

## KERSTIN THOMPSON ARCHITECTS DESIGN FOR BUNDANON TRUST MASTERPLAN REVEALED

**Sydney, Australia: Bundanon Trust** today revealed the Masterplan design for Arthur Boyd's iconic Riversdale property in regional New South Wales created by **Kerstin Thompson Architects (KTA)**, following their unanimous appointment in November 2016 from a shortlist of six Australian architecture firms.

The Masterplan design of Riverside situated on the 1100-hectare property gifted to the Australian people by Arthur and Yvonne Boyd in 1993, includes a world-class creative learning centre for school students, a contemporary visitor hub, accommodation and a 380m<sup>2</sup> light-filled contemporary art gallery – partially buried into the landscape – that will house the Trust's \$37.5 million Arthur Boyd art collection.

Prioritising the existing landscape and its ecology, and responding to the current and future climatic conditions of the site, the design draws on the distinctive Australian native bush land and rural Australia's flood 'trestle' bridges as points of inspiration. The new facilities are housed within a new 140-metre-long by 9-metre-wide structure that at one end abuts the art gallery within the sloping hillside, continuing along to bridge an existing gully.

The new KTA designed facilities are intended to reinforce the existing cluster of buildings as the heart of the Riversdale experience. **Architect Kerstin Thompson** explains, *"The design concept both preserves and transforms, is equal parts subtle and dramatic. Renown aspects of the current setting are maintained and their presence enhanced with an array of new and compelling visitor experiences."* It integrates architecture and landscape within the broader continuum of the site's ecology and environmental systems.

The new bridge structure lands near the existing cluster of nineteenth century buildings on a level public plaza offering an arrival hall, café and visitor services. The covered extension to the bridge leads to the subterranean contemporary art gallery opening into the hill behind. Through roof highlights it captures glimpses of the prevailing landscapes contrasts - between the dark forest and clearings - so that visitors can enjoy the artist's imaginary Shoalhaven landscapes alongside the actual one surrounding them.

Central to the Masterplan design, the new subterranean contemporary art gallery will house over 3,800 items featuring more than 1300 artworks by Arthur Boyd plus works by leading Australian artists including Boyd peers Sidney Nolan, Charles Blackman, Brett Whiteley and John Perceval, as well as contemporary works drawn from participants in the Trust's artist in residence program.

The design incorporates a new creative art facility housing 32 new bedrooms and accompanying bathrooms, teaching spaces, dining and visitor facilities on top of rolling hills and a deep gully. It also envisages the amplification of the existing cluster of buildings, including the original houses, art studio and the contemporary Boyd Education Centre designed by acclaimed Australian architects Glenn Murcutt, Wendy Lewin and Reg Lark, which remain at the heart of the experience of the site. The existing and new buildings are united by a common forecourt that is the culmination of the stepped arrival terraces, which also make fully accessible the site's considerable level changes.

**Bundanon Trust CEO Deborah Ely** commented, *"Kerstin Thompson and Megan Wraight have developed a design with a rare marriage of landscape and architecture that responds to and amplifies the qualities of the site. The design promises a transformed visitor experience and a building that is both iconic and responsive to site conditions."*

*Underpinning the design is an ecological approach which is aiming for the highest level of sustainability certification, with solar energy, waste management systems and all supporting infrastructure representing an opportunity to show world leadership in its benchmarked environmental credentials."*

**Polly Boyd, daughter of Arthur and Yvonne Boyd** added, *“Mum and Dad would love the plans for Riversdale and the way it relates the landscape and considers the climate. They would be delighted with all the activity and the way Bundanon is being cared for and shared.”*

The estimated cost for the Riverside project is \$28.5 million with funding currently being sought from the Commonwealth and State Governments. The development is anticipated to lead to substantial regional economic benefits including \$51 million of spending and 142 jobs during the construction phase, with an additional \$10.4 million and 59 jobs to flow into the economy once the site is complete. The Masterplan will increase visitation by more than 100% and secure Bundanon as a leading cultural and tourist attraction in regional Australia, whilst delivering substantial economic benefits to the Shoalhaven region in New South Wales.

KTA was unanimously appointed in November 2016 to design the Masterplan from a shortlist of six architecture firms by a jury chaired by John Denton, Director of Denton Corker Marshall, and including Bundanon Trust Chair Shane Simpson AM, landscape architect and newly appointed Dean of Design, Architecture and Building at UTS, Professor Elizabeth Mossop and Brian Zulaikha, Director of Tonkin Zulaikha Greer.

The full design team includes **Kerstin Thompson Architects, Wraight + Associates with Craig Burton** (landscape architecture and ecology), **Atelier10** (environmentally sustainable design) and **Irwin Consulting** (structural and civil engineering). The group worked closely with Bundanon Trust staff, and other stakeholders during the design concept phase.

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**Notes to editors:**

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**ABOUT BUNDANON TRUST:** Gifted to the Australian people in 1993 by Arthur and Yvonne Boyd, the Bundanon property (which includes the Bundanon Homestead site and the Riversdale site) is located on 1,100 hectares of pristine bush land overlooking the Shoalhaven River, near Nowra in New South Wales, two and a half hours south of Sydney. The Australian Government established Bundanon Trust as a wholly owned Australian Government company limited by guarantee, with the Company holding the gift as a charitable trust. In addition to caring for a collection of nearly 4,000 artworks and objects, the Trust supports the development of arts practice across all disciplines through its artist in residence program, its unique education programs for children and adults and a dynamic, on-site, public program, including concerts and special events, open days and group visits, allowing thousands of people to experience Bundanon every year. <https://bundanon.com.au>

**ABOUT THE ARCHITECT:** Kerstin Thompson Architects (KTA): Established in 1994, the work of the practice encompasses architecture, interiors, landscape and urban design. Extremely varied in scale and program and with expertise on sites with environmental and heritage significance, our projects include art & design schools for universities, multi-residential developments, museums, police stations, primary schools and commercial fit-outs. Awarded projects include Marysville Police Station, Monash University Museum of Art and House at Hanging Rock which won the AIA’s Robin Boyd Award in 2014. Current projects include Broadmeadows Town Hall, VCA School of Art for the University of Melbourne, the Jewish Holocaust Centre, Hotel Windsor Spa, Sacred Heart at Abbotsford Convent, the Lyceum Club and various multi-residential developments. The practice focus is on architecture as a civic endeavor with an emphasis on the users’ experience and enjoyment of place. <http://www.kerstinthompson.com/>