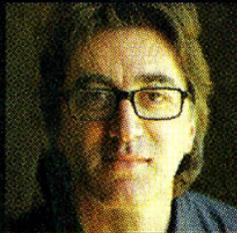


CRITICAL VIEW
Chris Beck
revisits some of
Melbourne's
landmarks to
determine the
success of their
creators' vision.



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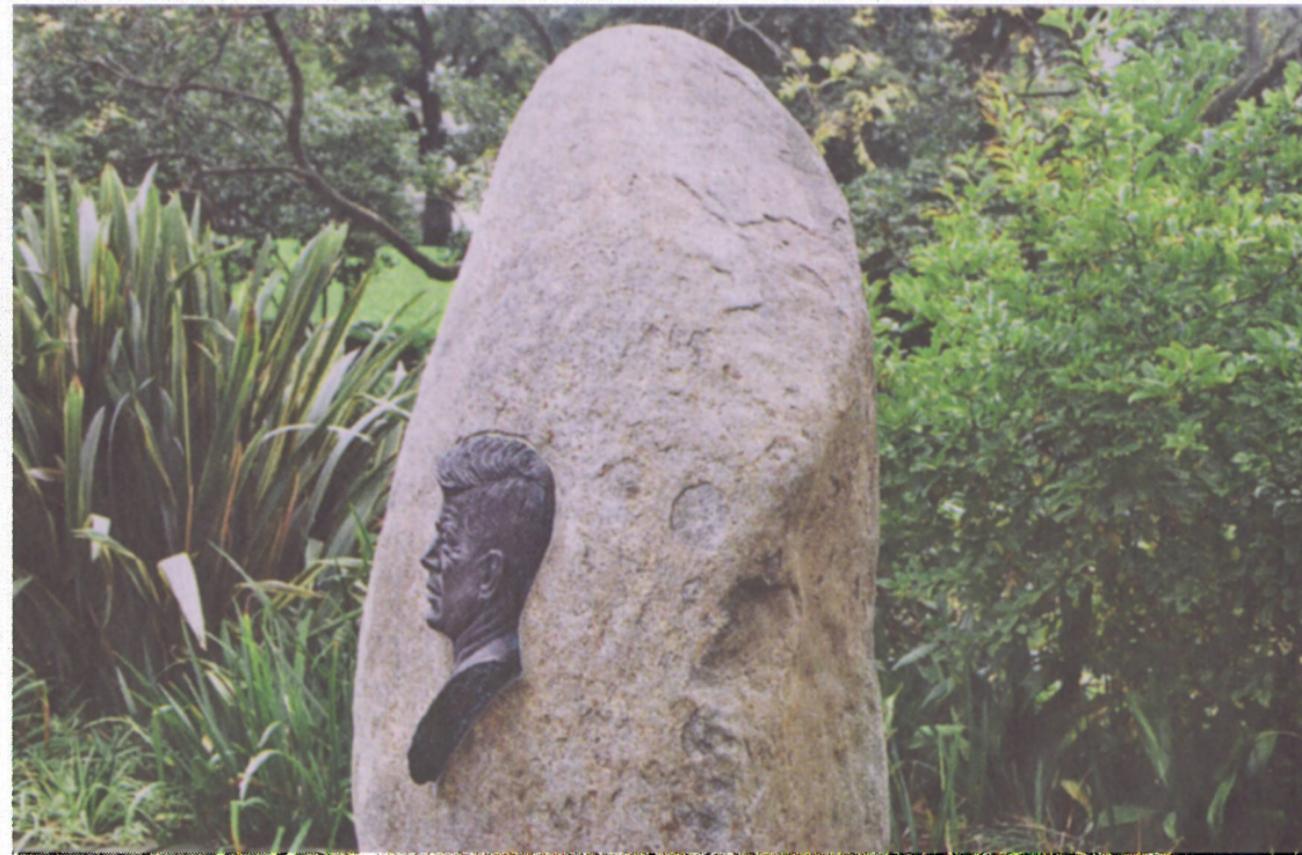
John F. Kennedy Memorial

LOCATION Treasury Gardens

HISTORY In late 1963, after the assassination of US president John F. Kennedy, a committee was established to consider a memorial in Melbourne. Today, the bronze bas-relief sculpture sits beside a secluded lake in the gardens. The site was landscaped especially for the memorial and the island is paved with slate and decorated with natural rock and granite boulders. It also features an ornamental water fountain.

Submissions from the public contributed to the general form of the memorial, and the design and layout was carried out by the superintendent of parks and gardens and the city architect. It was made by sculptor Raymond B. Ewers in 1965 and unveiled by lord mayor Leo Curtis on 25 March of that year. The inscription reads: "This memorial signifies the grateful recognition by the citizens of this city for the services given by John F. Kennedy as President of the United States of America 1960-1963."

VERDICT of Melbourne Lord Mayor John So The JFK memorial acknowledges the services given by John F. Kennedy, president of the United States of America from 1960 to '63. The site was landscaped especially for the memorial. It forms a historic centrepiece to Melbourne's beautiful Treasury Gardens, surrounded by oaks and elms.



I am not sure what John F. Kennedy did for Australia. He didn't service our women as far as I know. But it is a romantic setting by the water feature and the slate paving would have been good for his posthumously famous painful back as he lay there with a sensuous grimace.

After his death everyone clambered to memorialise him. Melbourne was no exception. I mean, how much can a man do for a small outpost thousands of miles from Washington in three years when his time is taken up with the Bay of Pigs and more than 3000 women at last count. Let's not forget them.

The memorial is tucked away. He was a secretive fellow, apparently. It's not like he paraded Marlene Dietrich around the capital. His sexual desires were fulfilled discreetly, with his back brace strapped tight. And so the memorial stands with his flattened head stuck to a boulder as homage to a man of discretion who took a bullet and lived forever. No pain, no gain. So let's sit quietly and remember what he did for Melbourne. It won't take long and it's a lovely setting.