

Spectacular building delivers on its promise
 Stage One opens to widespread acclaim

Allen Jack+Cottier is fast developing a reputation for tackling unusual and challenging projects. The redesign of the new pit building for the Mount Panorama Bathurst 1000 racetrack facility, completed in less than 12 months within tight budget guidelines, is no exception.

Starting on race day last year, design team members Michael Heenan and John Whittingham made it their business to understand every aspect of the new Mount Panorama facility. They were in the racetrack doctor's on-site first aid room in October 2003 when an injured driver was brought in. They sat alongside the race director in the control room, interviewed the race callers, journalists and television crews, and were the only outsiders to attend the drivers' briefing on race day. They spoke to over 100 stakeholders including cooks, caterers, re-fuelers, mechanics, sponsors and spectators asking each one what he or she required from the new building. They looked at the site from every possible angle, at every time of the day and night, and in all lighting conditions. Following that, they studied the best racetrack facilities in Australia and around the world.

The result is nothing short of spectacular. The opening of the new pit building in October for the Bathurst 1000 marked the beginning of a new era for this circuit – a circuit which is widely recognised as one of the most technically challenging in the world. The 400 x 15-metre building of three to five levels is divided into identical 8 metre bays punctuated by vertical service towers. The mid level caters for corporate suites and special spectators and is enclosed by a folded glass façade that cant forward over the pit apron. The lower level contains the garages and pit service facilities and is the centre of frantic action during races.

The striking cantilevered glass encased control tower glistened under the bright blue Bathurst sky on race day. The crowd of 65,000 discovered the new facilities at Mount Panorama had, 'out monza'd Monza' – one of the world's finest facilities.

Stage One (\$17 million) of the \$25-30 million redevelopment opened to the public on 6 October 2004, three days before race day. Stage Two (\$8-12 million) will be completed prior to race day 2005.



Photographer Brett Boardman



Peter Brock congratulating the architects Michael Heenan and John Whittingham three days before his comeback at Mt Panorama

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World Vision

rather than send the traditional greeting card to our colleagues and clients this holiday season, Allen Jack+Cottier has made a donation on your behalf to a World Vision project, to fund the planting of 100 hectares of trees in the Bulgan area of Mongolia, which has been heavily deforested over many years. Our donation will help communities by greening the land and providing fruit for families to eat and sell at market. From all of us at Allen Jack+Cottier, we wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas, and health and success in the New Year.

For more information about World Vision programs please visit www.worldvision.org



Photographer Brett Boardman

Sports Issue

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Sustainability sets the scene
 Revolutionary new approach to remote facility construction aids conservation



Photographer: Jarrett Fokkema

In 2003 Allen Jack+Cottier was engaged to masterplan six Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation-owned facilities located at various sites around New South Wales. The most recent design to reach completion is a new dining hall building, the centrepiece of a remote sports and recreational facility at Myuna Bay,

New South Wales. At mealtimes up to 250 guests congregate under a single soaring roof plane, which unites the dining hall, commercial kitchen, seminar room, internet café and various other communal spaces. According to the Director responsible for the project, Michael Heenan, the shape of the

building is a direct result of the collaborative and interdisciplinary design approach that the firm takes in all of its designs. Heenan points out that the building is naturally ventilated, self-insulating, collects its own water, heats its own fabric and has natural lighting and shading to all spaces.

Allen Jack+Cottier has been designing community aquatic facilities in New South Wales for over 30 years. From a new swimming complex at Maroubra in the 1980s, through the restoration of the historic Wylie's Baths at Coogee in the 90s, to the design of the Mosman Swim Centre last year, the firm has consistently created aquatic facilities that are far more than a simple sporting facility: they are also a focus for community life. Allen Jack+Cottier's design of a new aquatic and fitness centre in the Lower Blue Mountains suburb of Springwood, continues this tradition.

With below-zero winter temperatures, and only a single indoor and five outdoor pools for the whole area, the Mountains community was desperately in need of a new indoor facility. The new swimming complex replaces an old outside pool, opening its doors to a grateful public in August this year. It includes lap, leisure and program pools, as well as a spa and children's play area, gymnasium, aerobics room, change rooms, café, childcare facility and administrative offices.

Allen Jack+Cottier architect Richard Terry says the team's vision was to 'recreate the atmosphere of the original outside pool, with its visual connection to the parklands, wonderful natural light levels and fresh air quality, whilst enclosing and sheltering the pool from icy winter conditions'.

This has translated into a building that breathes naturally through adjustable low level openings and high level louvers – capturing the breezes in summer yet providing protection from the harsh winter. The building had to be open and transparent. It also has to respect and honour the surrounding heritage landscape. The solution, which achieves all of these objectives, has resulted in a dynamic light-filled space that has a strong relationship with the surrounding parkland. That relationship makes swimming here an exceptional experience.



Photographer: Tyrone Branigan

Spirit of community
 Lower Blue Mountains pool a breath of fresh air

Water Whirled
 Ancient docklands area sets its sights on urban renewal



“城市之门”——沿新围堤看水上运动世

Since the middle of the Ming Dynasty, Tianjin on the Hai He River has been a bustling, vibrant commercial and shipping centre linking the north of China with the rest of the world. Earlier this year Allen Jack+Cottier Directors, Michael Heenan and Peter Ireland travelled to Beijing to participate in a limited competition, in association with the Beijing Institute of Architecture and Design (BIAD) for a 80-hectare site at the Tianjin Hai He Docklands. During design workshops in Beijing, Allen Jack+Cottier focussed on a major new

sporting and recreational facility, as well as a hotel and commercial areas. The Water Sport Centre is set to become the major component in the Hai He area's cultural and economic revitalisation, breathing new life into the Tianjin waterfront. The development of the riverfront site includes 500,000m² of commercial space and 280,000 m² of residential apartments.

'Our design approach for the sports building springs from the traditional representation of water and waves in Chinese calligraphy', says Michael Heenan. The centrepiece watersports

building also evokes images of the billowing sails of magnificent yachts or the wings of a flight of birds. Designed to accommodate a range of activities including swimming, diving, waterslides, indoor surfing, water polo, basketball, tennis, squash and indoor golf, the building also houses a number of sporting medicine facilities including doctors and physiotherapists. A sophisticated, upmarket hotel and marina, which front the river, are linked to the residential and commercial zones by extensive landscaping.