



Get the best deal when buying, renovating or investing. Speak to our in-house consultant for on-the-spot loan approvals, expert advice and tailored finance that allows you to afford more!

Call 9556 9966 today.

222 Darling Street Balmain Tel 02 9555 7755 www.sarahlorden.com.au

Celebrity duo's letters save the day in DA fight

BY BEN JHOTY

COUNCIL has approved a controversial development application for a house owned by celebrity renovators Stephen Tolle and Cherie Barber despite 33 letters in opposition.

The DA for 18 Bradford St, Balmain, also attracted 29 letters in support, 15 of which came from people in suburbs as diverse as Bronte, Hunters Hill and Bondi Junction.

Applicant Ms Barber said the support came from family, friends and people with investment properties in Balmain.

"We have the right to put a strong case forward," she said. "At the end of the day council realised how stupid the objections were."

Ms Barber said the letters of support were in response to the large number of objectors.

Cr Jamie Parker said council's only consideration in judging a DA was to determine if an application complied with controls. "If letters come from outside the area I don't give them the same kind of emphasis," Mr Parker said. "The first thing you look at is where they are from."

Cr Paddy McGuinness agreed. "It's pointless. I saw the list of names and addresses. I don't know what they were thinking. Even the most stupid populist who listens to middle class voters wouldn't be influenced," Mr McGuinness said.

Whitebay precinct chairperson Kath Hacking said it was warranted if a heritage building was involved.

Stephen Tolle was fined \$3000 after pleading guilty to a charge of illegal demolition at Balmain Court last month.

Views spark designer scrap

BY ELEANOR LIMPRECHT

PEACOCK Point neighbours are battling each other over two adjoining houses designed by architect Glenn Murcutt.

Each object to the others' plans to renovate. The applications were lodged for 23 and 25 Edward St in September and July 2002. Since then councillors have visited the sites on several occasions to work out an acceptable compromise between the applicants, Frank Hetherton and Rene Aalhuizen.

Both houses received an approval subject to alterations at the recent building and development meeting.

The two houses, designed by Mr Murcutt in the 1970s, share expansive views of the harbour.

Mr Aalhuizen opposed Mr Hetherton's application because it will diminish his views, he said.

"I work seven days a week to pay off the

property. To lose this view takes the value away.

"The view is very, very special," Mr Aalhuizen told councillors at the meeting.

Mr Hetherton responded that 65 per cent of their view is across his land.

He told councillors he would lose some of his views and privacy if they were to follow council's required set back.

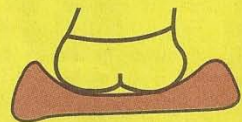
Mr Hetherton said he did not think the architect would approve of Mr Aalhuizen's application.

"The proposal is massive and out of keeping with the original, prize winning iconic Glenn Murcutt house. It still needs drastic revision, preferably with a single storey addition that allows surrounding houses to share the joy of the unique location."

Council staff said the original architect had seen the plans and notified that he did not wish to take further action.

THE FOAM BOOTH

SOFA SAGGY?
SIMPLY SOLUTION
NEW CUSHIONS CUT TO SIZE



At the Foam Booth we can bring your old sofa/lounge back to life with a new high-density foam.

GIVE US A CALL TODAY!

Also camp mats, yoga mats, divans, acoustic foam and of course MATTRESSES from \$39.00

Cnr Cleveland & South Dowling Sts, Surry Hills
CAR PARK NEXT TO SHOP ON SOUTH DOWLING STREET
PHONE: 9319 0594 FAX: 9310 7214

"We look for the best home loan deals so you don't have to"

Free Service • Unbiased advice • Over 20 leading lenders • Saves you time and confusion



Your local home loan specialist

Call Now on 9818 3188 or 0411 874 078 or visit us at Shop 631 Darling Street, Rozelle
www.mortgagechoice.com.au/yvonne.penfold

