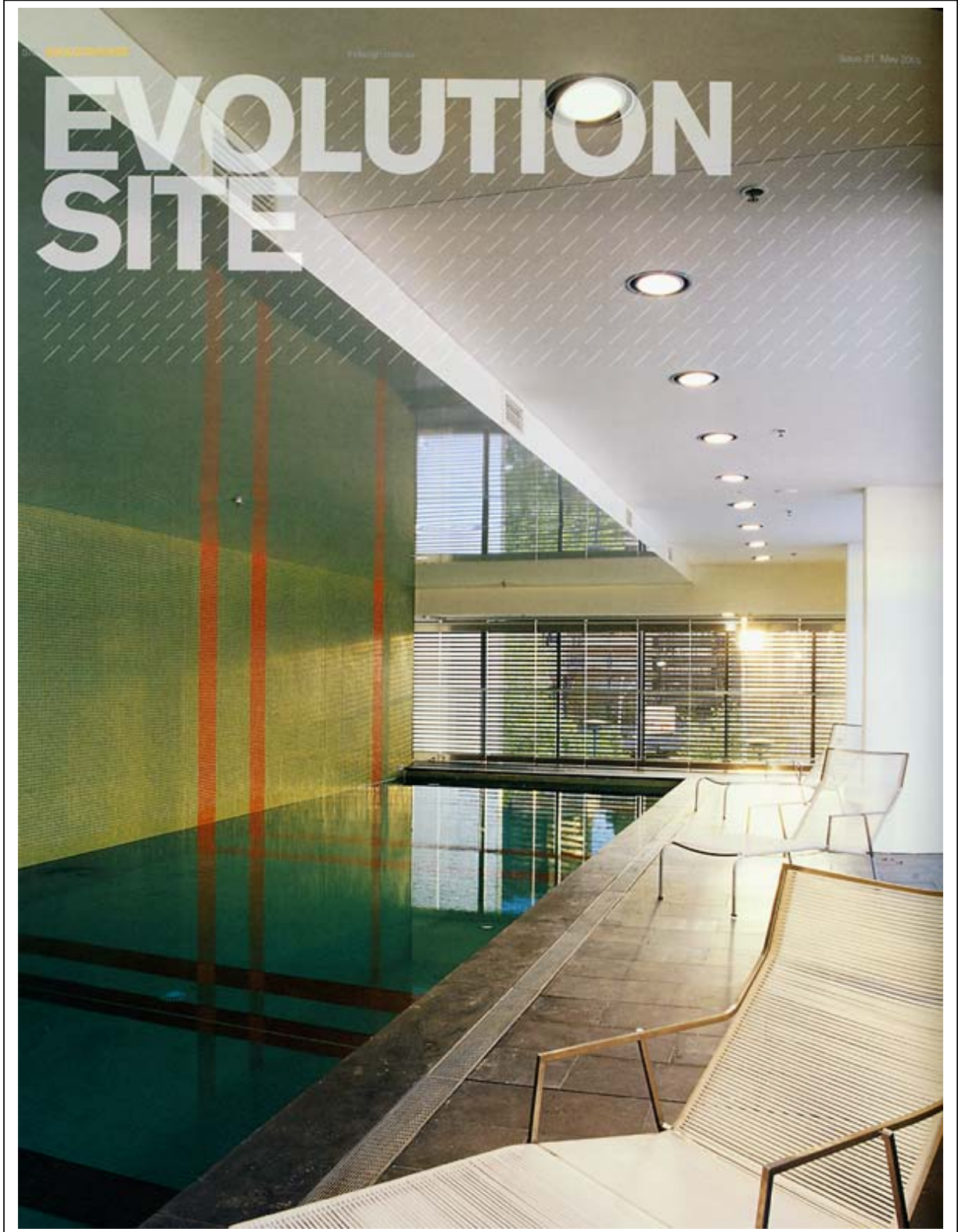


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Unity In Diversity

Photography
Brett Boardman

Among the many areas around the perimeter of Sydney's CBD which are gradually metamorphosing from light industrial/commercial use to mixed residential, retail, hospitality and commercial precincts is the Pacific Highway strip between Crows Nest and the St Leonards transport hub.

The two localities meet at a point where the Highway articulates to curve down to St Leonards railway station. Here, taking full advantage of its elevated position, stands Nettleon Tribe's new Abode building, a 19-storey apartment tower. It occupies a triangulated island site, including an attractive small plaza with a restaurant, which not so long ago was an ugly collision of small streets.

Abode is impressive in the way it responds to its urban context. In fact, it is not simply a tower, but a family of three elements. Together they reflect the urban form surrounding them. The curved tower addresses the curve of the highway and announces the building as a major part of the Highway's culture and of the panoramic western landscape, extending as far as the Blue Mountains.

A 10-storey 'box' forms the eastern edge of the building, and this is connected to the tower by an 8-storey central 'waist' set back from its neighbouring elements and linking down to an extruded, horizontal box element screened in bronzed glass. It is suspended over the footpath, acting as a canopy to the building's entry.

The variegated form of Abode echoes the diverse scale of the area: directly behind the façades lining the Highway is an easy mix of residential and low-rise commercial buildings. The formal diversity also means that, while the tower takes on an iconic

quality, the complex as a whole does not dominate its site so much as integrate with it.

This is supported by a diversity of materials, juxtaposed curved and orthogonal elements, boldly intersecting vertical and horizontal lines, and a counterpointing of recessed and extruded planes to generate the constantly stimulating visual experience of the building.

This strategy of counterpointed lines, planes and textures continues inside the building, where the entry lobby is an expansive but warm space, and where the pool surprises with an imaginative palette and clear connection to the outside.

Architect Nettleon Tribe
Project Architect Peter Gallart
Design Architect Jeremy Bishop
Project Team Jeff Therkett, Luke Rodonova, Grace Chen, Gary Lo
Interior Designer SJB Interior Design
Residential Design Consultant dKO Architecture
Developer Stockland Trust Group
Builder Baulderstone Hornbush
Structural Consultant MPN Group
Civil Consultant MPN Group
Electrical Consultant E. Shiermerdine and Partners
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Landscape Consultant Taylor Brammer Landscape
Acoustic Consultant Richard Hoggie and Associates
Quantity Consultant D.G. Jones and Partners
Fire Protection Hyder Consulting
Façade Engineering Hyder Consulting

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Walls
Hebel 'Powerpanel' from CSR Hebel and concrete blocks from Boral
CSR Hebel 1300 359 448
Boral 1300 131 509

Roof
Colorbond steel 'Kliplock' from Bluescope Steel.
Bluescope 1800 800 789

Windows
Custom window system from Lidco.
Lidco (61 2) 9672 1466

Wall Linings
Stone, with tek-wall 'Syntax' from Kvaadrat Maharam.
Vitrapanel from Vitragroup. Plasterboard from CSR Gyprock.
'Alpic' from SGI.
Kvaadrat Maharam (61 2) 9212 4277
Vitragroup 1800 007 175
CSR Gyprock 13 17 44
SGI (61 2) 9691 4755