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Architectural Pragmatist Grant Boshard Appointed to Design Powerhouse Woods Bagot

With over 15 years of large scale architectural experience in the Middle East and South Africa, self-confessed “architectural pragmatist” Grant Boshard has been appointed as Woods Bagot’s new Perth Studio Leader



Caption: Grant Boshard (at right) inspecting plans for Saadiyat Beach Resort, Dubai.

Driving a Vespa, brandishing a thick South African accent and the “devoted other half” of dynamic Senior Designer Natasha, Grant Boshard is anything but your average Woods Bagot Principal. With a swathe of heavy hitting lifestyle projects under his belt, it is notably his role as Project Director of Dubai’s Saadiyat Beach Resort – named by the Wall Street Journal as “one of the world’s top 10 emerging trendy destinations” and tipping in at AED 1 billion – that hints at Boshard’s high standing in the industry, and marks his recent move to Australia.

Undoubtedly, Boshard’s appointment as Woods Bagot Perth Studio Leader is a timely one – as the expansion of the Western Australian market is imminent.

“Perth seems to be bouncing back pretty quickly,” Boshard said.

“The potential to generate substantial revenue will come from the oil and gas sector, the health and government ‘West Coast Boom’ and along with these a new tide of hotels and residential projects.”

However, having spent the last five years working in Woods Bagot’s Dubai studio Boshard is pragmatic in his approach to design, delivery and documentation.

“The fundamentals of any architectural project are the same the world over. We want the same outcomes: a building that is easy to build, is well built, and is at the cutting edge of international design. What Woods Bagot wants to continue to do in Perth is to produce well-considered architecture and interiors that answer to the region’s new forward-thinking vision, whilst also setting new standards in project delivery.”

Privy to the volatility and challenges faced by the Middle Eastern market during the Global Financial Crisis, Boshard is positive that Woods Bagot’s ‘One Global Studio’ structure will serve to strengthen the already significant amount of global design intelligence accrued by the Perth studio in servicing local and offshore projects.

Named as the 2009 ‘AJ100 International Practice of the Year’, Woods Bagot is also the current two-time ‘Most Admired Knowledge Enterprise (MAKE)’ title holder. Furthermore, Woods Bagot was awarded the Australian Institute of Architects (WA) ‘Public Architecture Award’ for the University of Western Australia’s new Business School and the ‘The Mondoluce Architecture Award’ for Wesfarmers, Perth interiors.

“I look forward to harnessing our experience and driving it in a new direction as new market potential means new projects and new people involved in them.”

PROFILE SUMMARY

Grant has over 15 years of professional experience and is a Principal and is the Perth studio leader. After graduating from the University of Cape Town, South Africa in 1995 he joined Stefan Antoni Architects where he became an Associate Partner in charge of their Commercial Division. Grant relocated to the Middle East in 1998 as a Senior Designer for Rice Perry Ellis Architects before joining Woods Bagot in 2005.

With an impressive history of project experience in the lifestyle sector – particularly hotels and resorts, residential, masterplanning and urban design, some of his latest and greatest include:

- Saadiyat Beach Resort, Dubai (Project Director)
- Al Kaheel, Dubailand (Project Director)
- Al Barari Development, Dubailand (Project Director)
- Dubai Garden City, Dubai (Project Director)
- Al Sharooq, Dubai (Project Director)
- Autoland Development, Abu Dhabi UAE (F1 Race track, masterplan and concept design) (Project Director)

ABOUT WOODS BAGOT

Woods Bagot’s commitment to global excellence has resulted in a workforce of 600 staff based in five regions, in cities such as Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Sydney, Beijing, Hong Kong, London and most recently San Francisco, New York and Shanghai. It has also announced planning permission for what will be one of the world’s most luxurious hotels at 10 Trinity Square, London and unveiled plans for the Middle East’s tallest tower – at more than 1km high – in Dubai. Woods Bagot’s Australian studios have recently completed several flagship projects, including the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre (Joint Venture Architects Woods Bagot and NH Architecture) and ivy, Sydney (with collaborative partners HPG and Merivale).

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