

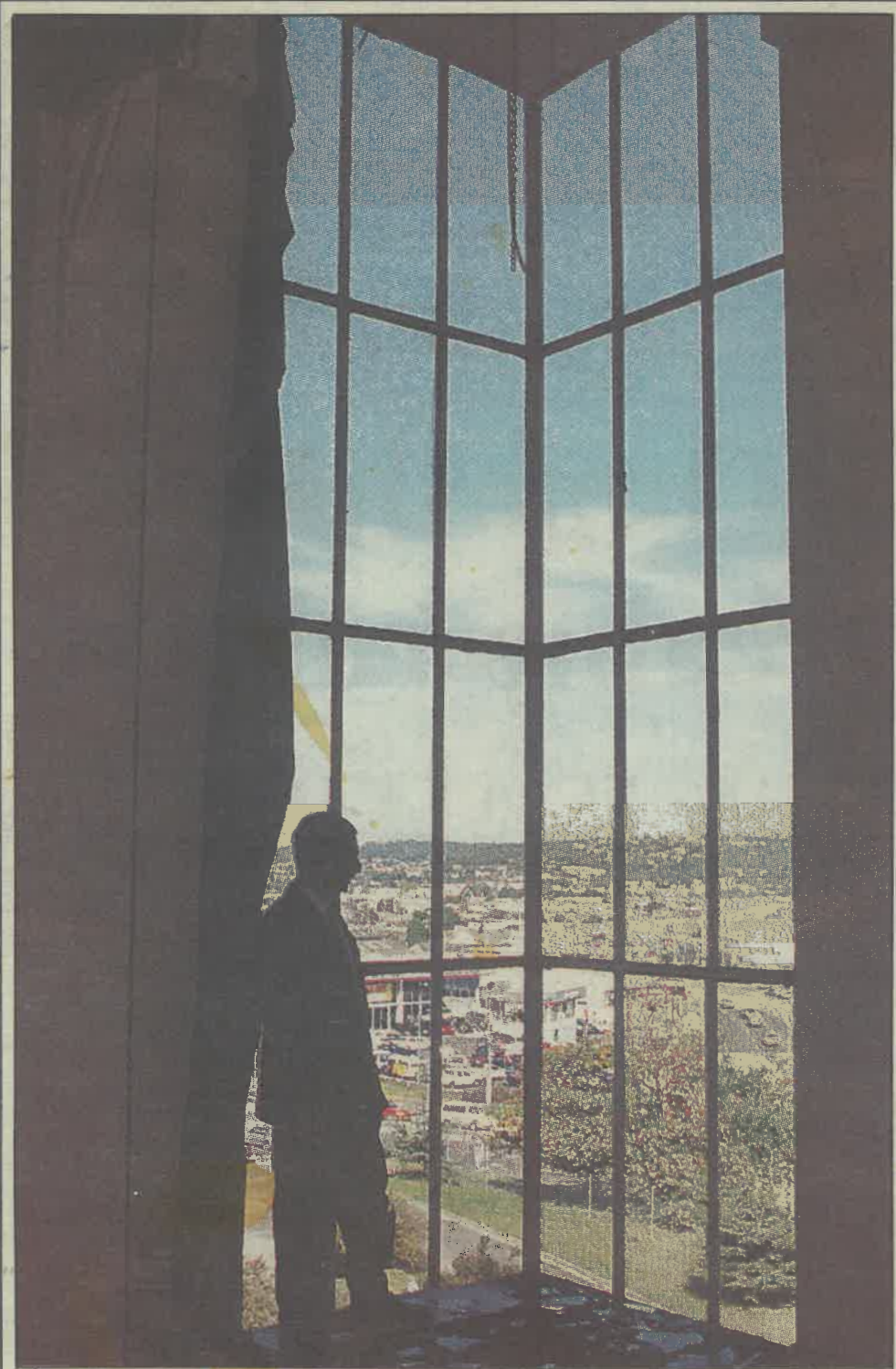
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Looking to the future ... architect Ed Lippmann inspects work on the former Top Dog building
 PHOTO: Paul Melville

DEVELOPERS of Dee Why's former Top Dog building yesterday lifted the veil of secrecy over details of reconstruction works which started at the site this month.

Plans show significant heritage features such as the clock tower and bow window will be fully restored during a \$5 million year-long revamp.

And the building's use, which has been for light industrial business since it was built in 1949, will not change.

Top Dog keeps tower, window

Project architect Ed Lippmann said the owner, Balgowlah pharmaceutical company J R and R Power Holdings, would not relocate to

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Window and tower to stay

● From Page 1
 the site as first planned when it bought the building from the Parlyby Ventry Group in 1992.

Mr Lippmann said Coles Myer would occupy nearly half the building for office/warehouse operations while negotiations were under way with other major business groups for the other half.

Mr Lippmann said this month the Heritage Council had once again endorsed the owner's plans for the building, with trust architect Keith Cottier describing them as "the best possible scheme for the site".

Already the asbestos-ridden roof has been removed and much of the interior stripped back for upgrading works to bring it up to today's stringent development standards.

Mr Lippmann said the shape of the building's facade would not be subjected to the "rumored brute architecture" but would be two storeys of glass.

"From day one we were always going to restore the clock tower and bow window," he said.

Mr Lippmann said there would be extensive landscaping included in the works, which were due for completion by next March.