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**Congratulations
to PTW**

The 'Watercube'

Beijing Olympics Brief

PTW'S WATERCUBE WINS IN BEIJING

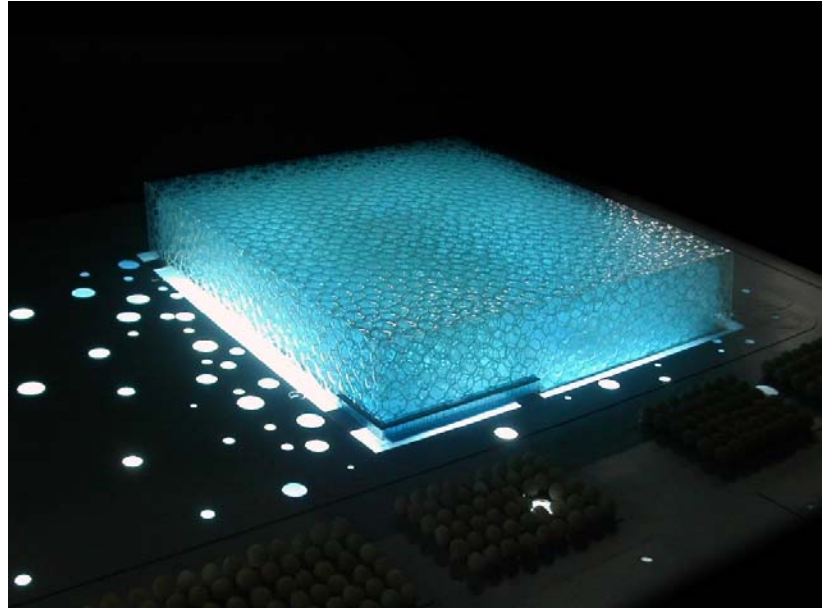
29 JULY 2003: Welcome to this Beijing 2008 Olympics information Brief, produced jointly by:

- Sydney - Beijing Olympic Secretariat (SBOS)
- NSW Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD),
- Australia China Business Council (ACBC).

Congratulations Congratulations Congratulations

国家游泳中心设计方案确定“水立方”

**Australian Architectural Firm, PTW, Wins
International Design Competition for Beijing
Olympics**



An international design competition to create the National Swimming Centre for the 2008 Beijing Olympics has been won by the Australian architectural firm of PTW. PTW's Managing Director, John Bilmon, recently returned from China, following intensive negotiations with the Beijing State-owned Assets Management Co. Ltd, to cement the appointment which must surely rate as one of the most significant benchmarks for Australian architecture on an international scale.

Beijing Olympics Brief

Announced as one of three finalists, alongside entries from the US and China, PTW's win follows a lengthy process that commenced with submissions from ten international architectural teams, culminating in a public exhibition and vote. A panel of leading design experts from around the world completed the detailed judging procedure.

"This is a tremendous honour and we are undeniably thrilled and excited," said John Bilmon. "To have been selected amongst such stellar company, and including a submission from one of China's own leading architectural firms, is testament to the hard work undertaken by the PTW team, as well as the vision of the Chinese Government and its people toward creating the best Olympic Games possible", added Bilmon.

PTW's design, known as the 'Watercube', plays on the geometry of water bubbles, fantastically crystallised as a massive rectangular form. The structure's elemental shape is specifically designed to work in harmony with the circular main stadium, both of which will rise on the Beijing Olympic Green in a spectacular duality of forms.

"Our successful concept owes much to our Chinese team partners, and particularly the China State Production Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) who effectively planted the seed of an idea that has ultimately captured the imagination of the Chinese people", said Frost.

ARUP involved

The internationally renowned engineering firm of Arup also played a strategic part in solving the deceptively simple, yet complex equation. "Our 'Watercube' concept is a simple and concise square form that ultimately uses the water bubble theory to create the structure and building cladding, and which makes the design so unique.

"It appears random and playful like a natural system, yet is mathematically very rigorous and repetitious. The transparency of water, with the mystery of the bubble system, engages those both inside and out of the structure to consider their own experiences with water", said Frost.

Watercube technology

The building's skin, made from an innovative and lightweight transparent 'teflon', abbreviated as ETFE, has been designed to react specifically to lighting and projection – and particularly the advanced systems of available in the coming four years – to create a stunning visual and sensory experience that will also be shared by millions of television viewers around the world. This state-of-the-art material provides a cost effective cladding solution for modern architecture, enabling a wide range of applications where traditional materials, such as glass, may not be possible.

"Ultimately, however, the concept is fun", said Frost. "Like in Sydney, the facility will be used prior and post games as a multi-leisure ad elite swimming centre. 'Watercube' proposes an exciting experience for all

Beijing Olympics Brief

The Beijing Swimming venue

ages who will come to enjoy the leisure water, swimming, gym, ice-skating, cinema and club facilities well into the future”, said Frost. Construction of the 17,000 seat National Swimming Centre, Beijing, which covers a total floor space of over 70,000 square metres, is expected to commence this December 2003, with completion forecast for late 2006.

Broader impact

PTW is one of a number of NSW companies which proved their world class status in Sydney’s Olympic Games and have now successfully taken their expertise to the peak of international recognition. PTW’s success and expertise point to further opportunities for some of Australia’s smartest businesses in the area of Olympics, sports and major events.

The Sydney-Beijing Olympic Secretariat and the New South Wales Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD) continue to reinforce key relationships in Beijing and to lead a range of business programs related to the Beijing Olympic Games.

About PTW

PTW, which currently employs over 150 people, maintains offices in both Sydney, Australia as well as both Beijing and Shanghai in China. While the company is highly regarded for its major civic projects and large scale sports facilities, including involvement in the international athletics centre and the Aquatic Centre of the 2000 Sydney Games, PTW’s strong and existing relationship with the Chinese played a pivotal role in the development process.

Recent Sydney work includes the Walsh Bay Redevelopment Masterplan and PTW is involved in a range of further projects in China.

Information about PTW may be viewed at www.ptw.com.au

Forthcoming events

China Architecture Tour Competition: Competition entry and selection criteria are listed on the Austrade website. Applications close on 29 August 2003. See www.austrade.gov.au under the heading trade events/upcoming events.

ACBC trade mission to China, early September 2003: with an agriculture and resources focus, to visit Beijing, Chengdu (Sichuan Province), Xi’an (Shaanxi Province) and Urumqi (Xinjiang Province). The ACBC National President, Hon Warwick Smith from Macquarie Bank, will lead the trade mission. For information, please contact Jim J Short, ACBC National Executive Director, 02 6125 0567; email: jim.short@anu.edu.au

Beijing Olympics Brief

Sixth China Beijing International High-Tech Expo, 12-15 September 2003, in Beijing. See www.hightechbj.com/scien/english/index.php

The Fifth China International High-tech Fair, 5 - 10 October 2003 in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province.

NSW SEDA Business Delegation scheduled for 8-16 October 2003, to Shanghai, Beijing and Qingdao. Beijing focus is on major Olympic infrastructure opportunities and Olympic contractors. Shanghai visit coincides with the Shanghai International Expo on Renewable Energies. For information, please contact Alasdair Lawrence on 02 9249 6101, email: alawrence@seda.nsw.gov.au

Stadia China 2004, 16-18 February 2004 at China World Trade Centre, Beijing. Stadia China 2004 is supported by the Beijing Municipal Government and Ministry of Science and Technology. See www.stadiachina.com

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