

Australian Institute of Architects 2008 NSW Architecture Awards

SMALL PROJECT ARCHITECTURE

Architecture Award

Headland Park Amenities, Mosman: Rick Leplastrier and the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

Situated among the recycled army huts (now artists' studios) along the Middle Head spur line is this small rest area. It houses toilets and bathing facilities gathered about a garden with a rapidly growing paper bark (*Melaleuca leucadendra*) as its heart. When the paper bark is fully grown it will crown the whole place. The plan is a perfect nine metre square with the four corners occupied by the facilities, and the remnant cruciform area being garden and public space. The building provides openness, privacy, light and fresh air. The hardwood structure is prefabricated in the joinery shop, assembled on site and can be dismantled and recycled. The framework is raised 100mm above the concrete floor on stainless steel pins allowing for easy hose cleaning that drains straight into the surrounding gardens. Besides fulfilling a utilitarian role within the Headland Park, the amenities provide a delightful experience where people can sit and relax within the internal courtyard and seating alcoves while waiting for others. Its pavilion design, courtyard and seating alcoves within, create a place of social interaction. It is rare that a suburban toilet obtains such a sober civic quality.