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Architects hardest hit by green project deferrals

■ QUEENSLAND BUILT MORE PROJECTS THAN VIC, NSW IN 2009

BY GEMMA BATTENBOUGH

Architects were worst affected by green project deferrals in 2009 since the majority of projects were stalled at the design stage, according to new research.

The analysis on green building in Australia in 2009 by BCI Australia found that 14 projects were deferred and seven projects were abandoned at the design stage, compared with three deferrals and one abandonment at the documentation stage, and 10 deferrals and six abandonments at the building stage.

Generally, green projects are twice as likely to be deferred as to be abandoned, the research, compiled by Michelle Aizenberg and Brooke Barr, found. However, a reasonably high rate of deferrals can be expected in green projects because they usually require more collaboration and more funding, BCI suggests.

The bulk of green projects were built in the east, with Queensland building the most, followed by Victoria and New South Wales.

However, those projects that are built in New South Wales are larger



developments with bigger budgets. The report found that New South Wales banked the highest value of green projects of all the states in 2009, followed by Queensland and Victoria respectively. While Western Australia, South Australia and Australian Capital Territory have healthy markets in green building, this is overshadowed by the three large eastern states, which hold 80 per cent of the \$21 billion green building market.

One third of all green projects were commercial or office developments, while the retail sector made up a further 25 per cent of building. Up

to 10 per cent of hospitality, tourism, leisure, sports facilities, healthcare, community-based projects, aged care and residential works came with Green Star briefings or requirements.

Overall, the green building sector was "not immune to the financial crisis", BCI said. However, BCI researchers reported a positive shift in the perception of green building from being an expensive ideal to being expected, at least at a minimal level.

"Anything built today that is not green will age prematurely", BCI's chief executive, Matt Krups, said.

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Victoria succeeds at designing safe streets

WHILE THE residential sector has done a good job of designing against crime, commercial building has "failed to embrace" CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design) strategies, according to an urban planner.

Released yesterday, the Crime Victimization survey from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that the overwhelming majority of Victorians reported feeling safe in their own neighbourhoods, both at night and during the day.

The survey found that 1.9 per cent of respondents felt unsafe during the day, while 4.6 per cent of respondents felt unsafe during the night time.

Police minister, Bob Cameron, said the figures are testament to "the good work of local police on the beat." However, strong principles of designing out crime have also had an effect, an urban planner said.

Lisa Riddle, director at urban planning firm, Planisphere, told

Architecture & Design that CPTED principles are "established" in Victorian practice and are beginning to bear fruit.

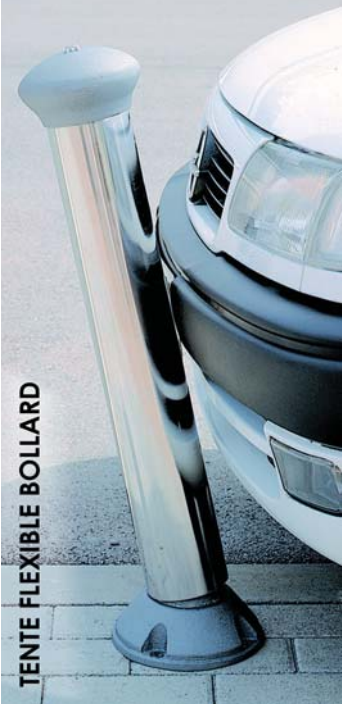
Strategies that minimize the opportunity for crime while maximizing the feeling of safety are "well accepted" in residential design, she said.

These principles include the passive surveillance of public areas, via ground floor windows and balconies, and natural access control.

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“When surveyed as a whole, the unpalatable truth is that the millennium arts projects have not delivered. Hard-headedness was replaced with an unseemly rush to grab the money and open the bubble... And instead of a glittering web of arts institutions across the land, what we are left with is a series of buildings by ‘named’ architects, many of which are dark, vandalised or which are living in the crepuscular world of free comedy nights and amateur dramatics.”
BD Online

FULL ARTICLE ...

“Development at any cost was too often the norm. There was little strategic planning, developers speculated to maximise profits, and a light-touch regulation regime prevailed. The overall results of poor planning, bad design and minimal consumer protection are evident throughout the country, with many people in negative equity, some in floodplains.”
Irish Times

FULL ARTICLE ...

“It’s not a groundbreaking list of green features, and the overall aesthetic of the building, while dynamic, is not earth-shattering. Still, the tower is a major step forward for L.A. Live, an urban project that has been sorely lacking in innovative design and urbanism.”
The Architect’s Newspaper

FULL ARTICLE ...

“Did you fall so hard for greenie propaganda like human overpopulation that you thought The Economist may have a good point? Are you still willing to look the other way, knowing that the British financial oligarchy is happily killing people in the name of greenie causes that you support? If so, you too are a genocidalist, and, a total patsy for powerful financiers with a born-to-rule psychosis who will just as happily knock you off too.”
Alternative News Network

FULL ARTICLE ...

“You can pay lip service to conservation in the suburbs, but the suburbs are what they are. They are designed to work on oil and gas. The Jolly Green Giant isn’t going to move shoddily built, energy-inefficient houses closer together. Our choice is either to fight the failure of these places or to get serious about reinhabiting the older parts of existing towns and cities.”
UTNE

FULL ARTICLE ...

Hames Sharley wins Innovators to Watch award



ADELAIDE-BASED design firm, Hames Sharley, has beat off stiff competition from seven other finalists to win the inaugural CleverGreen Innovators to Watch Awards.

Organised by the Department of Trade and Economic Development in South Australia, Hames Sharley was selected for its holistic approach to green design.

Director David Cooke said that architects have a large role to play in creating sustainable cities.

“As designers, we need to be smarter in the way we use new technology and innovative design to ensure buildings and places of

the future are far more sustainable,” he said.

“The innovations may have a positive impact on the environment through improved sustainability, lower emissions, reduced energy usage and encouraging broad-based behaviour change. It will also foster economic development and create employment.”

Hames Sharley recently worked on the redesign of 70 Light Square, South Australia’s first four star green building refurbishment, and helped redevelop 19 Grenfell Street to five star NABERS energy with the use of an in-house sustainable design matrix.

YOUR COMMENT ...



Central park works as green “engine”

SOM’s new urban model for a Beijing district uses a central park to passively heat and cool the district. The masterplan includes solutions for energy and water conservation and transit systems in Beijing’s Dawangjing District.

Strategically positioned just over 11 kilometres from the Beijing Capital International Airport, the proposed district of public parks, cultural venues, and landmark high-rises would be a new global gateway for the city.

The plan won an international competition to guide Wangjing’s redevelopment on behalf of the Beijing Chaoyang District Planning Bureau.

“[This project] offered us the opportunity to present new ways of thinking about reduced carbon footprints in cities. Our solution is an integrated comprehensive approach to urban design, architecture and the environment,” Peter Ruggiero, SOM design partner, said.

MORE IMAGES ...

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Landscape to the stars! - Sydney

A boutique Landscape Design Studio who work across a range of sectors from large country gardens to compact urban courtyards are looking for an Assistant Landscape Architect or Technician to join their team. You must be proficient in AutoCAD, Photoshop / Sketchup would be an advantage. This is a rare opportunity to work with high profile clients with some potential for travel.

High Tech Architecture - Sydney

A well-established Sydney practice are looking for an Architect with experience working on Education and Laboratory projects. Ideally you will be competent taking a project from design stage through to documentation and have proven project experience in Australia or abroad. AutoCAD would be beneficial but not essential.

Technical Architect - Sydney

An award winning Sydney practice is looking for a technically competent Architect to join their team. Ideally you will be competent putting together detail and construction packages for adaptive reuse and commercial projects and be comfortable working with minimal input from the Project Director. This is a great opportunity to work on a high profile project. Proficiency in Autocad is essential.

Fancy a Career Change? - Sydney

We are looking for someone to join our budding team in Surry Hills. Ideally you will have strong communication skills and tons of energy. A background in Architecture is essential. Please email your CV to krista@bespokecareers.com or give me a call for more information.

To apply for any of the above positions, please send your CV to sydney@bespokecareers.com

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