

Down Under

Sydney's New Darling

BY SERENA RENNER

Darling Harbour, on the western side of central Sydney, has long played support act to its sister inlet crowned by the Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House. But a new waterfront development known as **Barangaroo** is changing minds along with the downtown skyline. A derelict shipping port has been transformed into a thriving hive of stylish boutiques, restaurants, and bars. Add new hotels, parks, and in-the-works architecture by the likes of Renzo Piano, and you have the biggest urban renewal project since the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Here, a taste of the new Darling Harbour.



Barangaroo House

EAT AND DRINK: Inside **Barangaroo House** — a three-level showpiece resembling a stack of giant bowls brimming with native plants — sate your appetite at **Bea** restaurant, a testament to native Australian ingredients and wood-fired grilling. Try the charred calamari, doused in chili-ginger dressing. After dark, take in the flaming heat lamps and harbor reflections at **Smoke**, awarded *Time Out's* Best New Bar in 2018. barangaroohouse.com.au



→ **Banksii**, Sydney's first vermouth bar, takes its name from British botanist Sir Joseph Banks, who surveyed Australia's plant life in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The hot spot features 40 varieties of this botanical-based fortified wine, pouring offerings predominantly from Australia and Italy. After some sampling on the waterfront patio, move on to vermouth-infused cocktails, mussels, kangaroo pie, and trifle. banksii.sydney

→ Set beneath the acclaimed modern Australian restaurant 12-Micron, the Shanghai-style street-food eatery **Bund** opened in July with clever dishes that blend East and West, such as Xinjiang-inspired lamb cutlets. lotusdining.com.au

SEE AND DO: Once an important source of cockles and oysters, Darling Harbour still gets a nod for seafood. On a **Sydney Fish Market** tour, Jack Black lookalike Alex Stollznow demystifies the daily fish auction — the Southern Hemisphere's largest — along with lesser-known Australian marine creatures. Join the new brunch tour at 10 a.m. to finish with tiger prawns and Sydney rock oysters. sydneyfishmarket.com.au

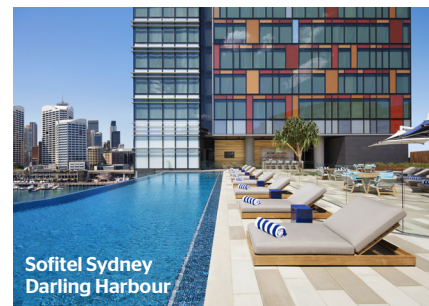
→ Shopping and dining hub **Darling Square** (darlingsq.com) recently sprouted between Darling Harbour and Chinatown. Cafés such as Edition Coffee Roasters and eco-fashion retailers Citizen Wolf and Dresden Optics dot its epicenter, Steam Mill Lane. A few blocks away, take a stroll or bike ride on the **Goods Line** (thegoodslines.aspect.net.au), an elevated former train track a la New York's High Line.



Belancé

SHOP: The second outpost of Sydney's **Collector Store** carries everything from Missoni Home towels and Norman Copenhagen stoneware to sheer blouses and sweaters from Dutch label Scotch & Soda. The store has a strong showing of Australian brands, as well, from Viktoria & Woods clothing to Gascoigne & King candles. collectorstore.com.au

→ **Belancé** (belance.com.au), a luxury men's tailor, offers a made-to-measure service plus a tight edit of bags, shoes, sunglasses, and watches. Taking tailoring a few steps further, **Shirt Bar** (shirtbar.com.au) blends custom shirts with whiskey, coffee, and food. Two more tailors opened stores in Barangaroo this year: **M. J. Bale**, whose casual styles range from linen blazers to floral button-ups; and **Modarte**, on a mission to bring wool back into fashion with its homegrown Australian merino suits. thestreetsofbarangaroo.com



STAY: Situated next to the International Convention Center Sydney with views over Barangaroo, the 2-year-old, 590-room **Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour** features blond wood details, egg-shaped soaking tubs, and glass-wall panoramas. From \$275. sofitelsydneydarlingharbour.com.au
→ One of the closest accommodations to Barangaroo, the 18-month-old **West Hotel Sydney Curio Collection by Hilton** shines with chevron patterns, moody backlighting, and midcentury furniture draped in teal velvet. Dine in for eggs Benedict or cinnamon French toast at Solander restaurant in the morning, then return for a botanical-themed cocktail in the tropical atrium. From \$158. westhotel.com.au