

THE GLITTERING MILE KINGS CROSS NEON

The evolving identity of Sydney's Kings Cross has regularly been the subject of debate, with different interest groups hoping to either change or maintain its identity as the home of sex, art and nightlife in the city



Now, many local heritage and residents groups are concerned that the ongoing official 'clean up' of the Cross may lead to the disappearance of one of the area's most symbolic historical features — its bright neon lights. The National Trust Architectural Heritage Committee, the Art Deco Society, and other heritage and residents groups are calling for Kings Cross to be declared a neon precinct. And local group Friends of the Light Fantastic are calling for a Kings Cross 2005 International Urban Light Design Competition. The friends want to transform Kings Cross into a light sculpture gallery, working day and night.

The following selection of images document neon as a symbol of Sydney becoming a modern urban city. They have been sourced by Jo Holder, local resident and curator of The Cross Art Projects gallery, as part of her research into the cultural history of neon in the Kings Cross area.

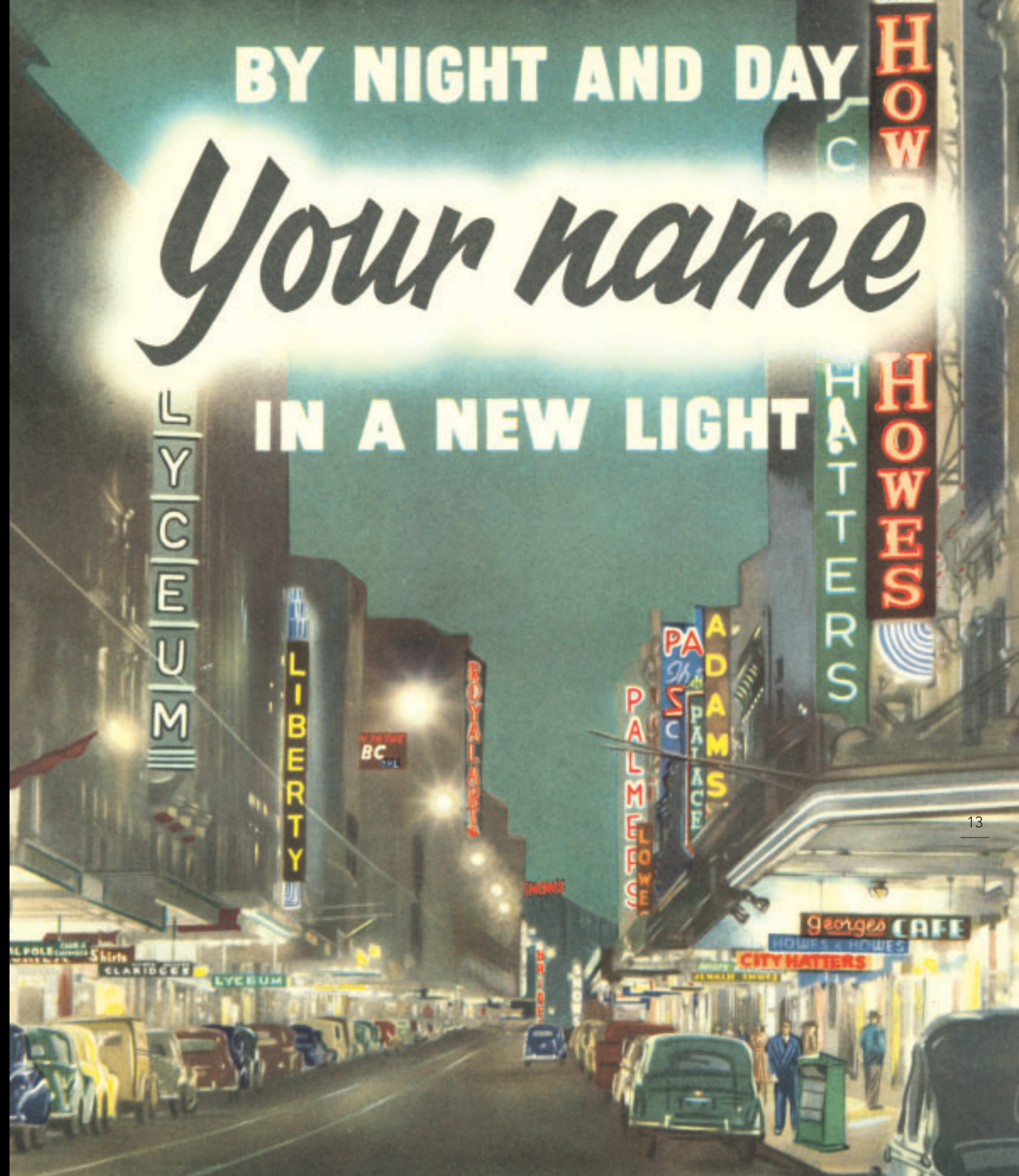
← '... and without detracting from — nay enhancing — the original character of the Cross'; cartoon by George Molnar, published in The Sydney Morning Herald, 20 February 1969

← 'The New Holden'; car showroom, William Street, Rushcutters Bay

→ Claude Neon promotional material depicting neon in George Street, Sydney, late 1940s



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BY NIGHT AND DAY

Your name

IN A NEW LIGHT



CLAUDE — FOR GREATER ATTENTION VALUE!