

# Three developments from Sydney's heart ranked with Australia's best

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Three developments from Sydney's heart ranked with Australia's best at the 2010 Development Excellence Awards.

Aaron Gadiel, chief executive of the Urban Taskforce, said that these projects represent the pinnacle of achievement for the property industry.

"Urban development is an important contributor to our community and lifestyle," Mr Gadiel said.

"These awards recognise the efforts developers made to ensure their projects deliver community benefits, care for the environment, are a commercial success, demonstrate innovation and adopt high standards of urban design and architectural distinction.

"There has been a wide range of impressive projects for the judges to choose from."

Chris Johnson, chairman of the panel of judges, said that the Development Excellence Award for Commercial Development was given to **ATP Partnership** for Channel Seven's new premises, at 8 Central Avenue, Eveleigh in Sydney.

"The Australian Technology Park had been struggling to get a critical mass of commercial tenants," Mr Johnson said.

"The arrival of Channel 7, with its four TV studios and a 12 storey office building, with a gross lettable area of 62,000 square metres, has given precinct a major boost.

"The Seven Network, Pacific Magazines and Global Television pre-committed at market rates.

"The studios are now operating and producing shows such as 'Home and Away', 'Packed to the Rafters' and 'The Matty Johns Show'.

"The building uses sophisticated acoustic treatment to ensure the studios are isolated and reverberation is reduced.

"Floating floors eliminated noise from the building's structure.

"During construction, an Aboriginal Participation Plan was implemented to support and encourage employment and business opportunities for Indigenous people.

"The studios use a chilled beam technology with high induction air diffusion to reduce energy usage and has four green stars."

"The building was completed two months ahead of schedule."

**Mulpha Australia** secured the Development Excellence Award for Heritage Preservation for 'Transport House' at 99 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

"This project is a refurbishment of the beautiful Transport House, built in grand style in 1938," Mr Johnson said.

"The building was vacated in 1989 and sat idle until its most recent renewal.

"The breathtaking registration hall, with its double height, has been meticulously restored to its former glory.

"In a similar manner, the executive office level with its ribbon-grained walnut panels in the commissioner's room and the board room, have been restored to their 1938 character.

"A delicate system of chilled beams was installed to provide air conditioning with minimal impact on the heritage fabric and excellent environmental outcomes.

"The refurbishment has achieved a 4.5 star Australian Building Greenhouse Rating.

"The building is now fully let with impressive tenants like M & C Saatchi.

"The project demonstrates how a heritage building can be refurbished to attract top tenants and provide exceptional environmental outcomes."

The Development Excellence Award for Tourism Development was secured by **YHA Ltd** for the Sydney Harbour YHA and the Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre.

"This is an exceptional project," Mr Johnson said.

"It's the first purpose-built environmentally sustainable hostel in a central city location.

"The building has a five star green star rating, has recycled water, solar hot water panels and a gas powered generator.

"The site is one of the most important archaeological sites in Sydney, dating back to 1795, yet a new 354 bed Back Packers Hostel has been built floating over the archaeology.

"It is in fact the largest archaeological urban development in Australia.

"A two classroom education centre has been incorporated to interpret the archaeology.

"At the top of the building are terraces, with one of the best views possible of Sydney.

"On the terrace, is a webcam that anyone in the world can operate for two minutes - guests can connect live with their family anywhere in the world.

"The Rocks YHA has understandably becoming a worldwide hit - in the first 6 months 17,000 guests have stayed on average 2.6 nights."

The judging panel consisted of former NSW Government Architect, Chris Johnson, Carolyn Cummins, Commercial Property Editor, *Sydney Morning Herald*, John Ferrarin from WT Partnership, David Tanevski from KWC Capital Partners and John Wynne from Urbis.

The **Urban Taskforce** is a property development industry group, representing Australia's most prominent property developers and equity financiers.

**Please note :** Photos are available from Catherine Ross on (02) 9238 3955 or by e-mail: [admin@urbantaskforce.com.au](mailto:admin@urbantaskforce.com.au).

<p><b>Media Enquires: Aaron Gadiel, Chief Executive Officer, phone: 0417 477 904 or (02) 9238 3955</b> <b>Professor Chris Johnson: 0412 258 283</b></p>
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