

De Bono's palace

● Edward de Bono, the creator of lateral thinking and the Six Thinking Hats technique, is coming to Australia and, as one would expect, he has an idea. He believes Australia should be the home of an international clearing house for “new ideas and new possibilities”. The body, to be known as the Palace of Thinking, would collect ideas from around the world, commission taskforces to apply creative thinking techniques to world issues and publish the best ideas.

“Australia would be an ideal site for the Palace of Thinking because it is a country open to new ideas,” de Bono says. “It would give Australia a unique and significant place in the world as a focal point for new thinking.”

De Bono believes it's important the body be housed in a dedicated building and an imposing one at that. “It has to be an iconic building that says this is a serious place dedicated to designing and putting forward new ideas,” he says.

De Bono says an existing building, such as a museum or stately private residence, would suffice. He suggests the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne, which could become the Palace of Thinking whenever the body is in session. Tasmania is another possible location. “Imagine what an opportunity it would be for Tasmania to be known around the world as the place ideas come from,” de Bono says.

He will raise the idea when he visits Melbourne in November for the Creative Innovation 2011 conference, at which he will be a headline presenter.

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