

ARCHITECTURE

A blend of open spaces and freedom to move...

A UNIQUELY AUSTRALIAN INVITATION

Our cities each have their own unique character. Most are set on the water, but each has its own special mix of the old and the new where high rise skyscrapers blend with Victorian and Georgian architecture and modern architectural centrepieces.

The history and scope of Australian identity can be seen in the range of its buildings - from the grand regent style colonial architecture through the practical minimalism of Australian modernism to a post-colonial world which incorporates the Indigenous experience of country.

But one thing most clearly distinguishes our city spaces from most others around the world - and that is the amount of open space, freedom to move and green parks in our cities and suburbs. Our city architecture, particularly in the suburbs, is characterised by houses set on large blocks with backyards and often swimming pools.

Our world-famous Australian architects, Ken Woolley, Philip Cox, Glenn Murcutt, Alex Popov, and the creative duos of Engelen-Moore and Lahz-Nimmo, are creating distinctive structures that reflect what Australians want in their lifestyle today - ease of utilising a space, light, ventilation, and that great Australian obsession with having the indoors and the outdoors integrated. From lightweight pavilions to corrugated iron roofs and sleek inner city boxes, our architects are creating distinctive Australian structures that couldn't be built anywhere else, even down to using local materials such as corrugated iron and weathered timber.

Some key city architecture facts

- The Sydney Opera House is one of the most recognisable images of the modern world. With a roof evocative of a ship at full sail, it was designed by renowned Danish architect - Jorn Utzon - in the late 1950s and opened in 1973. His design was considered beyond the capabilities of engineering of the time.
- The Sydney Harbour Bridge - known affectionately as "The Coathanger" - takes 10 years to paint, using 30,000 litres of paint.
- Some of Sydney's most significant buildings can be attributed to the designs of convict Francis Greenway. His works include Hyde Park Barracks, Macquarie Lighthouse, St. James Church and the new Government House.
- The site of Canberra was selected for the location of the nation's capital in 1908 as a compromise between Sydney and Melbourne. It is unusual among Australian cities as an entirely purpose-built, planned city.
- Large scale urban projects such as Brisbane's Southbank, Sydney's

Olympic Park precinct and Melbourne's Docklands have revitalised former industrial precincts into exciting urban entertainment and living districts in their respective cities.

- The Royal Exhibition Building Melbourne was constructed in 1880 to house Australia's first international exhibition of cultural, technological, and industrial achievements. It was used at the Melbourne Centennial celebrations in 1888 and as the opening of the Australian Parliament on 9 May 1901. The Exhibition Building gained a World Heritage listing in 2002, making it the first non-Aboriginal cultural site in Australia to win such a listing.
- Adelaide was founded in 1836 as the planned capital for the only freely-settled British province in Australia.
- Tasmanian cities have some of the best-preserved Georgian architecture in Australia.

Uniquely Australian

Canberra

- **See Australia's capital**, the only Australian capital that is purpose built. Following an international contest for the city's design, American architect Walter Burley Griffin was selected and construction commenced in 1913. The city's design was heavily influenced by the garden city movement and incorporates significant areas of natural vegetation, wide boulevards lined with large buildings, formal parks and water features.
- **Experience a journey symbolic of Australia's history** on a visit to Parliament House. The Forecourt, with its featured mosaic dot painting, recognises the long history of Aboriginal culture in Australia. The use of marble and timber in the main foyer provides a link to the arrival of Europeans to Australia. The building is recognised as a major international achievement in the integration of art and architecture, and features numerous commissioned artworks built into the very fabric of the building.
- Traditional and modern architecture from around the world can be seen on a **tour of Embassy Drive in Yarralumla**, home to nearly 80 embassies and high commissions.
- The architecture and design of the **National Museum of Australia** was a milestone for a building of its type. The bold asymmetrical building is based on the imprint of a virtual knot, tying together the many strands of history which meet at the museum.





Adelaide

- **Known as the city of churches, Adelaide is also a city of parks.** Designed in 1836 on a square mile grid, the city is compact and easy to walk around. High-rise buildings have been kept to a minimum and the wide streets, original stone colonial buildings, mansions and workers cottages remain a delight to see.
- **Walk through North Adelaide**, one of Adelaide's oldest and most exclusive suburbs, with tree-lined streets, great shopping and classy dining.
- **The 125-year-old Adelaide Central Market** provides a noisy, colourful, aromatic and lively meeting place for visitors and citizens alike. This is multicultural Australia at its best with some 48 cultures bartering and selling produce in friendly rivalry.

Brisbane/Gold Coast

- **Find a fascinating mix of old and new in relaxing Brisbane**- where sandstone cathedrals blend seamlessly with steel and glass skyscrapers and a winding river snakes through the city's heart.
- **Discover our distinctive "Queenslanders"**. Since the 1880's, beautiful "Queenslander" traditional homes elevated on stilts, with high ceilings and wide verandahs have been built to suit our sub-tropical climate. Take a tour of some of the more historic "Queenslanders", including Brisbane's elegant Newstead House.
- **Tour two of Australia's oldest and grandest heritage buildings**, the former Treasury and Land Administration Buildings, now sympathetically transformed into Brisbane's Conrad Treasury Casino and Conrad Hotel. Dating from 1886, they form a breath-taking backdrop to the casino and five-star luxury hotel.
- **For a view of the heavens, visit Q1 on the Gold Coast.** At 323 metres (1,059 ft) Q1 is the world's tallest all-residential building. The design is inspired by the spirit and lifestyle of Australia and its shape reflects elements of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Torch and the Sydney Opera House.

Darwin

- **Now rebuilt as a modern tropical capital city, Darwin** sits on a harbour twice the size of Sydney harbour and offers a blend of low-rise buildings on wide, tree-lined streets, with parks and contemporary waterfront developments, all embracing a relaxed, outdoor lifestyle.

Hobart

- **The second oldest capital city in Australia** with many of its early grand homes and public buildings, workers' cottages and warehouses, heritage parks and gardens still intact, the city's 19th century convict heritage is woven into the fabric of the modern-day Hobart.
- **Hobart's colonial past and maritime heritage is on show** in the well preserved architecture and museums around the waterfront. The Hobart Waterfront and Salamanca Place offer an opportunity to rub shoulders with the locals and see the results of their creative endeavours in the many art galleries and craft outlets.
- **Australia's first dedicated art hotel can be found on Hobart's waterfront.** What used to be a row of historic warehouses and a jam factory has been transformed into the Henry Jones Hotel, a first class hotel showcasing the work of Tasmania's visual performing artists.

Melbourne

- **Melbourne is renowned for its Victorian architecture** and notable landmarks such as Flinders Street Station, the Melbourne Cricket Ground, and the extensive tram network, the third largest in the world and the largest in the Southern Hemisphere.
- **Lose yourself in Melbourne's inner city laneways.** Discover opulent bars, eclectic boutiques and fashionable restaurants secreted in over 250 laneways and alleys.
- **Federation Square is Melbourne's meeting place** and a unique cultural precinct. Its centrepiece is the Atrium, a remarkable galleria-like structure made of glass, steel and zinc. The complex houses museums, restaurants, event venues and vast open spaces.

Perth

- Settled on the banks of the Swan River in the 1800s, **Perth is a city centred on the great outdoors.**
- The Swan Bells, situated on the Swan River in Perth, **is one of the world's largest musical instruments.** The glass spire of the bell tower reaches 82.5 metres above the ground and houses a ring of 18 bells.

Sydney

- **Take a behind-the-scenes tour of Sydney's iconic structures** – the Sydney Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. See world class performances here, join a backstage tour where you may be lucky to see the stars rehearsing, or relax at one of the cafes, bars or restaurants. A number of projects designed by original architect, Jørn Utzon, have recently been completed to improve facilities at Sydney Opera House.
- **Explore Sydney's historic Rocks district** with its intact colonial architecture – you'll be transported back to another era at the place where it all began.
- **Climb to the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge** with professional climb leaders on a Bridgeclimb or take a Discovery Climb through the inner arch of the bridge – you'll get a close-up look at the engineering and design of the Bridge and see the 'nuts and bolts' of the structure - a completely different experience to the original climb.

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