

Design Our Ryde Winner Beijing Institute of Architectural Design (China)

Published on 08 August 2016

The *Design Our Ryde* international architectural competition for the Ryde Civic Hub Precinct, has been won by the Beijing Institute of Architectural Design, China, with a striking, multi-functional destination design concept.

The winner was announced by the Jury chair, Peter Poulet, after an eight month search which saw 175 architectural firms from 47 countries, including 42 from Australia, submit their design for a civic structure that encapsulated the urban identity of Ryde's iconic gateway site.

Peter Poulet said: "Great architecture can rejuvenate a city and the jury members have been impressed by the diversity and range of design responses."

Jury's comments Winning Design Entry 572 Beijing Institute of Architectural Design (China)

The design is a realistic and well considered concept that demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the urban context. It represents an opportunity for positive change and enhances and nourishes the notion of the garden suburb and has a character that is uniquely Ryde.

It provides excellent connectivity and high quality sustainability features such as positive building orientation, maximising natural ventilation, use of rainwater collection, green roofs and green walls and the proposition of low-e glass.

Its singular form is a unique plan to create a new place for Ryde in a way that is different from other areas in Sydney. It is a place for people and will make a significant contribution to the liveability of the surrounding neighbourhood.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said: "The civic hub precinct has been a compelling part of Ryde's history and skyline since early settlement. The winning entry from Beijing Institute of Architectural Design has responded with a design that will ensure that this site will remain iconic in our City."

The Beijing Institute of Architectural Design entry, which has won the *Design Our Ryde* \$150,000 first prize, was selected from four shortlisted contenders:

Entry 16

Team2 & Arcadia Landscape Architecture (Australia – St Leonards NSW/Hawthorn East VIC) People's Choice Winner

[Download a copy of Images and Design Statement for Entry 16](#)

Entry 299

Architensions (USA – New York)

[Download a copy of Images and Design Statement for Entry 299](#)

Entry 392

MORQ (Australia/Italy – Perth WA and Rome)

[Download a copy of Images and Design Statement for Entry 392](#)

Entry 572

Beijing Institute of Architectural Design (China)

[Download a copy of Images and Design Statement for Entry 572](#)

Jury Members: Chair, Peter Poulet, NSW Government Architect; Shaun Carter, President NSW Chapter, Australian Institute of Architects; Maria Atkinson AM, Greater Sydney District Commissioner and Sustainability Strategist.

Design Our Ryde was conducted in accordance with the Australian Institute of Architects *Guidelines for Architectural Competition* and the NSW Government *Design Excellence Guidelines*.

For more information go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/designourryde

To view fly through of Winning Entry 572: <http://bit.ly/DOR572>

Mayor 'Dismayed' At Baird Government's Decision To Turn Back On Open Space

Published on 04 August 2016

A decision by Council to expand open space at Blenheim Park through the acquisition of three residential properties, has been thwarted by the Baird Government says Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale.

“Mike Baird had the option of going with the Council model for Blenheim Park that would have seen 2,000 square metres added to the parkland for use by the community, but instead he chose to side with the developer who proposes a 16-storey residential tower comprising of 120 dwellings.

“It is disappointing that the Baird Government has ignored the wishes of the Ryde community, who came out in force to protect the parkland and open space.

Late on Tuesday 2 August 2016, Council received advice from NSW Planning & Environment that it would refer the developer’s planning proposal to the Sydney East Joint Regional Planning Panel for review.

“Our entire organisation is dismayed and our community livid. North Ryde has been subject to hyperdensification so the need for accessible open space for families is critical.

“Council identified a once in a generation opportunity to create extra open space and Mike Baird has thwarted our decision. I call on the Minister and Premier to explain why their Government chose to side with a developer over the desires and needs of the community.”

Blenheim Park in North Ryde is a multi-functional family park with a wide range of facilities, innovative play equipment and leisure spaces. It has both walking and cycling paths, barbeque and picnic areas, accessible toilets and a fenced dog off leash area.

Study Seeks To Improve Ryde's Night Life

Published on 03 August 2016

Do you love the night life? The City of Ryde wants community feedback on how to make local town centres more vibrant and accessible at night through the recently launched “*Ryde After 5*” study.

With an increasing population, both residential and corporate, the study is designed to assist Council to understand the existing night time experience in Ryde, how to improve visitation, identify gaps, and deliver greater vibrancy and activation in our town centres. The outcomes will support business and address the needs and expectations of workers and the broader community.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale said: “We want to understand what critical factors make a place appealing to visit at night and what we can do around Ryde to foster this.”

An improved night time economy has strong benefits to the community.

“Improving the experience of visitors after hours is not only a positive experience for residents and workers in the area, it’s also a proven way to support local business. After all, who doesn’t want a great local place to visit after a hard day’s work or a place to visit on a Saturday night?”

Already over 475 members of the community have provided comment through drop in sessions at West Ryde and Eastwood and on line.

To learn more and get involved in the study, visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/rydeafter5

Closing date for comment is 22 August 2016.

By getting involved, there’s also a chance to win one of five \$100 Event Cinema Gold Movie Passes. Simply share a photo of your favourite places to go and things to do in Ryde at night using the hashtag #RydeAfter5 on Instagram.

Proposed Second Life For Ryde Civic Centre

Published on 03 August 2016

City of Ryde Council has responded positively to a request from NSW Police Force, the Army and Emergency Services to allow the use of the soon to be vacated Ryde Civic Centre as a temporary training venue and to conduct a variety of exercises at the site.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said that while it was an unexpected request, it could be a suitable short-term reuse of the site. “The building has served the Ryde community for more than fifty years and now that is all but empty, the building can continue to have a life and purpose to benefit the wider community.

“With our population increasingly living in high rise buildings, it is important that emergency services are trained in similar environments. Given the Civic Centre will remain empty for a period of time, it make sense to allow the Police Force, Army and emergency services to make use of the site.”

In late 2015, Council voted to vacate the Civic Centre building following the serving of two Improvement Notices by SafeWork NSW.

The Mayor added: “Any reuse would of course be subject to the approval from the relevant authorities and the removal of all items of value and historical significance.”

The public car park and community use of the Civic Hall adjacent to the Civic Centre would not be affected.

In May 2016 staff were relocated to new offices in North Ryde and to the recently opened new Customer Service Centre at Top Ryde City shopping centre, (below Ryde Library at 1 Pope Street). A small number of Council and committee meetings are scheduled to take place in the building before the complete cessation of use of the building and removal of all items of value.

Uncertainty still surrounds the outcome of the proposed forced amalgamation of Ryde Council with neighbours Lane Cove and Hunters Hill. In the meantime, new Council and community meeting rooms are scheduled to be completed by September at the 1 Pope Street site.

In January 2016, Council launched an international design competition inviting submissions to reimagine the Civic Centre site from architects worldwide. *Design our Ryde* attracted 175 entries from 47 countries, including 42 from Australia. An expert jury is in the process of considering four shortlisted entries, including a People’s Choice. The winner of *Design our Ryde* will be announced on Monday 8 August 2016.

Design Our Ryde International Competition Winner Announcement

Published on 03 August 2016

The winning entry in *Design our Ryde* international design competition for the future vision of the Ryde Civic Hub site will be announced on Monday 8 August at the Ryde Civic Centre.

The eight month search attracted concepts from of 175 architects from 47 countries, including 42 from Australia. An expert jury and members of the community selected the final four architectural concepts.

The four shortlisted contenders are:

- Entry 16 **Team2 & Arcadia Landscape Architecture** (Australia – St Leonards NSW/Hawthorn East VIC) ***People's Choice Winner***
- Entry 299 **Architensions** (USA – New York)
- Entry 392 **MORQ** (Australia/Italy – Perth WA and Rome)
- Entry 572 **Beijing Institute of Architectural Design** (China)

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale said: “*Design our Ryde* has given the Council and the community a unique opportunity to review Ryde’s civic, commercial and cultural heart, with design concepts from across the globe.

Design our Ryde jury chairman, Peter Poulet, said the jury members had been impressed by the diversity and range of design responses.

Jury Members: Chair, Peter Poulet, NSW Government Architect; Shaun Carter, President NSW Chapter, Australian Institute of Architects; Maria Atkinson AM, Greater Sydney District Commissioner and Sustainability Strategist.

To view the four shortlisted contenders go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/designourryde

Mayor TV Episode 13

Published on 01 August 2016



The Mayor of Ryde, Cllr Jerome Laxale showcases West Ryde town centre and enjoys a snack pack from a local shop owner.