

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Tasmanian architects to design \$65m CBD student accommodation project

In a further endorsement of Tasmanian creative talent, the University of Tasmania has appointed a Hobart architectural firm as the Principal Consultant for an exciting new student accommodation project in the city's CBD.

Terroir Architects has been chosen to design the \$65 million Melville Street project after expressions of interest were received from 24 local and national firms. Terroir will be supported by the Melbourne-based company Fender Katsalides Architects, whose credits include the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA).

"This is the second announcement in a week by the University of Tasmania of a Principal Consultant for a major infrastructure project in Hobart, and the second to feature a Tasmanian company," the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, said today

Last week UTAS announced that Liminal Architecture had won the tender to design one of the state's most ambitious arts projects – the \$75 million Academy of Creative Industries and Performing Arts (ACIPA), to be built on what is currently a car park next door to the Theatre Royal.

"Terroir's appointment to the student accommodation project is yet another boost for the Tasmanian jobs market and its creative industries. They will oversee the work of numerous local engineers and other design consultants," Prof Rathjen said.

The University of Tasmania will build 430 self-contained apartments in the Hobart CBD under the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS), funded through the Australian Government and with support from the Tasmanian Government.

The project will see the redevelopment of the Melville Street car park into a vibrant and cosmopolitan precinct. In addition to the student accommodation a retail hub is proposed for the site's Elizabeth Street frontage.

Spaces such as a student administrative centre (which can also serve as a UTAS CBD shopfront), study, seminar and tutorial space, a gymnasium, and catering options are being considered for the Elizabeth Street frontage.

The student accommodation component will be completed by the start of the first semester in 2016.

“In addition to helping relieve pressure on the supply of affordable housing the project will attract more than 400 new residents to enjoy life right in the heart of the Hobart CBD,” Prof Rathjen said.

It is one of four NRAS-funded student accommodation projects, with an investment of around \$120 million state-wide, which will bring significant economic benefits to Tasmania both during and after construction, as well as providing the University with an opportunity to attract new students from across the state, the mainland and from overseas.

Terroir Architects has designed major projects in Tasmania, on the mainland and in northern Europe. In March a large subsidised housing project aimed at young people, developed by Terroir in partnership with a local firm, opened in the harbour area of Aarhus, Sweden.

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