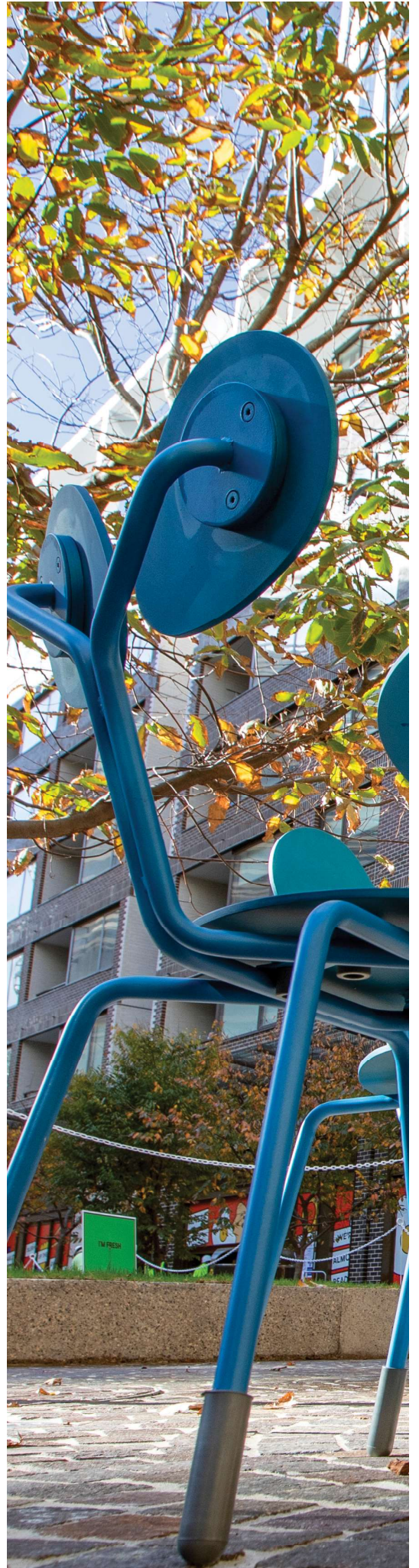


ApMurr Furniture

Centre of Appropriate
Technology (CfAT)





ABOUT CFAT

The Centre for Appropriate Technology Ltd, also known as CfAT, was established in the 1980s and is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) owned, not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, with a majority ATSI membership, board and workforce.

CfAT exists to support people in regional and remote Australia in the choices they make in order to maintain their relationship with country. Maintaining a relationship with country may include a desire to live on country, visit country, develop country for economic benefit or protect country. This is achieved by providing solutions to infrastructure challenges that people face in maintaining their relationship with country, primarily: reliable power, water supply, digital connectivity, built infrastructure, training and skills development.

“POOL”

Seamus McCarthy of Lendlease, came across the ‘Anerle Aneme’ Chair whilst attending an event at Bondi Icebergs launching Australia’s 2016 commission for the Venice Biennale of Architecture ‘The Pool’. The hand-crafted chair is a result of a collaboration between Alice Springs based designer Elliot Rich and the Aboriginal owned who also attended the event at Icebergs. The chairs were a stand-out feature of the Australian exhibition and were seen by thousands of people in Sydney, Venice and upon return to Australia at the NGV in Melbourne. One of the strengths of the chairs was in highlighting a mutually beneficial opportunity of collaboration and partnership between Lendlease and CfAT on our integrated urban regeneration projects, harnessing the workshop capabilities and connections with Australian talent such as Elliot.





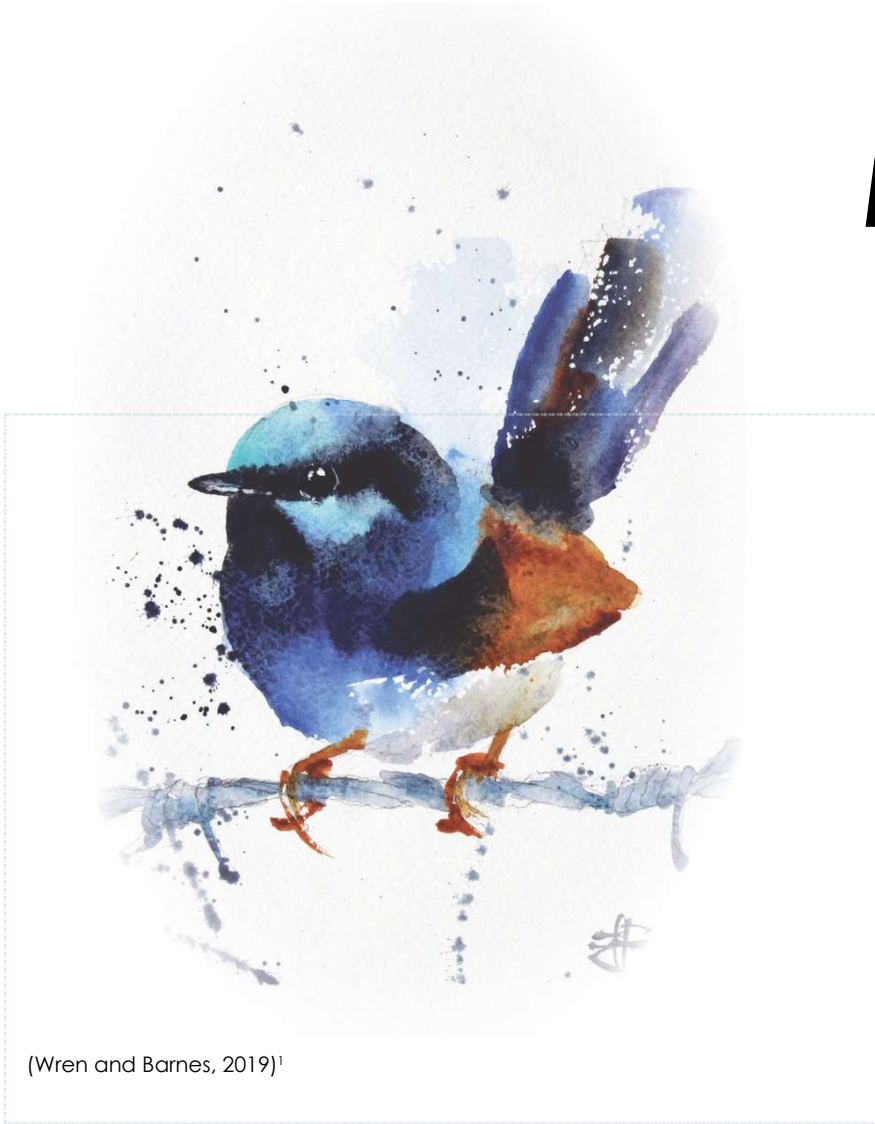
INTRODUCTION TO DARLING SQUARE

Lendlease is passionate about creating places that connect to country - great places for communities that reflect the unique qualities and significance of a site and provide an authentic experience. Our approach is one where we engage in the regeneration of sites in a transformative way that captures the minds and hearts of the community we are creating, thus preserving the memory and 'spirit of place'. It is an approach that embeds how we incorporate Indigenous Sensibility into all aspects of the places we create across design, delivery, the customer experience and operations of our assets.

The Lendlease ambition of expressing culture in a modern way that is both unique to each project site and in synergy with CfAT's vision of creating bespoke furniture, relays a story both through design and fabrication. This synergy commenced a two-year partnership between Lendlease and CfAT to prototype and deliver a pilot suite of furniture in the public realm at Darling Square, in collaboration with designer Elliot Rich and Outdoor Assembly. This not only provided the Darling Square project a great public furniture suite but also aligned with Lendlease's RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan) procurement goals and catalysed the establishment of CfAT's capabilities as a commercial furniture manufacturing business.

Lendlease employees had the opportunity to visit Alice Springs on a number of occasions to meet the CfAT team and board, view the workshop and understand the social and cultural impacts of what CfAT do and build trust between the two companies.





FAIRYWREN

The WREN furniture series inspired by the Fairywren, also known as the Muruduwin to the local Eora and Darug people of the Sydney basin.

The Fairywren is one of the few small native bird species who has successfully adapted to urbanisation. Like us, they are social beings that feed in small groups, they also have short bursts of activity during the day but don't travel very far. These traits mirror the

human activities imagined for Darlign Square and inspired the expressive, animated and playful range of furniture items which encourage community engagement in spaces both indoors and outdoors.

(Wren and Barnes, 2019)¹

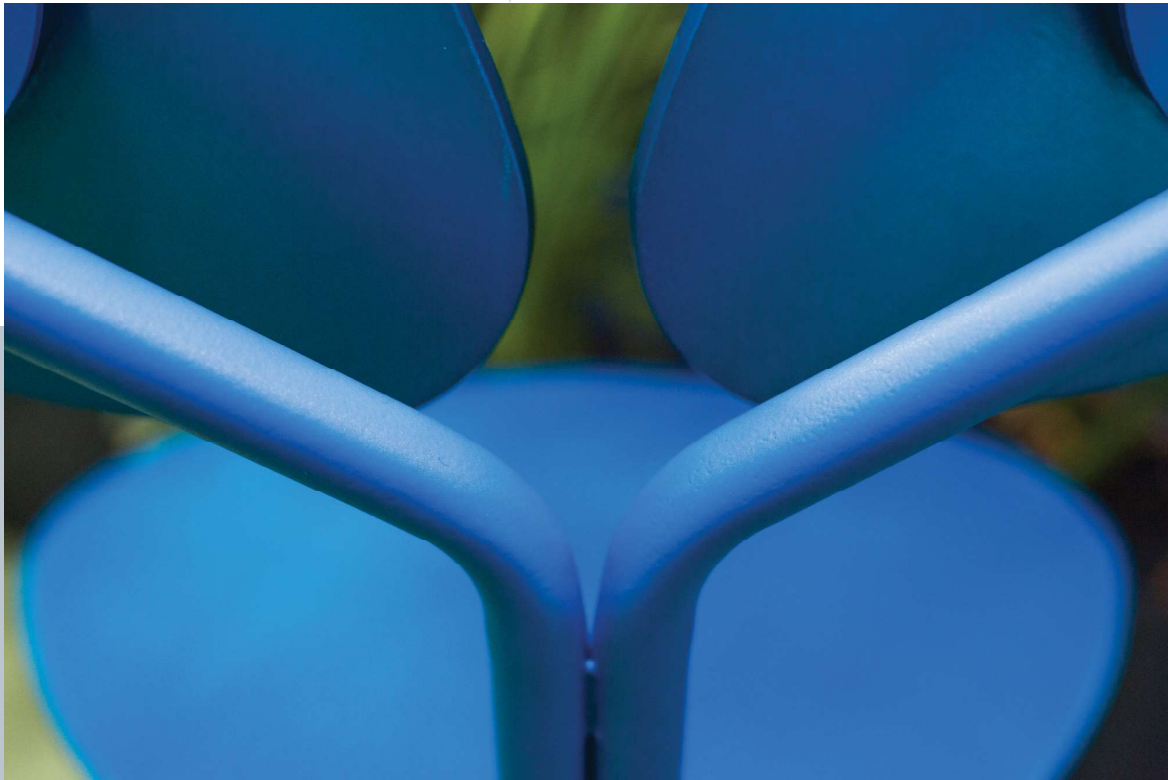
¹Wren, A. and Barnes, J. (2019). Australian Fairy Wren by Jenny Barnes. [online] Bluethumb Online Art Gallery. Available at: <https://bluethumb.com.au/jenny-barnes/Artwork/australian-fairy-wren-jenny-barnes> [Accessed 4 Jul. 2019].

DEVELOPMENT

As the principle contractor CFAT managed the design development and prototyping phase, working in collaboration with Outside Assembly and Elliot Rich. Outside Assembly were recommended through ASPECT Studios for their experience in designing furniture for the public realm.



This became a significant process in the realisation of the range, with many conversations including the full team; part of the project with multiple design development iterations throughout the process involving the following parties: Elliot Rich, CfAT, Lendlease teams from various business units (Rap, Procurement & Development, and the Darling Square Project team), Outside Assembly and ASPECT Studios.



PROTOTYPE

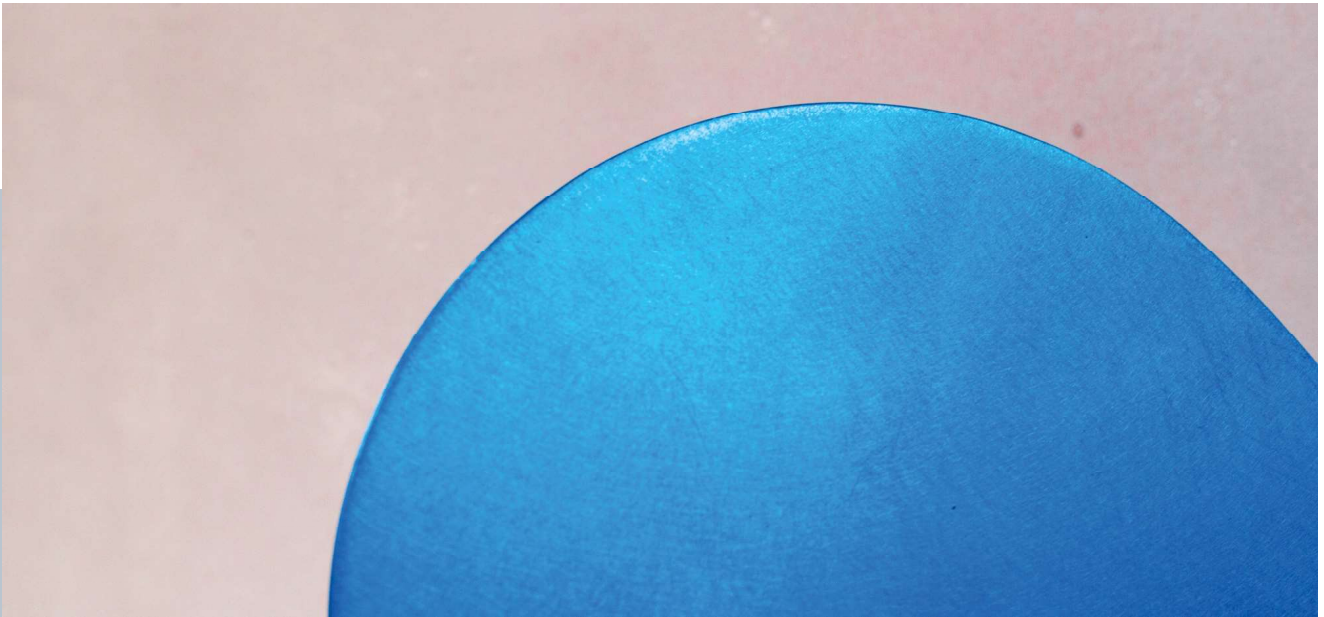
The prototyping stage comprised of numerous iterations and tests and was undertaken in a collaboration between

CfAt workshop team and Bushell Engineering. Bushell Engineering are an experienced metal work company who had an existing relationship with Outside Assembly and prototyping of furniture. This collaboration enabled the sharing of knowledge with CfAT regarding practice, process, equipment and niche skills in this unique fabrication arena. Furntech, were engaged by CfAT to test the chair product to provide a commercial rating.

THE RANGE

The suite of furniture comprising of a chair, low stool, high stool and table (circular or square) can be made to order in a variety of materials and colours depending on the ultimate use of the furniture (i.e. indoor or outdoor). CfAT has named their furniture 'ApMurra', a traditional Aboriginal name from the central Arrernte language. This name is derived from 'Apmere Mpwepele mpwaretyke', meaning 'made in the middle of the country' and is pronounced Ap-murra M-bop M-burra-ka. This name anchors the furniture production to the Arrernte nation in the centre of Australia.





ADDITIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Since the Wren chair and table production for Darling Square (50 chairs and 10 tables), Lendlease has facilitated a collaboration between Koskela and CfAT for the development of an internal furniture suite custom designed by Koskela for the Darling Exchange Building designed by architect Kengo Kuma and interior designer Anthony Gill.



Both furniture projects at the Darling Square public realm and Darling Exchange led to the upgrade of CfAT workshop facilities, procurement of equipment and establishment of relationships with other Alice Springs based suppliers. This ensures that quality Australian designed and made products benefit the local community of Alice Springs through training and job opportunities.





VISION

CfAT's vision is to continue to develop a diverse range of high-quality, story-driven furniture for commercial and residential use in collaboration with artists and designers for delivery nationwide and to continue their commitment to training and job security for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families in Central Australia.



"I've been at CfAT for about 4 years now, and with this new contract we have learnt how to use new machinery. Mainly the bender and also new welding techniques, tig welding, mainly doing stainless steel chairs and tables. Its been good learning new skills and we're enjoying it."

- Brentley

