



Media Release

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CROWN ANNOUNCES WILKINSON EYRE ARCHITECTS AS THE WINNING DESIGN FOR CROWN SYDNEY HOTEL RESORT

Crown Resorts today announced that Wilkinson Eyre Architects had been successful as the winning design for the Crown Sydney Hotel Resort.

The joint judging panel unanimously recommended the Wilkinson Eyre design to Crown, following an extended competition to design the Crown Sydney Hotel Resort at Barangaroo South on the city's harbourfront.

The final three designs by internationally renowned architects Adrian Smith and Gordon Gill, Kohn Pedersen Fox, and Wilkinson Eyre Architects were judged by a panel consisting of representatives from Crown Resorts, Lend Lease, the Barangaroo Delivery Authority and the NSW Department of Planning. All were praised for their professionalism and innovative designs.

The firms presented their designs to the judges last week, and the panel made a formal recommendation to Crown on the suitability of each design and its ability to achieve the desired vision and outcomes for Barangaroo and Crown.

Crown Resorts Chairman, James Packer, thanked the judging panel and congratulated Wilkinson Eyre and its key architects Chris Wilkinson and Paul Baker; "Wilkinson Eyre have an incredible record of achievement and I am certain they will deliver Sydney an iconic building we can all be proud of. This great city deserves a building that is truly special and Wilkinson Eyre's design delivers it. It's a wonderful moment for Crown."

Discussing the hotel's iconic sculptural design, Mr Packer said: "When completed, Crown Sydney will be instantly recognisable around the world. Its iconic curves and fine lines celebrate the harbour and create an architectural 'postcard' that will help attract international tourists and assist Sydney to compete with other global destinations."

On winning the design competition, Chris Wilkinson, Founding Director, Wilkinson Eyre Architects stated: "Sydney is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and it is a great privilege to design such a significant building on the waterfront.

"The challenge for this important waterfront site was to design an elegant sculptural form that will enhance the skyline and create a lively public realm at ground level.

"The special relationship that Sydney has with the water and the effect it has on the light is really very attractive to me and raises my spirits.

"My ambition is to create a sculptural form that will rise up on the skyline like an inhabited artwork, with differing levels of transparency, striking a clear new image against the sky."

Paul Baker, Director, Wilkinson Eyre Architects added: "Twenty-five years ago I spent two months staying with friends in Balmain, and my frequent ferry trips took me past the Barangaroo site almost daily. Many years later I became aware of the development potential of the site and now consider it to be one of the best sites in the world. I am thrilled and delighted to be involved in creating a new destination for this unique waterfront.

“The architecture takes its inspiration from nature, composed of organic forms that provide an abstract, sculptural shape; it does not try to mimic any particular plant or flower but is derived from the specificity of the site and the client brief.

“Its curved geometry emanates from three petal forms which twist and rise together. The first petal peels off, spreading outward to form the main hotel room accommodation, with the remaining two twisting together toward the sky.”

Wilkinson Eyre Architects is an internationally renowned design company. The firm is twice winners of the prestigious RIBA Stirling Prize and is one of the UK’s leading architecture practices. The company has a prized portfolio of bold, beautiful, intelligent architecture including the giant, sustainably-cooled conservatories for the Gardens by the Bay in Singapore, the new Mary Rose Museum in the UK, the acclaimed temporary structure of the London 2012 Basketball Arena and the Guangzhou International Finance Center - the eighth tallest building in the world.

Todd Nisbet, Crown’s Executive Vice President – Strategy & Development, said; “Wilkinson Eyre are world renowned for their sustainable and iconic designs and their great attention to detail. The Gardens by the Bay in Singapore is an absolute standout, becoming one of the most recognised tourism assets in the world and an iconic image that is instantly recognisable and linked to Singapore’s new identity as one of Asia’s most important gateway cities.”

In October 2012, Crown and Lend Lease invited a number of internationally acclaimed architects for their interest in participating in the Crown Sydney Hotel Architectural Design Competition. The brief to the architects stated: “Crown, Lend Lease and the Barangaroo Delivery Authority are seeking a bold and innovative design team to create Australia’s best hotel in Australia’s most exciting new precinct – a new landmark building on Sydney Harbour that will become a destination for international tourists and seekers of luxury.”

Subject to receipt of all necessary approvals and subject to finalisation of commercial arrangements between Crown, Lend Lease and the BDA, the Crown Sydney Hotel Resort will sit on the Lend Lease commercial site at the north western corner of Barangaroo South and will have approximately 350 guestrooms and suites. The typical guest rooms will be some of the largest in Australia and the suites and villas will rival the best in Asia. There will be four restaurants, a café, an ultra-lounge, day spa, roof top pool and luxury retail facilities.

On the planning and development processes to follow, Mr Nisbet, said: “The designs are a result of a design competition initiated by Crown and Lend Lease to select an architect for the Crown Sydney Hotel Resort and are not a formal part of the planning approval process. In the near future, Crown in collaboration with Lend Lease will engage in public consultation and seek approval from the Barangaroo Delivery Authority as landowner to lodge an application to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for all necessary approvals.”

Lend Lease has an exclusive dealing agreement with Crown in relation to the development of the hotel resort at Barangaroo South and both parties are working towards final commercial arrangements. The Crown Sydney Hotel Resort Proposal is currently in Stage 2 of the NSW Government’s Unsolicited Proposal process.

The public can view Wilkinson Eyre’s winning designs at www.crownsydneyhotel.com

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