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WIN

BUFF 'N' STUFF
\$1000 OF PAMPERING

RACHEL WARD
THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

FIONA SPROTT
SEX AND THE SINGLE WOMAN

PHILIP JOHNSON
NOT FOR THE SQUEAMISH

heritage spirit

Ghost stories are not the only tales emerging from
the refurbishment of our city's iconic buildings



architecture **in**

Top of the pile

Opposites are made attractive in this award-winning Norman Park penthouse that blends unity and diversity

While en route to Bulimba last year I always looked out for the Stockland signs at a certain point on Wynnum Road in Norman Park, straining to catch a glimpse of what the property development group was unfolding.

I knew that international architectural firm Cox Rayner had been given the brief of turning the prime riverfront site into a residential haven and now I also know that design firm RLD of Sydney had been enlisted to provide an interior to match the architectural intent.

It turns out that the owner of the penthouse in the complex wasn't the only one impressed with their work. In May this year, the penthouse of the Norman Reach development won Best in State for Residential Design in the Queensland chapter of the 2009 Interior Design Awards. It also won a commendation in residential decoration in the national awards.

This is the sixth year the awards have been held. They are co-presented by the Design Institute of Australia (DIA), designEX (an interior architecture and design event) and *Artichoke* magazine. The number of entries increased 26 per cent on last year, marking it as a respected platform for the recognition of Australian designers, says Jacinta Reedy, event manager for the awards.

RLD's design philosophy was to provide "solutions for today's modern lifestyle and affinity with living effortlessly within indoor/outdoor spaces" while taking the approach of "non-dictatorial design" with a degree of flexibility so the owner could embellish the dwelling with their own personality.

There isn't anything radical about this proposition but as it blends with the architects' approach to the design of the complex, the interior and the larger structural picture harmonise. This is notable given Cox Rayner's intent bring together "two contradictory attributes of place – diversity and unity".

"Diversity is reflected in the variety of product and building forms that respond to the natural beauty of the site," says architect Jayson Blight, Cox Rayner design director. The unity, he says, is seen in the way landscaping integrates those different building forms.

"Intensive greening was used, with significant existing vegetation retained on the site, complemented by a landscape strategy that introduces communal greens and private riverside gardens," Jayson says, conjuring images of an oasis on busy Wynnum Road.

"The homes and landscape spaces respond to the orientation and view. The landscape becomes an extension of the home to create an environment that is ecologically sustainable."

With its desirable northerly aspect, the penthouse floor plan is based on open spaces that take advantage of light, views and cross-ventilation. The views of Brisbane River and the mountains beyond are completed with a foreground that is the living space in the penthouse. RLD used an "oyster scheme", focusing on natural nougat tones warmed by finishes such as timber veneers.

To further embrace the views, the design of the penthouse turns outdoor spaces into outdoor rooms with deep awnings and external screens managing harsh weather patterns.



NOUGAT NICHE ... the interior design is based on an oyster scheme of neutral tones with warm highlights

RLD wanted to support modern and varying lifestyles so they gave special consideration to the bane of multi-residential living: storage.

There is even capacity to support the trappings of most sports enthusiasts – think skiers and golfers.

The design also includes a small passenger lift and, because the laundry is on the ground floor, a laundry chute and ironing station in

the master bedroom wardrobe. It seems a modern aesthetic can be practical as well as sophisticated.

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