

Powerhouse shows hand with winning design

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A towering structure resembling a stacked deck of cards will house the new Powerhouse Museum at Parramatta, the first designs for the controversial project show.

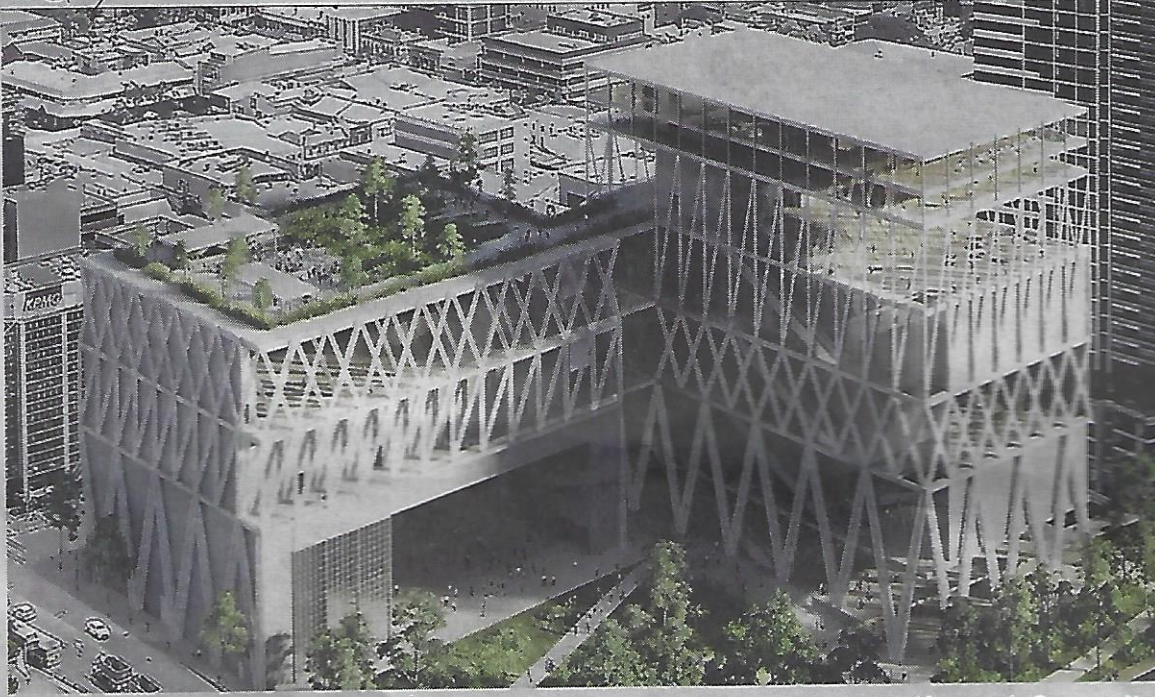
Architects from French firm Moreau Kusunoki and Australian company Genton have created the winning design for the museum's future home beside the Parramatta River.

The NSW government is forging ahead with its divisive plan to shift the Powerhouse from its inner Sydney home at Ultimo to the city's western suburbs at an estimated cost of \$1 billion. The international jury met in recent weeks to select the winning architects from a shortlist of six, comprising local and international firms.

The winning design is by the same French-Japanese architects who in 2014 won a design competition for Guggenheim Helsinki.

Under the development, 60 studio residences will be built on site and let to scientists and researchers. They will also house overnight stays for school students who visit from regional areas.

The museum's permanent display in Ultimo will make way for a revolving program of temporary



Know when to fold them: An artist's impression of the design for the new Powerhouse Museum in Parramatta.

exhibitions to entice visitors back for return visits.

The plans for the riverside arts precinct include demolishing the state heritage-listed 1870s-built Italianate villa and former maternity hospital, Willow Grove, and St George's Terrace.

The removal of commercial and residential towers above the new

building is a coup for the museum's chief executive officer Lisa Havilah and its chairman Barney Glover, who lobbied hard for a stand-alone museum that did not share its site with big business.

Create NSW confirmed earlier this month almost \$20 million has so far been spent planning to relocate the Powerhouse, also

known as the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences.

The government has put the "net cost" of the move at \$645 million, once revenue sources are taken into account, but according to the first business case summary the costs of land purchase and moving operations is estimated to be \$1.179 billion.