

OUR CITY

THE DREAM OF ALD. NOBLE

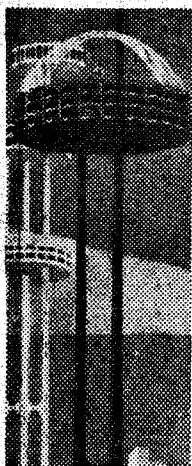
City Council alderman Cliff Noble today called for the erection of "twenty-first century buildings" at Sydney Cove.

Asked if he liked the style of the buildings in television's space program, "The Jetsons," he said: "Yes, something like that."

The Jetsons of the popular TV series live in a fantastic city of the future.

They live and work in weird ultra-modern buildings, orbiting through space.

Ald. Noble said today a plan for the redevelopment of Sydney Cove "left a hell of a lot to be desired."



A building from the space age TV series The Jetsons... Ald. Noble likes this trend.

He was criticising the plan drawn up by the council's planning officer, Mr McLachlan, and the Professor of Town and Country Planning at Sydney University, Professor Denis Winston.

Ald. Noble, a Labour member of the council, served his apprenticeship as a bootmaker, but became a railway stores clerk instead.

He is vice-chairman of the council's finance committee.

Ald. Noble said, "The latest plan they have put up is repugnant."

"I know they'll say what would I know about architecture."

"Well, I'm a layman, but I speak for the people of Sydney," he said.

ONLY THE BEST

"I want to see something for the betterment of Sydney."

"Only the best is good enough."

"We don't want a concrete jungle."

"I'd like to see something much more modern" Ald. Noble said today.

"The office buildings in the plan seem to have been designed for economic purposes and not for aesthetic value."

Asked if he envisaged "far-out" building designs such as the Opera House, Ald. Noble said:

"Well, perhaps the Opera House is a little TOO modern for business purposes."

"Maybe something halfway between the Opera House and the conventional type of office block would be good."

"We're heading for the twenty-first century—and we should build for it!"

"JETSON CITY"

Ald. Noble said that with the Rocks Development, the proposals for Sydney Cove and buildings such as the Opera House and Australia Square, Sydney had

SUN 19.11.63 Space age Sydney Cove

the chance of becoming a "Jetson-type city."

Ald. Noble had these comments about other building projects:

• A.M.P. building, Circular Quay: "Ugly, it goes straight up and down."

• Australia Square, now under construction: "Ah, this is something more like it. The circular tower is really wonderful..."

The area the City Council intends redeveloping is bounded by Alfred, Phillip, Bridge and Pitt Streets.

An initial plan was submitted last March by developers and architects representing the Sydney Cove Area Development Committee.

This is an organisation comprising five of Australia's biggest companies.

REALLY MODERN

Ald. Noble said of this plan: "It's better than the one I saw yesterday—but still not in keeping with the dream I have."

"The buildings have to be modern... really modern!"

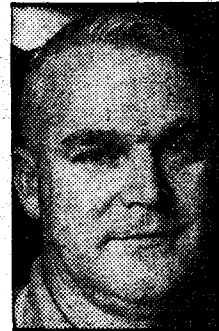
"Circular buildings might be fine. They would allow cool harbour breezes to fan the city."

"But we certainly don't want to see huge blocks of concrete which pass as office blocks," he added.

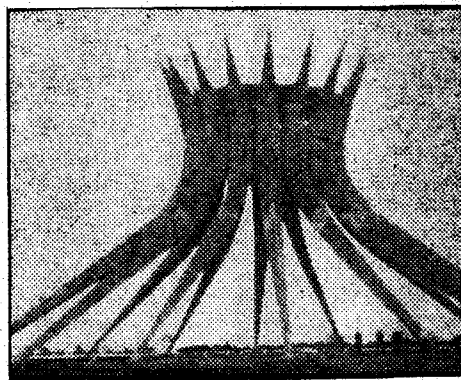
A professor of town planning at the



Prof. Winston



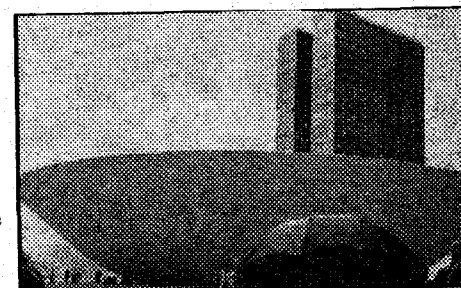
Ald. Noble



The Crown of Thorns above an underground cathedral in Brazil: "I wouldn't like to see that at the Quay."



Small chapel in Brazil: "I like it. I think buildings should move with the times in relation to religion, too."



The Senate building in Brazil: "It doesn't seem right going to all that expense with all the poverty around them. But one has to take into account its location."

University of N.S.W. today agreed with Ald. Noble's criticisms.

He is Associate Professor J. H. Shaw.

"The main objective of any scheme should be to have plenty of public space and an interesting skyline to make a magnificent gateway to the city," he said.

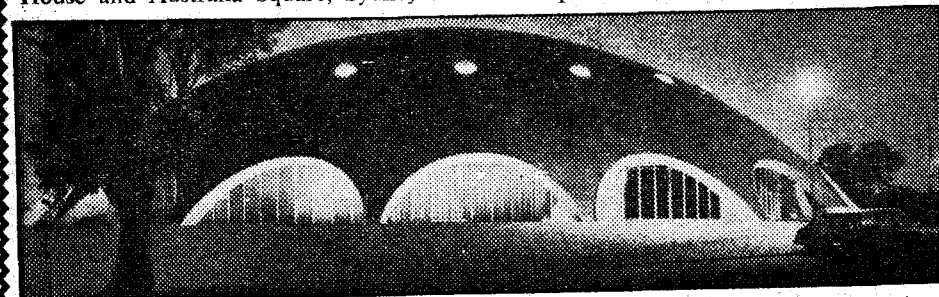
The proposed building between the Customs House and Pitt Street should not be half as big, he said.

PUBLIC SPACE

This would allow a large space to be planned as a pedestrian area, possibly as a civic square, Professor Shaw added.

Professor Shaw said he had not seen the model of the plan.

"I can only judge from this morning's newspaper photographs," Professor Shaw said.



The Academy of Science building, Canberra: "An excellent building for its position and job."