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THE ART DECO AND MODERNISM SOCIETY OF NSW & ACT Inc

New book on SYDNEY ART DECO by Peter Sheridan

Available April/May 2019, this is the first major reference book on Sydney's Art Deco architecture of the 1930s and 1940s with 800 full-colour contemporary images and 200 black & white archival photos. *Sydney Art Deco* explores the impact of the global Art Deco style on the landscape and lifestyle of Sydney during the inter-war period and covers the whole gamut of moderne, functionalist, and streamlined styling. Beautifully photographed examples of 350 commercial, civic and industrial buildings, houses and apartment blocks, as well as pubs, cinemas and shops from the CBD and 112 suburbs fill the 432 pages, along with important details and condensed summaries. Over 100 local architects are identified.

Art Deco had a broader impact than architecture and the author presents as a counterpoint to the buildings, examples of artwork of the time from some of Australia's foremost artists who lived in Sydney. These include Margaret Preston, Grace Cossington Smith, Roland Wakelin and Dorrit Black as well as the sculptor Rayner Hoff. The photography of Sam Hood, Harold Cazneaux and Max Dupain is also featured in the archival images, giving the reader a sense of yesterday next to today. A small selection of furniture, fashion and accessories made in Australia are included to add broader context to the period.

The time of Art Deco was a brief hiatus between two World Wars and compounded by the devastating effects of the Great Depression. Life was not always glamorous but in many ways the style ushered in a new sense of freedom for people from the Victorian era's restrictions of class and attachment to tradition. New technology, mass production and the machine age brought a promise of a new future and industrial design with new materials made affordable and stylish goods available to the whole community. Sydney was still steadfastly British in the 1930s but the international style of Art Deco made its mark in Sydney and the city and suburbs are dotted with beautiful examples which should be appreciated and maintained as part of Sydney's built heritage.

Sydney is a surprising treasure trove of Art Deco with the Potts Point/Elizabeth Bay area, for example, containing within a 1 sq km area an accumulation of some 60 Art Deco apartment blocks that create a world class heritage neighbourhood, ranking with places like Napier in New Zealand and Miami South Beach in Florida, USA. As well as being a beautiful coffee table book with great imagery, *Sydney Art Deco* can be a guide for the visitor to Sydney, an atlas for Sydneysiders to appreciate and enjoy their city's history, a reference book for the Art Deco lover, and a handbook for preservation of Sydney's Art Deco heritage.

Dr Peter Sheridan AM is an internationally recognized historian, collector and speaker on Art Deco design. A member of the Australian Institute of Professional Photographers (AIPP), his photographic images and articles appear in specialist fine art journals, books, travel publications, museum catalogs and print media. He is the author of two highly acclaimed reference books *Radio Days – Australian Bakelite Radios* (2008) and *Deco Radio – The Most Beautiful Radios Ever Made* (2014). Peter was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2001 for his international work in the Multiple Sclerosis field. He is a Clinical Senior Lecturer at Sydney University and the author of the textbook *Clinical Photography in Dentistry* (2017). A committee member of the Art Deco and Modernism Society of Australia, Peter has lectured on design at Art Deco World Congresses and at the College of Fine Arts, New South Wales University. The link to the launch on 14th May is attached (details below)

Here is the link to book the event

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/peter-sheridan-in-conversation-with-josh-zepps-sydney-art-deco-tickets-59140813766>