

Important Eastern Arcade update

On 14 July 2007 *The Australian Financial Review* revealed details of the development planned by Queensland-based Devine Limited to replace the historic Eastern Arcade building at 131-135 Bourke Street (see the feature article in this edition of ON STAGE).

Devine purchased the 2000 square metre site for \$18 million. Their \$150 million apartment block has been designed by Woods Bagot. Its 90 metre tower will contain 444 apartments over 25 levels. The complex will incorporate conference facilities, a pool and gym, and retail outlets. Construction is expected to begin early next year, with completion in 2010.

This development will necessitate the demolition of the historic 1894 Eastern Arcade building, as well as the significant two-storey building at the rear, fronting on Little Collins Street, which dates from 1872.

The Victoria Theatres Trust is campaigning to save at least the 1894 Bourke Street Moorish-style façade (the last 19th century example in Melbourne) and some significant elements of the structure immediately behind it, as well as the virtually intact Little Collins Street building.

You can help by registering your concern urgently with Heritage Victoria and the Melbourne City Council. Email contacts are: heritage.victoria@dse.vic.gov.au and planning@melbourne.vic.gov.au



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