

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Jury Unable to Split First Prize: Three Equal Winners of Hobart Waterfront International Design Competition

### Pledge to Create World's Most Liveable City

Three entries have shared first prize in the Hobart Waterfront International Design Competition – the biggest architectural competition in the world in 2006.

The winners are:

- Jeppe Aagaard Andersen, Helsingor, Denmark;
- Tony Caro Architecture, Sydney, Australia; and
- Preston Lane Architects with James Whitten Architect, Hobart, Australia.

Announcing the winners in Hobart, the Premier Paul Lennon said the success of the competition sends a strong message that Tasmania is at the forefront of building great cities based on community and social balance.

"The competition generated hundreds of brilliant ideas for improving connections between the city centre and the waterfront and has led to significant international publicity for Hobart with 280 entries from 51 countries," Mr Lennon said.

Ideas generated by the competition will be scrutinised by the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority, the planning authority responsible for Sullivans Cove, as the Authority considers future redevelopment of those parts of the waterfront that need improving and revitalising.

"The Jury were unanimous in their view that there was no single entry that met all the challenges and obstacles of the competition area," said Jeff Gilmore, Chief Executive of the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority.

"This reflects the complexity and importance of the area in creating a waterfront that meets all community needs. It includes improving connections between the city centre and the waterfront, improving the balance between people and cars, increasing activity around City Hall and ensuring access to the waters edge.

“Importantly, the Jury said they gave greater weight to those entries that provided ideas for an extension and enhancement of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery as a focus of cultural activity on the waterfront.

“In addition, the Jury were impressed by ideas to improve the quality of public spaces, especially if this was done through minor enhancements rather than relying on major changes.

“The Jury were adamant that the waterfront must remain a place accessible to all – art students and visitors, locals and tourists, pedestrians and cars, boats of all varieties. They told us very strongly that this characteristic should never be lost.”

Entries can be viewed on the web at [www.hwidc.tas.gov.au](http://www.hwidc.tas.gov.au) and a public exhibition of winners and short-listed submissions is on display at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery until 18 February.

“The designs are on display for people to discuss, debate and even argue about,” Mr Gilmore said. “This is a unique display that celebrates creativity as we continue to enhance a waterfront that is the envy of the world.”

Mr Gilmore thanked the entrants who in many cases spent hundreds of hours on these submissions.

“The City Hall Axis is a crucial part of the Hobart waterfront but it doesn’t have a strong identity like Salamanca Place, or even the growing popularity of Hunter Street,” Mr Gilmore said.

“In the past the City Hall area was a busy market with large crowds and this attracted other activities and encouraged people to move between the city centre and the waterfront. Today, however, this area sits alone as the least successful connection between the city and the waterfront. It is cold, lonely, windy and isolated ... it is used by cars, but not by people.

“The response from the worldwide community of creative people to solving this challenge has been phenomenal. Their efforts are most appreciated by all Tasmanians.”

Apart from the \$150,000 shared by three winners, an additional \$10,000 student prize was divided between teams from Adelaide, France, Italy and Slovenia. Each team will receive \$2,500.

Entries were judged by an international Jury comprising Professor Geoffrey London (Perth, Western Australia), Carme Pinos (Barcelona, Spain), Wiel Arets (Amsterdam, The Netherlands) and Cathrin Bull (Melbourne, Victoria).

## Major Findings of the Jury

- Support for an extension and enhancement of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery as a focus of cultural activity on the waterfront.
- Improve the quality of public spaces.
- Improve the balance towards people away from cars.
- Increase activity in and around City Hall.
- There is no one scheme that addresses all the issues – the Hobart waterfront is unique.
- Strong preference for minor improvements rather than relying on major buildings.
- The waterfront must remain a place accessible to all – art students and visitors, locals and tourists, pedestrians and cars, boats of all varieties. This characteristic should never be lost.
- We can learn from the past but not be afraid of the future.

## Major Winners (equal share of \$150,000 prize - \$50,000 each)

**Jeppe Aagaard Andersen, Helsingor, Denmark.**

*Team members: Jeppe Aagaard Andersen, Claire Broun, Hannah James, Sarah May, Sara Padgett, Michael Rowlands.*

*Contribution and support: Annabel Craig, Cian Davies, Jon Everett, Pippa Eyres.*

Jeppe Aagaard Andersen's collaboration with his Western Australian team was developed over a number of weeks and many late nights. The combination of creative young University of Western Australia graduates and the experience of the Danish firm has resulted in an exciting approach to this challenging brief.

Danish landscape architect Aagaard Andersen moves seamlessly between the world of fine art and his design. He takes a classical approach towards completely free interpretations of space, form, nature and culture, often using deep knowledge about the past with visionary feelings of what will be appreciated by posterity.

Recently Aagaard Andersen won a first prize in an international competition for the University Campus at Sydney University, Australia. The project is now under construction. The design intent is to create a unified plan bringing clarity to an eclectic and complex university setting. The design, inspired by parts of Barcelona and Havana, creates a continuous processional granite paving under a bold alley of native trees.

Aagaard Andersen was trained at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1980. He established his own landscape architecture company in 1987. Andersen has carried out landscape design for hotel and conference centres, public administration buildings, museums, churches, castles, palaces and manors, industrial buildings, housing, private gardens and public parks in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. He has participated and received awards in a large number of Danish, Scandinavian and international competitions.

For his entry in the Hobart Waterfront International Design Competition, Aagaard Andersen was joined by a team of talented, emerging landscape architects from Perth, Western Australia, including Claire Broun, Hannah James, Sarah May, Sara Padgett and Michael Rowlands.

Quotes:

*"It was a fantastic brief – an inspiring challenge involving a city, water and mountain. It cried out to be done."*

*"We worked very hard and went through hundreds of ideas. I personally flew to Hobart to walk the streets around the City Hall, as did every member of my team."*

*"We came here to look and walk, and also to listen to the seagulls."*

*"Our proposal was made to fit Hobart – we do want it to make it look like Nice or Cannes because that is not the style of this place."*

*"I wanted to design a place that works in all seasons and moods, a place that works for one person as well as large groups coming together for special events."*

## **Tony Caro Architecture, Sydney, Australia.**

*Team members: Tony Caro, Simon Swain, Ewan Saunders, Simon Mather, Jason Fraser, Louise Chapman.*

Tony Caro is a highly decorated Australian architect who graduated from the New South Wales Institute of Technology with Honours and the University Medal in 1980. He completed postgraduate studies (M.B.Env.) at the University of Technology Sydney in 1995.

Caro was an associate in the internationally renowned practice Harry Seidler and Associates for 12 years, being involved in the design of many major city and urban architectural projects.

In 1995 he established a new design practice in Sydney, to focus upon a wider range of architectural and urban design projects driven by the dual contexts of urbanism and environmentally responsible design as key determinants of form.

The practice has emerged as a focussed, design-oriented team with a track record of delivering diverse, quality outcomes to a wide range of clients. Recent achievements in both architectural and urban design awards programs and competitions attest to this capability.

Caro is an advocate of continuing education and mentoring. He completed a Masters of the Built Environment at UTS in 1993 and continues to teach architectural design at the University in a part-time capacity.

## **Preston Lane Architects with James Whitten Architect, Hobart, Australia.**

*Team members: Nathanael Preston, Daniel Lane, Phil Ackerley, James Whitten.*

Nathanael Preston, 31, and Daniel Lane, 31, studied environmental design at the University of Tasmania before Nathanael moved to Melbourne to complete his architecture studies at Deakin University while Daniel stayed in Tasmania at the School of Architecture, Launceston.

Previously, Nathanael had attended Emmanuel Christian School and Rosny College, while Daniel had attended New Town High and Elizabeth College.

They formed Preston Lane Architects in 2004 with offices in two states - Nathanael in Melbourne and Daniel in Hobart. Phil Ackerley is a graduate architect based in the Hobart office.

James Whitten, 30, graduated in architecture from the University of Melbourne in 2002. He runs a one-man firm in Melbourne, where he shares a building with Nathanael Preston.

### Quotes:

*"Our entry for the competition took hundreds of hours, which is difficult to manage when you have a small practice and you're juggling many clients and projects."*

*"It was a tight deadline and we only lodged our entry with one hour to spare."*

*"We nearly gave in a couple of times because of the time required and the sheer challenge of working through the creative differences of the team members."*

*"As a small practice, we don't have surplus staff – the directors had to jump right in and do everything."*

### **Student winners (equal share of \$10,000 prize - \$2,500 each)**

Travis Wright, School of Architecture, Adelaide University, Australia.

Loic Cendrier and Suzie Delhay, School of Architecture of Marseille, France.

Verde Alberto, Michele D'Ariano, Matteo Ferrari, Anna Malaguti, Federica Pennacchini, Giulia Tardini, Francesco Tosi and Dario Varotti, Faculty of Architecture, University of Ferrara, Bologna, Italy.

Mojca Langerholc, Anja Hlade, Vita Zlender, Mojca Mezek, Andrejka Sorli, and Claudia Concalves, Landscape Architecture Program, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

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## About the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority

The Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority is the planning authority responsible for protecting, enhancing and developing Sullivans Cove and surrounding areas. The Authority aims to preserve the unique qualities of the Hobart Waterfront, which defines the identity, vitality and image of the Tasmanian people.

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