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The Advertiser

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280m-tall observation towers, mountain in CBD and revolving restaurants proposed for former Royal Adelaide Hospital site

- by: **Tim Williams** City Editor
- From: **The Advertiser**
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The Royal Adelaide Hospital design entry by Nice Architects of Slovakia would put an artificial mountain on the old RAH site.

Source: Supplied

COLONEL Light's lost view of the city has spurred leading architects and property experts to call for a new tourist observatory in a landmark building, a viewing platform in North Adelaide, or even an artificial mountain on the Royal Adelaide Hospital site.

The stands of the redeveloped Adelaide Oval have **blocked much of the city skyline view from the Montefiore Hill lookout** (<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/colonel-light8217s-statute-may-need-relocating-with-renovated-adelaide-oval-blocking-view-to-the-city/story-fni6uo1m-1226724128318>) .

North Adelaide-based Matthews Architects included a 280m tall observation tower — with a viewing deck higher than Sydney's Centrepont Tower — in its entry to the **international design**

competition for the hospital site (<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/six-finalists-shortlisted-for-design-of-old-royal-adelaide-hospital-site-when-its-vacant/story-fni6uo1m-1226718031902>) .

“When new visitors come to a city, I think it’s a very basic human desire to want to get to a high vantage point to see where you are and understand the city,” managing director Gerald Matthews said.

TELL US: Which one do you think is the best?



How the mountain would look from the other side of the city. (Nice Architects of Slovakia)

“If you are going to do it, let’s not do a halfway version. By our rough calculations you could see the other side of Gulf St Vincent.

“It would not be tall enough to see over Mt Lofty but you could see to the Barossa.”

The design competition’s judging panel praised one of the six short-listed finalists, Slovakia’s Nice Architects, for its plan to demolish hospital buildings to create a mountain with grassed slopes leading to a lookout.

“The waste from this demolition is proposed to be formed into a hillscape, with the site becoming both an ‘eco city landmark’ and creating a unique vantage point from which visitors may experience a new set of views over the city,” the jury reported.



The Signature concept for the courts precinct includes an observation deck. (JPE Design Studio SA)

“The jury considered that this proposal held significant potential, as both a memorable iconic gesture within the city, and a radical reinvention of the Adelaide city park.”

US firm Praud Architects’ entry, The Jellyfish, included a Sky Walk Ring — an enclosed viewing platform encircling the whole hospital site at 50-60m above ground level, with a curtain of recycled material flowing down to the ground.

A tower topped by a revolving restaurant, an observatory rising above an art gallery and a “sky view restaurant” crowning a new hotel were pitched by entrants from India, Romania and China.

Adelaide’s JPE Design Studio last year produced a concept for an observation deck within a 40-storey transformation of the courts precinct.



A 280m-tall observatory tower on the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site, by Matthews Architects of SA.

The studio's Adrian Evans said making a commercial observatory viable in Adelaide's limited tourism market would be a challenge.

He said the artificial mountain idea was "brilliant" for its originality and minimal running costs once built.

"Adelaide's so flat we're not used to thinking like that," he said.

Urban Development Institute of Australia (SA) executive director Terry Walsh preferred a tall viewing platform on Montefiore Hill, high enough for visitors to see over the oval, rather than a "tricked-up" observatory tower or "mini mountain".



Sky Walk Ring around the Jellyfish, an idea for the old RAH site by Praud Architects (USA).

“Montefiore Hill provides a story about Adelaide — the hills, the city, the sea,” he said. “I would look at recognising that the stadium grandstands have blocked the current view and look at something to recapture the view from higher up.”



A revolving restaurant idea for the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site, from GD Sambhare and Co (India).



Another idea for the ex-RAH site, this one from Woo-Hyun Cho (China).

42 comments

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Malcolm

13 minutes ago

The Observation Tower would be great for Adelaide as it would be one of the City's greatest Tourist attractions. A Tower like this should include a revolving Resturant and maybe an outdoor viewing area (protected with fencing of course !). The Berlin Television Tower is a very popular Tourist attract for that City and if Adelaide had a 280 - Metre Observation Tower of it's own - it would enjoy the same benefits !.

1 Like Reply



Fluid Req

1 hour ago

A combination of all of them would be perfect... a skywalk, observation tower, and open landscaped event space with a large screen and water features (including swimming facilities for kids/adults). PERFECT. Just not the artificial mountain thanks... we don't need a Magic Mountain white elephant in the city, it would be hard not to make it ugly.

1 Like Reply

Gianna Gilbert

1 hour ago

Why don't we build a hospital on the sight?

1 Like Reply

Justin Kelley

1 hour ago

The Tower and the Woo-Hyun Designs are the best by far and it will come down to only one winner....Who will it be??

1 Like Reply

Matt

2 hours ago

I like the Tower idea. Something iconic that will attract tourists, and when people see it in photos will instantly remind them of Adelaide. The idea from China is also a good one - as long as we can swim in that pool on a hot day! Get out of the way ACC.

1 Like Reply

Ron

2 hours ago

My choice has always been, and still is, to hand the area over to the Botanical Gardens.

1 Like Reply

Tiger

2 hours ago

Yes, we need more mountains in the CBD and also more ski resorts on North Terrace.

3 Like Reply

Paul

2 hours ago

Woo-Hyun Cho looks the best proposal!

Like Reply

Robert

2 hours ago

Keep it the way it is now for teaching also for any overflow when all of the other hospitals are full.

1 Like Reply



Ben S

@Robert um no.. just no.

2 hours ago

Like Reply

Shaun

2 hours ago

The mountain on initial thought is great. Then I started thinking about the access. Elderly, infirm, mobility impaired...none of them would get to enjoy it.

For me, a tower with an observation deck, elevated restaurant or the Chinese design is by far the best options.

1  Like Reply

John

3 hours ago

Sure, we can build that. But considering how long it took them to put toilets in Vic Square, sort out the old Le Cournu site in North Adelaide and the cost of a simple bridge across the Torrens, the State Government and the city council will take decades and waste millions and still manage to stuff it up. I love Adelaide but we are incompetent and ruled by the old money families in it for themselves.

2   Like Reply

Dale Knoote-Parke

3 hours ago

I like the look of the last concept - the one by Woo-Hyun Cho. Gets my vote (for what it's worth)

Like Reply

stefan tree

3 hours ago

Yeah build a mountain and put a snow machine on top, that way we can go skiing. or large statue of Jesus? - it worked for Rio

Like Reply

Brodie

3 hours ago

I made a sky tower proposal to the RAH design comity back in June and put it on their facebook page back in August for discussion so naturally I am for the idea, but as I stated in my proposal I really do think Adelaide has a unique opportunity here build a unique sky tower that works well with the Greater Adelaide park ideals, integrates into the botanic gardens and works with Adelaide's backdrop than build something that will date, is stock standard and has been done before. Draw inspirations from the Singapore **Marina Bay Sands** and park prescient ect. My vision would be to offer visitors to the city, the ability to walk through the 'Greater Adelaide Park' to the observation deck and be able to view it from the air at the end and all Adelaide has to offer (from the Adelaide hills to Glenelg to the Barossa and beyond). Concept should integrate residential apartments and multi use facilities such as a rotating restaurant, convention rooms and open parks that integrate with the botanic gardens and can be used for east Adelaide events such as the fringe. Commercial opportunities will aid in obtaining private investment with the project and the residential density in the east will help support establish hospitality & retails strips such as runnel street and the mall.

Like Reply

Dion

3 hours ago

The tower would be good. Something that Adelaide can be proud of. This provided the ACC doesn't block it

1  Like Reply

Ben S

3 hours ago

all good cities in aus have some sort of lookout this tower is prime location imagine the great views from up there which is just impossible to get anywhere else in adelaide and the cbd, I just dont think adelaide should let this oppurtunity go to waste and im sure there will still be room for the chinese

design just downgraded a bit.. and the flight path meh time to grow up adelaide dont let such a good location go to waste (which is normally what happens)

1  Like Reply

ydhudh udnhdudjh

3 hours ago

Haha, hilarious!!! Some great ideas there yes but anybody that's lived here long enough knows that NOTHING exciting or evenly slightly interesting will EVER happen in this city!

1  Like Reply

Elyse

3 hours ago

The 'China' one looks fantastic. (And wouldn't look out of place in ADL either.)

1  Like Reply

Greg

4 hours ago

There's something to be said for the hill/mountain, but it is always going to look out of place in an otherwise dead flat city, so it will look like a fake hill, and we got that at Glenelg, which never exactly gained a lot of kudos... I like the Chinese one, but ditch those *&%%#y palm trees. They have no place in our state outside of being a disturbing monument to the 1980s..

1  Like Reply

Gary Bartlett

4 hours ago

Agree Adelaide needs a Centre Point type development integrated with the interest of the design shown from the Woo Hyun proposal that looks fantastic.

Love the design shown for the Courts Precinct Building above also

3    Like Reply

Jonathan Ball

4 hours ago

CHina by a long shot.

Like Reply

Erik

4 hours ago

Why not build the 'mountain' on top of Montefiore Hill instead?

1  Like Reply

Gerry

4 hours ago

Please spare us the grandiose ego trips. It is about time the site was returned to public use, not private commercial interests. Therefore the Chinese design appears to be the best.

1  Like Reply

James Smith

4 hours ago

Definitely the Chinese design - done well enough to contend with Sydney's Darling harbour - plus some expansion of the botanic gardens and zoo to meet the boundaries.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Meegan**

4 hours ago

China Architect for me!!! The walk to the botanical gardens would be amazing....then on to the Zoo. Tourists would love it!

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Kerry**

5 hours ago

The Chinese design is by far the best.

However, none of them will happen. This is Adelaide. We can't even redevelop the entire Victoria Square, just half of it.

And don't remind us of the vacant old Le Cornu site in O'Connell Street. Vacant for 24 YEARS.

This is ADELAIDE.

1  [Like](#) [Reply](#)**fred**

5 hours ago

Leaving it as a less stressed hospital and specialist centre would make more sense. Ranns Taj Mahal will be less than adequate in the immediate future.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Graeme**

5 hours ago

This is Adelaide people, get a grip on yourselves...it will never happen. Too close to their precious flight path

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**trevor**

6 hours ago

why not a giant monument to the labor old guard, something like the colossus of rhodes. Made of all the copper and iron this state is supposed to make, but in the image of labor politicians. Or a monument park where citizens can wander around and remember all the wonderful contributions politicians have made to our well being.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Nate Adelaide**

6 hours ago

Really? So we're just gonna plonk a 280m tower in the corner of Adelaide? That would look awesome (no it won't)... what a great idea (no its not). The only design that makes any sense for Adelaide is the Chinese design... at least from those concepts. As for Col. Light, I'm pretty sure a lifeless statue doesn't care about a lost view.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Tiger**

6 hours ago

The 280m-tall observatory tower is a good idea but it unfortunately goes way over Adelaide's building height restriction of 30 stories.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Gavin Lutze**

6 hours ago

Magic Mountain!

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Lachlan**

7 hours ago

This is almost as bad as the building design I read about when I was at Uni. It was a monument for something or other. That's not the problem. The problem was the architect/ artist conception was that on the hour, every hour the monument would spew thousands of litres of water all over the road while gas flames would explode into the atmosphere above. Yeah right!

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**steff**

8 hours ago

Tower

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**john**

10 hours ago

What is wrong with Mt Lofty, a cable cart to the top would be a lot better, if not a pyramid in the city with an eye at the top face being a viewing platform .

1  [Like](#) [Reply](#)**Dani**

13 hours ago

The Chinese design is great. Our own square that leads into parklands. This will better melbournes

2   [Like](#) [Reply](#)**Doug Williamson**

14 hours ago

The 280m high tower is bang on what Adelaide needs. It would be good if we could just by-pass the usual bull and just get on with building it!

3    [Like](#) [Reply](#)**Sian ooi**

14 hours ago

Artificial mountain ? Just keep those ideas where they were conceptualised and originated....!
Slovakia was it ?

[Like](#) [Reply](#)**Ian Grigg**

15 hours ago

Yes great lets see the feasibility study as it won't stack up .. Joke

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

Kevin & Margaret

16 hours ago

An observatory high in the sky sounds like a brilliant idea, like the Sydney tower. As Col.Light's vision is now blocked by the Adelaide Oval development, something new & spectacular is an excellent idea. Go for it!!

1  Like [Reply](#)

Sam

16 hours ago

These ideas are all great. Love the mountain and the tower

1  Like [Reply](#)

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