held at Chowder Bay – another waterfront heritage award winning Allen Jack + Cottier commission. Nearly three hundred of the AJ+C team and their families – including John Allen's first employee - enjoyed the informal event despite the gusty, wet weather.



glynn evans, keith cottier, russell jack



rod simpson, bill clements, neil schofield



peter strosach, kathryn treleaze



russell jack, glen murcutt

## AWARDS

**ACT CHAPTER MEDALLION** Congratulations to Amy Leender who was awarded the ACT Chapter Medallion. ACT chapter awards annually to the outstanding student completing the Bachelor of Architecture at the School of Design and Architecture, University of Canberra. The medallion, first awarded in 1981, coincided with the ACT Chapter's formal accreditation of the course offered at the then College of Advanced Education.

**WOODS BAGOT BURSARY IN ARCHITECTURE** Congratulations also to Tomas O'Malley who was awarded the "Woods Bagot Bursary in Architecture" which is "Awarded to a continuing student of academic excellence in Architecture with high achievement in Third Year Design, and with an ability to recognise the relationship between academic studies and the needs of the profession in Architecture".

**TAS FRANCIS GREENWAY SOCIETY GREEN BUILDING AWARD** AJ+C and Kogarah Council were recently awarded the 2003 TAS/Francis Greenway Society Green Building Awards Gold Medal, for the innovative use of Building Integrated Photovoltaic cells and extensive water recycling in the environmentally sustainable design of Kogarah Town Square.

## NEWassociates

Congratulations to four new associates Mark Corbett, John Gunnell, Tony Spragg and Thom Wright. All four members have played significant roles in Allen Jack + Cottier in the last 10 years. Kate Mountstephens has also been appointed Senior Associate.



photo by simon kenny

# SUBMARINE MINING DEPOT

CHOWDER BAY ROAD • CHOWDER BAY

The Depot was completed in 1892 for the Submarine Mining Corps, which maintained an electrically triggered minefield within Sydney Harbour as a defence against enemy ships. In 1999, the Sydney Federation Harbour Trust took control of the historic defence complex at Chowder Bay and decided to undertake the Depot's revitalisation as one of its first building conservation projects.

Although it retained much of its integrity, by 2001 the building was in a poor state of repair. Pragmatic alterations and additions by the Department of Defence had concealed original functions and layout. On Deck C, extensive water penetration and termite activity had damaged the timber structure. The internal sandstone walls to Deck D's mine storage bays were covered in layers of paint which concealed evidence of their original use and fitout and exacerbated the effects of salt and damp penetration. Externally, carved stone detailing was fretting and the stone retained a green tinge from an earlier unsympathetic paint scheme.

The building's significant fabric, including timber, sandstone and wrought iron, was meticulously conserved during the project. In addition, BCA compliance was addressed and new kitchen and bathroom facilities were built.

New work has been designed in a contemporary manner, but care was taken to ensure that interventions were reversible and would not compromise the

building's heritage significance. Flexibility for services and planning was incorporated so that the Depot can be adapted for various maritime oriented uses that will contribute to the public enjoyment of this harbourside location.

**project leader** Keith Cottier **project team** Kate Mountstephens, Richard Silink **client** Harbour Trust **consultants** ACDR Consultants Pty Ltd, Birzulis Associates, The Design Coalition, DLM Consulting Pty Ltd, E. Shelmerdine + Partners Engineering Pty Ltd, David McBeath, Page Kirkland Partnership Pty Ltd, Julie Whitlam **builder** Safin Pty Ltd

## WINNER OF RAI FRANCIS GREENWAY AWARD FOR CONSERVATION 2003

**jury comment** The spectacularly sited Submarine Mining Depot at Chowder Bay had suffered considerable decay and damage through lack of maintenance and unsympathetic alterations prior to the Department of Defence's handover of the site to the Sydney Harbour Trust. The conservation works undertaken by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust with Allen Jack + Cottier demonstrate sound conservation practice whilst balancing the potential future demands of the building with the usual BCA requirements. Uncompromising in approach, the high quality of the works were based on a thorough understanding of the deterioration problems at hand and the building heritage significance. The work is technically proficient and also importantly enables the quality, integrity and significance of the building to be revealed and celebrated.





qingdao landscape plan by oculus  
photomontage by aj+c graphics



boat measurement hall / international conference centre, overseas passenger terminal



media centre / maritime commercial office centre



administrative, referee, VIP centre / national watersports centre



olympic family, VIP hotel / 5 star hotel



yacht club

computer models by aj+c graphics

**project leaders** Michael Heenan, Peter Ireland, Keith Cottier **project team** Nic Bailey, Amy Leenders, Ben List, Nola Nichols, Jennifer Min, Paul Owen, Herkrishan Sohal, John Whittingham, Catherine Smith, Johnson Tan, Yan Xing **client** Kellogg Brown & Root **consultants** Oculus, Glenn Bourke, Peter Moor

## QINGDAO sailing base

Allen Jack + Cottier, working with the international multidisciplinary engineering consultancy Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR), were recently awarded the highest score and equal second place in an international competition for the design of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Sailing Base in Qingdao. This outcome may seem unusual, as no first prize was awarded - but China is a little different!

To get to this point Allen Jack + Cottier competed with eight other organisations in the competition for the design and masterplanning for a somewhat larger scale project than the Sydney 2000 Olympic Sailing Venue. The brief is not only for the usual sailing base facilities - it also includes the surrounding

precinct of Qingdao. This involved the masterplanning and initial design of numerous residential buildings, an olympic village, a five-star hotel, commercial office towers, international convention centre, overseas passenger terminal, and maritime museum.

Following a detailed technical evaluation, project director Michael Heenan presented a scheme to an international jury in the 60m x 30m Qingdao Shangri-La Ballroom.

A press conference and public exhibition followed with the final contract still being negotiated in Beijing.

## HERITAGE conservation

AJ+C is particularly interested in projects that combine a heritage component with new work. Our approach to conservation is not derived from a fascination with a building's former glory or the minutiae of its restoration but rather the potential of a heritage item or place to enrich our lives with a living past. Allen Jack + Cottier's philosophy towards heritage is that conservation and transformation are not irreconcilable and we strive to develop solutions that respect the character and significance of the place whilst ensuring its ongoing longevity through appropriate continued use.

We believe that modern interventions to heritage buildings should be designed in a contemporary style whilst still respecting the significance of the place or building. What's new is new, but the new must be new in such a way that it reinforces the qualities of the old and they each, the then and the now, are clearly defined, clearly apparent. This approach to conservation has won Allen Jack + Cottier Architects a number of prestigious heritage awards.

### ST MARY'S CONVENT paddington



st mary's convent - photomontage by aj+c graphics

The Sisters of Charity have occupied the site at 49 Gordon Street, Paddington since the early 20th Century when they purchased the previous building on the site, a Victorian mansion known as 'The Towers', for use as a convent. The current St Mary's Convent, erected in the early 1970s, no longer caters for the sisters' needs and AJ+C has been asked to design a new convent which incorporates the existing heritage-listed former schoolhouse on the site.

AJ+C's scheme demonstrates up-to-date ideas for convent accommodation - each of the sisters will live in one of 16 individual or shared apartments and will have her own private facilities. The sisters will also share a ground floor prayer room, dining room and north-facing sitting room overlooking a central courtyard designed by landscape architects Terragram.

**project leaders** Keith Cottier, Kate Mountstephens **project team** Kaden Ball, Richard Silink, Kristina Stewart, Tina Tzialis **client** Sisters of Charity

### VIMY street

ALLEN JACK + COTTIER AND BANKSTOWN CITY COUNCIL  
JOINT WINNERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN PROPERTY INSTITUTE  
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AWARD 2003

Bankstown City Council engaged Allen Jack + Cottier Architects in March 2002 to undertake conservation works to 10 and 22 Vimy St, Bankstown. The two houses were built in the 1920s by the former War Service Homes Commission to aid in the repatriation of returned servicemen from WWI. The dwellings were in a severely dilapidated state having been vacant for many years.

Bankstown City Council as owner of the two heritage listed properties was eager to demonstrate to the local community the opportunities and benefits of conserving heritage.

The project had two distinct components, to conserve the existing built fabric of the two dwellings, and, to prepare a Development Application for each of the two properties, prior to their sale by Council.

The success of this project in winning the Australian Property Institute 2003 Local Government Property Award is of major importance in the ongoing



photo by richard silink

promotion of heritage issues in the Bankstown region.

**project team** Kate Mountstephens, Richard Silink Tina Tzialis **client** Bankstown City Council