

Thursday 21 April 2016

Introducing Circular Quay Square

Sydney's world-famous harbour gateway is ready to be transformed with the help of value capture financing into an iconic Circular Quay Square, converting an urban blight into an architectural tour de force.

Circular Quay Square would include the addition of 40,000m² of public space, upgrades to international and public ferry facilities, 30,000m² of new commercial development, refurbishment of Circular Quay Railway Station and Cahill Expressway.

Designed by architect David Holm, Director of Cox Richardson, Circular Quay Square was the winning entry for the international Next Big Idea Design Competition, led by the industry association Consult Australia in association with the Future Cities Collaborative, an initiative of the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney.



Consult Australia's New South Wales State Manager Matthew Trigg says the proposal shows the kind of things that are possible if value capture becomes part of the business case:

"When done well capturing some of the value uplift from public infrastructure projects can help us deliver better outcomes and can bring forward projects that would otherwise have to wait years or even decades if they were to rely only on direct funding by taxpayers."

"Good design will always be essential. This shines a light on the huge amount of expertise in Australia and internationally we have on delivering quality urban environments and world-class architecture."

"Using value capture financing is not new or uncommon, but its greater use in Australia can help make city-changing projects like this possible."

MEDIA RELEASE



Driving Business Success for Consulting Firms in the Built and Natural Environment

Director of the Future Cities Collaborative, Sandy Burgoyne, says the competition was a small way to continue to inspire industry, community and government to think differently about infrastructure challenges and consider new ways of funding and financing city-shaping initiatives so that we can create thriving communities for all.

Runner up

Coming a close second was the idea from Maxwell Leegel Wight in collaboration with Sabrina Wu for the creation of Garden Gutters throughout Sydney, which would see the humble street gutter transformed into a linear bioretention system. The benefits of Garden Gutters would be to clean stormwater of heavy metals, oil and refuse that otherwise end up in our natural environment.

Using recycled plastic, these are a big idea for something small that will also help retain moisture to cool city streets, create a more friendly soft edge to our streets and create a less imposing experience between traffic zones of cars, bikes and pedestrians.

The public can view the winning and other shortlisted entries by visiting www.thenextbigidea.info

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Consult Australia's NSW State Manager, Matthew Trigg on 02 8252 6708 or nsw@consultaaustralia.com.au

About David Holm

David is currently Director of Cox Richardson and Adjunct Professor with the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building at University of Technology Sydney. Contact David on +61 2 9267 9599 or via David.Holm@cox.com.au

About Consult Australia

Consult Australia is the association that represents the business interests of consulting firms that design, engineer, assess and plan our built and natural environments.

We represent an industry comprising some 48,000 firms across Australia, ranging from sole practitioners through to some of Australia's top 500 firms. Collectively, our industry is estimated to employ over 240,000 people, and generate combined revenue exceeding \$40 billion a year.

Consult Australia has undertaken significant work to further the discussion, including on how major works are financed and procured. For more visit <http://consultaaustralia.com.au/Home/Advocacy/Infrastructure>

About Future Cities Collaborative

The Future Cities Collaborative is an initiative of the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney with the primary role of promoting sustainable urban development by supporting city leaders with leadership and strategic management tools; creating a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information; and developing skills and knowledge in building sustainable cities.

Visit futurecities.org.au to find out more.