

# \$4m redesign will pour dose of new life into the old boy

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Retractable louvres, a roof-top pond, a rock garden and timber decking form part of the winning design chosen yesterday for the redevelopment of the Andrew (Boy) Charlton pool in the Domain.

Work on the \$4 million development will begin in 2000 and will be based on a design by the Surry Hills-based architects Ed Lippmann Associates.

It was one of more than 150 designs and six finalists in a competition launched by the City of Sydney in April to redesign the pool.

The open-plan design comprises a steel structure on which hang windows and retractable louvres. The louvres are also used to provide privacy and ventilation in the changing rooms, which will overlook a heritage stone wall and rock garden.

The position of the three pools will remain unchanged and the areas around them will incorporate timber decking.

The building is on two levels, and swimmers will get to the club room and ticket kiosk by crossing a steel-grate bridge. Inside, visitors will look out across the changing room roof, on top of which will be built a shallow pond.

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Frank Sartor, said the pool was one of Sydney's greatest community icons.

The Ed Lippmann Associates design reflected better than any other entry the



**Soaking up success . . . Ed Lippmann, left, and Rolf Ockert of the company that won the design competition.**

Photograph by ROBERT PEARCE

public's strongest concerns about the pool, he said — "the need for a simple, understated development, with minimal impact on the sensitive harbourside site".

The design took only three

weeks to complete and was the idea of the company's director, Mr Ed Lippmann, and Mr Rolf Ockert and Ms Nerida Bergin. Their prize was \$10,000.

Mr Lippmann said the

building was designed to maximise the views of the harbour.

"The site has this incredible juxtaposition of the historical maritime facilities, the water of the harbour and natural

landscape, so we have used a lot of glass to accentuate the views seen from the building. It [the building] will hardly be noticeable. We wanted to keep it understated. It's not an iconic form, say, like the Opera House."

The baths were opened in 1908 and included seating for 1,700 and a 110-metre pool.

It was not until 1968 that the present baths were officially opened and named after Charlton, who won gold in the

1,500m at the 1924 Paris Olympics.

The same year, 10,000 people crowded into the Domain to watch Charlton beat the Swede Arne Borg in a 440-yard (402-metre) event.