

# Building and Environment

**OUR OBJECTIVES:** to ensure that the Sydney Opera House venue and environment meet current and emerging customer and industry needs; to diligently preserve the existing capability of the building; to ensure that our technical capabilities keep pace with changing needs, art forms and technologies; to actively pursue responsible environmental practices.



Max Dupain's Sydney Opera House

1957

Jørn Utzon, a young Danish architect, wins the competition for design of a new Opera House for the city of Sydney.

1973

Sydney Opera House is officially opened by HRH Queen Elizabeth II.

1999

Jørn Utzon is re-engaged as architect by Sydney Opera House, reuniting the man with his masterpiece.

## ACHIEVEMENTS 2003/04

### State Heritage status for Sydney Opera House was achieved in December 2003.

This followed the revision and publishing of our Conservation Plan, which allows for future functional improvement and development of the site whilst carefully preserving its heritage.

**Building work began to transform the Reception Hall into a modern, superbly versatile venue.** Architect Jørn Utzon completed designs using his signature features of natural timbers and finishes to complement the room's glorious harbour view. The centrepiece will be a brightly coloured 14-metre tapestry, designed by Utzon, inspired by the music of CPE Bach's *Hamburg Symphonies* and Raphael's painting *Procession to Calvary*. Unlike other venues, this space remained structurally intact after Utzon left the project in 1966. When complete, the room will be the only authentic Utzon interior at Sydney Opera House.

**With heritage and development approvals received this year, work began on the transformation of the Western Broadwalk,** which will fulfil Utzon's vision for the Harbour to be the focal point for all Sydney Opera House venues. Work on the new loggia will commence in late 2004 and will be the first external structural alteration to the main building since it opened in 1973. The loggia will be 45 metres long and 5 metres wide, with 9 new glass openings into the theatre foyers.

**Box Office Foyer facilities refurbishment was completed,** increasing female and male amenities and providing 2 new accessible toilets for people with disabilities.

**Creating a more attractive reception area for visiting performers, VIP guests, visitors and patrons, decreasing congestion and improving security,** our upgraded Stage Door was opened in December 2003. It comprised a new parallel revolving door for pass holders, a revamped interior and a customer-friendly entrance.

**Refurbishment of the Green Room servery was completed** in partnership with current operator Dolce Vita. The outcome is an expanded choice of offerings and a design that better facilitates flow of the many people who use this service.

**A range of backstage improvements enhanced the front-of-house experience and our services to presenters and performers.** The support of Euphonix enabled us to replace the sound consoles in the Concert Hall and the Drama Theatre with state of the art equipment. We also upgraded the stage managers' desk system and enhanced other technical facilities.

**Excitement greeted the approval in June this year for a Recording Studio and Multi-Media Suite,** which will provide fully integrated technical facilities, linking all venues and broadcast points. Opening in October 2004 and due for full completion in June 2005, our capacity to create dynamic presentations, DVDs, animations, graphics, simulcast and a host of web-based content will be greatly enhanced.

**Much greater ease of communication and support for our presenting partners** were the outcomes of a dedicated onsite IT network access installed this year for The Australian Ballet and Opera Australia.

**We enlivened the site and improved the customer information of what is currently on at Sydney Opera House,** with the installation of plasma screens on the Lower Concourse and at Stage Door. The plasma screens provided by LG Electronics, feature information about daily performances and live performance clips. They were installed after a 3-month trial and positive customer feedback.

**Customisation, integration, greater control and efficiency,** were the results of a generational upgrade of our core front-line events business management system, EBMS.

**A dynamic strengthening of our 12-year business partnership with Hewlett Packard** was amply demonstrated with a multi-year agreement. The new agreement will result in HP providing major support for the delivery of our Information Management and Technology Strategic Plan 2004-2007. A wireless network installed in the Concert Hall and resulting in remote, portable access to sound and lighting controls was a major project completed this year with HP technology.

**Demonstrating our commitment to sustained energy management and savings in energy use,** we entered into a new contract with Country Energy that resulted in us increasing our usage of green power from 5% to 6% this year. We also continued implementing a program of energy reduction works that included a secondary chilled water pumping system to increase cooling efficiency. Future projects will include the installation of more efficient lamp technology and the utilisation of motion sensor and time controls.

**Providing the benchmark for an ongoing, comprehensive energy management plan,** a wide-ranging energy consumption study commenced this year which will inform the development of a detailed energy management plan.

**Finding ways to continue to improve our waste and recycling management** was the purpose of 2 audits that followed NSW Government guidelines. We commenced the separation of our construction waste and, with the assistance of Visy, we are keeping abreast of trends in waste management and recycling.