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Talk of the town

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Around the Blok at Camden



In the historic township of Camden, 65 kilometres south-west of Sydney, a circa-1860s house owned by the **Bowring family** is set for auction on December 1 with price hopes of more than \$1.6 million through Stuart Davies of Ray White Macarthur Group.

Built by the **Macarthur family** for one of its overseers, **Robert Henry Drutt**, the Victorian sandstock brick residence stands on a 2536-square-metre block with a grass tennis court and stables converted to a garage.

Known locally as "Dr Crookston's House", the John Street property is being offered for sale for only the second time in 100 years. In 1979, the Bowrings bought it for \$140,000 from **Dr Robert Crookston**. Crookston was the



government medical officer; he also was mayor of Camden from 1932-34. Set in pretty gardens with spreading jacarandas and a 20-metre-high angophora, the two-storey house has elevated views across Camden to the Blue Mountains in the distance.

Across the road is St John's Anglican Church, a circa-1840s landmark Gothic building designed by architect **Mortimer Lewis**.



Vested interest ... Rydlemount, the home of John McBain and his wife, Trelise, is on the market by expressions of interest of more than \$3.5 million.



Early bird bags it ... the Boustred family's Chilton Parade property at Warrawee sold before auction; (below) Karinya, the Burton-Taylor family's Killara property, sold quickly for more than \$3 million.



extended seven years later. The five-bedroom home in Chilton Parade is set on a 2958-square-metre block with beautiful gardens, a north-south tennis court and swimming pool. A few doors away is Bremon, a vast mansion set on a 6400-square-metre block that sold in late 2010 for \$11.5 million.

Fast buck

At Killara, a beautiful Federation house owned by businessman **Tim Burton-Taylor** and his wife, **Gillian**, has sold for more than \$3 million, less than two weeks after the property was listed for sale through Ceto Sandoval, of Luschwitz Real Estate. Named **Karinya**, the circa-1904 four-bedroom residence stands on a 1741-square-metre block (with a circular driveway, tennis court and swimming pool) in Rosebery Road. **Karinya** is around the corner from Springdale Road, where **Deepdene**, a 5533-square-metre heritage-listed estate, was sold two years ago by former Microsoft executive **Daniel Petre** and his wife, **Carolyn**, with extended settlement terms to a

mystery buyer. However, records reveal settlement took place in July on the \$11.5 million sale of **Deepdene** to **Anita Cunliffe**, the wife of **Guy Fowler**, the managing director of UBS and head of investment banking for Australasia. Set behind a high fence and among beautiful gardens, the circa-1924 bungalow-style house is being renovated.

Vested interest

Also in Killara, the home of the chief executive of funds manager Centuria Capital, **John McBain**, and his wife, **Trelise**, is for sale by expressions of interest closing on November 12 through McConnell Bourn agents Matthew Bourn and Roslynn Rogers. The four-bedroom, four-bathroom residence stands on a 1347-square-metre block in prestigious Stanhope Road. Named **Rydlemount**, the house is surrounded by immaculately maintained gardens with hedges, level lawns and a swimming pool. Last traded for \$880,000 in 1995, the property is expected to sell for more than \$3.5 million.

Quinn calls it quits

The soon-to-depart managing director of Stockland property group, **Matthew Quinn**, has listed his residence at McMahon's Point through Tim Foote of Belle Property. For sale for more than \$10 million, the five-bedroom, five-bathroom house has views of Lavender Bay, the Harbour Bridge and Opera House. Quinn bought the East Crescent Street property from architect **Phillip Cox** for \$5.5 million in 2009 and demolished a pair of terraces to build the new residence, which is estimated to have cost about \$6 million. Designed by SJB architects, the house was completed six months ago.

Early bird bags it

On the upper north shore, the Warrawee home of the **Boustred family** sold for about \$4.2 million two days before its scheduled October 25 auction through Rob Ward of L.J. Hooker Wahroonga. Designed by architect **Dennis Rabinowitz**, of MPR Design Group, the house was built 14 years ago and

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New Developments

Carolyn Boyd

Triumph of style and substance

Move over, Collette, Alannah and Akira – there's a new way of making a fashion statement, and it's all to do with the apartment in which you live.

With the shift to higher-density living in full swing, top-name architects are being brought in on projects around Sydney to add a designer feel and look to new developments – and set them apart from their competition.

From floor-to-ceiling glass and handcrafted, imported finishes, there is a growing array of offerings with definite designer cred.

One of the latest projects to hit the market is Motif, a boutique development from Antaeus Group in collaboration with big-name architects SJB and Iain Halliday of Burley Katon Halliday (BKH).

Antaeus Group is turning a rundown Police Boys Club basketball complex in inner-west Erskineville into an uber-cool, copper and concrete-clad boutique development. The 30 apartments on the Erskineville-Newtown border go on sale on November 10



AirLink
Scan the image to see more of these developments. See page 4 for Airlink instructions.

through McGrath Projects. A mere stroll from the cafes of Newtown and Erskineville, they feature terrazzo floor tiles and handcrafted Moroccan-tile splashbacks in the kitchens.

The director of SJB, Adam Haddow, says that given its location on the edge of Erskineville, the development called for some quirkiness. "It needed to have a sense of intrigue and interest that encouraged people to look at it a little bit longer or made people feel like it was part of the character of the suburb rather than it being a new building in an old suburb," he says.

An off-form concrete facade will front Erskineville Road but will have "castellated parapet details" that add a playful scalloping to the top of the building.

"That's really about how the building touches the sky and, if you



Designer cred ... the arty, grungy interior of Motif's display suite.

look around Erskineville, a lot of those turn-of-the-century buildings have quite beautiful parapet details, and that's where a lot of the craftsmanship in the building was put in," Haddow says.

"What we wanted to do was reference that idea about celebrating the top of the building, celebrating the way that it touched the sky."

Haddow's design delivers a garden to 24 of the 30 apartments, which are due to be completed in early 2014. Halliday sought to create an "anti-design" edge to the space, deliberately opting for an arty, grungy look, which just can't help but feel a little designed with its deliberate selection of robust materials.

Inside each of the apartments, which are due to be completed in early 2014, Halliday sought to create an "anti-design" edge to the space, deliberately opting for an arty, grungy look, which just can't help but feel a little designed with its deliberate selection of robust materials.

To let more light flow through the apartment, opaque-glass sliding doors separate the bedrooms and dining area, and will disappear into cavities when open.

The director of McGrath Projects, Steven Chen, says the 1985-square-metre site will have about 600 square metres of retail space underneath, with the developer targeting casual eateries and dining tenants.

Not far down the road, design was top of mind at Camperdown when Natalie Mina went hunting for an investment property a couple of years ago. Mina, a corporate strategist, liked what she saw at the Sugarmill in Gibbsons Street so much that she and her partner decided to switch tactics and buy off the plan for themselves through Maria Magrin of Belle Property Annandale.

Having sold their Canada Bay home, they moved into their new

terrace in the Sugarmill, designed by Smart Design Studio in conjunction with Loftex Architects.

Although Mina has given up her backyard and shifted her boys, aged five and nine, into a smaller space, she says good design makes up for it all – especially the floor-to-ceiling glass at the back of the home.

"It just feels so open," she says. "Comparing it to a house, I can fit all the same things into a smaller space, and I actually don't feel any more closed in."

Motif will have 30 apartments, which will comprise 13 one-bedders (60-87 sq m) from \$560,000; 16 two-bedders (86-124 sq m) from \$725,000; and one three-bedder (130 sq m) from \$1.05 million to \$1.14 million. motifnewtown.com.au, 1800 833 887.

STARCK CHOICE

When cinematographer Ross Emery was looking for an inner-city investment property, he was attracted to the edgy Meta building on Goulburn Street in Surry Hills.

Emery is the cinematographer on the new Wolverine film and has also worked on *Valkyrie*, the *Matrix* trilogy and *Superman Returns*. He was a particular fan of the building's well-known designer, Philippe Starck, who turns his hand to everything from chairs to kitchen appliances.

"I love the way he puts humour into his design," Emery says. "His designs are always functional, but bring an element of fun to everyday objects, so the thought of his stamp being on a whole building was very seductive. Why settle for an orange



Larger than life ... Ross Emery and a Philippe Starck portrait in the Meta's foyer. Photo: Marco Del Grande

juicer when you can have something to live in?

"A lot of apartments are cookie-cutter designs, with the main thought

being fitting as many front doors into the least space. But this was applying design to the whole building rather than the fitouts only, and was also trying to include a human element in the scale of the project."

Emery had dreamt of holding the two-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment until retirement, when he could live there permanently. However, now that he and his wife, photographer Katrina Crook, have two children, the couple are selling to upgrade their main residence.

"I'm very sad to be selling it," Emery says. "I'm quite attached to the building and the apartment – it's such a great building."

The property is being marketed through Ben Forsyth of McGrath Edgecliff and has a price guide of \$680,000.

OR TRY THESE ...



Bellona, 38 Peninsula Drive, Breakfast Point With harbour and city skyline views, Bellona is the final building for the Rose Group in the Breakfast Point precinct. For sale are 17 one-bed and one-bed-plus-study apartments (60-78 sq m) from \$568,000; 11 two-bed apartments (105-117 sq m) from \$808,000; four three-bedders (139 sq m) from \$1,455,000; and one penthouse (190 sq m) at \$2.18 million. Phone Breakfast Point 1800 888 325.



The Signature, 777 Old South Head Road, Vaucluse Designed by Brian Meyerson of MPRDG, The Signature is due for completion in early November. Set across four floors, the nine luxury apartments have harbour and ocean views. For sale are a two-bedder (103 sq m) and three three-bedders (151-235 sq m), with prices from \$1.33 million to \$3.55 million. Contact Savills, 0414 883 000, www.signaturevaucluse.com.au.

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