

## **Gleneagles – 79 Moray Street, New Farm**

Winner of the 1965 Queensland Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) Building of the Year Award, Gleneagles was a pioneering project of its time for aged accommodation in Queensland.

*Navigational hint:* located behind the river walkway, look for the 2 towers of Gleneagles as the CityCat approaches the bend before the Story Bridge.

Set close to the city with a riverside aspect, Gleneagles is a prominent example of innovation in aged accommodation. It was designed by Curro, Nutter and Charlto, engineered by R. J. McWilliam and Partners and built by T. J. Watkins Ltd for the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes. The order was a friendly society that recognised the need to accommodate aged people and provided members with practical assistance by establishing facilities such as retirement homes.

The complex comprises 2 high-rise towers. At the time, these were the 13-storey Falcon House with 44 double units and a matron's unit and office, and the 16-storey Peregrine House with 53 units and a Commonwealth Bank of Australia Savings Bank branch. Linked by a single-storey recreation building, both houses encouraged community interactions through communal roof terraces, large gardens and lounges at ground level.

Gleneagles was built at a time when developers were considering the need for higher-density housing in Brisbane and with river views highly prized, high-rise residential developments near the river were increasing. The vision of Rowley Pym, a former Western Queensland fencing contractor turned developer and real estate broker, it changed the character of New Farm and housing trends for aged accommodation. Pym's contribution to the Brisbane urban landscape also included Torbreck, the first high-rise, mixed-use development in Queensland.