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One in three architects struggling to survive

SENTIMENT SIGNIFICANTLY MORE POSITIVE IN VICTORIA

BY GEMMA BATTENBOUGH

Nearly one in three (28 per cent) architects in NSW have reported "going into survival mode" as a result of the global financial crisis, according to new research by BCI Australia.

Victorian architects are the most optimistic with only 9 per cent reporting "survival mode" tactics and one in four firms finding new opportunities in the downturn.

Nationally, one in six (or 16 per cent) of architects were concerned with the survival of their firm, the *Australian Construction Market Forecast 2009/10* report found.

Architects in Queensland are seeing the fewest new opportunities, (7 per cent), followed by NSW (17 per cent), WA (21 per cent) and Victoria (22 per cent).

Three out of ten architects (30 per cent) think the downturn is creating new opportunities for them in the smaller states and territories.

Only 39 per cent of the architects surveyed in Victoria say their workload has shrunk. One in five firms even say their workload looks better now than it did a year ago. In



Architects in NSW are most worried about their firm's survival.

contrast, 56 per cent of NSW architects and 67 per cent of Queensland architects say their workload has somewhat or significantly deteriorated over the last 12 months. This corresponds with the death of early design stage projects registered by BCI in these two states.

Nationally, while 43 per cent of architects are expecting an improvement in their work load in the coming year, 18 per cent expect a further deterioration.

Not one architect in Western Australia expected a "significant improvement" of their workload over the coming year and only

32 per cent expected "some improvement".

One in four architects in the Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania and ACT expects the brunt of the downturn to only hit them in the months ahead.

BCI notes that responses were taken in July, at a time when consumer and business confidence rose to pre-crisis levels. This is also when the RBA announced renewed tightening of monetary policy in early 2010, and so claims that if there were any bias in the report it would point upwards.

YOUR COMMENT ...

Architects stoush over Barangaroo designs

THE ARCHITECT whose scheme came second in the Barangaroo design competition has criticised the Hill Thalys team for failing to adapt its plans.

Ed Lippmann, director at Lippmann Partnership, told Architecture & Design that Philip Thalys was "arrogant" to think his plan would remain untouched.

"His plan lacked vision. The government's brief clearly called for a visionary plan that would position Sydney as Australia's truly global

city and would establish a framework for our urban growth, one which included ESD initiatives, a clear understanding on how that precinct could evolve over time and would be a benchmark of urban planning and environmental sustainability. [Thalys'] plan was essentially a subdivision plan."

The changes, which include creating a natural headland along with northern and southern coves and concentrating the commercial area at the southern end of the precinct,

would be for the benefit of the site and were "provisos" of Hill Thalys winning the competition, Lippmann said.

"It was very naïve of [Thalys] and his teammates to think that they could corral the government and Keating," Lippmann said.

The changes demanded by Paul Keating were elements of the running up design by the Lippmann/Rogers team.

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||| PAT GOODRIDGE SPORTING PRECINCT

Architectural services required for a four-stage design process to include a pavilion, club room and netball courts.

Categories: Social, Sports
Tender type: Open
Tender date: 21/10/2009, 14:00
Authority: Town of Cambridge
Area: Jolimont, Cambridge, WA
Value: \$4,000,000
Project ID: 805050
[More info ...](#)

||| CARNARVON AIRPORT RELOCATION

Expressions of interest are invited from design and consultancy professionals for a feasibility study. The project includes a new jet-capable runway, a new terminal and a car park.

Categories: Public buildings, Civil engineering
Tender type: Registration
Tender date: 05/10/2009, 11:00
Authority: Shire of Carnarvon
Area: Carnarvon, WA
Value: \$15,000,000
Project ID: 1003164
[More info ...](#)

||| BOOLIGAL WEIR AND FISHWAY

Tenders are called from consultants for concepts and detailed design for the rehabilitation of the Booligal Weir and the construction of a fishway.

Categories: Civil engineering
Tender type: Open
Tender date: 13/10/2009, 14:00
Authority: State Water Corporation
Area: Booligal, NSW
Value: \$1,200,000
Project ID: 1222759
[More info ...](#)

||| TRADE TRAINING CENTRES BER PROJECT

Architectural services and sub consultancy needed for the construction of trade training centres and the upgrade of kitchen facilities at four schools.

Categories: Education
Tender type: Select
Tender date: 06/10/2009
Authority: Department of Education and Training
Area: Taree, Wingham and Kempsey, NSW
Value: \$4,000,000
Project ID: 1223165
[More info ...](#)

New home sales enjoy three and a half year high



BY DANIELLE BOWLING

THE NUMBER of new homes sold in Australia sky-rocketed in August, making up for a flat mid-2009, according to the Housing Industry Association (HIA).

The number of detached house sales increased by 11.8 per cent and the number of apartments sold jumped 7.5 per cent.

HIA chief economist, Harley Dale said "A late surge in sales to first home buyers ahead of the step-down in the new home boost, propelled new home sales by more than 11 per cent in August, the best monthly result for over three and a half years."

According to Dale, August's promising results won't be a once-off. "The boost to new home construction from the tripling of the First Home Owner Grant for new dwellings will be apparent throughout the second half of 2009 and well into 2010," he said.

Detached new home sales in August increased by 21.8 per cent in Victoria, 20.9 per cent in Queensland, and 15.1 per cent in Western Australia. Sales fell by 11.3 per cent in New South Wales and 2.5 per cent in South Australia.

[YOUR COMMENT ...](#)



MAD architects create mountain-like buildings

Beijing architects MAD have designed a convention centre for Taichung, Taiwan. The mountain-like buildings have pleated exterior surfaces covered in photovoltaic panels. The concertina surface provides airflow to the building, while keeping energy consumption at a minimum by utilizing solar energy.

Commissioned by the Taiwanese government, the project is conceived as a "continuous weave of architecture and landscape".

The project includes exhibition halls, a convention centre, offices and retail spaces over 70,318sqm.

The project embodies a "new kind of architectural philosophy" that merges architecture and nature, the architects say, although it reminds us of **BIG's** Zira Island masterplan. [MORE IMAGES ...](#)

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