

shiro architects

Award-winning spaces to feel good about

Award-winning designers of a world-class sport academy and member of a select "design excellence" club

Not every architect's practice still early in its life wins a regional Australian Institute of Architects design award on its first project. However, in late June, 2017, we pulled it off when Hiromi Lauren's design of the Gold Coast KDV Golf and Tennis Academy was declared winner of the 2017 Queensland state architecture award for commercial architecture.

The KDV Golf and Tennis Academy was both the building that got Shiro Architects started as a business and Hiromi's first significant completed building in her own right.

Likewise, if only a small number of architectural practices ever gets invited to participate in a significant design competition, it is a considerably smaller number that gets paid a significant fee to do so.

Fewer still will get to compete on the basis of "design excellence" for a major urban site under the sponsorship of its local metropolitan authority.

And again, it is also a very short list of architects indeed that gets invited to submit its unbuilt house designs and client stories for inclusion in Australia's most popular TV show on residential architecture, Grand Designs Australia.

In its short, three-year existence, all three are among Shiro Architects' design accomplishments to date.

Getting noticed

Shiro's design for the KDV Golf and Tennis Academy has already generated international acclaim in the online journal of international architecture, ArchDaily, here: <http://bit.ly/2ffZVaC>.

The facility was also long-shortlisted as a competition entrant in the top 100 of ArchDaily's worldwide 2017 building of the year sports facilities.

Its owner, Denis Shtengelov, founder of KDV Group, a dominant player in the Russian market for confectionery and snack products, has a vision of creating on the Gold Coast a top-flight sporting academy serving both professional sports teams and individuals, and those at the top end of their amateur games.

With a delighted client, we are now working on the second phase of the KDV project, its accommodation block.

Spaces to feel good about

Harry Seidler years

Before starting Shiro Architects, design director Hiromi Lauren formerly worked for the late Harry Seidler for 20 years, where she was considered one of Harry's favourites.

She spent 13 years working closely with Harry, engaged on conceptual design and construction documentation for multiresidential projects and international competitions.

After her father's death in 2006, Seidler's daughter Polly wrote to Hiromi that Harry had considered Hiromi an "extremely gifted architect." Those who recognise how the revolutionary vision of Seidler's built work transformed attitudes to modern architecture in Australia will recognise that acknowledgement as high praise indeed.

Spaces to feel good about

Both of two significant Queensland property developers who visited the KDV Academy on its completion told us its space felt good. We now use their attribution both as an expression of what we do well, and of our consistent design aspiration.

If our style of work appeals and this is also your hope for a project you are planning, please contact us.

Early highlights:

Major architecture award

Winner, 2017 Queensland state Institute of Architects award for commercial architecture for the KDV Golf and Tennis Academy, Gold Coast, Queensland

Design excellence

One of only three practices invited to compete (against much larger and longer-established rivals) on "design excellence" for a major landmark urban multiresidential development under the sponsorship of Parramatta City Council.

National media recognition

Invited to submit three unbuilt house designs for inclusion in Australia's most popular TV show on residential architecture, Grand Designs Australia.

Expertise:

Commercial: hospitality, sport and leisure, retail

Hotels and accommodation

Multiresidential

Commercial towers

High-end houses

Our design philosophy centres on creating welcoming buildings emphasising social utility and incorporating the latest technology within a timeless aesthetic expression.

We aim in our designs to optimise space usage in pursuit of the best possible return on their investment for our clients.

We aim to push frontiers in structural and construction technology, to accommodate practical, flexible operational requirements.

We aim to deliver buildings as works of sophisticated, successful commercial art, resolving interior design, furnishings, equipment and selected artworks to create a cohesive and satisfying whole.

Concept:

Planning for our buildings is based on simple, strong concepts.

We focus on business needs and on providing the most satisfying experience for users and the visitors to a centre.

Economical building design:

Construction methods are integrated into the designs from the beginning.

Designs are driven by needs to minimise energy consumption.

Technological:

We aim to create long-span, column-free, flexible interiors which integrate mechanical services within the depth of structural floors.

Aesthetic:

We follow principles of modern architecture.

Short-lived fashions and unnecessarily decorative styling are to be avoided.

Aesthetic and physical durability predominates.

Technology will enable us with the tools to create enjoyable and compelling architectural spaces.

Planning:

The aim of our architecture must not be limited to achieving design goals for an individual building, however excellent it may be, but to planning for the overall environment in which it stands.

By attempting to provide generous surrounding public urban spaces which attract spending customers, our visions will ensure the natural fit of facilities within their active communities.



Shiro helps clients get a better return on their investments in built space

Hiromi Lauren is adept at designing to maximise the use of built space, and earned Harry Seidler's esteem when on the design of the multi-residential North Apartments building in Sydney's Goulburn Street she managed to squeeze in an extra apartment on each of 11 of the development's 16 storeys, netting a bonus for the developer of over \$5 million. Naturally, the client was delighted, as was Seidler himself.

Hiromi's introduction into the workplace came at the height of Japan's 1980s economic miracle. The extreme pressure applied to developers by Japanese lending banks to ensure they were getting the very best yield per square metre has left an indelible imprint on her practices.

The ability to design to optimise the use of space is now hard-wired into her and ensures that the principle of managing precisely for floor-space optimisation now pays off in her work for Shiro Architects' developer clients.

Hiromi says, "I learnt the hard way, not once, but every day, as in the [Japanese economic] bubble, I was working 180 hours in overtime per month to satisfy banks and developers.

"That discipline of being obedient to developers, and the pressures they had imposed on them by their bankers, was baked into my mind, as agents and developers are always most interested in the number of sellable units you can get into a building, not necessarily how luxurious each one is."

In Japan, Hiromi says, "I can see that when a developer has a concept and they are right, it is just our job to help them make money.

"Although the emphasis was different when I was working for Harry Seidler, because that way of working in Japan is how I've worked my whole life, I always know how we can get the greatest use from a particular space."

Hiromi is inspired by her Japanese fashion design training

Long before working at Harry Seidler's Sydney practice, as a student in Japan, Hiromi was more interested in fashion design than in architecture, and to this day her extra-curricular studies in that discipline have inspired the ways in which she develops her buildings' designs.

"My fashion-design school was called Mode and it's very famous in Japan. Two big schools produce the most famous designers, such as Koshino Junko, Kenzo and Issey Miyake, those working in haute couture. Mode was more for commercial-type designers, those working for big companies that produce commercial clothing, or prêt-à-porter.

"In order to make those sorts of products, in year one we had to learn how to sew and how to make clothes, and to be able to design you have to be able to think about them in three dimensions. You'd have to be able to cut, using one piece of cloth to dress a mannequin. Then you'd take it off the model and put it on the table, so you learnt how to make a pattern.

"In the second year, you start designing things, and the interesting thing is how they teach you. You'd have sheets of A3 or larger paper, and on the left of the sheet you'd have an image of a very stylish, typical next-season's catwalk model. From there, you'd then design a new image next to it, in which you are allowed to change only one thing.

"In the next image you drew, you could again change another single thing, but by the end of the paper, once you've repeated this several times you've arrived at something completely different. It has become your design, but it still follows next season's style. I've learned since that that skill, that six-stages methodology, can be used for designing buildings as well.

"At the end of that second year, we had a big event in a recital hall to host the second year's graduation, but I couldn't go because I had a university architecture exam to study for. Sitting the exam took precedence, not necessarily for me, but because my parents paid for my university.

"As I paid for the fashion-design school for myself, I didn't want to fail, but then my friend called me and said what are you doing? I had won top prize and it was just so embarrassing for the school that somebody won the top prize but didn't even turn up to receive the award.

"I'd been at the school for four years, but the chairman hosting the ceremony was also its founder, and he never talked to me again."

Applying Hiromi's six-stage design methodology

"I think that six-stages methodology is a very good strategy for building design. Sometimes you like particular architects, like Sejima, or whoever I like, and they provide the initial inspiration for a design, and some people may consider using that technique as copying. But it's not, it's just following the style and the language, but without designing something completely different. But, by using the six-stage process, it has become your own original design.

"Besides, it is always unique, as architectural drawing always says that this particular building has to be on this particular site. Even if you like a particular building and try to copy it completely, you can't anyhow, as each one has a different function, a different geometry, and a different use. However, by changing one thing and then another, then it becomes a completely different building, but it still has that style.

"While I think that strategy is a good way of working, now I am working with younger architects. They have different minds and know all kinds of different materials, plastics, acrylics and all the funky things I don't.

"Working with Seidler's, I've worked on a lot of black and white buildings, but by putting younger minds into a design can make it more interesting.

"All up, it is quite different to working with Harry, who never allowed people to do things like that. However, I think our approach now gives us a very good and inspiring design combination."

Meriton Apartments

On its own web site, Australia's largest apartment developer, Harry Triguboff's Meriton Apartments, has generous, unsolicited, words to say about the contribution of Shiro principal architect Hiromi Lauren to the late Harry Seidler's design of Meriton's own mixed-use commercial-residential headquarters tower in Sydney's George Street:

"Seidler was a frequent and enthusiastic collaborator, and regularly used visual artists in the creations of his buildings. When building the Meriton Tower, he collaborated with gifted designer Hiromi Lauren, who now runs Shiro Architects. Her ability to adapt her designs at speed were exactly what Seidler needed for the ever-changing project." (<http://bit.ly/1Ntv7q.>)

For Shiro, this is welcome acknowledgement indeed.

Parramatta Design Excellence Competition Jury, October 2015

Official jury comments:

"This [Shiro Architects'] proposal addresses the corner and Jubilee Park with two different geometries – a curved tower addressing the corner and a rectilinear stepped building addressing the park.

"The ground level is spatially exciting, with double storey heights and large retail floor areas ... the strength of the sculptural response to the corner site is very impressive and distinctive amongst the entrants."

Tom Copping, Senior Town Planner, Dyldam Developments:

"Although Shiro was not successful on this occasion the Jury made a number of positive comments regarding the form and sculpture of your scheme which was distinctive from the other entrants and outside of the norm for a lot of the designs that we are seeing in Parramatta."

Simon Parsons, Executive Director, PTW Architects:

"All competitors put in such strong submissions, but yours was distinguished by its bold and sculptural approach to the site which was refreshing – Harry Seidler would have been proud of you!!"

Russell Olsson, Director, Olson & Associates Architects:

"All the competitors did well, as it was a constrained building envelope with a lot of floor space. Even with those constraints, your design had spatial volumes and articulated external forms. I hope your office gains more work, and I wish you all the best."

Bruce Bland, Harry Seidler and Associates client, Alliance Française Centre, 257 Clarence Street, Sydney

Oct. 2014 To whom it may concern:

I have known Hiromi Lauren (née Shiraishi) for more than a decade.

As a long term client of Harry Seidler & Associates, where Hiromi was employed, I have worked with her on two major projects, several minor projects and observed the high regard in which she was held by Harry Seidler himself, the other Associates and staff.

The major projects were The Alliance Francaise Centre, (a 13-storey Sydney CBD building with a friendly client but a difficult developer/builder), and the addition of a penthouse to my Sydney Rose Bay residence, (complicated because the penthouse was added to an existing Seidler home and there were local Council as well as design issues).

Hiromi was the Seidler 'Project Manager' for both these projects. She also did some design work for me on some family investment properties.

Hiromi has engineering, architectural and planning qualifications. What I appreciated most working with her was:

- Her general intelligence and ability to 'size up' problems.
- Her singular gift of remaining calm and on friendly terms with all involved.
- The speed with which she found and delivered wonderfully innovative solutions to difficult architectural problems.

I highly recommend her as an excellent collaborator and would welcome the opportunity to personally elaborate on the above should you so wish (mob: 0412707 777, email: bland1206@optusnet.com.au)

"The design for the KDV Golf and Tennis Academy is symbolic of what we express in our architectural philosophy. I tried to come up with an airy, transparent design, because on the site we have really good scenery behind us, so why would anyone want to close it off from the freeway?"

"Although our primary consideration wasn't what is in the neighbourhood, as it is still relatively empty, quite apart from letting the outside in and the inside out, it is both distinctive yet also blends in with its local natural surroundings."

Hiromi Lauren, architect

In late June, 2017, Shiro Architects was declared winner of the 2017 Queensland state architecture award for commercial architecture for its KDV Golf and Tennis Academy building.

Opened in October 2016 and located near Nerang, on Queensland's Gold Coast, it comprises an extensive \$20 million overhaul of the previous Carrara Gardens Golf Course facility.

On the existing site and adjoining land, KDV Sport is creating a world-class, state of the art, one-stop sporting complex for the Gold Coast, using the latest technology available for professional and top-grade pre-professional sportspeople.

The 12-hectare Carrara Gardens site now forms a significant component of Gold Coast City Council's plan for the wider Gold Coast Sporting Precinct, whose redevelopment will support the staging of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The Academy is the first professional-level sports facility to be completed in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games era.

We are now working on its follow-up project, KDV Sport's student accommodation block, shown on the following page.



KDV Sport's vision is to create a top-class international accommodation and educational facility for young sportspeople. It is a destination for serious training, academic pursuit and relaxation in the accommodating Gold Coast climate, to be built on the land adjoining the existing KDV Golf and Tennis Academy.

The brief evolved from that for a short-stay hotel to one for a facility providing longer term shelter and academic resources for those taking seriously the training of both their minds and bodies.

From its original curved form (left, beneath), it has necessarily evolved to become a straight and linear structure (right).

Earlier short-stay accommodation design

Initially, we were required to design guest rooms at 18 sqm for a single bed and 24 sqm for a double room. At that point, the building could have been a hotel for short-term student stay of, say, up to one week, but then not yet a stay of, say, 10 weeks.

Flexibility to to adjust room configuration and guestroom mixes became key to the design. A modular, open plan allowed for rooms of either 18 sqm x 4 = 72 sqm, or 24 sqm x 3 = 72 sqm, to be allocated internally without ever changing the façade.

The pie shape of the plan created flexibility to add and reconfigure units according to changes in possible future demands.

Transition of purpose

Longer term accommodation for students had also to enable educational, medical and psychological support, with a proper canteen and a nutritious meal plan.

The building costs for an academy rather than hotel accommodation could no longer sustain its original shape without increasing the project budget. It had to become straight to accommodate additional meeting and library space for education, associated medical rooms and increased back-of-house facilities engaging more staff.

New form

The design evolved to become linear and modular without the former depth of façade in precast/prefinished concrete panels. Sun screening (awnings) to north-facing windows were designed in a Bauhaus-style building to comply with Section J regulations.

Maximum cantilevered horizontal awnings and vertical sunscreens cast substantial shadows onto the building to reduce solar heat gain, provide weather protection and facilitate natural ventilation.

As shadows cast at different hours of the day change the building façade naturally according to time and season, no additional colour or decorative materials need to be added to keep the building's design interesting.



Spaces to feel good about

Parramatta design excellence competition: Dyldam Developments, 5-7 Parkes Street, Parramatta, NSW

In October 2015, Shiro Architects joined a highly select club, when, as underdogs, third on the ticket to two other extremely well-established and well-known firms, it participated in an invited, limited-entrant, paid "design excellence" competition hosted by Parramatta City Council for a 23-storey residential tower to be developed by Dyldam Developments.

Ok, Shiro didn't win. Yet, in a competition ultimately decided by a council jury, Hiromi Lauren once again proved her ability to get a better yield on built space than a majority of designers.

In her hands, Shiro's submission comfortably exceeded the requirements of the brief by designing in 173 apartments on a challenging site, against a requirement for only 150 units.

Design quality aside, her capacity for getting the maximum yield out of constrained spaces is what frequently distinguishes Hiromi's work.

Within Parramatta City Council's vision for the city, the Parramatta Ring Road on which the building's Parkes Street site sits is intended to become a "distinct city entrance."

Against this, Shiro presented an imposing, modern residential building that met expectations for its location, in two building forms.

As the Parramatta DCP demands that on a significant corner site a building's shape should follow that of the corner, at the site's western end, wrapping around the intersection of Parkes and Anderson Street, we introduced a slim, curved 23-storey tower.

To the site's east, its counterpart low-rise apartment block stepped from seven to 10 to 12 storeys.

From Parkes Street west, the tower and low-rise building are connected structurally, but not visually from the street.

Our design aimed to innovate within the site boundaries, providing an aesthetically distinctive and conceptually clear architecture, exploring alternative designs for ventilation, wind screening, light, solar access, assembly, planting and materials.

Its setbacks as it rose provided roof spaces for lush landscaping and outdoor-indoor living experiences for residents, entangling and softening the analytical clarity of the modern architecture itself.

The comments of the competition judges can be found above on the testimonials page.

Spaces to feel good about



View from Parkes Street east



View from Parkes Street west



View from Anderson Street

City of Sydney design excellence competition

In 2011, Hiromi worked in conjunction with collins and turner architects, MBMO Architects' Sven Ollmann and Plus Minus Design's Phillip Arnold on collins and turners' shortlisted entry into the design excellence competition for the \$215m redevelopment of Mirvac's 200 George Street in Sydney's CBD.

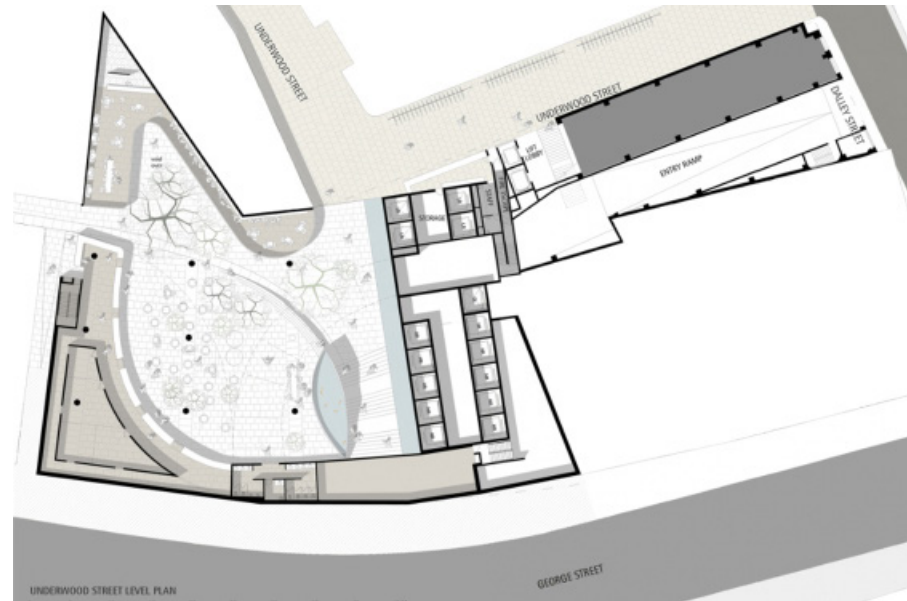
The brief called for a detailed proposal for a new 35-storey tower, the redevelopment of an eight-storey building in Daley Street, and a strategy to integrate the ground level of the development with the future pedestrianised George Street. It would also revitalise the network of CBD laneways that connect to the site with a through-site link.

Hiromi worked on the principle of the core's design and the podium/entry level of the tower, and was responsible for revitalising the building in Daley Street for new and innovative uses.

The tower design proposed a compact and efficient floor plate that maximised Harbour and CBD views through a southern location for the building core.

The tower plan was articulated as a series of fingers of flexible open-plan office accommodation, interlinked three-dimensionally with multi-floor spaces articulated as sky gardens. These would be semi-landscaped spaces providing amenity and potential uses as break-out spaces, meeting rooms, or cafes for individual tenancies, such as can be seen at the nearby Harry Seidler-designed 9 Castlereagh Street in whose entry lobby revitalisation Hiromi was involved in 2010-2011.

The proposed public areas linked George Street with the city laneways via an eight-storey entry void containing a huge aquarium within a dramatic light-filled space that included fine retail and public art, as well as the entry to the tower lobby via a suspended glazed bridge link.



Our skills in residential design seem about to win Shiro Architects unexpected publicity plaudits, as we have been invited to submit each of the three houses featured here for possible inclusion in Australia's most popular TV show on residential architecture, Grand Designs Australia.

Khôra house, Gordon, NSW

In January 2015, we spent two days in a workshop with a charming, super-intelligent couple wishing to redevelop their house in Sydney's leafy northern suburb of Gordon.

As former academics now deeply embedded in the world of corporate strategy, they are deeply concerned with process, so our admittedly small workshop – two of them, at most four of us, plus their two kids and parents – was well thought-out and executed. The upshot is that Hiromi came up with a design that meets all of the family's needs. All along, the challenge has been to make that design work to fit a modest budget.

Tennyson Point house, Parramatta River, NSW

Shiro Architects didn't start out with any particular ambitions to design houses, and this early design and the resulting project is the result of a chance conversation and the exploration of the possibilities of a prime site with its residential property developer owner on Sydney's Parramatta River foreshore.

The six-bedroom house, a reward for the developer's success to himself and his family, will contain a formal kitchen, display kitchen, outdoor kitchen, gym, game room, lift, home theatre, pool and glass-walled spa and 10 separate bathrooms.

Kellyville house, NSW

A modern family home in the rapidly growing northern Sydney suburb of Kellyville, this dwelling sits on a site in which many if not each of its neighbours seem to be competing to shout loudest by building the biggest houses their plots can contain.

Using simple materials, a combination of concrete, metal and timber and glass, its exterior has a distinctly Japanese flavour, and we like to think our design shows no such neighbourly lack of restraint in either scale or finish.



North Apartments, Goulburn Street, Sydney

Hiromi: "The site, on Goulburn Street, opposite the Masonic Centre and next to the Family Law Court, runs east to west and Harry and my boss, Seidler partner Peter Hirst, took a look at it. They thought that because there was only one open aspect available onto the street, the rest being surrounded by buildings, they could get only three apartments per floor from it.

"Where, technically, it would have been possible to put windows on the west side, the City of Sydney wouldn't allow us to do it, because if the Mandarin Club to the west was ever demolished and a tall building were to replace it, those windows wouldn't get any sun.

"They thought there was nothing else they can do, it's either three units per floor or two, but I thought probably I can put four in there. Harry didn't especially like the idea at first because the design could never be optimal if an apartment didn't have direct sun and had to borrow sunlight from the living room.

"Yet, considering the site was in the south of the city and the lifestyles of the people who lived there meant they were only really there to sleep and the units didn't really have any life in the daytime, why not accept the compromise?

"So, we raised the back of each unit to 450mm, above which a bedroom could still have a view towards the north, which, prior to the Civic Tower being built above the Masonic Centre, made for a really nice view. This worked so well that [developer-client] Greg Malouf could get an extra \$550,000 apartment on each floor, yet still remaining within the existing FSR. On each of eleven floors, times \$550,000, that makes five to six million dollars' difference.

"Harry explained it to the client by saying she comes from Japan and has a better idea about designing for shoebox living. I think the client was surprised, as architects don't normally work to make money for developers, they principally consider they are there to help them do nice things. But in my case, I was able to do both.

"Unrelated specifically to North Apartments, I always think architects should work to make money for the client."

Meriton Tower, George Street, Sydney

Hiromi: "Harry Seidler and I designed Meriton Tower together. Meriton's Harry Triguboff owned the Village Cinema site, and the City of Sydney had just then introduced its competitive design process for design excellence, and as the client, Harry Triguboff, chose to have an 'invited' architectural design competition, we were invited.

"As Harry always wanted to give everyone a good view, we twisted the design into the building's triangular shape so that everyone got a view towards water, out towards Darling Harbour, Botany Bay and towards Hyde Park.

"As Harry did all the time, we put projected balconies into the design to make contrasts and shadows, so we calculated carefully what was the most beautiful thing to do.

"We found out that every single week, Harry Triguboff would go to every site with his architects, and he wanted complete flexibility from his designers.

"What were apartments one week would be changed to become serviced apartments, and then a hotel, and then strata-titled, and every time he changed his mind we would have to change the apartment mix to suit the council's regulations. This would be the same, every time, every week.

"Then, he changed the apartment mix as well, so all these balconies we had carefully calculated, everything would be changed, and the only wing he didn't change was always one-bedroom or studio apartments, which had the most important elevations from either George or Kent streets.

"Harry Seidler once described me as 'Hiraculous' for managing to keep up with a constantly changing brief, as the building was under construction. It's not something you want to do on every job, though."

On its own Meriton Apartments web site, developer Meriton has acclaimed the importance of Hiromi Lauren's contribution to the tower's design. We've reproduced its words on the page of testimonials above



2017

Kellyville house project, NSW

Status: pre-DA

Type: single dwelling

Client: Dunlop-Gatti

Sensitive residential site, Sydney Harbour

Status: concept development

Type: multi-residential

Client: Sydney developer

Maroubra beachfront restaurant and leisure project

Status: early concept development

Type: commercial hospitality

Client: Sydney private client

Australian bathhouse concept

Status: early concept development

Type: commercial hospitality

Client: Shiro Architects internal new product development

2016

"The Mermaid," Mermaid Beach, QLD

Status: pre-DA

Type: four storey, luxury apartments

Client: Queensland developer

KDV Sport accommodation block

Status: procurement

Type: 72-room sports accommodation and hospitality

Client: KDV Sport

2014-2016

KDV Golf and Tennis Academy, Gold Coast, QLD

Status: completed October 2016

Type: sport, education, hospitality facilities

Client: KDV Sport

Khôra house project, Gordon, NSW

Status: pre-DA

Type: single dwelling

Client: Dunlop-Gatti

Tennyson Point house, Parramatta River, NSW

Status: DA

Type: waterfront house

Client: private client

The Freefall Experience Design Ideas Competition, ACT

Status: shortlisted

Type: National Arboretum, Canberra, feature installation

Client: Engineers Australia, Canberra Division

2015

Graphene project, NSW

Status: concept

Type: concept design, nano-manufacturing plant

Client: Nanocarbon Pty Ltd

Fiji house, Savusavu, Fiji

Status: concept

Type: waterfront house

Client: Nick Deeks

Sutherland apartments, NSW

Status: feasibility study

Type: multi-residential development

Client: Sutherland developer

St Marys development, NSW

Status: feasibility study

Type: mixed commercial/residential

Client: Newland Constructions

Design Excellence Competition, Parkes Street, Parramatta, NSW

Status: limited-entrant, invited competition

Type: mixed commercial/multi-residential

Client: Dyldam Developments



Hiromi Lauren (née Shiraishi)

MPIA 44496 / Architect NSW 8848 / QLD 4898

Project Director / Project Architect

Hiromi was born in Osaka, Japan, where after graduation she worked as project architect on large residential-complex developments and government projects.

After migrating to Australia in 1994, she joined Harry Seidler and Associates and worked side by side with Harry himself on many competition schemes and design developments.

During this period, Hiromi acted as the project team leader, administrator and head documentor for the North Apartments development in Goulburn Street, Sydney, on the George Street Meriton Tower and on the Clarence Street Alliance Française Centre in the Sydney CBD.

In 2007, after Harry's death, her design for the tower of a 7-star hotel in Tripoli, Libya was submitted for a competition on behalf of the office.

In conjunction with Collins and Turner Architects, MBMO Architects' Sven Ollmann and Plus Minus Design's Phillip Arnold, Hiromi was a key team member for their shortlisted design scheme for Mirvac's 200 George Street redevelopment.

Hiromi brings a balanced blend of creativity and thoughtfulness to projects through her experience, gained as a leading architect, designer and planner.

Her expertise in design development, construction oversight, service coordination and abilities to liaise with clients, builders and local government authorities will ensure a smoothly run program from inception to completion.

Projects at Shiro Architects:

- 2017 Sensitive residential site, Sydney Harbour, multi-residential (concept development)
- 2016-now Luxury apartments Mermaid Beach, QLD (pre-DA)
- 2016-now KDV Golf and Tennis Academy, Gold Coast, QLD
Phase two student accommodation block, 70 rooms, 3,215 sqm (procurement)
- 2016-now Townhouse development, nine dwellings, Miranda, NSW (pre-DA)

- 2015-now Luxury waterfront house, Tennyson Point, Parramatta River, NSW (DA approved)
- 2015-now Holiday house development, Savusavu, Fiji (construction)
- 2014-16 KDV Golf and Tennis Academy, Gold Coast, QLD
Sports complex, 3,300 sqm. Complete October 2016.
- 2015 Dyldam multi-residential Design Excellence competition, Parramatta, NSW
- 2014 The Freefall Experience Design Ideas Competition, ACT (shortlisted runner-up)
- 2014-now Gordon house, NSW (DA)

Projects at Toland Shiraishi Architects:

- 2012-14 Tjapukai Cultural Centre Cairns, QLD.
Fish Market car park toll gate, Sydney NSW
VTEC Aboriginal Centre, Roebourne, Western Australia
Multi-residential development Beaconsfield, NSW
Nursing home development St Ives, NSW

Independent project:

- 2011 Design excellence competition, Mirvac 200 George Street, Sydney, NSW
35 storeys, commercial building

Significant projects at Harry Seidler and Associates:

- 2010-11 9 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW
Commercial lobby refurbishment
- 2007 Author of tower for 7-star hotel competition, Tripoli, Libya
86 storeys, offices, hotel, serviced apartments and retail

- 2006-09 Alliance Française, 257 Clarence Street, Sydney, NSW
13 storeys, commercial office building
- 2002-06 Meriton Tower (Meriton Apartments HQ), George and Kent Streets, Sydney, NSW
58 storeys, commercial and residential complex, 345 apartments, 44,000 sqm
- 2002 World Tower (Meriton Apartments) competition, George Street, Sydney, NSW
75 storeys, commercial and residential complex
- North Apartments Goulburn Street, Sydney, NSW
16 storeys, residential complex, 49 apartments, 410 sqm retail/commercial
- 2001 Competition for Vanke Co. Ltd Shenzhen, China
Community development on site 38,300 sqm, GFA of complex 236,292 sqm
- 1995-99 Horizon Apartments Darlinghurst, NSW
43 storeys, residential tower and low-rise blocks, 260 apartments, 32,000sqm 2000-02
- 1994-97 Wohnpark Vienna, Austria
Commercial and residential development with cinema complex, 115,000sqm

Qualifications and professional affiliations:

Bachelor Engineering and Architecture, Osaka, Japan.
University of Technology Sydney, Master in Architecture (Town Planning).
University of Technology Sydney, Post Graduate Dip, Law (Dispute Resolution).
Architect NSW 8848, QLD 4898
Registered 1st Class architect (Japan) JFA187809.

Diego Abe

Architect / Designer

Diego has 10 years of experience working in Chile, Argentina and Australia. For the last five years he worked in Sydney on awarded multi-residential developments. His solid experience covers all relevant stages of the project, from sketch design to construction documentation.

2011-16	Candalepas Associates Project Architect
2011	Juan Pablo Vicuña Luco Arquitectos, Santiago, Chile Project Architect
2010	Estudio Irastorza, Buenos Aires, Argentina Project Architect/Project Manager
2007-10	Independent Architect, Santiago, Chile

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Architecture, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Santiago, Chile

Louis Faucheux

ARB Registration No 5478

Architect / Designer

Louis has over 20 years' experience both locally and internationally in the design and delivery of architectural and interior design projects. His comprehensive understanding of all facets of the design, documentation and administration processes informs all aspects of his work.

Sept 15-present	Shiro Architects Project leader
July 14-July 15	Candalepas Associates Snr Architect
June 12-July 14	Private commissions
Mar 11-May 12	Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners Senior Architect / BIM Manager
Sept 09-Feb 11	Loop Creative Snr Architect
Sept 07-Sept 09	DesignInc Associate Director
Nov 05-Sept 07	Group GSA Snr Architect
Mar-Nov 2015	NBRS + Partners Snr Architect / Designer
April 03-Nov 04	DLG Architects, London Snr Architect / Interior Designer
May 02-Mar 03	Ratcliffe Groves Partnership, London Snr Architect
June 01-Feb 02	Omrania + Associates, Saudi Arabia

Qualifications and professional affiliations:

1988: Bachelor of Architecture, UNSW

1986: BSc (Architecture), UNSW

WHY "SHIRO"?

For those interested in the detail, Shiro is something of a play on words. Hiromi's name has often been abbreviated in the Australian vernacular to "Hiro", and in Japanese, the family name, and hence its initial, comes first.

But, as in that language the Chinese character 白, or Shiro, is the stem of her family name, Shiraishi, or "white stone", Shiro suggests a philosophical translation in which beginning a design with an absence of colour, or the clean white sheet, can give rise to the purest creative design approach.

When attacking any design problem, Shiro Architects starts from that blank sheet, and it is from this perspective that our practice aims to learn to overcome some of the most challenging of modern architectural problems.



Thank you for your interest in Shiro Architects.

For more information:

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