

IRRITANT OF THE WEEK

THE perplexing lack of judgment by Julia Gillard that has left the Federal Government in a shambles. Please call an election, Prime Minister, and put us all out of our misery.

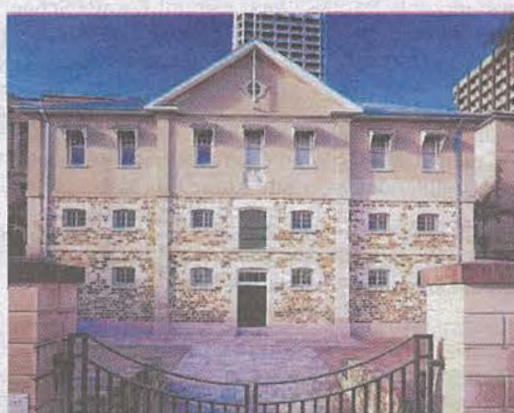


SHE SAID WHAT?

"IN fact, I was told that it was better to have a bad doctor in the system than to have no doctor at all," whistleblower Jo Barber, who accused her employer Queensland Health - and other state government agencies - of hiding medical malpractice.



celebrate our city



OLD TREASURES: (Clockwise from top left) Parliament House; The Mansions; National Trust House; the Old Government Printing Office; Brisbane's Commissariat Store; Harris Court; the Treasury Casino; and the Old State Library.



This should and could be the hippest part of town - but it is the dullist

I William St, now a car park. I'm told it would be big enough to also hold a central energy plant to power the entire area.

With the Executive Building gone, Mary St could be extended to William St to improve traffic flows. Or it could become a plaza providing connectivity to William St and tiny Miller Park by the river.

There would also be space for a boutique hotel, perhaps with links to the old printery where extra suites could be built.

Much more could be made of The Mansions and Harris Terraces on George St, which provide grace-and-favour rooms to non-profit organisations as diverse as the Board of Engineers, the National Council of Women and Royal Commonwealth Society.

There already is a lovely restaurant, Augustines, in The Mansions. But much space is "wasted" on offices. Harris Terraces, especially, could be opened to the street providing boutique shops and restaurants. How about a wine bar? This would greatly enliven the area.

There are endless opportunities for quiet courtyard spaces and gardens.

This public realm will soon be further enhanced with the arrival of the new Supreme Court and District Court complex.

And what to do with the old Supreme Court buildings? Offices for public servants, perhaps?

Or a new international hotel? And how about space for grunge bands and recording studios under the freeway, and an Olympic pool on the old Northbank footprint?

There are great opportunities, and much to consider.



Architects raise the roof

QUEENSLAND architects have learned to back themselves, producing buildings that are strong and meaningful and relate to their place.

This is probably why Brisbane was chosen ahead of Sydney and Melbourne to host next week's national architecture conference. It has attracted 13 international speakers including China's Wang Shu, the current winner of the Pritzker Prize, architecture's equivalent of the Nobel. Visiting architects touring Brisbane will be surprised to see buildings that embrace the public realm and reject the outmoded, fortress-style architecture of the past. Recent buildings of quality include the State Library (Donovan Hill and Peddle Thorp architects), GoMA (Architectus), South Bank's



SETTING STANDARD: The State Library of Queensland (top); GoMA (above); and ABC South Bank (below).

River Quay restaurant precinct (Arkhefield), ABC South Bank (Richard Kirk) and the extensions to the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (CoxRayner). Then there are the Goodwill and Kurilpa bridges (CoxRayner). Queensland's reputation for producing architecture of excellence is soaring.



land and the river. The annex would be wing of restored as it was Queensland's first Charles Tiffin 145

sitting. They could be given an allowance to rent or buy elsewhere.)

The Executive Building in George St is falling apart, and some of its inhabitants point out that it would be more expensive to refurbish it than knock it down and build elsewhere.

The Joh years also gave birth to the unsightly 80 George St, which straddles Margaret St on the site of the old Belle Vue Hotel that succumbed to the wrecking ball in 1979.

The obvious solution is to construct a new executive building (or two?) on vacant Crown land at

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(pictured) will be the new mayor, easily ousting Mick Kruger. The poll is still to be declared but it appears at this stage that all incoming councillors (except O'Connell) will be new faces. On the Gold Coast, meanwhile, Mickey Mouse got at least three votes. Scrutineers recorded the spoiled votes at the Catholic primary school at Clear Island Waters near Broadbeach.

TASTEBUDS TO BE TEMPTED BY KITCHEN WHIZ

THE Brisbane restaurant scene is looking up, with the arrival of



Alejandro Cancino (pictured) as executive chef of Urbane, the ultra-trendy eatery in the CBD. He has previously worked at Noma in Copenhagen, which last week was named the world's best restaurant for the third year running. Argentinian-born Cancino, 28, has worked in Spain, Mexico, England, Japan and Denmark. In Spain he worked at Mugaritz Restaurant in San Sebastián, which was number three on the world's best list. Cancino was 17 when he was awarded the Imach Institute of Gastronomy Scholarship in

Argentina as student of the year. Meanwhile, Brisbane's master of wine Peter Scudamore-Smith has come to the rescue of wine buffs who want to travel to Italy but find the wine routes too daunting to tackle alone. He is guiding eating and drinking tours of Tuscany, Piemonte and Sicily in Italy in September and October. Scuds tells me the tour takes in Granite Belt winemaker Angelo Puglisi's home town of Zafferana Etnea, near Palermo, in the province of Catania. It's famous for the white grape variety carricante.