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## The Gallery at Botanica shortlisted for AIA Award

Sydney, 8 May 2013

Allen Jack+Cottier's innovative adaptive reuse residential project, The Gallery, Botanica, has been shortlisted in the Heritage Architecture - Creative Adaptation category of the NSW Australian Institute of Architecture Awards.

Allen Jack+Cottier was commissioned by Australand to design the adaptive re-use of several buildings at the former Lidcombe Hospital site for residential use. This section of the former Lidcombe Hospital site has been brought back to life and integrated into the 44 hectare, parkland setting of Botanica.

This stage, completed in November 2011, comprises a Victorian superintendent's house designed by colonial architect James Barnet, and four hospital ward buildings designed by government architect Walter Liberty Vernon in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A series of outbuildings had been added to the rear of the wards over the years to accommodate additional and changing functions.

Michael Heenan, CEO of Allen Jack+Cottier, said: 'Our primary aim was to enhance the unique character of the buildings and to conserve them by adaption for ongoing use. We wanted to create a centrepiece for the redevelopment of the Botanica residential precinct. AJ+C's ability to balance often conflicting factors of conservation, economic viability and market demands has been particularly successful'

Scott Norton, Project Director said 'The project is unique in that these significant heritage buildings have been adapted for modern residential use by the developer, Australand. A less well attuned developer may have missed this opportunity and adversely affected the heritage significance of such a site.'

The project was realised by Allen Jack+Cottier in association with heritage architect, Kate Mountstephens.

The concept design was closely guided by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the site, and was developed collaboratively with the heritage consultants and the Heritage Office.

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### About Allen Jack+Cottier

Established in 1952, AJ+C is among Australia's most awarded architectural practices and employs over 60 staff in Australia and China. AJ+C focuses on mixed use, multi-residential and making communities – for living, for working, for education, for sport and for retirement living.