



Great Thoroughbred Studs
OF AUSTRALIA



DARLEY AUSTRALIA

BUILDING A SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE BASE

THE DARLEY BRAND HAS BEEN WELL-STAMPED AND STAFF LIVERY, vehicles and marketing material all affirm the royal blue corporate identity. There is no mistaking that Darley is now a major player in the Australasian thoroughbred industry. General Manager, Oliver Tait says that the strategy is to compete aggressively and to be the number one stud farm in Australia: 'We are in the business of breeding Group 1 winners and standing world-class stallions, and we strive to be the best.'

Darley has the capacity to stand thirty stallions in its state-of-the-art facilities in New South Wales and Victoria. Darley's Australian farms are also home to around two hundred mares owned by Sheikh Mohammed. Many mares have been imported from Europe and America whilst a number have been purchased locally. During the breeding season, well in excess of two thousand mares are walked-in from near by broodmare farms to be served by Darley's stallions.

Darley has also established itself as a consignor to the major yearling sales in Australia. Darley has already bred two Southern Hemisphere Group 1 winners, the 2006 Queensland Oaks victrix, Allow and the 2007 Sires' Produce Stakes victrix, Camarilla. Both were sold by Darley as yearlings.

THE PERFECT EQUINE ENVIRONMENT

John Ladd-Hudson was offered the opportunity to design the stud facilities for both Darley studs in Australia. The brief for both farms was to design an overall environment that improved the well-being and performance of the horse and eliminate conditions that may negatively impact on equine health. The second part of the brief was that the architecture should blend as seamlessly as possible into the Australian landscape.

At both farms, the existing alluvial flood plains and the hundred year old eucalypt trees fuse with the newly built structures and recent plantings to create the harmonious whole. The hues of each region are from the palette of the Australian bush, and so the exterior colours of the buildings' chalky stone blends perfectly into the landscape.

Components in both master plans include segregated paddocks for stallions, foals, mares, weanlings, yearling and mare arrivals, all reached by dedicated circulation roadways. The architectural forms of both stallion complexes had to provide natural daylight, assist with sun screening, protect against heat and glare, and create cooling air flows. All the buildings were designed in accordance with best practice for equine comfort, and incorporated environmentally sustainable design concepts.

RIGHT: DARLEY'S STALLION BARN IN NEW SOUTH WALES



