

Sydney tower wins Rider Hunt award

Kathy Mac Dermott

The ABN Amro Tower@Aurora Place in Sydney yesterday scored the prestigious 2002 Property Council of Australia Rider Hunt Award.

Judges praised the 41-level commercial complex, owned by Ranec Pty Ltd and 155 Macquarie Street Pty Ltd, for its bold architecture and investment performance.

"The innovative design approach for the project has delivered an elegant, streamlined commercial tower that sails amongst the more traditional city towers and achieves the rare feat of providing an increasing rentable area for the higher-value upper floors," according to the judges' notes.

ABN Amro Tower@Aurora Place was designed by architect Renzo Piano and entered into the Rider Hunt award by the East Asia Property Group Services Pty Ltd.

The office complex, located on the corner of Bent and Phillip streets in Sydney's CBD, beat a field of five other state winners that included Victoria's Grandstand complex at the Flemington Racecourse, and the Garden City Booragoon redevelopment in Western Australia.

Other national finalists were the R1 and R2 buildings within the ACT's Russell Offices, which accommodate about 3,000 people working in the Defence Department, and a three-building pre-

cinct in the western Brisbane suburb of Toowong. This project was branded as Toowong's Commercial Golden Triangle and comprises the St Thomas' Parish Centre, the Technology One building and the Data#3 Centre.

In recognition of the quality and diversity of this year's entries, Rider Hunt chairman John Oliver presented a certificate of merit to the Adelaide Central Plaza.

The CBD retail centre is the largest city development in Adelaide for more than a decade and accommodates a new-model David Jones store that the retail chain is rolling out across the country.

The award was presented at the Property Council of Australia's national congress in Cairns.