

## **Bulimba Ferry Terminal Road Reserve, Oxford Street, Bulimba**

The Bulimba ferry terminal with its quaint design, terracotta roof tiles and delightful clocktower, speaks of a time in Brisbane when ferries were of paramount importance, before a network of bridges was developed, and before many people owned cars.

Navigational hint: Bulimba ferry terminal is a CityCat stop. Look for the timber structure and pine tree behind the modern terminal.

Designed by prominent architectural firm G.H.M. Addison and Son, it was built in 1922 by Ernest Taylor in response to the needs of waiting passengers, many of whom used the ferry to travel to and from work. On hot summer days in the late 1920s, the ferry house served an unforeseen purpose as a dressing shed and general headquarters for the youth of the district who found the water near the ferry house a splendid swimming pool.

Ferries have played a major role in Brisbane's development since the early days of convict settlement. With the city developed around the twists and turns of the river, it was necessary to have reliable cross-river access. The first ferry service commenced between Customs House and Kangaroo Point in 1844, and by 1850, Samuel and Matthew Buckley operated a rowing boat ferry service from Bulimba. Ferry services continued to improve from the Bulimba terminal and by 1921, under the management of Balmoral Shire Council, it was decided to replace the old waiting shed at Bulimba with something more fitting.

The choice of such a noted architectural firm shows how important the ferry was to the community. The proposed design of the Bulimba ferry terminal, one of the largest ever built, was featured in the Architectural and Building Journal of Queensland in December 1922. Arched openings, a gabled roof, decorative timberwork and the octagonal clocktower topped by a metal cupola created a picturesque riverside terminal that is now rare along the Brisbane River.