

# Gwinganna Spa Sanctuary



## in the beginning

From the onset, it was clear that this sanctuary would have to be first and foremost Australian, but also a place. Not just a building, but a celebration of nature, life and of the human body. It was to be a place of ritual and sensory delight, of reflection and meditation, or perhaps it was to be simply a journey.

## the sanctuary

The Spa Sanctuary is a journey through 3 individual wings that come together to form the entire spa compound comprising of some 1500sqm and over 7 levels cascading and contoured to the site within which it is nestled.

When in the sanctuary one is completely surrounded by nature. The design of the building is such that there is never a sense of being anywhere but truly submerged and cradled within the landscape. The journey through the spa experience takes the guest through a weaving both physically and sensually through the thresholds of inside and outside, of built form and nature.

## the design concept

The design of the spa has a fundamental connection to the site upon which it is perched. The site was chosen by Founder and Managing Director, Tony de Leede. In the exact centre of this land stand three Australian Eucalypt trees. Pouné Design mapped the centre of these trees and using this as the geometrical starting point of the compound, generated a series of circular projections that would eventually become the base of the Spa Sanctuary. The circle: a symbol of perfection, purity and of perfect human proportions. This mapping was combined with the idea of 2 fallen gum leaves under the big trees and that of the human spine and vertebrae. The Spa Sanctuary was conceived and developed to what stands today as a truly majestic, powerful and inspiring architectural delight.

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## the journey

As a guest of the Spa Sanctuary you can expect to be delighted, intrigued and fascinated with each step you take through your journey. Be enchanted by the sculpture of Miryani (which means "Star" in aboriginal) and her Dove "Awakening" - the guardians of the spa. We hope that all guests experience their very own awakening during their time in the Spa.

In the lounge area, there are massive reclaimed timber beams, comfy lounges, a stunning feature light piece and views toward the three ancient eucalypts in the centre of the complex.

The lower space of the spa includes an amethyst crystal steam room with ceiling lighting that presents the stars of the Southern Cross constellation and an outdoor monsoon shower.

The Whisper Lounge on the upper level provides a high vantage point upon which guests can see the entire complex below while relaxing on cushioned lounge style seating. The use of glass provides an opportunity to gaze at the natural wildlife, flora and fauna.

Each of the treatment rooms are unique in colour, theme and design. Choose from couples rooms, some with outdoor decks, deep baths or the cosy rooms all painted in lush surfaces of metallic paints and beautifully crafted joinery.

## statistics

Architecture & Interior Design: Pouné Design (Pouné Parsanejad)  
Sculpture: Jacqueline Campbell  
Commencement to completion: June 05 - Dec 07  
Estimated cost of Project: AUD \$6.5 million  
Size: 1500sqm

## materials

**timber** Reclaimed Australian Hardwoods from Salvage were used for both structure, flooring and cladding. Species ranging from iron bark to spotted gum to jarrah.

**copper** Used in its natural metamorphic state as cladding of the front façade.

**blue stone** Used throughout as cladding and flooring.

## sustainability and eco design

The project was built with much attention given to the necessary environmental issues. Materials are mostly natural and man reclaimed materials were utilised.

## water

The spa is one of the only spas in the world that is completely self sufficient in terms of water consumption and collection relying purely on rainwater collected from run off of its vast roof structure. All fixtures and fittings are WELS (Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards) rated for efficiency.

## energy

Over 90% of the lighting used are LED or low voltage fluorescents that carry a very low overall energy consumption. The hot water units are Q-solar units that use the ambient air temperature to heat the water.

## paints

All paints were by Resene, manufactured in Australia, which are recognised and recommended by "Environmental Choice".



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