



MEDIA RELEASE

26 November 2015

The Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) has welcomed the opening of the first stage of Hobart's Myer redevelopment, saying it is a fantastic boost for the city and for local industry.

The mixed-use development, which replaces the original Myer building – destroyed by fire eight years ago – has been designed and project managed by local architecture firm, Architects Designhaus.

“The Institute is particularly pleased that a local firm was engaged as the architect and project manager for this development,” said the Institute’s Tasmanian President, Brad Wheeler.

“Having a Tasmanian architect project managing the construction phase through to completion gives the community confidence that a development will be consistent with what was proposed. Not so long ago, larger construction projects would often use interstate firms for design and documentation services, with only a nominal Tasmanian architectural component. It’s great to see this trend continuing to turn around, giving more opportunities to local businesses.

“We are lucky in Tasmania that a number of firms have the capacity to take on this type of development. Tasmanian architects have a great reputation for working closely with their clients and responding quickly to issues and needs as they arise, as well as having the skills and knowledge to respond to local conditions. We also know that using Tasmanian architects allows them to continue to assist long after the building is up and running.

“This long-term involvement is a great advantage over the life of a building and it should give the community confidence that local conditions, needs and expectations are being taken into account and included in the planning, design and execution of such projects.

“Tasmanian architects have long been instrumental in designing buildings we rely on to go about our daily lives, such as schools, nursing homes and health centres. What is really encouraging is seeing more and more Tasmanian firms taking a lead role in projects such as the Myer redevelopment, involving buildings that will take on special significance in the hearts and minds of the local community. We would encourage more developers to use local firms for the good of the economy and the community in general.”

For further information or to organise an interview, please contact Brad Wheeler at wheelerfamily@netspace.net.au or Jennifer Nichols on 6214 1500.

For general media enquiries contact:
Jennifer Nichols
Manager, Tasmanian Chapter,
Australian Institute of Architects P. + 61 (3) 6214 1505 | M. +61 (0) 0409 216 526
jennifer.nichols@architecture.com.au