KERSTIN THOMPSON ARCHITECTS DESIGN FOR  
BUNDANON TRUST MASTERPLAN REVEALED

Sydney, Australia: Bundanon Trust today revealed the Masterplan design for Arthur Boyd’s iconic Riverside property in regional New South Wales created by Kerstin Thompson Architects (KTA), following their unanimous appointment in November 2016 from a shortlist of six Australian architecture firms.

The Masterplan design of Riverside situated on the 1100-hectare property gifted to the Australian people by Arthur and Yvonne Boyd in 1993, includes a world-class creative learning centre for school students, a contemporary visitor hub, accommodation and a 380m² light-filled contemporary art gallery – partially buried into the landscape – that will house the Trust’s $37.5 million Arthur Boyd art collection.

Prioritising the existing landscape and its ecology, and responding to the current and future climatic conditions of the site, the design draws on the distinctive Australian native bush land and rural Australia’s flood ‘trestle’ bridges as points of inspiration. The new facilities are housed within a new 140-metre-long by 9-metre-wide structure that at one end abuts the art gallery within the sloping hillside, continuing along to bridge an existing gully.

The new KTA designed facilities are intended to reinforce the existing cluster of buildings as the heart of the Riverside experience. Architect Kerstin Thompson explains, “The design concept both preserves and transforms, is equal parts subtle and dramatic. Renown aspects of the current setting are maintained and their presence enhanced with an array of new and compelling visitor experiences.” It integrates architecture and landscape within the broader continuum of the site’s ecology and environmental systems.

The new bridge structure lands near the existing cluster of nineteenth century buildings on a level public plaza offering an arrival hall, café and visitor services. The covered extension to the bridge leads to the subterranean contemporary art gallery opening into the hill behind. Through roof highlights it captures glimpses of the prevailing landscapes contrasts - between the dark forest and clearings - so that visitors can enjoy the artist’s imaginary Shoalhaven landscapes alongside the actual one surrounding them.

Central to the Masterplan design, the new subterranean contemporary art gallery will house over 3,800 items featuring more than 1300 artworks by Arthur Boyd plus works by leading Australian artists including Boyd peers Sidney Nolan, Charles Blackman, Brett Whiteley and John Perceval, as well as contemporary works drawn from participants in the Trust’s artist in residence program.

The design incorporates a new creative art facility housing 32 new bedrooms and accompanying bathrooms, teaching spaces, dining and visitor facilities on top of rolling hills and a deep gully. It also envisages the amplification of the existing cluster of buildings, including the original houses, art studio and the contemporary Boyd Education Centre designed by acclaimed Australian architects Glenn Murcutt, Wendy Lewin and Reg Lark, which remain at the heart of the experience of the site. The existing and new buildings are united by a common forecourt that is the culmination of the stepped arrival terraces, which also make fully accessible the site’s considerable level changes.

Bundanon Trust CEO Deborah Ely commented, “Kerstin Thompson and Megan Wraight have developed a design with a rare marriage of landscape and architecture that responds to and amplifies the qualities of the site. The design promises a transformed visitor experience and a building that is both iconic and responsive to site conditions.

Underpinning the design is an ecological approach which is aiming for the highest level of sustainability certification, with solar energy, waste management systems and all supporting infrastructure representing an opportunity to show world leadership in its benchmarked environmental credentials.”
Polly Boyd, daughter of Arthur and Yvonne Boyd added, “Mum and Dad would love the plans for Riversdale and the way it relates the landscape and considers the climate. They would be delighted with all the activity and the way Bundanon is being cared for and shared.”

The estimated cost for the Riverside project is $28.5 million with funding currently being sought from the Commonwealth and State Governments. The development is anticipated to lead to substantial regional economic benefits including $51 million of spending and 142 jobs during the construction phase, with an additional $10.4 million and 59 jobs to flow into the economy once the site is complete. The Masterplan will increase visitation by more than 100% and secure Bundanon as a leading cultural and tourist attraction in regional Australia, whilst delivering substantial economic benefits to the Shoalhaven region in New South Wales.

KTA was unanimously appointed in November 2016 to design the Masterplan from a shortlist of six architecture firms by a jury chaired by John Denton, Director of Denton Corker Marshall, and including Bundanon Trust Chair Shane Simpson AM, landscape architect and newly appointed Dean of Design, Architecture and Building at UTS, Professor Elizabeth Mossop and Brian Zulaikha, Director of Tonkin Zulaikha Greer.

The full design team includes Kerstin Thompson Architects, Wraight + Associates with Craig Burton (landscape architecture and ecology), Atelier10 (environmentally sustainable design) and Irwin Consulting (structural and civil engineering). The group worked closely with Bundanon Trust staff, and other stakeholders during the design concept phase.

Ends

Notes to editors:

MEDIA CONTACTS: For further information please contact Rhiannon Broomfield, Articulate, rhiannon@articulatepr.com.au, 0410 596 021 or Kym Elphinstone, Articulate, kym@articulatepr.com.au, 0421 106 139.

ABOUT BUNDANON TRUST: Gifted to the Australian people in 1993 by Arthur and Yvonne Boyd, the Bundanon property (which includes the Bundanon Homestead site and the Riversdale site) is located on 1,100 hectares of pristine bush land overlooking the Shoalhaven River, nowra in New South Wales, two and a half hours south of Sydney. The Australian Government established Bundanon Trust as a wholly owned Australian Government company limited by guarantee, with the Company holding the gift as a charitable trust. In addition to caring for a collection of nearly 4,000 artworks and objects, the Trust supports the development of arts practice across all disciplines through its artist in residence program, its unique education programs for children and adults and a dynamic, on-site, public program, including concerts and special events, open days and group visits, allowing thousands of people to experience Bundanon every year. https://bundanon.com.au

ABOUT THE ARCHITECT: Kerstin Thompson Architects (KTA): Established in 1994, the work of the practice encompasses architecture, interiors, landscape and urban design. Extremely varied in scale and program and with expertise on sites with environmental and heritage significance, our projects include art & design schools for universities, multi-residential developments, museums, police stations, primary schools and commercial fit-outs. Awarded projects include Marysville Police Station, Monash University Museum of Art and House at Hanging Rock which won the AIA’s Robin Boyd Award in 2014. Current projects include Broadmeadows Town Hall, VCA School of Art for the University of Melbourne, the Jewish Holocaust Centre, Hotel Windsor Spa, Sacred Heart at Abbotsford Convent, the Lyceum Club and various multi-residential developments. The practice focus is on architecture as a civic endeavor with an emphasis on the users’ experience and enjoyment of place. http://www.kerstinthompson.com/
MEDIA RELEASE
RIVERSDALE REIMAGINED: KTA DESIGN CONCEPT


The Bridge over the Gully: contains some of the visitor facilities including workshops and accommodation suites. Imagined as a piece of infrastructure the singularity of the bridge’s form serves as a datum to highlight the distinctive undulating topography of Shoalhaven. Recalling the trestle bridges endemic to flood landscapes such as this, the dramatic bridging structure straddles the gully from ridge to ridge, allows sporadic water to flow beneath it and for the reinstatement of the wet gully ecology.

The Arthur Boyd Gallery: A counterpoint to the Bridge structure the Arthur Boyd Gallery is subterranean, buried within the reinstated hill. Here the drama will be in coexistence of the works of the gallery and framings of the site – sky above or forest edge. Visitors will be able to compare Boyd’s imaginary landscape with the actual one around them.
The Arrival Hall: The concept both preserves and transforms, is equal parts subtle and dramatic. The Arrival Hall frames the culturally significant cluster of buildings from the time of the Boyds’ occupation including his studio and also key features of the landscape that inspired him like Arthur’s Hill.

Outdoor learning on terrace looking west: The arrival terrace and forecourts create a series of event and learning spaces and make fully accessible the sloping site’s considerable level changes.
**Arrival Hall towards the Gallery Entry:** The core visitor program is collocated adjacent to the historic Boyd cluster to achieve a centralised and single heart. New and existing buildings are united by a common forecourt. The Gallery and other more climatically sensitive program is subterranean: to maintain the setting of the BEC and to achieve passive thermal stability. By contrast the Bridge building is in the spirit of Plein Air – less climate control and more indoor/outdoor flow.

**Gully and stepped arrival terraces:** Visitors arrive at the cultural heart of the Riversdale estate via the terraced forecourt. Beside this, below the belly of the bridge is an intriguing wet gully landscape for exploration and discovery.
**Breezeway in The Bridge:** From within the Bridge forms a sheltering veranda dramatically suspended above the gully and encompassing views towards Arthur’s Hill. Between the interior spaces such as workshops and accommodation suites are outdoor but sheltered areas for an array of activities.
**Model** - Part of the New Creative Learning Centre is subterranean: embedded within the reinstated hill it provides breathing space between new and existing facilities and preserves the setting of the renown BEC building.

**Model** – The bridge straddles over the gully between two ridges acting as a datum to the sloping landscape of Shoalhaven.
Model – Aerial view of model showing how new and existing buildings and landscapes are united by the new arrival forecourt and terraces.