

# St Barnabas to ride wave of renewal

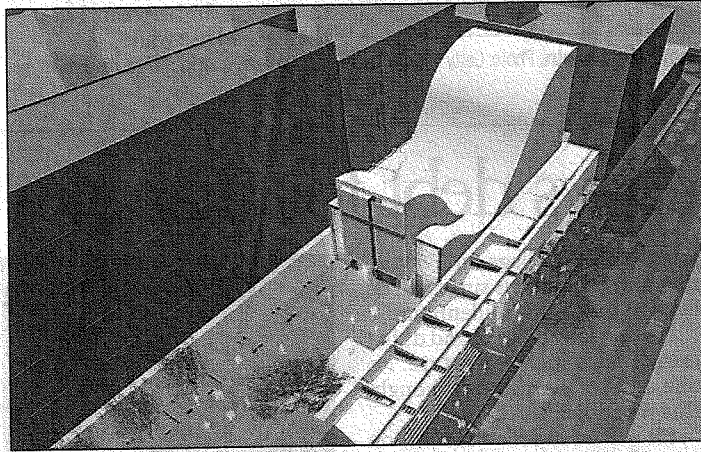
Linda Morris

ST BARNABAS Anglican Church, the Broadway church famous for its witty signboard battles between priest and publican, is to rise from the ashes as a modern structure with a wave-shaped roof and a towering luminous cross built into its southern face.

The winning concept design is more Opera House than Entertainment Centre and consists of a 600-seat church on the footprint of the old but stacks it on top of a 200-seat multipurpose hall, offices and meeting rooms and a possible coffee shop.

The Sydney architectural firm of Frances-Jones Morehen Thorp, whose principal was instrumental in the redesign of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, has been selected to build the replacement for the unadorned mission hall church destroyed by fire in May last year.

The design team beat four other teams of architects includ-



Upgrading Broadway ... the Frances-Jones Morehen Thorp design.

ing a design by Noel Bell Ridley Smith and Partners which opted for a fan-shaped auditorium-style church.

But the F-JMT design has initially not made provision for underground parking because of costs, expected to add an extra \$3 million to \$4 million.

The displaced congregation, now meeting in Newtown, is to launch a fund-raising drive to pay for the multimillion-dollar costs of rebuilding the church, as insurance proceeds will only partially cover costs, estimated to be more than \$8 million.

The rector, the Reverend Ian

Powell, said he wasn't much taken with the design at first sight but slowly has come to appreciate its brilliant use of space, its improvement to the local streetscape, and ability to accommodate a growing congregation of 1000 by 2012.

"We are convinced it will be a beautiful and functional space for people to meet Christ, experience his Grace and to be energised to truly love others," he said.

"It's remarkably reminiscent of the old building in as much as it is on the old footprint and gives us a lovely public space.

"It builds the hall, the toilets and the offices under the church and instead of going down to St Barnabas from Broadway, the plan is for a ramp, landscaped open space, set at a gentle grade, which allows a walk way from Mountain Street to Broadway. It creates a lovely forecourt space and we hope it will be a real gift to the area," Mr Powell said.

## St Barnabas memories

How pleasing to hear of the plans to restore St Barnabas Church ("St Barnabas to ride wave of renewal", November 5). Let us hope the church's issuing of amusing quotations will continue. They gave me great pleasure on my way to Sydney Uni in the late 1940s. My favourite: "Don't wait for something to turn up. It may be your toes."  
Margot Keaney Mosman

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