

## News

# The Advertiser

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## News

## Design by Victorian firm Slash judged best plan for rebirth of Royal Adelaide Hospital site

- by: Sheradyn Holderhead
- From: **The Advertiser**
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**VICTORIAN architect firm Slash's design for the Royal Adelaide Hospital site, featuring a new city high school, art gallery and extensive gardens, has been judged the best option for the rebirth of the city site.**

It won the nod of a judging panel, while the much talked about big rubble hill by Slovakian architect Nice came second and won the People's Choice Award.

The winning design has been costed at about \$300 million to complete but it could be executed in stages.

It retains about 65 per cent of the existing buildings including the 1960s outpatients and theatre block, which would become the RaRa gallery.



An aspect of Slash's design for the RAH site - a view to West Tce.

A ward building would be turned into the East Adelaide high school, facing the Botanic Gardens.

A total of \$305,000 in prize money was awarded to designers for their innovative and creative ideas for the future of one of the key sites of the Greater Riverbank Precinct.

Deputy Premier John Rau said the design competition had facilitated an exciting and, at times, controversial discussion about the future of the RAH site.



A view to student accommodation from Slash's RAH plan.

**MORE: Check out the six finalists, with heritage writer Tim Lloyd's comments**

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/peoples-choice-voting-opens-as-top-six-designs-for-rah-site-rebirth-are-revealed-vote-now/story-fni6uo1m-1226765611357>

"Once the hospital moves in 2016, the current RAH site opens up huge potential for a wide range of possible uses," he said.

"The open ideas competition has been about exploring the possibilities for the site.



Slash's vision of the view from the undercroft to the Botanic Gardens.

"Critical to this whole process has been input from the community.

"One thing that has become quite clear in this process is that the 5.3 hectare site has the potential for multiple uses."

Shelley Penn, chair of the expert jury said they deliberated for three days to award first, second and third prizes.



A playground features in the Slash design.

"The jury was impressed by the depth and breadth of research Slash and Phillips/Pilkington Architects took into the social and physical history and condition of the RAH site," she said.

"The winner's scheme offers a vision for an evolving, dynamic civic place and it offers a high degree of economic viability.

"Their proposal presented a sustainable proposition by minimising energy and waste, and the mix of uses for the site proposed by the winner was strongly supported by the jury."

Thousands of people also voted for their favourite design in the People's Choice Award, with more than 16,000 website visits and 4293 votes lodged.

The public **was given the chance to vote** (<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/peoples-choice-voting-opens-as-top-six-designs-for-rah-site-rebirth-are-revealed-vote-now/story-fni6uo1m-1226765611357>) for their favourite design after six 'finalist' designs were chosen from a field of 126 entries from 48 countries.

The six finalists (from Australia, Europe and South America), chosen by a judging panel on the basis of architectural merit and design, rather than the raw sketches, were given \$100,000 and took on a SA architecture partner firm to breathe life into their basic designs.

The judging panel's final decision contrasted starkly with the results of a separate Advertiser online survey, which placed Slash's design last, with just 5.5 per cent of the vote.

Nice's design was clearly first, with 35.2 per cent.

**What do you think of the decision? Tell us by filling out the feedback box.**

23 comments



 ellen

225 people listening    

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 **Barrie** 36 minutes ago  
 Unaspiring ,just restore historic buildings demolish the rest and then extend the Botanical Gardens towards the City and North Terrace boulevard to complete the picture.

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

 **Rob** 41 minutes ago  
 Should blend in well with our ugly mall upgrade. We could change our number plates to "City of Ugly Architecture"

Like Reply



**Debbie**

56 minutes ago

I hope that the 'gallery' could be larger and used as an interactive science and technology centre. It would be a valuable asset for families and tourism and perfectly located close to universities, museum, zoo, Botanic Gardens etc. It is something our state desperately needs.

Like Reply



**william**

58 minutes ago

Boxes..where is the imagination and creativity...looks like apartments..  
Bet its cheap

Like Reply



**Pamela**

1 hour ago

Fantastic - the old eyesore replaced with a great new modern hospital at the other end of North Terrace and a new multi education and arts facility on the old site - perfectly in keeping with its beautiful Botanic Gardens neighbour, a great spot for an inner city high school, art gallery, loads of public space and all in keeping with the State's cultural heritage. Let the whingers whinge for the next few days and then let's move on.

1 Like Reply



**Ron**

1 hour ago

again no sa compnay won the planning more money outside a desperate state, shame on the sa government

Ron Ritter

2 Like Reply



**Trisha**

1 hour ago

**VICTORIAN architect ????? that's it send our money to other states**

**...U all have lost the damn plot on this one it will be an eyesore.....This state is going backwards so fast .**

2 Like Reply



**Cj**

52 minutes ago

**@Trisha** So we should pay and SA architect even though they have a worse idea? Who's backwards??

1 Like Reply



**Paul**

1 hour ago

I had my own design which I should have entered. This is yet another example of uninspired architectural design which has made Adelaide the laughing stock of the nation. Another step backwards. And tell me this.

Why should one Adelaide High School benefit from all that funding when so many schools are fighting for resources. No! Not good. What we need in Adelaide is inspired architecture that is dynamic and modern, even futuristic, not yet another pastel of the past. I say demolish the whole site and start again from scratch. A High School? Really? Maybe instead of revamping the RA site, we should revamp Adelaide's planning committee. Bring in new, fresh blood with enthusiasm and ideas.

1 Like Reply



**kym**

1 hour ago

No matter what design comes in this State cannot afford to build anymore monoliths to this Labour Govt, moth ball the whole site. Or turn it into affordable housing that will be one way of putting population back into the city.

2 Like Reply



**Eva**

1 hour ago

I didn't vote, but this seems a good outcome - an excellent site for a much needed high school, provides a link between the successful North Tce development, our cultural precinct and the botanic gardens, has a good balance of public and private space, and uses existing buildings well for all age groups. Now let's get moving. A new high school would have to be a priority. Over to you Minister Rankine. Put an emphasis on the new medical precinct for services, research, training and smart industries. Then connect the lot through our universities.

1 Like Reply



**Cameron**

1 hour ago

Couple things the place is full of asbestos. Is that wind turbines i see on the roof ? They get a No, if if cannot have a turbine in my backyard they wont get them, think of the court cases if they put turbines on the roof. And 300 million Yeah right , its government they spend \$300 mil building a bus shelter try \$900-1.2 billion .

Keep the historic building's and the car park, run the place down with a dozer, then give the land to the Botanic gardens

Like Reply



**Bruce**

1 hour ago

Man, this is garbage. Looks like the silos at Wallaroo.

4 Like Reply



**Greg**

2 hours ago

But unfortunately, still won't be staffed sufficiently so it's just as useless as the current one. Huge and ugly waste of our money.

1 Like Reply



**John T**

2 hours ago

We don't need another Art Gallery. We need something that creates wealth and thus jobs.

4 Like Reply

**Mike**

2 hours ago

I dont see this design fitting in with the new river precinct at all. It looks like a precinct fit for a derelict Russian City from the 40's trying to look a bit modern. BORING and UGLY is an understatement..

There is nothing modern and inspiring here at all and I would be sad to see money spent on this concept. The people have given the ACC an idea of what they would like to see and they have ignored us. I would be curious to see who and how old the judging committee are.

4 Like Reply

**T**

2 hours ago

The fact that the Slash design came dead last in the people's choice award yet has been selected to be built just shows that the public's view has been completely ignored. The current RAH building is a dump, with a cramped, dark maze inside. It needs to be demolished. The Slash design is 'nice', but looks like something from the 60s.

6 Like Reply

**Mister**

2 hours ago

@T absolutely spot on! The use of these horrific buildings is ridiculous, these were built in a time when being 'energy efficient' was virtually non existent and the building materials (some hazardous) require high maintenance.

1 Like Reply

**ROGER**

2 hours ago

Nothing wrong with the present hospital. Waste of money on the new RAH whilst rural hospitals get neglected.

1 Like Reply

**Rhys**

58 minutes ago

@ROGER Everything is wrong with the current hospital. It is an ugly old concrete monolith from the post war period of boring architecture, it swallowed part of the gardens, it is full of asbestos, it is a rabbit warren, it is depressing to be in if you are a patient or visitor and the wonderful staff deserve to work in a state of the art, attractive and comfortable building. Good riddance! I can't wait. The new design for the site is a million times better than the dump that is there now.

Like Reply

**Adam**

52 minutes ago

@ROGER There is alot wrong the the present hospital, upgrades alone to bring it up to current standards would be in the 100's of millions, and then require upgrading again in the decades to come. Not everything can be fixed at once as some short sighted people seem to believe.

Like Reply

**Steven**

20 minutes ago

@Adam @ROGER \$100's of millions yes maybe, much less than the \$13 billion over 30 years the new hospital is costing which only has the same number of beds. Money that could be spent on other things for a little loss of amenity. If only we had more money to

do both....

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