

ABN Amro tower sails to design award

Lydia Bell

• Awards

RENZO Piano's ABN Amro trophy tower at Aurora Place in the Sydney CBD has taken home this year's NSW Property Council of Australia's Rider Hunt Award.

The award recognises excellence in design but also considers a building's commercial and financial viability.

Speaking at a special presentation lunch yesterday, NSW Property Council president Rod Leaver said Aurora Place admirably followed the maxim "good design pays handsome economic divi-

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Rod Leaver

NSW Property Council president

dends". He described the streamlined addition to the Sydney skyline as "virtually sailing among the more traditional city towers".

But he was quick to point out that this particular award did not purely reward the aesthetic.

"Aurora Place has been a financial success story for its owners, housing some of the city's most sought-after office space," he said.

The 41 storey tower at the corner in Sydney's CBD was a collaboration of Lend Lease, East Asia Property Group and architects Renzo Piano and the Lend Lease Design Group.

The design included winter gardens on the upper floors, providing natural ventilation which appealed to tenants.

An expensive construction cost of \$5289 per square metre was "amply offset" by gross long-term rentals of \$1100 per square metre due to the design's excellence, Mr Leaver commented.

ABN Amro is the tower's anchor tenant.

The building will now run for the National Property Council Awards which will be announced next month.

Previous winners of the NSW awards include No.1 Martin Place, Governor Philip Tower and the Network 10 headquarters.