

## Interior Architecture Award Citations

South Australian Chapter

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Australian Institute of Architects

**Jury Chair:** Craig Buckberry

**Jurors:** Sasha Radjenovich, Jock Smylie

**Specialist Advisor:** Rosina Di Maria

**Category Overview:** The Interior Architecture entries displayed a wide range of projects with vastly differing scale and type. From internal fit-outs for retail, dental, banking, state parliament and library; to residential interiors, secondary & tertiary education, sports stadium, health care and a regional cellar door design. The Jury visited all projects this year, with interiors that inhabited both existing buildings, some with heritage significance, as well as new purposed designed buildings. Projects were realised by specialist interior architects, large collaborative teams, and some by sole practitioners or small architectural firms.

The projects were designed around challenging existing facilities, consolidating heritage significance and continue to contribute to Adelaide's urban renewal. All projects demonstrated a high level of design quality and were a testament to the skill of the architect and the value of engaging an architectural professional.

Across the category, there is no surprise that entries developed and executed designs rich in bespoke joinery. Designs used both natural and manufactured materials to describe and craft interior space, which reflected the overall architectural concept. All projects demonstrated how quality of space is achieved by maximising spatial volume and dynamics while engaging with their external surroundings. This was achieved by some project teams by creating new spaces, others succeeded by engaging and conserving existing building fabric, and others achieved beauty by carving away what previously existed, to reveal unknown or forgotten treasures.

Inevitably some projects stood out against others but this year the skill of the architect was evident across all projects. Regardless of the awards given by the Jury, all of the project teams involved should feel proud of their designs, who demonstrated that complex constraints did not withhold good design from being realised.

The Jury has awarded three Commendations, two Awards and the Named Award.

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---

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**Project Name:** Seppeltsfield Cellar Door and Fino Restaurant

**Practice Name:** Max Pritchard Architect

**Award given:** The Robert Dickson Award for Interior Architecture

**Award Citation:** Upon entering the Seppeltsfield Cellar Door & Fino Restaurant, the Jury knew they had arrived in a special place and that this project had taken a slightly different approach. The craftsmanship exhibited within this project is highlighted by what has been carefully taken away.

From the dramatic reformation of the building entry, with the excavation of a large area of earth adjacent the building; to the creation of intimate internal spaces including the subterranean dining experience formerly occupied by wine vats, this building has undergone a wonderful transformation.

While the previous incarnation of the cellar door as a cluttered and somewhat eclectic environment had its own appeal and story, it was not highly practical for large amounts of visitors. This reimagined space now caters for both small and large groups while still maintaining the intimacy of a personal tasting experience. The Fino Restaurant and the Reserve Tasting Mezzanine contained within the main volume continue the experience, and provide a link to the subtly lit and carefully deconstructed subterranean dining/function area and the heritage collection of barreled fortified wines suspended above.

With careful detailing throughout the project, the repositioning of the existing and unobtrusive introduction of new services realises the maximum benefit of existing natural lighting. In addition to the reuse of on-site materials, including the beautiful large slates from the former wine vats, together helps establish the identity of this space, and proudly takes its place within the overall rejuvenation of the Seppeltsfield Estate.

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---

**Project Name:** Adelaide Oval Redevelopment

**Practice Name:** Cox Architecture, Walter Brooke and Hames Sharley

**Award given:** Award for Interior Architecture

**Award Citation:** Adelaide has been a gracious host to a changing landscape with recent new landmarks added to the city; however the Adelaide Oval Redevelopment has been a transformative project for the city and as a spectacular stadium for world sport. The Adelaide Oval has positioned itself as a new icon in the Riverbank Precinct, creating a new sports and entertainment precinct and revitalising the landscape on which it sits.

Traditionally known as an iconic sporting ground, the project team has successfully evolved the Adelaide Oval into a new generation sport and cultural centre and redefining how events are experienced. The excitement of entering the complex is matched by the Cathedral-like entry, setting the level of quality for the complex and drawing the visitor towards the magnificent internal perspective of the Oval.

The project team has successfully celebrated the connections of the exterior and interior spaces, where the user is in constant physical or visual connection to the theatre of the event or the passive viewing of the spectacular outlooks towards the city, parklands and iconic St Peter's Cathedral. There is a strong consideration to the environment the project sits within and this is celebrated at points along the interior journey.

An elevated quality of finish has been incorporated throughout the project and the interiors have been crafted to be inclusive to a wider variety of users. The designers have achieved the considerable effort of blending the interior as both a sporting stadium with a function destination, and the flexibility of the facility successfully hosts both requirements. The interiors throughout the overall stadium complex have been successfully divided into flowing, human-scale spaces with transparency and connectivity, and leading the user seamlessly on an enjoyable journey throughout the stadium. The Jury congratulates the team on creating a true icon for Adelaide.

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---

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**Project Name:** Margaret Ames Centre – Immanuel College

**Practice Name:** Swanbury Penglase Architects

**Award given:** Award for Interior Architecture

**Award Citation:** One finds it hard not to be impressed immediately upon entering the new, dedicated senior secondary facility, at the Margaret Ames Centre at Immanuel College.

The high level of detail both in the building fabric and the planning of the spaces within, clearly demonstrates the extensive background research that has been undertaken to create this example of a world's best practice learning environment.

The jury noted the clever integration of the existing former boarding house within the new building envelope. Transparency and sight lines are carefully constructed while still enabling quieter private study areas within the greater floor plan. The visual links to the exterior of the building have been captured and celebrated, which acknowledges the placement of this building within the stately grounds of the overall school campus.

The clever detailing and selection of materials, often playing upon the tactility of various surfaces, was supported by a high level of workmanship from the building contractor.

This very successful internal fit out is the result of effective client engagement with all stakeholders, and is testament to the reported success of its use by not only staff and students, but the greater school community, including prospective parents and students.

The Jury congratulates the architects on creating a truly inspirational space for the current and future generations of students.

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**Project Name:** Jeffery Smart Building University of South Australia

**Practice Name:** John Wardle Architects in association with Phillips/Pilkington Architects

**Award given:** Commendation for Interior Architecture

**Award Citation:** The design philosophy of the new Jeffery Smart Building is evident from the entrance. A combination of a learning hub and a social hub, both new and established methods of learning and interaction are woven into the fabric of the building.

The ground floor provides both a successful public and semi-private space, utilising tiered seating to form a visually and tectonically rich and inviting amphitheatre. The five levels of learning and resource centre cleverly utilise the orientation, floor plates and the northerly aspect of the building to create a series of informal studying and break-out spaces, which are visually and acoustically separated by the main library collection. The structured active teaching spaces form the back of the building and provide a screen for the neighboring Remand Centre. The five floors are tied together by intuitive circulation paths and wide access stairs also doubling as emergency egress.

The finishes palette is a delight, exploring and challenging the accepted use of individual materials and material combinations, and resulting in a variety of textures, colours and shapes. In addition to accentuating the building's strong angles while creating a warm and tactile interior. The use of timber and soft furnishings along the building's north elevation study bench is particularly successful in enlivening the façade from Hindley Street through activity and passive surveillance.

The Jeffery Smart Building is a testament to a new paradigm that blurs the lines between learning and social interaction, between formal and informal, and tied together by a strong, confident, tactile and rich interior architectural design.

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**Project Name:** Glenside Health Facility

**Practice Name:** Swanbury Penglase Architects in association with Medical Architecture

**Award given:** Commendation for Interior Architecture

**Award Citation:** The new Glenside Health Facility completely removes itself from the current paradigms of health and mental health architecture. The flow of spaces, transparency of form, interaction between staff and patients, and the material palette were all great risks to undertake individually, let alone all together in one project. The project is greatly assisted by a forward-looking client determined to make a positive change in the delivery of mental health services in South Australia.

The project team has delivered a successful facility with an innovative layout, encouraging physical and visual permeability between inside and outside. Through glazed elements and single loaded corridors, to creating a natural flow of spaces from the private bedrooms and the semi-private wings, through to the common spaces and activity areas clustered around the wide main circulation corridor. The staff are no longer observers behind glass screens but instead active participants within the facility using the same circulation spaces, and actively engaging with the patients in the process. The main corridor is activated through the placement of activity spaces and breakout areas throughout the length of the circulation space, with glimpses into a central garden and private courtyards.

The material palette within the public spaces is distinctly and purposefully non-institutional with an emphasis on bringing in familiar, warm and domestic materials and colours where appropriate, including the use of timber floors and portals.

The combined design elements, layout and the resulting new method of interaction between staff and patients have created both a new consumer orientated model of care, and an enhanced work environment for staff.

**Project Name:** Adelaide High School Learning Centre

**Practice Name:** JPE Design Studio

**Award given:** Commendation for Interior Architecture

**Award Citation:** For many South Australians the original Adelaide High School remains a favourite piece of local architecture. As for the school community, it is clear that an affection, appreciation and care for the original building have continued over generations.

Externally the new senior secondary addition clearly understands its context and respects its relationship to the site, while still achieving an individual identity and character. No doubt the design team inherited significant project constraints with State Heritage significance and an open, unsecure relationship to the parklands; however the new building nestles into its surroundings of park and neighbouring architectural significance with ease.

The skill of the architect is evident in both the spatial planning of the building's interior and external rooms. New internal courtyards present the original and new architecture together and allow students an interpretation into the sites history. Rooftops are developed to provide both additional learning spaces, as well as opportunities for the remaining school community to access the new building, and take advantage of the unique parklands and city setting. Basements have been developed for music, drama & sport while the ground and first floors now provide a sophisticated, state-of-the-art senior secondary learning experience to prepare students for tertiary education and further lifelong learning.

The Adelaide High School Learning Centre provides this significant school with a pathway to its future.