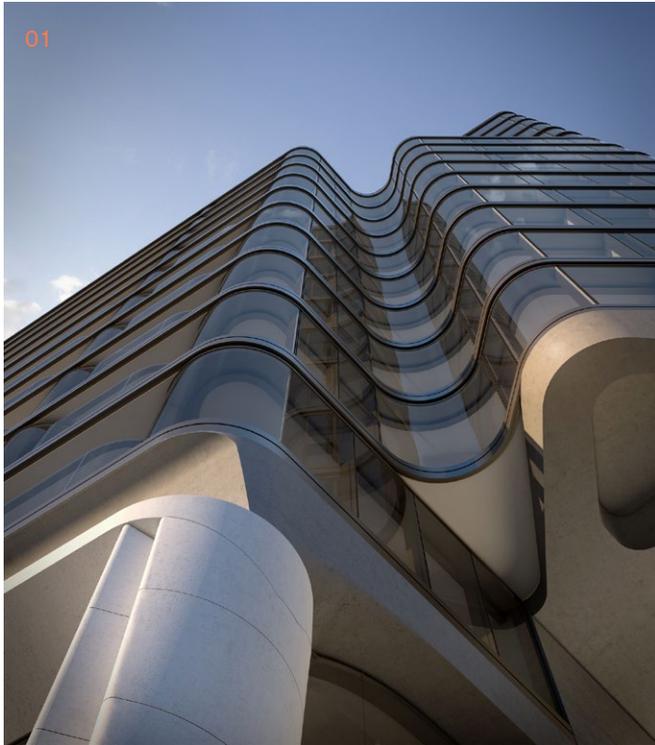


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CONNECTING THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE & THE CITY: LIQUID GLASS MEETS SCULPTURAL CONCRETE IN NEW TZANNES APARTMENT BUILDING ON CIRCULAR QUAY



Sydney Australia: Close to the Sydney Opera House, Botanic Gardens and East Circular Quay, Tzannes' newest residential building at 71 Macquarie Street responds to its spectacular location with an iconic architectural form, creating an exceptional level of quality and amenity for future residents, visitors and the general public.

Like living in Manhattan's 5th Avenue alongside Central Park, or London's Belgravia, Opera Residences express the quintessential Sydney experience of living in the world's most beautiful harbour city.

Tzannes was selected to design the new building following a City of Sydney Design Excellence competition in 2012. Design Directors for the project are Alec Tzannes and Ben Green.

Comprising 20 storeys, it will provide 104 apartments over 16 levels and 1,026 sq m of commercial space. Central to Tzannes' design is the termination of the East Circular Quay colonnade, which connects the Opera House to the city at Macquarie Street and between the Quay and the Botanical Gardens with a grand public stair.

The building is being delivered by Tzannes in collaboration with Crone as Executive Architect and MAKE as Interior Architect, for developers Macrolink and Landream.

'This building responds in a very direct way to its site, one of the most important and most visited in the City of Sydney,' said Alec Tzannes. 'Our objective was to create both a memorable work of architecture and a wonderful place in which to live.'

The new building rises from a monumental colonnade formed from double height sculpted stone and shaped concrete elements to upper levels of striking curved glass and metal forms.



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The architecture integrates the diverse elements surrounding it, contributing new sympathetic and distinctive urban forms on Macquarie Street, the Cahill expressway and East Circular Quay. The new building completes the eastern part of Circular Quay, bookending the processional colonnade between Alfred Street and the Opera House.

Opera Residences will become the tallest element north of the Cahill Expressway. Conceived by Tzannes as both an 'ordinary part of the city fabric' and a spectacular sculptural form to enhance this precinct's reputation as one of the world's great residential addresses and places to visit.

71 Macquarie Street comprises three parts: a grand public colonnade at its base, completing the East Circular Quay colonnade and responding to the scale of the public environment, a middle section of apartments that forms an elegant extension to the wall of East Circular Quay and Macquarie Street, and a lantern-like element of larger apartments above, taking advantage of their unrivalled position on the harbour.

Rather than creating a building of sharp edged facets as defined by the development controls, 71 Macquarie Street was conceived as a fluid form in stone, concrete and glass. The architecture will generate varying sensory experiences and emotional responses when perceived from the different urban contexts it connects.

'In architectural terms, we have taken the language of the existing colonnade of East Circular Quay and transformed it to a fluid form that relates to the architecture of liquid glass above.' said Ben Green.

Driving down Macquarie Street, the building conveys a refined and understated character reflecting its use as a dignified residential address. From the eastern, and more public side, it has a more playful and extroverted character resulting from the design of the colonnade and the building's more dynamic form. These diverse characters are integrated by soft, curved folds in the glass façades. When seen from the freeway, these elements accentuate the viewers perception of speed, as well as the scale and the varied surface qualities of glass façade.



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO ACCESS IMAGES

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The distinctive glass forms of this building are derived from their purpose, rather than simply acting as a decorative surface treatment. Glass, in a variety of forms and opacities, is used as a division between apartments, to achieve acoustic and thermal performance requirements, and in direct response to the building's location, surrounded by spectacular views of the harbour and city.

The sculpted structural soffit of the colonnade and public stair was inspired in part by Jorn Utzon's work on the Sydney Opera House. Tzannes has used structure as an expressive element reflecting the forces that shape the building. The implementation of today's technology to allow for an accurate yet varied expression of these forces is inspired by Utzon's precedent.

'One of the distinctive things about Sydney buildings, particularly those in the city, is the concept of the soffit as a sculptural element as found in the Opera House and the work of other major architects like Harry Seidler and Christophe Ingehoven. It's a defining characteristic of Sydney architecture.' said Alec Tzannes.

'Here, we have used the power of contemporary technology, particularly computer modelling, which was of course unavailable in Utzon's time, to express the logic of the structural design... It is exemplified by the design of the colonnade columns where they transform from the shape of a soft parallelogram to a more liquid form. This gives you the first clue to the transfer beams that are required to carry the building loads above.' said Ben Green.



Images 2, 4 and 6 produced by TZANNES. Images 1, 3 and 5 courtesy of FKD.

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