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AECOM wins global competition for Seoul park

MELBOURNE DESIGNERS HEAD UP DESIGN TEAM

BY GEMMA BATTENBOUGH

A team led by planning, design and engineering firm AECOM, has won an international competition for a concept design for Seoul Grand Park in Korea.

The firm drew from its Melbourne, New York and San Francisco studios for the winning entry, named Gaia: The Living World. The Seoul Metropolitan government-sponsored competition drew 21 entries internationally.

Seoul Grand Park, a 560-hectare destination with an existing zoo and an amusement park, has provided an important entertainment and recreational function to the community for thirty years.

The winning design proposed new attractions, including the Australasian Bio-Pavilion, Seoul Walk and Lakeside Park, Tree Top Village, Night Safari at the Great Savanna, Korean Forest, Jungle Cruise and a Winter Garden com-



The park will meld zoo exhibits with an amusement park.

plete with a giant waterfall.

“The new Seoul Grand Park vision reinforces the park’s dual commitment to the living environment and entertainment,” said Joe Brown, FASLA, chief executive of Planning, Design + Development at AECOM.

“The Living World aspires to be a place of excitement and reflection, encounter and education, where the lines between zoo and theme park disappear,” Brown said.

The proposal opens the entire lakefront for community use, reconnecting the city to the waterfront and

breaking down the traditional segregated organisational structure of visitor attractions and programming.

Melbourne-based AECOM design principal, Jon Shinkfield, and associate designer, Blake Sanborn, were said to play pivotal roles in the conception and configuration of the masterplan, while fellow studio members, including designer, Simon Bussiere, and ecological engineering principal, Peter Breen, also contributed to the winning proposal.

[MORE IMAGES ...](#)

Local developers world leaders in sustainable design

AUSTRALIAN COMMERCIAL developers are leading the world in sustainable property design, according to the Environmental Real Estate Index released today.

The inaugural Index announced in London is part of a report by the European Centre for Corporate Engagement at Maastricht University, Netherlands, commissioned by the Universities Superannuation Scheme, APG Asset Management and PGGM Investments to measure the environmental performance of the commercial real estate sector globally.

“The Australian property companies are the clear environmental leaders of the globe,” the report states.

“It is clear that property companies from all over the world can learn from the Australian best practices in environmental management.”

GPT Group has been named the global leader, with the top five performers in Australia also including Stockland, Commonwealth Property Office Fund, CFS Retail Property Trust and Valad Property Group.

GPT Group CEO and managing director, Michael Cameron said the

team was extremely proud of the achievement.

“We believe responsible property makes sense commercially for our investors, customers, communities and our people,” he said.

GPT is also leading the real estate sector of the Dow Jones Sustainability Index.

“We are focussed on continuing to create assets that are sustainable legacies and we are always seeking to build on and share our environmental policies, knowledge and practices.”

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"We thought it would be about the architecture of Mumbai but it was only about slums, nothing else. He was showing dirty sewage and dead rats, children playing amongst rubbish and people living in these small rooms. He never talked about architecture at all. This was poverty porn made to get ratings, and we are upset."

Telegraph

FULL ARTICLE ...

"What I don't understand is not why there are so many mediocre architects, but why we have not evolved a planning process that weeds out mediocrity. If architects and their clients insist on making mediocre buildings then surely it falls to the planning process to raise the standard of what is acceptable."

Building

FULL ARTICLE ...

"It is unlikely that suburban residents would see it that way, yet maintaining a compost heap down the end of the garden can hardly compensate for the massive environmental footprint that suburban living entails. Of course, residents have little choice because what passes for urban consolidation is really just suburban intensification, offering nothing in the way of a real urban experience and retaining all of the negative features of suburbia."

Sydney Morning Herald

FULL ARTICLE ...

"Even a pedigreed piece of architecture by a famous designer is no longer simply an object that we confront directly or consider whole: It is often something either hidden behind digital walls or half-glimpsed in the background as we direct our main attention to the flickering object in our hands or laps."

Los Angeles Times

FULL ARTICLE ...

"If the consultation process with residents in relation to the laying back of the creek had been transparent, how is it that the trees earmarked for removal had yellow crosses on them before any consultation actually happened?"

Eastern Courier

FULL ARTICLE ...

First look: Moebius House, Sydney



CONSTRUCTING TONY Owen's geometric highbourside home was more like building a car than a house, the architect said.

The abstract shapes of Moebius House called for a completely new system of fabrication and assembly, Owens told Architecture & Design.

"Early on it became apparent that this house would have to be detailed and documented entirely in three dimensions," he said.

The steel frame house is clad in metal panels that were pre-cut in China, in a process resembling automotive assembly, Owens said.

With views of the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge, this family home maximises the light, space, ventilation and views of its tight site.

"We are exploring a more envi-

ronmentally sensitive form of design called 'micro design,'" Owens said.

The practice used parametric modelling software that can respond to very small changes in design input criteria to capitalise on the site's natural attributes and minimise overshadowing and the impact upon neighbours' views.

"We started by responding to the site with a series of movements that folded and twisted the space in order to maximise the changes of level, view opportunities and potential for connectivity to outside spaces," Owens said.

The team then created a dynamic model that was capable of responding to changes in these variables and allowed the models to run in real time.

MORE IMAGES ...



Innovative art space moves to Sydney CBD

After three years of sharing a building with infamous Sydney karaoke den Ding Dong Dang's, Gaffa has moved to the big end of town with new three-storey premises at 281 Clarence Street in the CBD.

Four gallery spaces, a jewellery store, a café, industrial design project and the largest jewellery studio in Australia will all be under one roof.

Gaffa director Kelly Robson said she is thrilled by the move and is planning an innovative program for 2010.

"This new significantly larger site will bring more artists not only together but to new and larger audiences," she said.

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