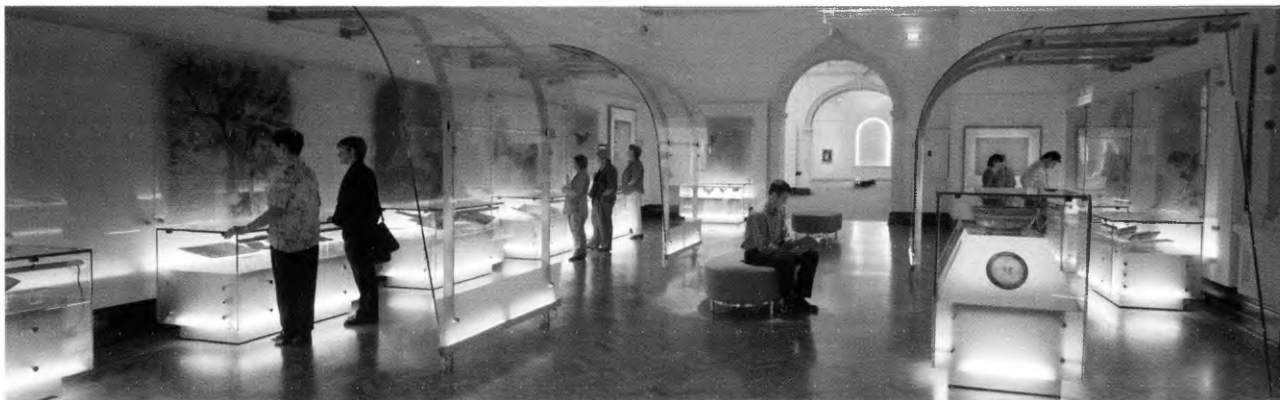


Stunning new look for State Library galleries



Award-winning designer and sculptor Jon Hawley has successfully completed his first major architectural interior design project with the opening of the State Library of NSW's new million-dollar exhibition of its great treasures.

With the *Heritage Collection* exhibition, presented by the Nelson Meers Foundation, Jon was faced with the challenge of how best to present the library's rare and stunning 'icons' — ranging from books and manuscripts to maps, pictures and objects.

Unique curved glass tunnels are a key feature of Jon's design and serve to enhance the overall experience of viewing the treasures on show, some of which are associated with big names like Shakespeare, Cook, Bligh, Tasman and White.

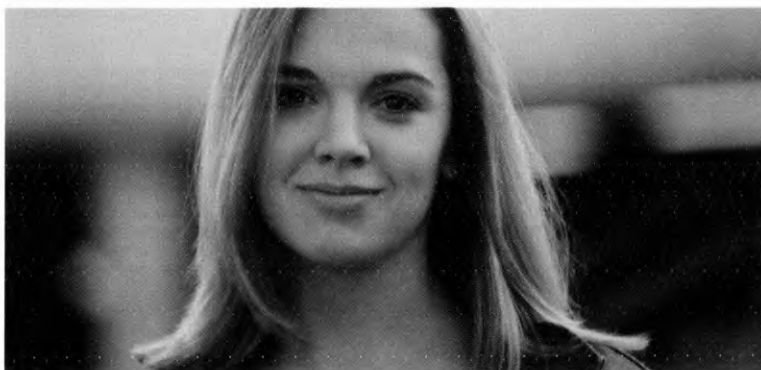
The five carefully engineered tunnels and the custom-made state-of-the-art glass cases with innovative lighting create an original, translucent look for the State Library gallery.

'I wanted to create the effect of "time tunnels", so we used curved glass to give the feeling of intimate walkways that seemed to take you through time,' says Jon.

It took Jon seven months to complete the design and construction of the gallery, calling on the advice of the State Library's exhibitions staff, lighting expert Graham Ashwell, and museum specialists Machineability. The climate and security of the gallery was an important consideration in the design due to the value and preservation needs of the items, the oldest dating back to c.1480.

The *Heritage Collection's* contemporary design complements the Library's classical architecture in the historic Mitchell Wing, reflecting the archways and rounded ceilings.

The Nelson Meers Foundation *Heritage Collection* is a free exhibition at the State Library of NSW, with interchanging items on display until 2013. ■



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