



Enthusiasm and growth surrounds this city; smaller and less resolved than our east coast cousins maybe, but certainly no less exciting.

Major projects may be shaping much of this growth from a built form perspective, however it's the experience at ground level that provides us with this increasing level of enthusiasm that we are feeling. A drink at Mechanics Institute, Bar Lafayette or La La Rhook or Dinner at The Trustee, Varnish or Gordon Street Garage are just a few examples from a plethora of options that 5 years ago simply did not exist in Perth.

New works reveal heritage foundations

To find evidence of how much we are embracing this culture, we need only look at the level of growth and attendance at two very recent cultural and design events: the FRINGE WORLD festival which attracted in excess of 215,000 people in only its second year of operation and Open House Perth, which is giving the people of Perth the opportunity to engage with some of Perth's great architecture at a level and experience that is generally not available to us throughout the year.

This excitement and these opportunities will continue to grow with the redevelopment of the Cathedral and Treasury Precinct, an entire city block bound by St Georges Terrace, Hay Street, Pier Street and Barrack Street that includes the restoration, refurbishment and new construction of six buildings. This partnership has been truly collaborative and has proved that unique opportunities can be created across private, public and government sectors, with the State Government, City of Perth, Perth Diocesan Church, Public Trustee, Mirvac and FJM Property all being equally important parts of this partnership.

A component of this precinct includes The Treasury, a collection of buildings rich in Western Australian history that includes the Titles, Land and Treasury Buildings that have lain vacant for some twenty years.

On completion, the buildings will house a luxury boutique hotel, various hospitality operations, a day spa, a gym and pool facility and numerous retailers, via which every external door to the building will be open to the public.

The first viewing of the works will come once the external scaffold is removed in the coming weeks, revealing the form of the restored facade and roof works - a 12 month restoration that is almost complete, bringing the buildings back to their former 1800's glory. This includes several major works, such as the installation of welsh slate, copper, and decorative lacework, as well as the removal of all external paint, revealing the original rendered facade.

However the restoration of the Titles Building and in particular balcony works is even more significant. Designed by George Temple Poole, one of Perth's most revered architects and completed in 1898, the building had, in recent years, suffered considerable concrete degradation and before this time was somewhat masked by the bulk of the Law Chambers building, which has since been demolished to make way for the new and stunningly unique City of Perth library. The Titles building arguably holds Perth's most stunning heritage facade and now will proudly be visible for all to see.

The redevelopment of The Treasury and the Cathedral and Heritage Precinct, perfectly signifies the opportunities that we have in Perth. A partnership involving private, public, cultural and government entities resulting in adaptive reuse and restoration of some of Perth's most inspiring heritage buildings alongside the creation of new cultural buildings continues to raise the benchmark in quality architecture, and most importantly the enjoyment that will be had by the public when experiencing these spaces and the activity that will sit within it.

Perth truly is changing, and all for the better.