

The Well Built Australian
1999

Art Gallery of New South Wales Project Space, Sydney

This project was funded by the Australia Council for the Arts.

This site-specific project reflected on the extensive property development of the Sydney harbour foreshore in the late 1990s, and the visual and social impact on the surrounding urban environment.

The installation comprised temporary worksite offices, steel-mesh barrier fencing and builder's formwork used for concrete construction.

An early survey map of Sydney and its coastline provided an historical context, as did works from the Art Gallery of New South Wales' permanent collection. The paintings, from the nineteenth to the early twentieth century, depict the Sydney foreshore in a period before rampant real estate development on a massive scale.

The art gallery windows were exposed and viewers could gaze down on the building developments on the wharf below.

The title of the work, The Well Built Australian, was derived from the corporate tagline of influential property developer Multiplex, responsible for much of the speculative development in the immediate inner city area.