



21 May 2008

Utzon Commends Local Architect

Eminent Australian architect Richard Johnson will receive the inaugural **'Award of Excellence in the Built Environment'** at the National Trust's Heritage@ Risk Fundraising Dinner on Wednesday 21st May at Government House, Sydney, in the presence of the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir.

The award recognizes Johnson's contribution to Australian architectural heritage and his excellence in combining historic value with contemporary relevance.

The achievement has been commended by Jørn Utzon, the original architect of the World Heritage Listed Sydney Opera House, and his architect son Jan, with whom Johnson is collaborating to refurbish the Sydney Opera House.

In a letter of congratulations, the Utzons said : "Your love for the building (Opera House), your care for the concept, the details and the quality of the craftsmanship, and your concern for the integrity of the building and its surroundings in the fabric of the city of Sydney, show the extraordinary person you are."

Richard Johnson is a Director of Johnson Pilton Walker Pty Ltd. In addition to the Opera House refurbishment, his architectural achievements include the sophisticated \$200 million redesign of the Sydney Hilton Hotel, the highly acclaimed Westpac Place and the new National Portrait Galley in Canberra.

Earlier this year Richard Johnson was awarded the prestigious Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Gold Medal, the highest achievement in Australian architecture.

The Governor will present the inaugural award to Richard Johnson at the 'Heritage@ Risk Dinner' on Wednesday evening.

For more information please contact
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