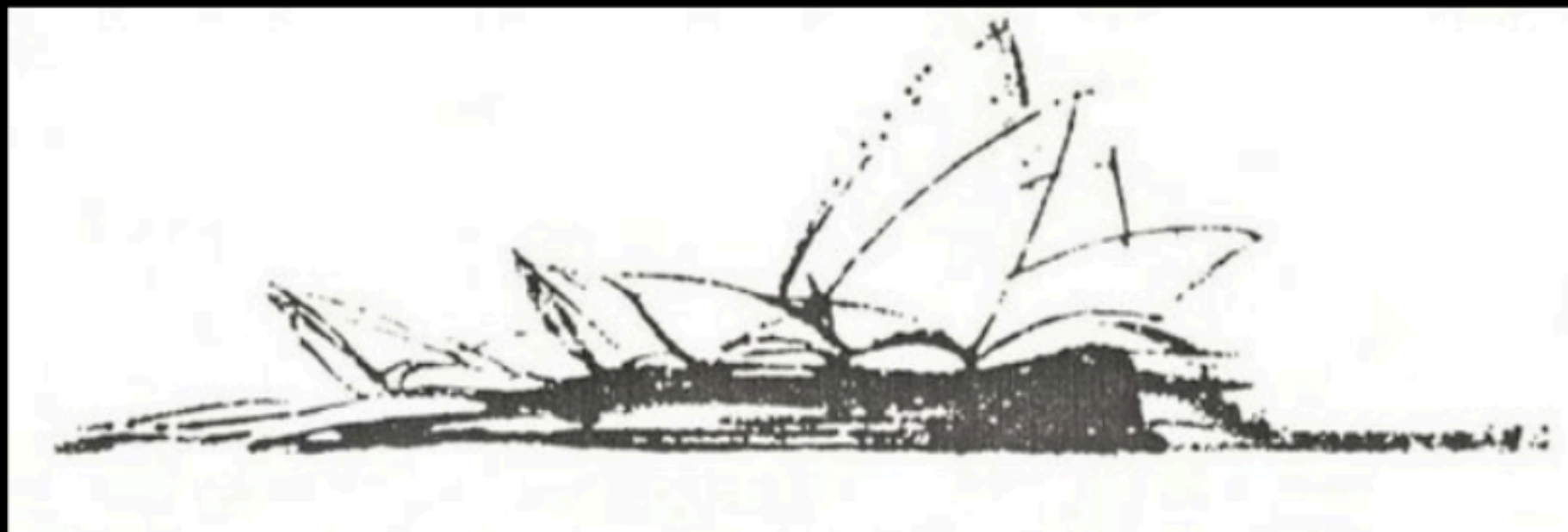


Sydney





Instigators



Sir Eugene Goosens

1893 – 1962



Premier **Joe Cahill**

1891 - 1959

International competition

15 Feb – 3 Dec 1956

233 entries

£ 5,000 prize

Judges

H Ingham Ashworth

Sir Leslie Martin

Cobden Parkes

Eero Saarinen

"This State cannot go on without proper facilities for the expression of talent and the staging of the highest forms of artistic entertainment which add grace and charm to living and which help to develop and mould a better, more enlightened community."

Joe Cahill



Sir Charles Moses

1900 – 1988

Chairman ABC

Competition 2nd and 3rd places

233 entries



3rd place Boissevain & Osmond



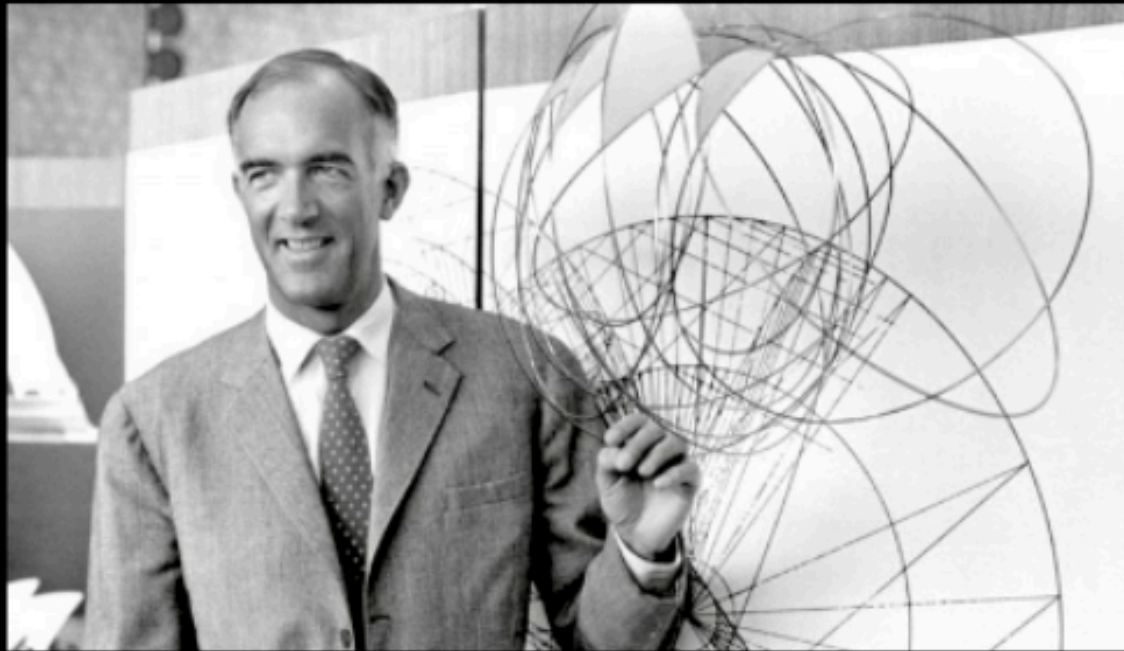
2nd Place Philadelphia Collaborative Group



Design favoured by Goosens – not submitted



The winner



Jørn Utzon from Denmark

Great Architect?

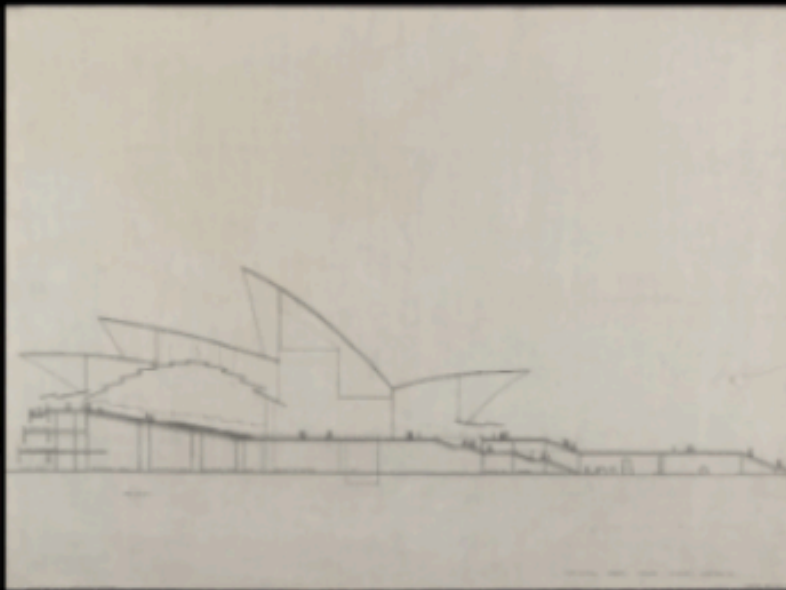
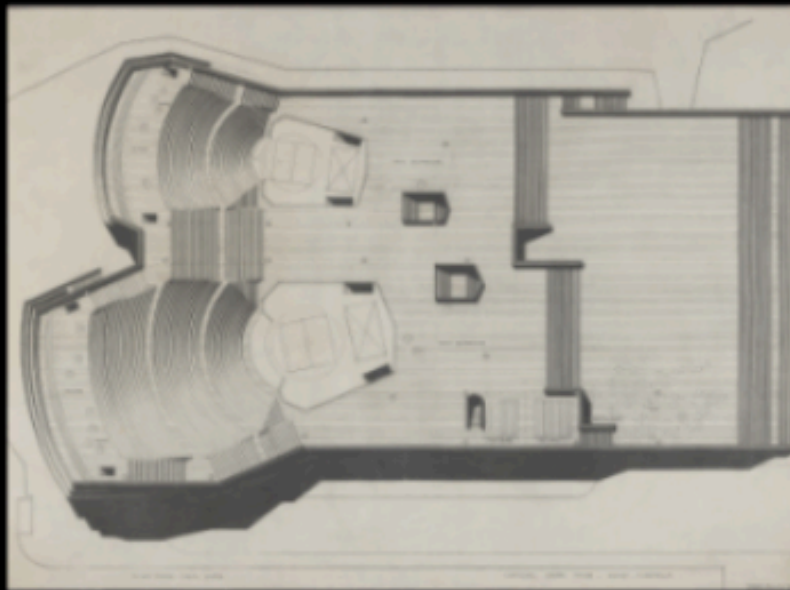
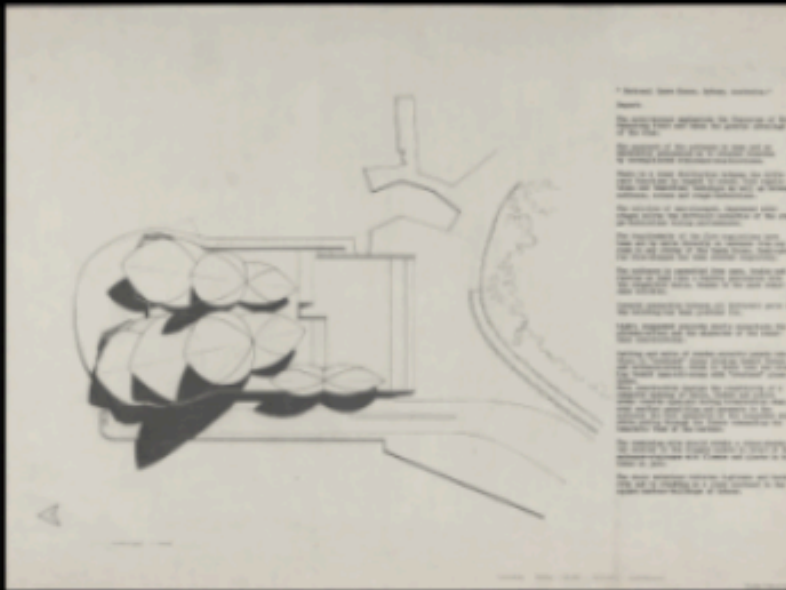


Engineer **Ove Arup** from UK
Appointed by NSW Government

Estimated cost £3.7m A\$7m Estimated completion 25 January 1963
Final cost \$102m Actual opening date 28 September 1973

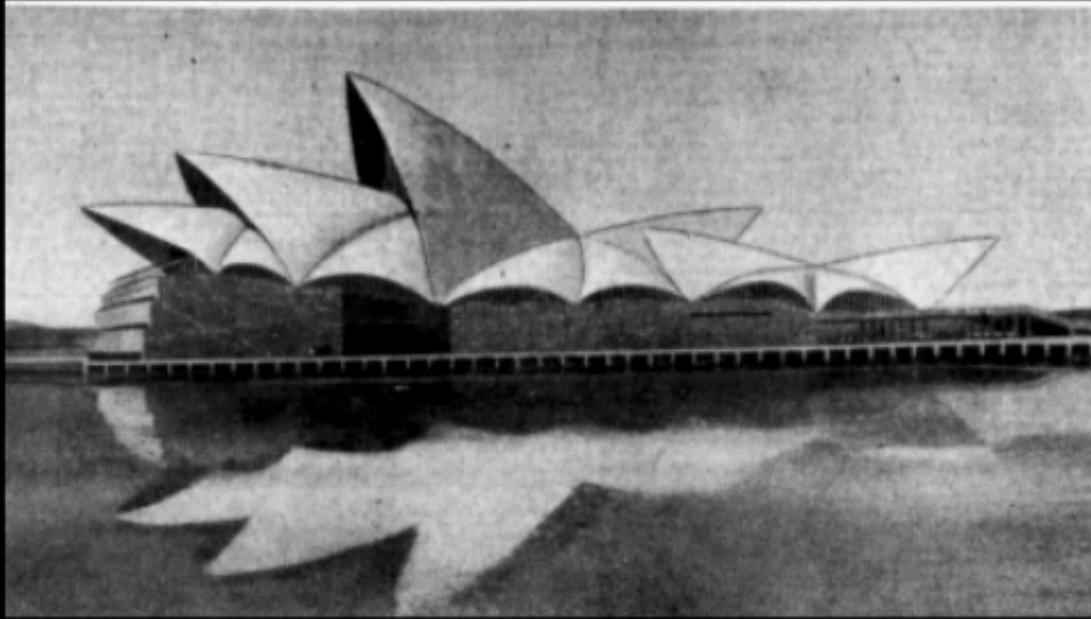


Utzon's submitted drawings

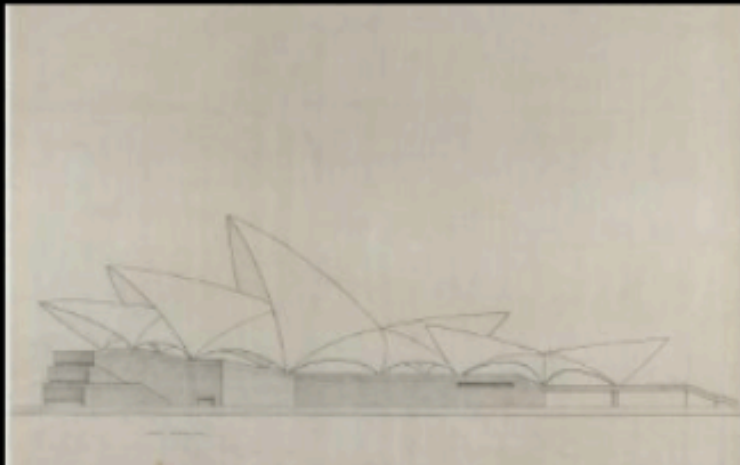




Perspectives



published perspective by Arthur Baldwinson



Utzon's elevation



Unofficial sketch by Eero Saarinen



Competition judge Eero Saarinen



Sir Leslie Martin, Jørn Utzon,
Eero Saarinen



Tulip chair 1955



TWA 1959 - 62



Ingalls Rink 1953 - 58

Saarinen on Utzon's entry:

'What is great architecture and what isn't great architecture? It's not only how well it works and so forth, it's a quality beyond that. It's how much does it inspire man, and I think this building will really have these qualifications. That's why we feel convinced that this building can be one of the great buildings of the world.'

Utzon's Inspiration



官 家 令

A B C

THREE CHARACTERS BY CHENG HSIANGSU, FOUNDER OF "HANGCHENG," AND MASTER CALLIGRAPHER.

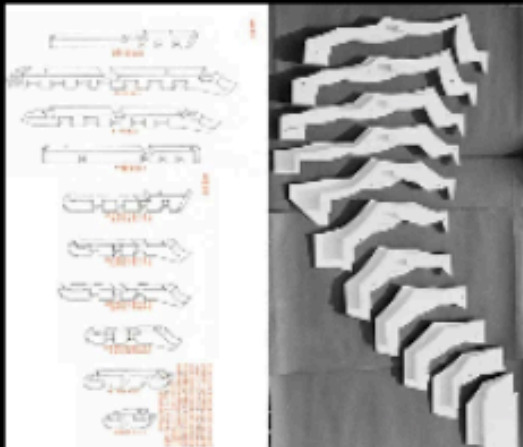
The origin of the famous roof-line traced to calligraphy.

The top of the characters "A" and "B" is a component of Chinese writing, signifying the "roof." Note the sag in the middle and the sweeping effect given by Chinese such. The top of character "C" signifies "man," but resembles the upper lines of a roof. Note also the sweeping gesture and the upward curving of the lower ends.

Note further the principle of structure (levelled and applied to Chinese architecture). Note the rigid vertical line (the pillar) in "A," contrasted with the curve in the "roof" and with other horizontal strokes attached to it. Note in "B" the central vertical curve, with the other strokes clustering around a point at its top and strongly balancing one another.



Natural systems



Mexican temples



Chinese philosophy and construction



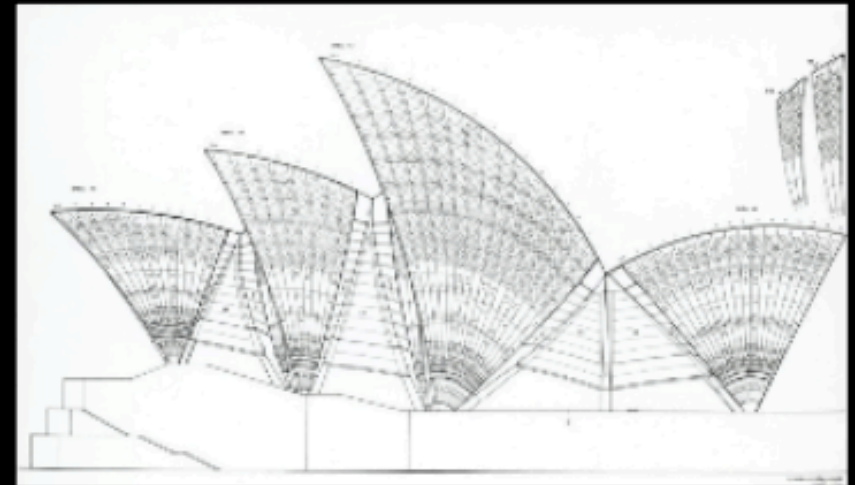
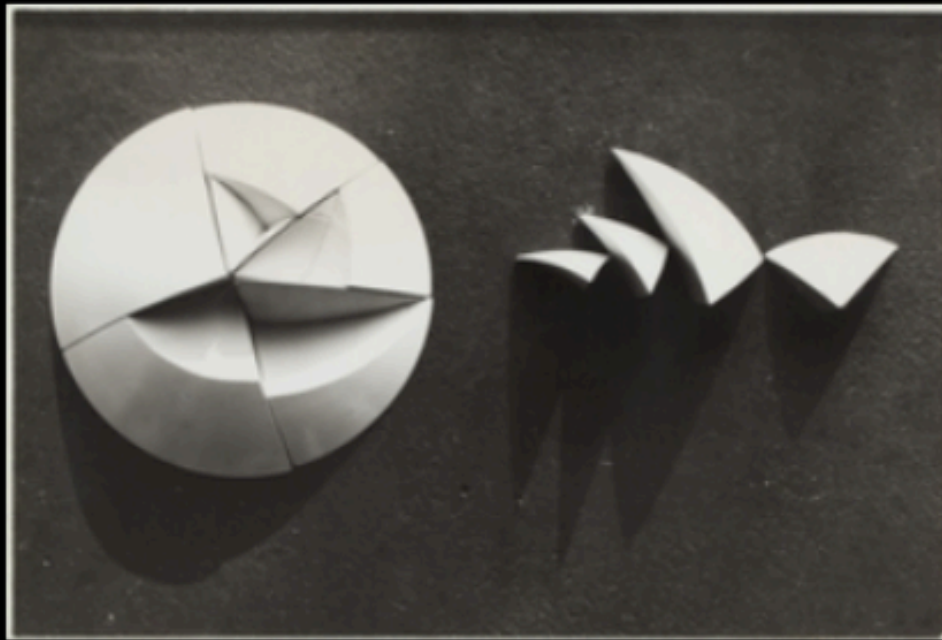
Greek amphitheatres



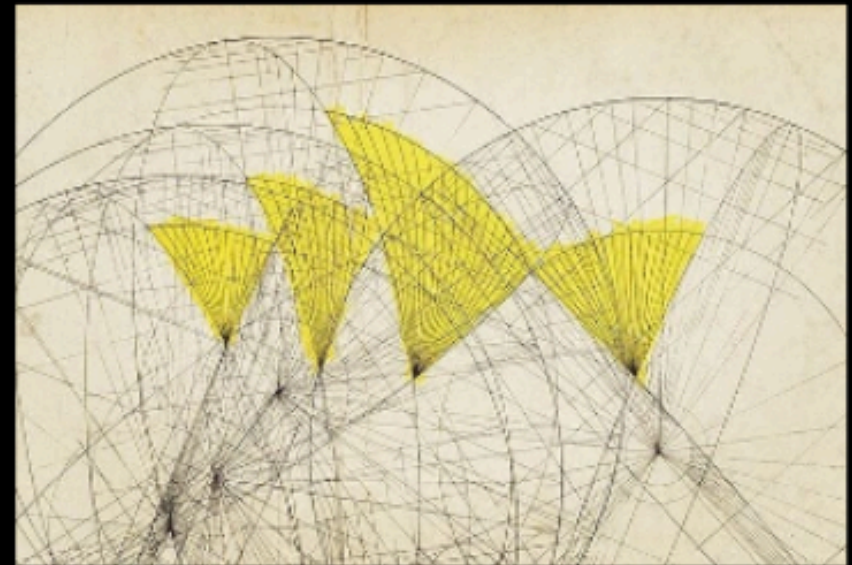
Concept sketches

Solving the problem of the shells

The spherical solution

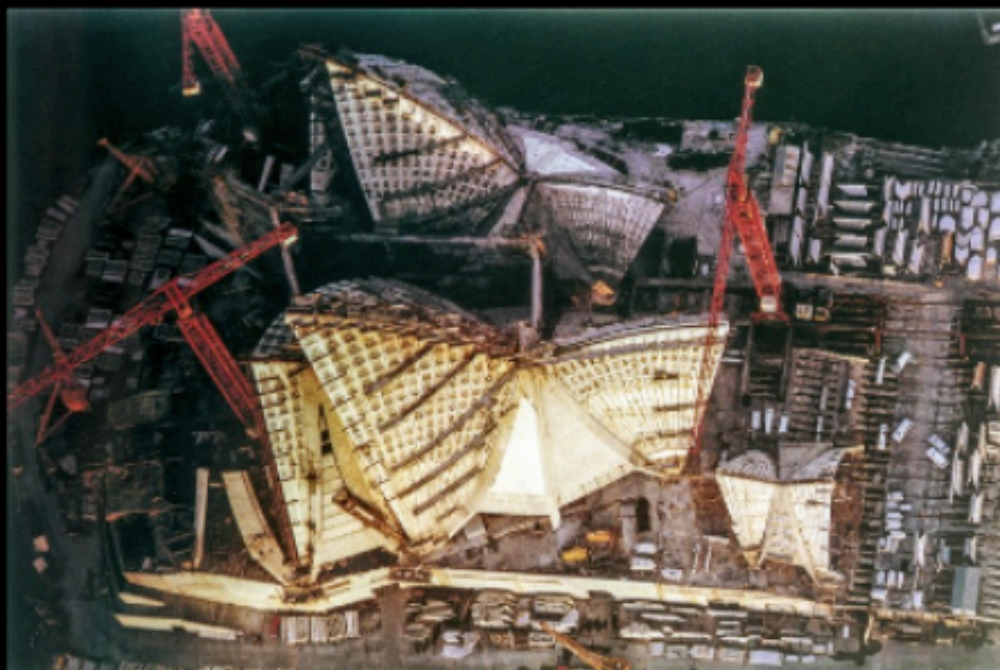


Orange peel myth (Saarinen's grapefruit)





Repetitive precast, post-tensioned concrete elements



Roof tile panels



Off-form concrete



The builders

Great Builder?



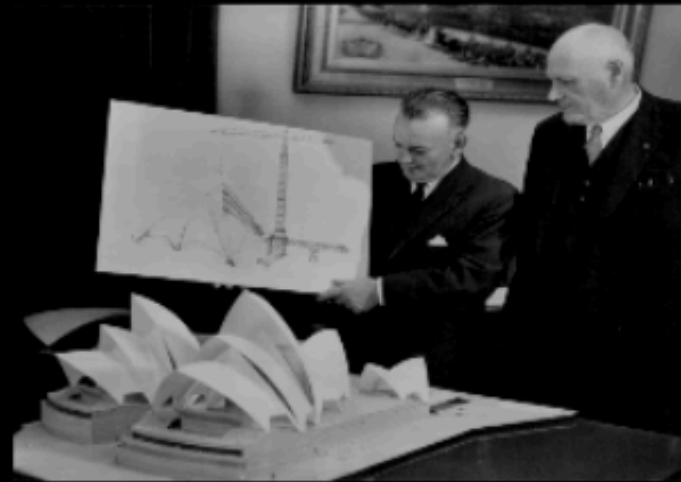
Stage 1 Podium Civil and Civic



Dick Dusseldorp



Stages 2 & 3 Roof & Interiors Hornibrooks



Sir Manuel Hornibrook with PWD Director Paul Ryan

Upheavals

“A political football”

Great Client?



March 1956 Goosens leaves

Oct 1959 Joe Cahill dies

Major changes to the brief

Multi purpose hall changed to concert hall

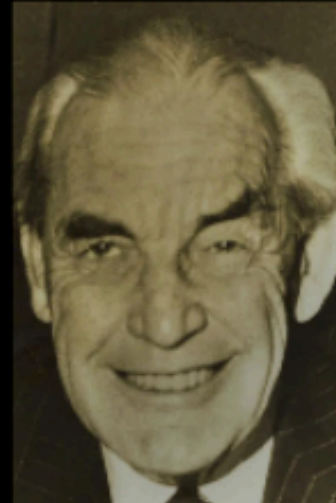
Drama theatre changed to opera theatre.

Extra performance spaces added in the podium

Installed stage lifts scrapped



May 1965 Bob Askin
New Premier



Davis Hughes
New Director PWD



Sir Charles Moses
ABC Chairman



Continuing upheavals

“Malice in blunderland”



Feb 1966 Utzon resigns.
Leaves in May



Ove Arup team stays

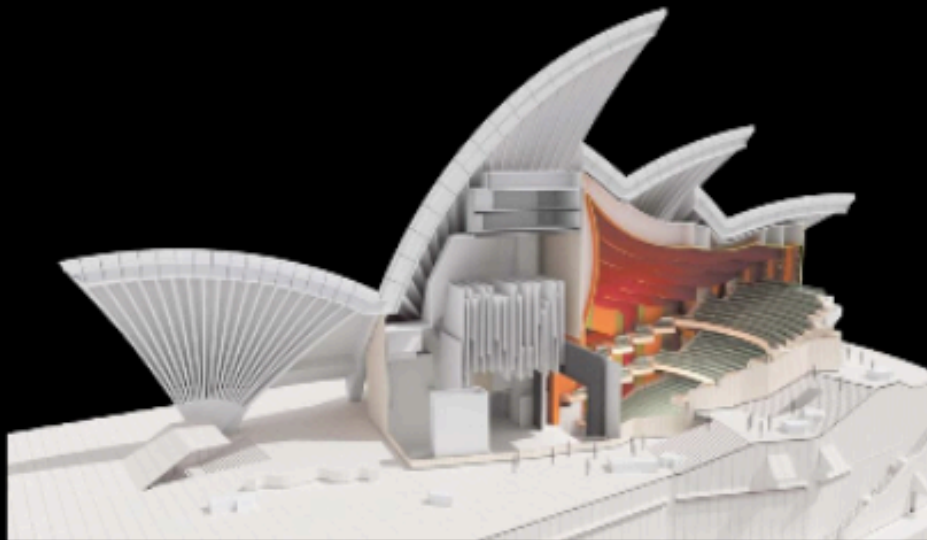


1966 Student protest at Utzon's dismissal

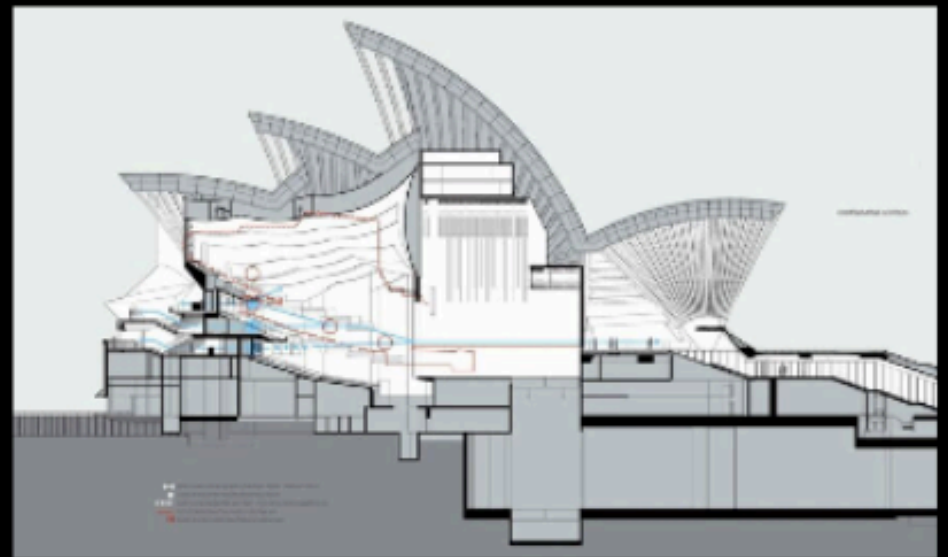


New architect **Peter Hall** 1931 - 1995
(Hall, Littlemore, Rudder & Farmer)

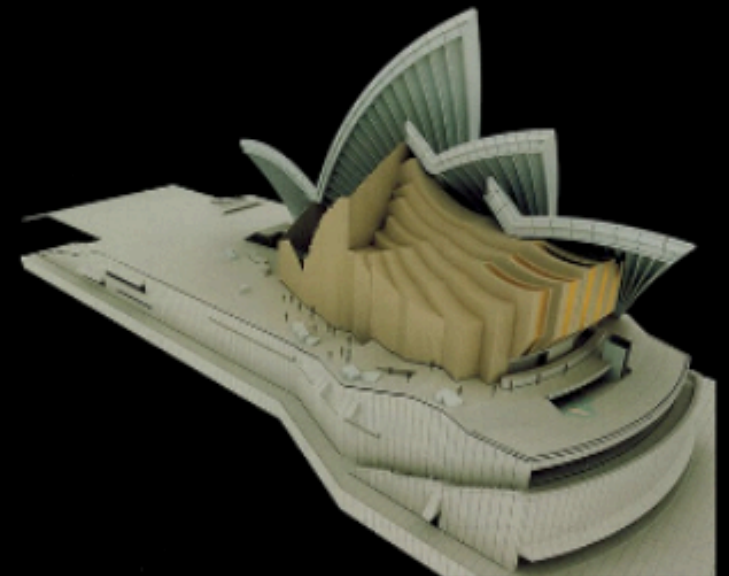
Proposals for rebuilt interior of opera theatre



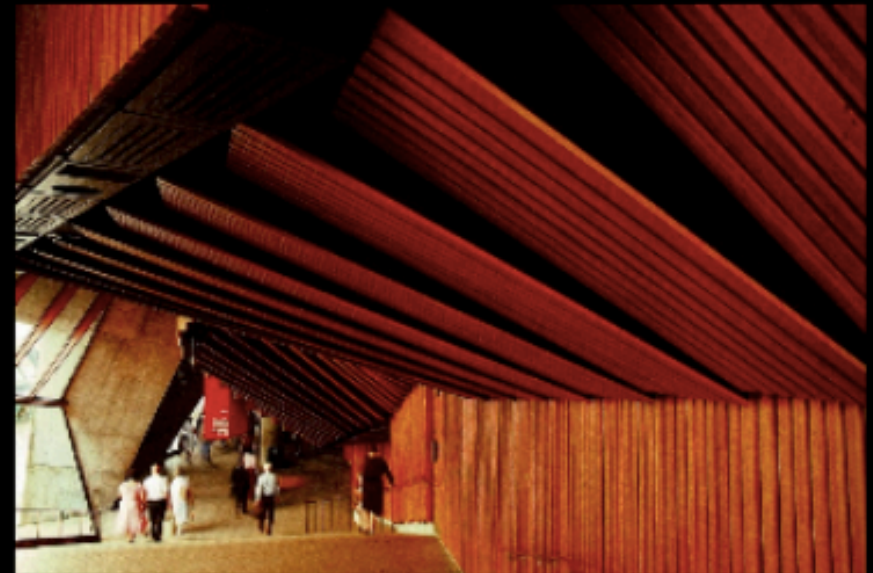
Proposed revised design 2013



Utzon Architects + Johnson Pilton Walker



Circulation



Opera Theatre





Official opening 20 October 1973





First productions



Opera Theatre 28 September 1973

War and Peace (Prokofiev)

Concert Hall 29 September 1973

SSO with Charles Mackerras

Birgit Nilsson All Wagner program





Productions not in the opera theatre



Tristan und Isolde 1990 in the Concert Hall



The Eighth Wonder 2016 on the steps



LSO live broadcast May 2023



Lighting the sails - Vivid



Time line



15 Feb 1956 Competition entries invited

25 Jan 1957 Result announced

2 Mar 1959 Foundations started

19 Oct 1959 J Cahill dies

Feb 1963 Utzon moves office to Sydney

1963 podium complete, roof started

26 Feb 1966 Utzon resigns

1967 Roof completed, interiors started

1967 Brief changed

17 Dec 1972 First acoustic tests

28 Sep 1973 Opening opera – *War & Peace*

29 Sep 1973 Opening concert – SSO all Wagner

20 Oct 1973 Official opening by HM QE II

Beethoven 9

1978 Orchestra pit enlarged

1999 Utzon re-engaged

2004 Utzon Room opened

2009 Western Foyers + colonnade

2017 Opera theatre stage upgraded

2022 Concert Hall upgraded





Renewal of the Concert hall



20 July 2022

SSO director and Wagner Society NSW Patron

Simone Young AM conducting Mahler 2





Utzon's legacy



RAIA Gold Medal 1973
RIBA Gold Medal 1978
Pritzker Prize 2003



The Utzon Room 2004

David Moore photographer

Utzon's legacy



World Heritage Convention



On 28 June 2007 the Sydney Opera House was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List under the World Heritage Convention, placing it alongside the Taj Mahal, the ancient Pyramids of Egypt and the Great Wall of China as one of the most outstanding places on Earth.

"Sydney Opera House stands by itself as one of the indisputable masterpieces of human creativity, not only in the 20th century but in the history of humankind" (International Council Report on Monuments and Sites to the World Heritage Committee).



Not an 'Opera House' – a (very successful) Performing Arts Centre

Performance spaces

Concert Hall	2679 capacity
Joan Sutherland Theatre	1507
Drama Theatre	544
Playhouse	398
The Studio	280 – 400
Utzon Room	180 – 200
Recording Studio	
North & West Foyers	
Forecourt	

Construction Costs

Stage I Podium	\$5m
Stage II Roof	\$12.5m
Stage III Interiors	\$56.5m
Equipment	\$9m
Other costs	\$16.5m

Deloitte's Report *Valuing 50 years of Australia's Icon*, released for the Opera House's 50th anniversary, estimates the value of the land and building as \$3 billion

The Opera House contributed \$1.2 billion to the state economy in FY23, including \$824 million from tourism alone. Its digital value also continues to grow at a rapid pace, contributing more than \$500 million to the social value, a 400% increase in real terms since 2013. There are wellbeing benefits too – 72% of people agreed that visiting the Opera House improved their overall personal wellbeing while 71% felt more connected with companions and the community.

'It's impossible to imagine Australia without the Opera House. As the most prominent human-made symbol of our national identity, it's equal only to the koala and kangaroo in terms of its symbolic recognition. After five decades of storytelling and connection, it has never felt more relevant to the Australian experience.'

A Tale of Three Houses

Conclusion

Are they great works of architecture?

Firmness? Commodity? Delight?



It's about the **Experience**