



Media Release

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Winning design makes Gold Coast culture ‘seriously fun’

One of Australia’s leading architectural firms has delivered a ‘seriously fun’ proposal to win the Gold Coast Cultural Precinct international design competition.

The winning team, led by ARM Architecture, was unanimously selected by an eight-member independent Design Competition jury.

Praised by jurors as ‘playful and inclusive’, the precinct plan aims to entice residents and visitors to experience and participate in production of arts and culture.

Mayor Tom Tate, praised ARM for a concept which ‘understands and celebrates’ the Gold Coast’s vibrant and egalitarian culture.

“With everything from skateboarding to opera and contemporary art to fashion, it has the potential to put out the welcome mat to everyone to come and enjoy the precinct and engage with the full diversity of Gold Coast creativity,” Mayor Tate said.

ARM’s design introduces a geometric ‘web’ – or voronoi – theme, linking:

- An expanded **Living Arts Centre**, incorporating a new 1200-seat theatre; versatile 350-seat black box theatre; refurbished existing performance theatre accommodating up to 600 people; a 10,000 seat outdoor amphitheatre; and a central Great Terrace.
- A sub-tropical outdoor garden **Artscape**, with the Evandale Lake as a focal feature and a spiral-helix encased green bridge providing a dappled shade connection to Chevron Island, and
- A 14-storey **New Arts Museum**, enticing visitors up through the galleries to take in the art, the view, and perhaps – in true Gold Coast style – a bungy jump from the external viewing platform. Reminiscent of other vertical exhibition buildings, including the Eiffel Tower, Anish Kapoor’s Olympic Tower, and the Guggenheim Museum NY, the tower frees up site area for other uses – including green space.

Design Director, Howard Raggatt, said ARM’s submission was the product of 4000 hours of design effort by 50 individuals, representing 15 specialist fields.

“It is a standout design,” Mayor Tate said.

“It is also flexible and adaptable in its layout which makes it ideal for staged construction, which fits with the city’s plans to ensure the precinct can accommodate live site uses when we host the 2018 Commonwealth Games,” Mayor Tate said.



“Council hopes to be able to deliver a first stage of precinct development – including car parking, a green bridge and some Artscape landscaping - in time for the Games.”

The jury’s decision completes an eight-month Design Competition which attracted 75 entries worldwide in Stage One.

Three teams, ARM, along with as Japan’s largest architectural firm, Nikken Sekkei, and local/international consortium CRAB_Vogt_DBI, were shortlisted to compete in the intensive 12-week Stage Two.

Mayor Tate also commended Nikken Sekkei and CRAB-Vogt-DBI teams and all competition participants.

Jury Chair, Head of Griffith University’s Gold Coast School of Architecture, Professor Gordon Holden, said the competition had drawn out some very creative responses to the city’s Vision and the Design Brief.

“The shortlisted designs were all very different, and exceptional in their own right,” Professor Holden said.

“Nikken’s grand ‘water stage’ doubled as an outdoor stage and a roof covering the arts museum and arts centre while CRAB_Vogt_DBI envisaged buildings wrapped in gravity-defying sculptural forms which transformed into a night-time digital canvas.

“This competition brought attention and ideas from the world’s best design minds to the Gold Coast and its future cultural needs,” he said.

Entries from both competition stages will all be featured in ***THE REVEAL: Designs for a new cultural precinct exhibition*** in the City Gallery, The Arts Centre Gold Coast which opens to the public tomorrow (22 November) for three weeks.

Mayor Tate has encouraged residents and visitors alike to ‘come and see these amazing visions, and picture themselves in a new cultural precinct’.

“This is the first beat in our cultural heart, and it is seriously fun.”

For more information, visit: goldcoastculturalprecinct.info