



# MODEZINE

VOLUME 9 > SPRING 2011

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**MODE DESIGN QUARTERLY - VOLUME 9 > SPRING 2011**
**DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

As MODE DESIGN continues to grow and diversify, it becomes ever more apparent that the key to our success is our people. Our people are diverse in their skills, experience and perspectives, but all are united in delivering the best possible outcomes for our clients. We recognise the importance of attracting, retaining and developing our people to their fullest potential. To this end, we endeavour to foster a culture where our people are engaged and provided with opportunities to develop both personally and professionally....and it seems to be working!

We congratulate our Darwin Studio Director, Max Weston, as recipient of the AIA Emerging Architect Prize and Interior Designer Kelly Agnew, as recipient of both the AIA Student Award and the Peter Fletcher MODE DESIGN Prize. Personally, it is a pleasure to work alongside such a talented design team, and to see their individual talents and careers flourish. I trust you will enjoy the Spring issue of MODEZINE.

*Robert McCray, Director*


**PALMERSTON  
WATER PARK**  
 PALMERSTON, NT


A major project win for MODE Design's Darwin office was the awarding of Palmerston Water Park. The \$14.4 million water park will incorporate a 14 metre high waterslide as its signature attraction allowing participants to race and record times with a racing system. The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS) and the Department of Construction and Infrastructure (DCI) propose to construct a Water Park at Palmerston incorporating the site of the current Skate Park. The water will be a hub of activity for families, creating more social activities for the whole community. The park will include accessible water play areas and picnic facilities making it an attractive destination throughout the year.

**AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS**  
 DARWIN, NT

The MODE DESIGN Darwin Studio's Australian Federal Police Headquarters has reached practical completion.

The building is one of the first buildings to attempt to achieve a NABERS 5 Star Green Rating in the Northern Territory as a base building. Landscape for the building will be completed in early September. Well done to Architect Jenny Culgan and Designer Ben Collette for delivering this project.

The Australian Federal Police building is one of five projects MODE DESIGN Darwin has been commissioned for by Northern Territory construction firm Sitzler.

A second project, Katherine Gorge Resort, has just started construction and is expected to be open for business by Christmas 2011.





# PEREGIAN BEACH HOUSE

PEREGIAN, QLD

Sunshine Coast Designer Cameron Sheedy was recognised for his challenge of creating an affordable, sustainable and low maintenance beach house at the 2011 Australian Institute of Architects Awards on the Sunshine Coast.

A project by Mode Design's Sunshine Coast office received a Commendation at the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) Awards Sunshine Coast Chapter following its short-listing for the prestigious design award. The awards are conducted each year around Australia to recognise outstanding Architectural works and design concepts.

The project located on the Sunshine Coast takes full advantage of the charming Peregian Beach location. The design brief was for a sustainable building design that would be cost effective to build and sustain. With this in mind, the use of lightweight and economical materials are used to enhance the sense of casual coastal living, from the naturally greying exposed hardwood framing and screening to the robust and translucent fibreglass sheeting. The locally sourced materials were selected purposely to maximise natural ventilation and illumination.

Cameron Sheedy said, "We were up against projects with significantly higher budgets. We would have been one of the lowest cost houses when looking at a square metre cost ratio." The cost effectiveness of the house's design is highlighted with the use of bamboo throughout the house, along with the use of un-rendered stacked blockwork (to the base of the house) which provides more efficient insulation - a commitment to the building's sustainability.



# MUDGEERABA SCHOOLS

MUDGEERABA, GOLD COAST, QLD

Students, staff and the wider community at Mudgeeraba State School and Mudgeeraba Creek State School are enjoying the experience of their new multi-purpose halls. Watpac Construction was awarded the two projects as part of the Federal Government's stimulus BER (Building the Education Revolution) funding and engaged MODE DESIGN as the architects to design and assist them in delivering the project from inception through to completion.

Climatically, the Gold Coast's region, like much of Queensland, is challenging, with soaring temperatures and high levels of humidity present for long periods of the school year. The need for cross flow ventilation and the use of materials which respond climatically were important in the designs, while at the same time providing a fresh look which was sympathetic to the existing schools' images.

The hall at Mudgeeraba State School, which presents as a 'verandah' with

a cantilevered awning serves as the transitional space between the inside and outside to allow activities to flow directly through the large roller door openings, encouraging flexible learning. Incorporating the choice of robust materials and a strong selection of colours, allows for a lively educational and playful environment.

The hall at Mudgeeraba Creek State School is set on a 6m slope on the last of the buildable areas of the school grounds. Sustainability was a key focus of this design and is demonstrated in a number of aspects. The building is accessible on one side with the other opening out onto its northern frontage to capture the view and allow for natural cross ventilation. Electronically operated louvre windows on the north and south of the building enhance air flow and provide natural lighting. Perforated plywood and metal sheets were utilized for acoustic control. A tightly controlled budget and short

timeframe for delivery were major challenges for the MODE DESIGN team. However, the dedicated team of architects and designers have been able to extract a combination of value for money and long-term multi-functional facilities through design features such as flexible arrangement of space and high levels of natural lighting which were integral to the building form. Further, the combination of features and in-built technology enables both group and individual learning within the same environment.

MODE DESIGN and Watpac's experience with education projects and track record of delivery of similar projects make outcomes like these possible for Mudgeeraba S.S. and Mudgeeraba Creek S.S. which are extremely positive in more ways than one. These facilities can enhance the whole education experience for staff and students alike, but also represent a wonderful asset that will be enjoyed for decades to come.

## MELBOURNE MERGER ACQUISITION



The merger of two award winning architectural firms MODE DESIGN and Morris Partnership PTY LTD, are now one company effective 5 September 2011.

"It is mutually beneficial, where years of experience can be utilised by combining our two firms", MODE DESIGN's Managing Director, Mr O'Brien said.

The merger consists of the national MODE DESIGN practice which includes studios in Brisbane, Darwin, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Sydney and the Morris Partnership practice, based in Melbourne with 7 staff, creating a firm of almost 100 staff.

Morris Partnership, located on Church Street in Richmond, will be re-branded MODE MORRIS PARTNERSHIP, with a move to the brand MODE DESIGN within two years.

"The merger will allow us to better facilitate the work we are bringing in and

we are very excited and look forward to building on our national expertise," said Mr O'Brien.

Director of Morris Partnership, Michael Morris, said he believes the merger will be a successful addition to the national network of MODE DESIGN and that he and all the Melbourne staff are looking forward to it immensely.

## NATIONAL ALLIANCE

MODE DESIGN has a network of strategic alliance offices which enables the firm to deliver projects around Australia with the benefit of local people and knowledge.

Our alliance presence includes Bateman Architects in West Leederville, WA and Munns Sly Moore Architects in Lyneham, ACT.

The alliance with these firms allows many benefits including national service delivery and enabling the ability to manage projects of any scale and budget. Having dedicated staff on the ground ensures the understanding of local conditions, cultures and issues.

The ability to freely share information with open communication has been the formation of these relationships.

Equally these practices share a passion for quality and understand the needs of all projects to provide the best value for money.

"The variety of experience and demonstrated ability to deliver high quality results on any project is a testament to the depth and maturity of these alliances," MODE DESIGN's Managing Director, Mr O'Brien said.

## IN INTERNATIONAL MODE

MODE DESIGN is pleased to announce its entry into the Asia Pacific region to form a joint venture with DDF Consultants in New Delhi, India. The alliance is to provide high quality design consultancy services to the Indian and larger Pan Asian market building on the international experience. The JV arrangement allows both offices to use their inter-office resources and facilities to provide international skills and expertise to both existing and new clients, irrespective of the location.

DDF Consultants, based in New Delhi, is a reputed Indian Architectural firm with successful projects within India and the Middle East region. "We are a multidisciplinary firm offering excellence in design services throughout Australia and SE Asia. We are very excited about this venture with DDF consultants who are pioneers in the Indian design industry. This partnership allows us to offer International design expertise and services with a local perspective. Our clients in India and the Asia Pacific region will benefit from our combined experience to give an International edge to their projects. Together we're geared to work with key Indian developers and clients to shape the Indian landscape and skyline" says Rhonan O'Brien, Managing Director, MODE DESIGN.

"Our joint venture with MODE DESIGN, will not only enhance our combined strategic flexibility in the New Developing Markets, such as India, but will also provide clients an International exposure for their projects thereby enriching Brand Value of a Project. We envisage it as a new dimension in delivering path breaking, creative and pragmatic Architecture for the clients across the Asian Subcontinent. A broad base platform of Projects, Clients and locations, which DDF has across India and Middle East, combined with the diverse talent and modern technological know-how of MODE DESIGN, will be a win-win situation for everybody" says Saurabh Chandra, Director, DDF Consultants.

MODE DESIGN Architect Varun Kapoor adds, "This JV with DDF Consultants gives us the opportunity to strengthen the bond between India and Australia by offering the best from both lands and cultures".

The Joint Venture leverages MODE DESIGN's expertise, innovation and foresight combined with DDF's proven strength & local know-how, equating to high value delivery for our clients. The partnership represents a significant opportunity in line with our growth aspirations in the Asia-Pacific region.

The firms are pursuing promising leads together within, but not limited to, the key industry sectors such as Urban Design, Hospitality & Tourism, Healthcare, Residential, Retail and Mining. Interest and support for the JV from clients and contacts is encouraging for the success of this exciting and challenging enterprise.

## STOREY PARK CHILDCARE CENTRE STOREY PARK, NSW

Off the back of the highly successful Marie Bashir Mosman Sports Centre completed in December last year, our Sydney team has won the bid for the Storey Park Child Care and Community Centre for Hornsby Council. The new centre will accommodate 72 children between the ages of 0-2 years old and includes an additional flexible community centre to host local meetings and functions. Congratulations team!



The Marie Bashir Mosman Sports Centre completed by MODE DESIGN in December 2010.

## NEW FACES AT MODE

Mode Design had a healthy movement of staff changes that was highlighted by numerous new faces to the firm. An exciting array of talent called MODE home with a rich tapestry of MODEsters coming from various backgrounds and career paths, all coming together to lend their experience.



Steven  
Mastrodomenico

Steven joined MODE DESIGN as an Architect to the Residential team. Steven has been involved abroad with large international mixed use and residential developments.



Clare Alexander

Clare came on board in August with a strong background in Marketing and Graphic Design. With several years experience working within the property industry, Clare will be managing the marketing and business development activities for the practice.



Ariel Trop

Ariel is a new addition to our architecture team and brings his talents to our Sydney Studio. Ariel has experience in design and documentation on a wide range of projects.



Elizabeth  
Bargwanna

Elizabeth recently graduated from graphic design studies and will be responsible for admin and marketing coordination duties at the Sydney office. Elizabeth has spent many years travelling and living in various countries, and hopes her talents will be utilised effectively at MODE DESIGN.



Megan Rodgers

Megan has practised architecture for 15+ years in Australia, UK, Brazil and Spain. With experience across all Architectural and Urban Design sectors, she has been brought on to work on Commercial and Health projects.



Joanne Moses

Joanne recently relocated from VIC to Qld and recently joined the architecture team on the Sunshine Coast. She has been working in the architecture industry for the past 8 years and has had significant experience in Government as well as the Commercial sector.



Daniel Smith

Daniel has joined the Darwin studio from Adelaide after completing his Masters in Landscape Architecture. Daniel studied his 4th year abroad at Korea University in Seoul, Korea where he focused on urban design, product design and traditional landscape painting.



Alexandra Pitney

Alex joined MODE's Sunshine Coast office briefly before moving to Brisbane. Alexandra brings experience in the Healthcare, Commercial and Residential sectors. She is now looking for the opportunity to enhance her skills and increase her responsibilities with the aim to register in Qld.



Martine Menerey

Martine joins us in the position of Practice Coordinator to assist Directors. Martine has 20 years of experience in administration and management in the architectural profession. She is also actively involved with the Assoc. of Consulting Architects Qld.

## MODE- STAR



**NAME:**  
Samantha  
Rodrigues da Silva

**BORN & LIVES:**  
Born and lived in Sao Paulo, now Sydney.

**MOST INTERESTING PLACE I'VE VISITED:**  
Tokyo

**WHICH SECRET SKILL DO YOU HAVE THAT NOBODY KNOWS OF:** I really like handcraft

**FAVOURITE BUILDING OF ALL TIME:**  
Tod's Omotesando Building in Tokyo.

**BEST DESIGN ITEM I'VE SEEN LATELY:**  
Bocci 28 Series chandelier by Gwenael Lewis.



**WORST DESIGN ITEM I'VE SEEN LATELY:** Architects' desk designed by Note Design Studio of Stockholm.

**IF YOU COULD GIVE THE WORLD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE:** Try to always look to the bright side of life, makes living easier and happier.

**IF YOU COULD WITNESS ANY EVENT PAST, PRESENT OR FUTURE, WHAT WOULD IT BE:** I wish I could see how the world is going to be in 100 years.

**WHAT IS THE RISKIEST THING YOU HAVE DONE:** Leaving my family, friends, job and culture behind to live in a foreign country.

**WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK I AM:** Training Capoeira, love it.

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