

success rate, all attract local, out-of-town and international visitors. It is this mix of visitors that is also a major attraction for visitors. Darling Harbour, somewhat shaky financially but surviving, may well be the best of them. It certainly had the opportunity to learn from a number of antecedents.

Major references

- Breen, Ann and Dick Rigby (1996). *The New Waterfront: A Worldwide Success Story*. London: Thames and Hudson.
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CASE STUDY

Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia: a fragmented development (1984 to the present)

Darling Harbour is an example of urban design by default as much as careful design. The harbour was once Australia's busiest seaport, but although updated in the 1960s, by the 1970s, it was a series of empty Victorian warehouses and rarely used railway tracks. Only an occasional ship used its wharfs. By the end of the decade it was derelict. Its location adjacent to the city centre, however, presented a major opportunity for redevelopment.

In May 1984, the New South Wales State Government announced its intention to redevelop the harbour. Much earlier – during the 1970s – the state government had initiated studies of investments in the area. The Rouse Corporation in the United States (the developers of Baltimore Inner Harbor) was invited to submit a master plan for the area and the government built the Sydney Entertainment Centre and later the Power House Museum in it. These two developments were catalysts for the further

exploration of uses for Darling Harbour. Another impetus came from the development suggestions of Lawrence Halprin, the influential American landscape architect. Baltimore Inner Harbor was clearly the model in mind throughout the development of Darling Harbour but considerably more has been achieved.

Late in 1984, the Darling Harbour Act was legislated by the state parliament under the forceful leadership of politicians Neville Wran and Laurie Brereton. The goal was to create a major development by 1988, the bicentennial of European settlement of Australia (or invasion, as perceived by indigenous populations). The act established the Darling Harbour Authority with the Project Design Directorate (later assigned to the MSJ Group) and the Managing Contractors (later Leighton Contractors) under its wing. The Authority was given the task of taking the development forward. Darling Harbour was thus planned in the speculative era of