



SSDA10 Darling Square, the North Plot and Square Darling Harbour

Heritage Interpretation Plan

Prepared for
Darling Harbour Live

June 2015 • Issue B
Project number 12 0481

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Document / Status Register

Issue	Date	Purpose	Written	Approved
P1	19 May 2015	Initial draft for client review	RL/CMJ	
P2	1 June 2015	Final Draft for client review	RL/CMJ	
A	10 June 2015	Final issue	RL/CMJ	
B	12 June 2015	Revised Final issue	RL/CMJ	

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and purpose of the report

This Heritage Interpretation Plan for Darling Square has been prepared by Tanner Kibble Denton Architects. This Plan is associated with the Darling Square Project in SICEEP, and has been written to satisfy the interpretation planning requirements for the proposed redevelopment of the Sydney International Convention Centre, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct (SICEEP) site.

The first stage, the Heritage Interpretation Strategy, was prepared by Tanner Kibble Denton Architects and completed in June 2013. This Heritage Interpretation Plan is based on the recommendations of the Heritage Interpretation Strategy. The third stage will be undertaken at a future date to provide the details of the implementation of the Interpretation Plan.

This Heritage Interpretation Plan is specifically related to the public realm of the Darling Square portion of the site and has been developed concurrently with the design development and documentation of the public realm in this precinct. It should be read in conjunction with the Heritage Interpretation Strategy, which includes a historical overview of the European occupation of the Darling Harbour site.

The Interpretation Plan for the SICEEP portion of the site was completed in October 2014.

1.2 Scope of the report

Interpretation is an important aspect of the heritage conservation process, fostering community recognition and understanding of the significance of heritage places. There are many ways in which a place may be interpreted, allowing a breadth of opportunity for innovative visitor engagement. The following definition of interpretation has been adopted within this report:

Interpretation is based on sound educational principles and aims to involve people in activities that are both educational and entertaining. It is directed at specific audiences and uses techniques selected to meet the needs of the site, the visitor and the messages to be conveyed.

This Heritage Interpretation Plan has been prepared to describe the interpretive methods and devices that it is intended to install at the Public Realm within Darling Square and the location of the various items. It has been also been prepared to fulfil one of the requirements of the Environmental Impact Statement issued by the Director-General on 21 January 2013, for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment under Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*. The report specifically responds to Key Assessment Requirement 10. Heritage:

- *Address opportunities for heritage interpretation within the public domain.*

1.3 Author identification

This document was prepared by Dr Roy Lumby, Senior Heritage Specialist and Megan Jones, Principal of Tanner Kibble Denton Architects.

1.4 Site description

The SICEEP Redevelopment Site is located within the Darling Harbour precinct. Darling Harbour is a 60 hectare waterfront precinct on the south-western edge of the Sydney Central Business District that provides a mix of functions including recreational, tourist, entertainment and business.

The SICEEP Redevelopment Site has been divided into two distinct redevelopment areas (from north to south) – SICEEP and Darling Square (refer to Figure 1). This Interpretation Plan is related to the Darling Square portion of the site.

Figure 2 shows the current Darling Square Illustrative Master Plan and Figure 3 shows the DA Proposal for the Public Domain Landscape.

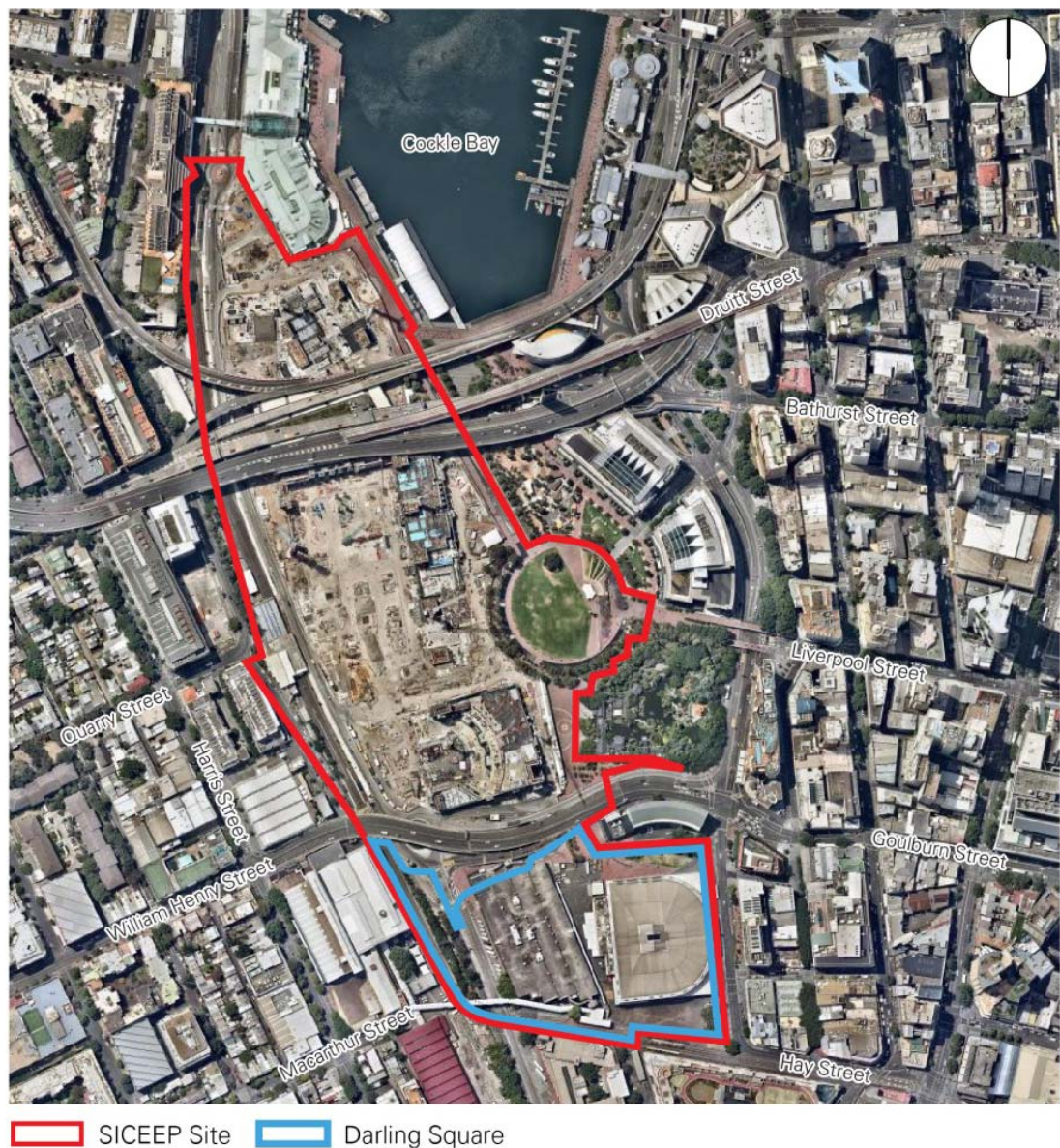


Figure 1 Aerial Photograph of the SICEEP Site.
Source: Darling Live



Figure 2 Darling Square Precinct Site Plan
Source: ASPECT Studios, June 2015.

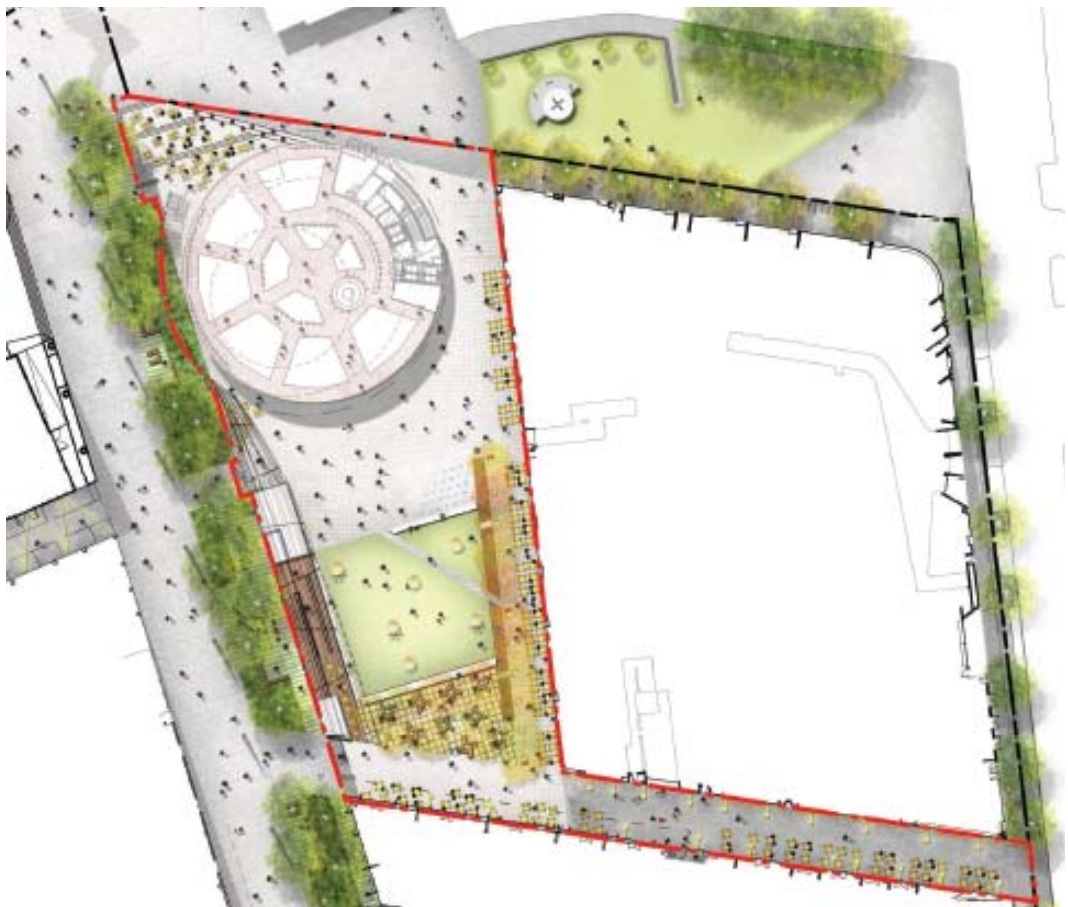


Figure 3 North Plot & Darling Square Public Domain Landscape Plan (SSDA10)
Source: ASPECT Studios, June 2015.



2 INTERPRETATION THEMES

Darling Square presents the opportunity to interpret a historically and physically distinctive part of Darling Harbour and to unify the entire development of Darling Harbour consisting of Darling Square and the SICEEP site by integrating the interpretation in both precincts.

2.1 Interpretation themes

The 2008 publication prepared by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, *Telling the Stories of Darling Harbour*, applies to all of Darling Harbour and is an interpretation strategy based on 10 themes derived from the book *A History of Sydney's Darling Harbour* (Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, 2008). The following themes are considered to be appropriate to the subject site:

- Gathering cockles – the first people, and European settlement;
- Steaming ahead – the industrial revolution comes to Sydney;
- Innovations and industry – innovations in refrigeration, galvanising and food processing;
- Power to the people – how Darling Harbour powered Sydney, lit with gas, provided the power to drive its trams and hydraulic lifts;
- Skill, sweat and toil – jobs and working conditions during the industrial years.

In addition to the themes and sub-themes outlined in *Telling the Story of Darling Harbour*, the site and its environs provide further thematic opportunities:

- The natural history of Darling Harbour – its ecology, topography, foreshores, flora and fauna prior to European settlement.
- The marketplace – the role that Darling harbour played in manufacturing and sale of consumer goods.
- Migration – the role of Darling Harbour in the integration of migrants into Sydney's cultural life.

2.2 Utilisation of interpretation themes

This section of the report nominates the interpretation themes and the proposed interpretive devices and the locations of interpretation across the site. The interpretive devices are intended to celebrate and communicate the rich history of the subject site and place the site into its broader context within Darling Harbour, so that it can be understood holistically rather than as an isolated precinct.

Themes: Gathering cockles; the natural history of Darling Harbour

Interpretation is designed to celebrate the natural realm of Darling Harbour prior to the arrival of European settlers and the presence of the Wangal and Cadigal clans of the Eora people – Darling Harbour was a boundary between the two clans. The Cadigal referred to the southern portion of Darling Harbour as Tumbalong – a place where seafood is found. Thematic interpretation is based on four zones in and around Darling Harbour:

- The Harbour – the deep water forming the body of Darling Harbour;

- Inter-tidal mudflats - those parts of Darling Harbour situated between the low and high water levels;
- Swamp Forest - communities of *Casuarina glauca* and *Eucalyptus robusta* that would have existed in the swampy foreshore at the head of Cockle Bay (Darling Harbour); and
- Dry Sclerophyll Forest – the woodland on the sandstone areas that formed the backdrop to Darling Harbour.



Figure 4 Images of flora and fauna that were indigenous to Darling Harbour can be interpreted through engraved images on paving.
Source: Hassell.



Figure 5 Cockle Bay was a source of food and life for Aboriginal people prior to the coming of Europeans. They interpreted their relationship with the natural world through artworks, such as this carving on rock.
Source: ASPECT Studios, June 2015: Australian Museum.

The Boulevard and The Square will be the focus for the interpretation of these themes, utilising the paving and planting. There is an opportunity to connect interpretive elements and artwork within the SICEEP zone, to expand on the idea of noises in the Boulevard. Understorey planting associated with the Boulevard can refer to the natural history of Darling Harbour. Etching of botanical and indigenous names in paving will be considered in the Square. The interpretation will assist with providing continuity between Darling Square and the SICEEP site.



Figure 6 Proposed landscaping along the Boulevard.
Source: ASPECT Studios, June 2015



Figure 7 Hard paving, permeable paving and the selection of plants in landscaping can all combine to interpret the theme the natural history of Darling Harbour. These examples in New York (left) and Barcelona demonstrate ways that this can be achieved.
Source: ASPECT Studios, June 2015

Themes: Steaming ahead, Innovations and industry, Power to the people

These themes are inter-related, as much of the industrial development in Darling Harbour was intimately linked to water-borne transport and the utilisation of water for industry. Water was also utilised at high pressure to generate hydraulic power via the Hydraulic Pumping Station. In this portion of Darling Harbour the industrial use of water will be interpreted.

Darling Harbour has a rich history of trade and industrial production including (but not limited to):

- Dickson's steam mill and the millpond dam;
- A W Cormack's cooperage, which operated for more than 30 years from the early 1880s and in the 1870s was steam-powered;
- Zollner's Galvanising Works on Harbour Street; and
- Biddell Brothers' Confectionery, which was manufacturing sweets and lollies from the 1870s until the mid 1930s.

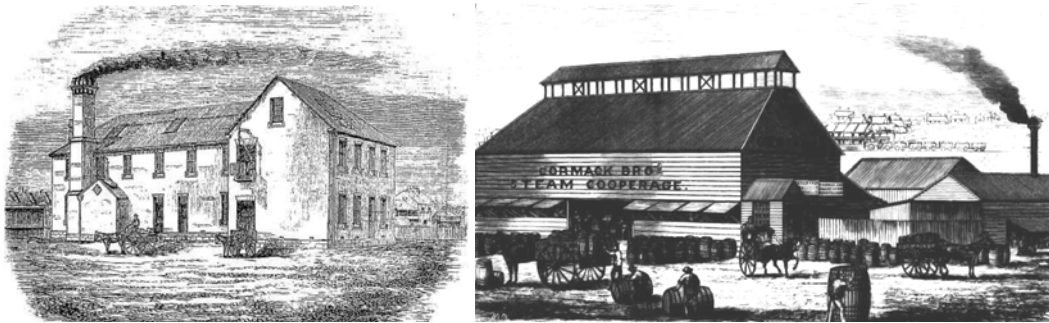


Figure 8 Biddell Bros' Confectionery Works (left) and Cormack Bros' Steam Cooperage (right).
Sources: *Australian Town & Country Journal*, 14 September 1872 and 26 September 1874.

Water was a significant component of the Darling Square site from the beginning. Indeed, much of it is on land reclaimed from the head of Darling Harbour. The Square will be the focus for the interpretation of water – indicating the source of the stream that flows through the SICEEP site and through water play and devices such as misting to interpret the industrial use of water (steam). The Market Square water feature will symbolise the harnessing of a plentiful natural element for industry, which in turn precipitated growth and development in the area. The location of Dickson's Dam wall will be recorded within paving along Little Hay Street.



Figure 9 Outline of North Plot and The Square imposed over a portion of an 1880 map of Sydney. The location of Dickson's dam is indicated.
Source: Casey & Lowe, Archaeological Impact Statement North Plot & The Square, Darling Square, Sydney, SSDA10, May 2015.

Hydraulic Pumping Station No.1 serves as a physical reminder of the role of Darling Harbour as natural home of public utilities which developed to meet the needs of Sydney's residents and industries.

Proposed street names: Dickson Lane, Little Hay Street and Little Pier Street interpret the role of the industrialists and industry in this part of Darling Harbour.

The results of the archaeological investigations in the precinct including Dickson's mill and dam and the cooperage will be interpreted within the North Plot. It is proposed to locate interpretive devices for themes at the northern end of the North Plot.



Figure 10 Pavement inlay in Pitt Street Mall with interpretive graphic (left) and linear insert with interpretive text (right).

Sources: ASPECT Studios, June 2015; Lend Lease.

The historic uses of the site have led to innovations in refrigeration, food processing and galvanising. The architectural design of the North Plot has an innovative architectural form and recalls the use of wood in barrels for the transportation of goods and the presence of A W Cormack's cooperage.



Figure 11 Innovative architectural form of the North Plot

Source: Kengo Kuma & Associates, Architects

Darling Harbour provided power to the people of Sydney – gas for lighting and households, hydraulic power to drive lifts and trams. This theme provides the opportunity for interpretation through the integration of lighting and public art. This interpretive device would be located in Dickson's Lane.

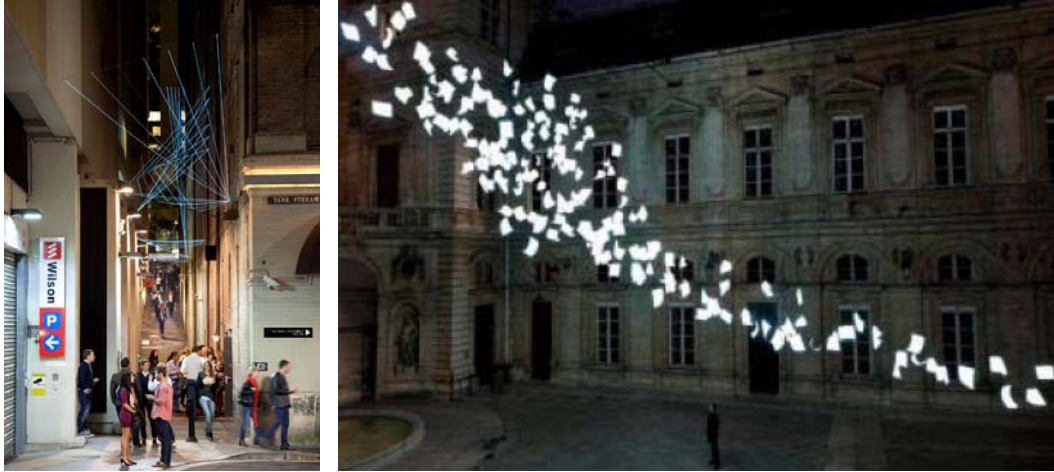


Figure 12 Precedents for lighting/public art in Dickson's Lane – Abercrombie Lane (left) and Paul Cockledge's Bourrasque Light installation (right).
Sources: Lend Lease; Darling Harbour Live/Darling Square Public Art Strategy, June 2015.

Theme: Skill, sweat and toil

The Darling Square site historically contained a mix of manufacturing and industrial sites, such as those referred to in the previous section, and a number of hotels and terraces of workers' housing.

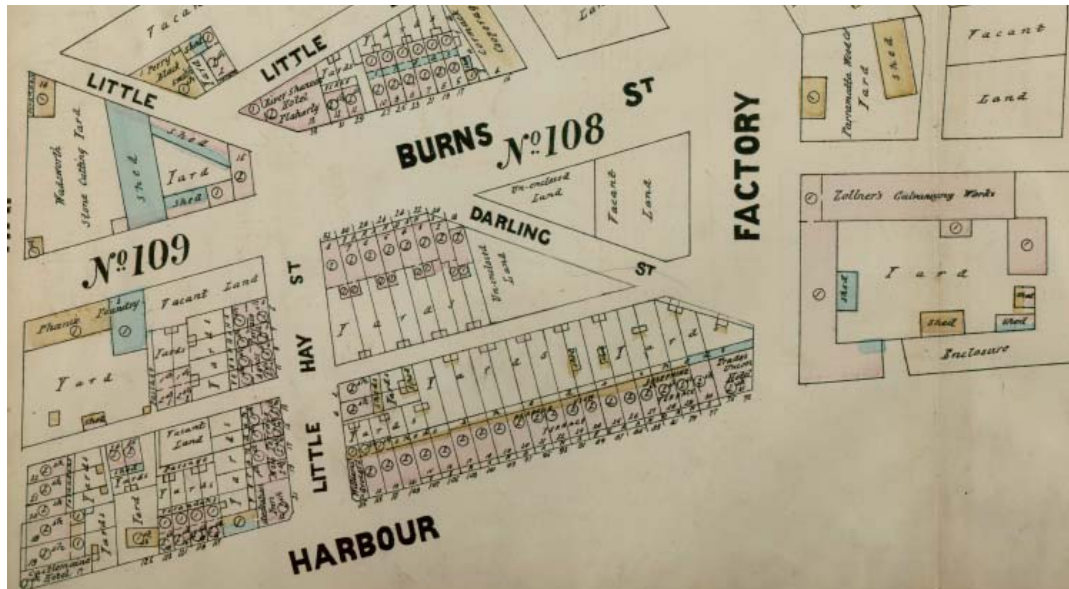


Figure 13 Site Plan of the area (dated 1880) showing the mix of hotels and terraces of workers' housing, manufacturing and industrial sites
Source: Historical Atlas of Sydney, Doves Plans of Sydney, Block 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109.

Darling Square will become a vibrant and authentic new neighbourhood at the southern end of the, including apartments, student accommodation, shops, cafes and restaurants – echoing these early uses at a much larger scale.

The existing memorial to workers killed at work (*Memory Lines*) located in Reflection Park on the northern boundary of Darling Square will remain.

Theme: The marketplace

The items that were manufactured here were not intended for local consumption but were part of the wider marketplace of metropolitan Sydney and New South Wales. As well, from the second half of the 1930s the land bounded by Lackey, Hay, Harbour and Little Pier Streets was the site of Producer's Market No. 6 building, constructed by the City of Sydney and demolished to make way for the Entertainment Centre.

The proposed North Plot includes a market on its ground floor. The activity generated by this function is a highly successful way to interpret this theme.

The Ground Floor level (that is, external or internal) of the North Plot has been designated as a possible heritage interpretation or art wall used to interpret the manufacturing theme.

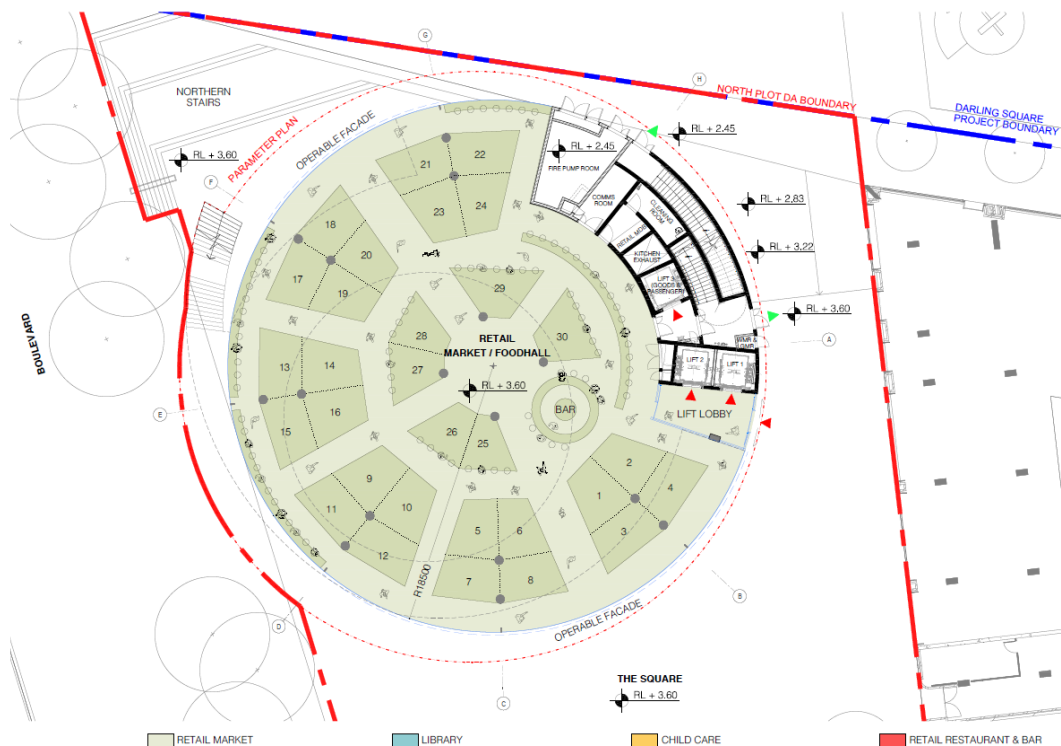


Figure 14 Ground Floor Plan of the North Plot
Source: Kengo Kuma & Associates, Architects



Figure 15 Precedent for demarcation of external market spaces in paving (left). Historical images such as the photograph at right could be posted internally as interpretive devices in the Market Hall.

Source: ASPECT Studios, June 2015.

Theme: Migration

Darling Harbour was an important disembarkation point for many migrants, many of whom were destined to enrich the cultural life of the city. The ethnic and cultural diversity resulting from migration to Sydney will be interpreted in the extension of Little Hay Street with a focus on: First experiences, transition, and adaptation. This will be achieved through the public art strategy, exploring links between the waves of migration to Sydney. Other ways of interpreting this theme can be undertaken by means of signage and interpretive devices set into paving.



Figure 16 Possible precedents for public art in Little Hay Street.

Source: Darling Harbour Live/Darling Square Public Art Strategy, June 2015.

There is the opportunity to collaborate with a local creative business to manage a digital interpretation platform. Content management and access would seek to draw on past and future history of the site. Adjacent landowners including SHFA, Powerhouse Museum and City of Sydney could potentially contribute content from their archives.

2.3 Other Interpretation Devices

Other interpretation devices will be used to inform residents and visitors including through the signage and way-finding strategy and QR codes and links to the Darling Square website.

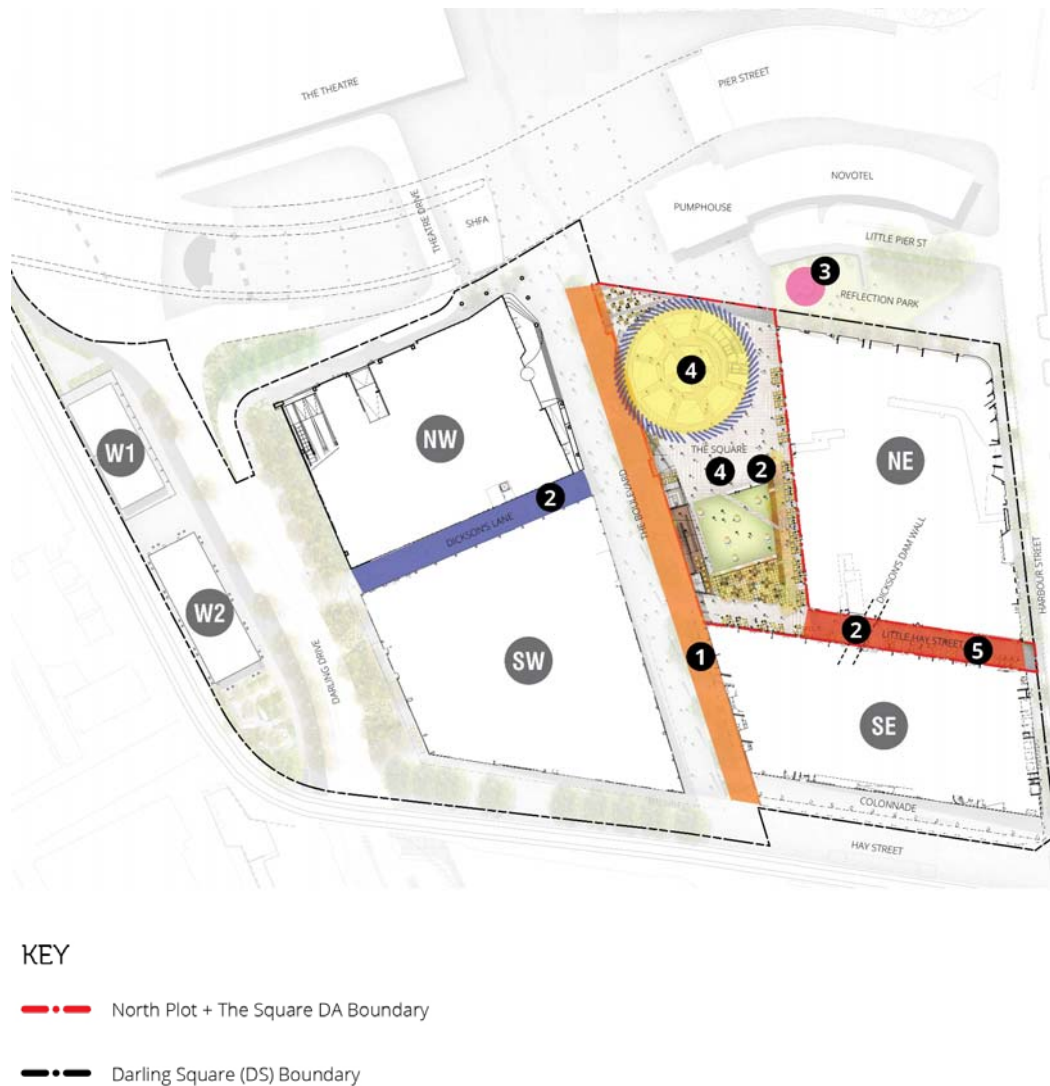


Figure 17 Site Plan showing locations for the nominated themes to be interpreted.
Source: ASPECT Studios, June 2015

1. GATHERING COCKLES



An Indigenous camp near cockle bay, 1812



Passeig de Saint Joan, Barcelona.



Interpretive Boulevard planting.

- Local plant species celebrate the natural realm of Darling Harbour prior to European settlement.
- Paving inlays will enhance the aforementioned themes.

2. STEAMING AHEAD



Albion Mills, 1841, Frederick Garling.



Pitt St Mall inlay detail.



Proposed water feature.

- Paving inlays will allude to the former location of Dickson's millpond dam wall and the Cooperage.
- The water piece takes inspiration from the water that once flowed on this site: the source of the harbour and the centre of industry.

3. SKILL, SWEAT AND TOIL



Cold room at Mort & Co., 1876



Delivery of Chubb Safe, 1820



Memory Lines, 2004, Ingrid Skirka.

- The existing memorial to workers killed at work (Memory Lines, 2004 by Ingrid Skirka), and its accompanying interpretative plaques will remain.

4. THE MARKETPLACE



Sydney markets, 1900



Haymarket, 1930



Indicative market stall demarcation.

- The proposed Darling Exchange, which is devoted to community use, includes a market on its ground floor remembering the Producer's Market of the 1930s.
- The Market Square weekend markets will recall the area's historical narratives of trade and exchange.

5. MIGRATION



Migrants arriving, 1853, Thomas Picker.



Chinese migrants, 1938



Neon Lane, Melbourne.

- The ethnic and cultural diversity in Sydney will be interpreted in the extension of Little Hay Street with street lighting and signage.

Figure 18 Images of the nominated themes to be interpreted.

Source: ASPECT Studios, June 2015.

3 EXISTING ARTWORK

3.1 Existing artwork

Ingrid Skirka's *Memory Lines* is located in Reflection Park. It was dedicated on 28 April 2004, the Workers' International Day of Mourning, to Australian workers who died while at work or from work-related disease. The sculpture is accompanied by a fragment of stone from the Sydney Trades Hall bearing a dedication plaque. There are also a series of plaques set into the ground that reinforce the theme of the work but also interpret the presence of the Cadigal people and John Dixon's steam-powered mill. These works relate to the interpretive themes Skill, Sweat and Toil, Gathering Cockles and Innovation and Industry.

The sculpture and plaques are to be left in their present location.



Figure 19 Components of Ingrid Skirka's *Memory Lines*, including the sculpture (left) and dedication plaque mounted on the stone fragment of the Sydney Trades Hall.



Figure 20 Plaques commemorating the Cadigal People (left) and John Dickson's Mill (right) in the vicinity of *Memory Lines*.

3.2 Public Art Strategy

A public art strategy has been prepared by Leon Paroissien working in collaboration with Lend Lease. It identifies key opportunities for public artworks, and an outline strategy for the form the works might take.

The public art program for Darling Square is intended to complement and extend the program that has been devised by the Darling Harbour Live component of the development. The strategy will identify appropriate locations for artworks and consider themes that respond to the specific nature of the site and to the history of Darling Harbour in general. The brief for artists will include appreciation of the history and archaeology of the site, the nature of development on the site, an outline of the underlying aims of the public realm design, and themes that have been considered for public art.



Figure 21 Public Art Diagram

Source: Darling Harbour Live/Darling Square Public Art Strategy, June 2015.

Legend:

- 2 Dickson's Lane Light Canopy
- 4 Interpretive ground treatment
- 6 Northern Steps Furniture

- 1 The North Plot
- 3 Little Hay Street signage
- 5 Water feature in the Square
- 7 Memory Lines (existing)

Project areas under consideration:

- Dickson's Lane – an animated artwork using lighting to link the lane to Darling Drive;
- Little Hay Street and Retail Pods – art strategy providing context for retail signage and focus on Chinese and other cultural links adjacent to Darling Square;
- North Plot – a site for a three-dimensional work; and
- Northern Steps – unique bespoke 'buttons' or medallions designed by an artist¹

¹ Darling Harbour Live/Darling Square Public Art Strategy May 2015.