



The quest for Melbourne's best public toilets continues with the **caroma**

## ARCHITECTURAL IDEAS COMPETITION FOR A NEW MELBOURNE PUBLIC TOILET

as part of GT3, the third and mightiest incarnation of the Golden Toilet Awards

**Preamble:** Public toilet design in the last decade has moved to a model of single stand alone toilets. This is an alternative to the bulk of Melbourne's historic public toilets that have multiple cubicles or cater for the use of several people at one time. The 'Exeloo' that has been installed in several prominent locations is a proprietary version of this function. GTIII aims to work with toilet zeitgeist and propose a single stand alone unit; however we would hope that design proposals would deal with the bearing of ones unspeakables in a public place such that it is more site specific, fun and explores the rich variety of social and personal rituals that occur in these tiny spaces.

**Location:** The median strip on Russell Street immediately north of Bourke Street. The design should fit between (incorporate?) the existing trees and not encroach into the road carriageway. Height is limited by sensibility.

This location has been investigated by council for a toilet, however, due to the approval and consultation process involved in erecting any new public convenience, the winner of this competition will not receive a commission to build their design.

Of historical interest is the fact that Melbourne's first underground public toilet, and Australia's oldest, exists below ground, to the south of this intersection where the sculpture now sits. It has been sand filled for preservation. Refer site plan.

**Brief:** A toilet building / installation comprising of 1 toilet pan and 1 hand basin. The facility should be unisex. Given the impracticalities of disabled access to this location, toilets need not be designed to accommodate this.

**Format:** Entries are to A2 portrait format, mounted to allow for display. Models and / or relief incorporated onto the panels are encouraged. The entry panels will form a part of an exhibition on Melbourne's toilets that will be open to the public.

Note: as the display of entries will run for approximately 16 weeks, please ensure entries will not peel, bubble or generally look crappy after 3 days.

**Exhibition:** The GTIII entries will form part of a larger public toilet exhibition to be displayed from early Oct. 05 to end Jan. 06 at the City Gallery, Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston St, Melbourne. The exhibition will include items for the MCC's Art and Heritage collection, as well artworks responding to the MCC collection and Melbourne's public toilets.

Note: Material deemed inappropriate will not be exhibited.

**Prizes:** Through the generosity of Caroma Industries, we offer the following cash prizes:

**1st - \$1000, 2nd - \$400, 3rd - \$200**

Winners will be announced at an awards evening at the City Gallery and will be personally notified.

## Entries are due by 5pm on Monday September the 12th.

Please submit to The Rexroth Mannasmann Collective's offices at: upstairs 173 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 3065. The rear of each entry should be clearly marked with entrants name and contact details. No entrant details are to appear on the front of the panels.

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Upstairs 173 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, 3065 or [www.rexroth.net.au](http://www.rexroth.net.au) or E: [goldentoilets3@fastmail.com.au](mailto:goldentoilets3@fastmail.com.au)

The Rexroth Mannasmann Collective: P: 9419 0622

Chalk Architecture and Design: P: 0409 562 478



#### **Judges:**

**Conrad Hamann.** Architectural Historian, **Shelley Penn.** Architect, **Peter Brew.** Architect

**Andrew Brown May.** Historian and writer of *Melbourne Street Life*, which includes a history of Melbourne's public toilets.

#### **Golden Toilet Award History**

The inaugural Golden Toilet Award was held in 2000 as part of Fringe Architecture in the shed. There were 3 professional prizes (built and unbuilt) and 2 student prizes. The winners were:

- THE THOMAS CRAPPER AWARD 1<sup>st</sup> prize built professional:  
Grant Amon Architects for Seven Dunnyes: where club culture meets cubicle culture.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize built professional: 6 Degrees Architects for community facilities at Fritsch Holzer Reserve
- Dymaxion prize for best unbuilt toilet: Simon Ellis Landscape Architect for the Throne of Vision
- THE RBA GROUP 1<sup>st</sup> prize for student entry: Adam Pustola
- THE RBA GROUP 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for student entry: Nicole Porter

The second golden toilet awards followed in 2001. Again the competition was run as a part of Fringe and the categories were predominantly the same. The venue changed and GT2 was held at Meyers Place in the city. The winners were:

- THE THOMAS CRAPPER AWARD 1st prize built professional:  
Simon Ellis for the temporary toilets and pissoir at the Festival of Folk Rhythm and Life.
- THE RBA GROUP 1st prize for student entry: Teoh Way Keat with a peephole x-toilet.
- THE RBA GROUP 2nd prize for student entry: Warwick D Mihaly for his dog urinal in the park.

Visit [www.rexroth.net.au](http://www.rexroth.net.au) to see images of these previous entries. (On line early Sept.)

**Copyright:** Some of the entries will be incorporated into the exhibition catalogue. These will be selected at the organiser's discretion. As a condition of entry, the entrant grants the organisers license to use the subject matter of the entry and material included with or as a part of the entry for any purpose in connection with the promotion of the Golden Toilet Awards and the Public Toilets Exhibition.

#### **A few suggestions for further information:**

<http://www.toiletmap.gov.au/>

<http://www.plumbingworld.com/toilethistoryindia.html>

<http://www.sulabhtoiletmuseum.org/pg02.htm>

<http://www.toiletology.com/index.shtml>

<http://www.compostingtoilet.org/>

<http://www.urinal.net/>

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2002/03/16/1015909912303.html>

Adolf Loos, 'Ornamentation and Crime' (1908), in Ulrich Conrad (ed) *Programs and Manifestoes on Twentieth Century Architecture*, Cambridge Mass.: MIT Press, 1970.

Andrew Brown May, *Melbourne Street Life: The Itinerary of Our Days*, Australian Scholarly / Arcadia and Museum Victoria. 1998.

Pages 95 – 107.

Special issue of Postcolonial Studies 5(2) 2002. Available on line. Postcolonial Studies: Culture, Politics, Economy 1 to 10 of 10

Publisher: Routledge, part of the Taylor & Francis Group. Issue: Volume 5, Number 2 / July 01, 2002

If you have any queries, or to receive acad file of site, competition updates and any further information, please email your details to

**goldentoilets3@fastmail.com.au**

Also note a hardcopy pack of additional information is available thru the organisers. It contains some of the above.

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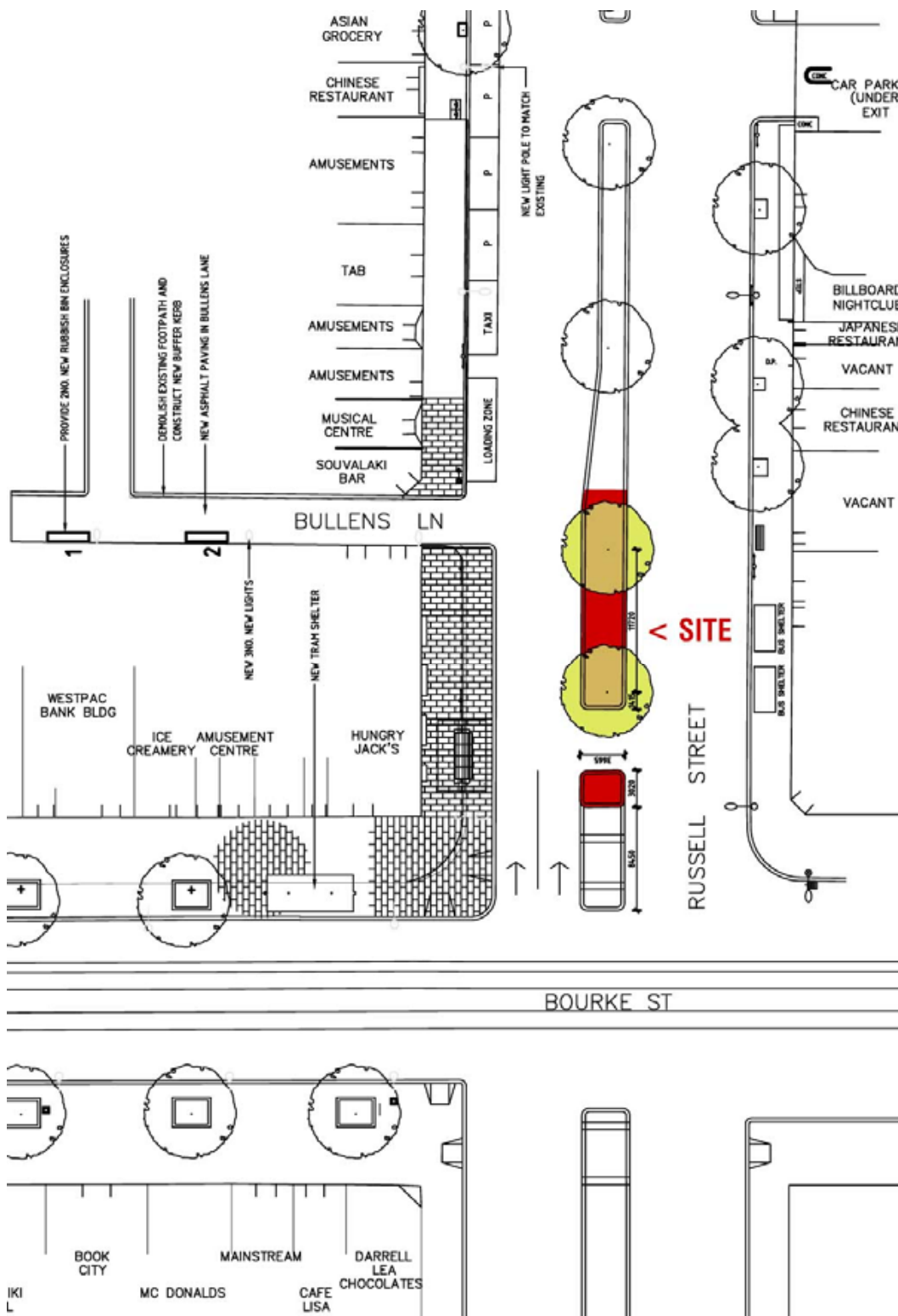
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