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'MECCANO'® BUILDING BOOM WITH PRECAST

Social change in Australian cities is prompting building designs to move away from the typical house on a quarter acre block to low maintenance townhouses, and medium density living is on the rise. As a result, the past five years has seen several Australian capital cities experiencing an apartment led construction boom. In August 2016 Australia experienced its biggest construction boom since the late 1980's. With occupancy rates rising nationally, led by 85% plus levels in Sydney and Melbourne, new apartment building developments have been a financially attractive proposition.

As builders and developers look for construction alternatives that offer faster, safer, and more economical solutions, precast concrete has been increasingly specified. Offering a highly efficient Meccano® style of construction, the precast industry has been thriving within a buoyant market.

In Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth, there are some signs of an oversupply of apartments; in Sydney, however, there still appears to be an under supplied unit market. So, while the inner city housing boom has met or surpassed market demands, the recent decline in building approvals suggest that the boom is approaching its peak and will soon start to settle before declining. Governments around the country are bracing themselves for the inevitable end of the boom, a boom which has been one of the main supporters of the economy since mining declined.

Going forward, precast concrete will continue to play an integral role in the future of residential and commercial construction. What once may have been primarily functional, yet possibly unattractive high density social living complexes, are now highly aesthetically pleasing and creative medium density living quarters.

2018 NAWIC NSW AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE PRESS FOR PROGRESS

The awards, which the NSW Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) has hosted for 22 years, celebrate the contributions made by women at all career levels and in all sectors of the construction industry.

According to NAWIC's NSW President Sarah Hogan, the MeToo and Time's Up movements, and campaigns like International Women's Day's #PressForProgress, reflect changing values within the business and broader community.

"As the world changes for women, NAWIC is determined to maintain the momentum," Ms Hogan says. "NAWIC embodies these important initiatives in our own industry – fairness, inclusion and equity of opportunity. The NAWIC Awards for Excellence are an important vehicle to advance the careers of women, and to enhance the property and construction industry too."

In 2017, NAWIC received 70 nominations across 11 categories. Last year's winners included JLL Project Director, Esti Cogger, who was presented with the coveted Lendlease Crystal Vision Award for Advancing the Interests of Women in the Construction Industry. Ms Cogger was selected for making great inroads into the retention and promotion of women in her organisation.

In 2018, awards will be presented in 11 categories: Lendlease Crystal Vision Award;

Laing O'Rourke Business Woman of the Year Award; MPA Award for Achievement in Construction, Refurbishment and Fitout; Holcim Award for Contribution to Sustainability; John Holland Award for Team Innovation; HASSELL Award for Innovation in Design; Probuild Project Manager Award; Roberts Pizzarotti Award for Contribution to a Project's Development; Procore Scholarship for Future Leaders; CPB Contractors Tradesperson Scholarship; CBRE University Scholarship.

Each year, NAWIC helps more women to pursue leadership roles, showcase their talents and expand their career potential," Ms Hogan adds. "We urge individuals and companies from across the industry to nominate their established and emerging leaders, exceptional projects and extraordinary teamwork so that we can continue to press for progress."

Download the awards nomination booklet, nominate an individual or team, and book tickets for the gala awards evening: www.nawic.com.au/Web/Chapters/NSW/NSW_Awards.aspx

The 2018 NAWIC Awards for Excellence will be held the International Convention Centre Sydney on Thursday 23 August. Acclaimed journalist, TV presenter and vocal campaigner for #MeToo, Jessica Rowe, will MC the gala event. Dami Im, who has represented Australia at Eurovision, will feature as the headline act.

TOP GLOBAL COST CONSULTANT FOR THIRD YEAR

Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) has been voted the number one global cost consultant partner for the third year running in the Building Design World Architecture 100 Survey 2018.

This endorsement recognises the high quality of service the firm continues to deliver in helping architects bring projects to life.

The annual World Architecture 100 rankings are compiled by surveying over 1,250 leading architecture practices from across the globe.

The annual survey, carried out by Building Design, ranks the top global 100 architecture firms in terms of annual turnover in addition to the top cost consultant, project manager, building contractor, service engineer and structural engineer these architects prefer to work with.

At RLB, we understand it takes foresight to create great urban design.

With our experience, people, and global reach, we derive immense satisfaction in taking our partners on a journey to success.