

INTERPRETATION AT PRINCES PIER

Interpretation integral to design of new urban space

The Lovell Chen-designed interpretation panels for the newly re-opened Princes Pier project in Port Melbourne have now been installed. They tell the story of the pier's history and close association with migrant arrivals and military departures, and they explain the significance of the various historic features that can be seen on the pier.

Developed in association with historian Jill Barnard, the panels are part of a wider heritage presentation scheme that includes many aspects of the design of Melbourne's newest public urban space. We also designed the wayfinding signage.



Elements of the scheme include a kiosk housing screens providing access to digitised material (developed by others), seating made of reclaimed timbers from the pier structure which now bear the names of vessels that docked at Princes Pier, and a specially commissioned installation by Stephen Hennessy that provides the pier's identity. The reverse of Hennessy's pillars gave us an opportunity to display an historic image that captures the romantic aspect of long-distance departure locations.

Princes Pier is a development by Major Projects Victoria. It opened to the public on 12th December. We provided architecture, restoration and conservation services, as well as interpretation design.

[photos: Lovell Chen]