

Heritage Award Citations

South Australian Chapter



Australian Institute of Architects

Jury Chair: Michael Queale

Jurors: Emily Chalk, John Adam

Guest Juror: Nicole Dent

Category Overview: The Jury was impressed by the quality and variety of projects submitted in the Heritage category this year. Based on the Burra Charter principles, conservation projects such as the Elder Park Rotunda and Sir William Goodman Bridge highlighted best practice conservation. Projects such as Old Parliament House and Dickson's McKinnon Parade townhouses comprised a mix of conservation and adaptive design, illustrating the creative possibilities inherent when working with both 19th and 20th century heritage buildings. At the urban scale, projects celebrated the architectural possibilities of good street manners, a sense of play and the inspired exploration of intangible memories. The jury has awarded three Commendations, two Awards and the Named Award.

Project Name: The Hart's Mill Projects

Practice Name: Mulloway Studio and Aspect Studio

Award given: The David Saunders Award for Heritage

Award Citation: Hart's Mill is a catalyst project for Port Adelaide of commensurate architectural invention. The Port has been in a state of decline for decades, as transport moved from river to rail to road. The early port town has lacked a community heart for years – a place that was distinctly 'the port'. Attempts to rejuvenate the harbour in the early 2000s failed in intent, leaving a wasteland where boat sheds and industry once stood. Renewal SA took up the challenge and commissioned Mulloway Studio to develop projects around the now dis-used Hart's Mill complex, some of the only remaining physical evidence of port side activities existing today. Substantial community consultation and cultural mapping was undertaken by the design team, to discover the important port stories associated with the community's memory.

Project one (Surrounds) evolved as a destination and place making project. Contaminated soil was capped and an interpretive playground was developed, using local recycled materials, proprietary elements and a mix of forms and words associated with mill processes, and encouraging exploration by children and adults. A market and event space was developed and framed by a suite of well-designed seating, shelter structures and paving, which reused wharf timbers and incorporated industrial forms typical of the dockside. The understated elegance of external detailing is commendable, balancing material honesty and the grit of the Port. Project one formed the visual backdrop of Project two (loop path) – an engaging interpretive trail weaving along the Port River. Simple timber post signs focus the attention of visitors to key sites around the river. Each sign provides a different, dynamic view into the past through the use of carefully framed period photographs, local stories and mapping, to create a stimulating interpretive cultural experience. Project three (Adaptation) is not readily apparent from the street but is inspiring in execution.

Façade conservation works to the Milling Company building are restrained but culturally appropriate demonstrating the Burra Charter in action. The front windows provide for art opportunities, while awaiting the appropriate tenant. The post-war era mill shed has been retrofitted as a space of considered and restrained elegance. The shed has been updated for flexible cultural uses with timber batten clad service pods incorporated as pieces of built-in retro furniture, and are bespoke but subservient to the mathematically pure proportions of the shed interior. The Hart's Mill Projects celebrate the possibilities, and recovery of the community's lost memory, in projects of substantial design maturity.

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Project Name: Old Parliament House - Facility and Accessibility Upgrade

Practice Name: Swanbury Penglase Architects

Award given: Award for Heritage

Award Citation: The upgrade of Old Parliament House by Swanbury Penglase Architects has reinvigorated one of the State's most important heritage assets. A National Heritage Place, the Old Parliament House has been developed in a piecemeal fashion since 1843, resulting in a fragmented and complex building. The architects have provided a new feature lift shaft and reconfigured existing spaces to achieve a more cohesive facility for its users.

The complex includes two walls of the original Council Chamber dating from 1843, which was the first permanent home of the South Australian Legislative Council, and has been adaptively reused as new Parliamentary Committee Rooms. The upgrade of the building, the scene of some of the nation's most pivotal legislative changes such as the first colony in Australia to give women the vote, provides a compatible and meaningful use for the future of our State Parliament.

Heritage best practice processes have been clearly followed, through the research and understanding of the original values of the building. The early investigative works informed the construction methods and detailing, and the use of experts from varying fields worked in collaboration, has resulted in a well-resolved and expertly detailed architectural outcome that successfully adds its own 2015 layer of history to the place.

The level of complexity of this project, from the torturous layout and heritage layers, to the raft of security requirements and conflicting political challenges, has been skillfully handled. The design solution includes consideration of outcomes viewed from angles both outside and within, and provides a carefully detailed contemporary addition. Custom-designed joinery and carpets, historic colour schemes, and authentic conservation works together add value to this project.

The architects have shown great care and consideration to one of the State's most important buildings, and have ensured its longevity and usability for decades to come.

Project Name: Seppeltsfield Cellar Door and Fino Restaurant

Practice Name: Max Pritchard Architect

Award given: Award for Heritage

Award Citation: Max Pritchard has boldly cut into the existing topography of Seppeltsfield to reveal and celebrate the Seppeltsfield Winery's original bottling hall as their new Cellar Door and Fino Restaurant. Many of the internal accretions to the cellars were cut back to uncover the building's narrative in an easily interpretive way.

The lower level repurposed as a dining area showcases Seppeltsfield's history by displaying the brick wine vats layered with stone, brickwork and years of wax. The ceiling overhead is exposed to reveal wine barrels sitting above, within Seppeltsfield's world famous century fortified wine collection. Illuminated segments of the retained original flooring and lighting add richness to the interior.

The architect has created a dynamic area by highlighting and revealing the traditional raw materials through rough openings at every opportunity. Reactivation of the original bottling hall connects visitors with the winery's past, while successfully marrying wine, food and history. The circular wine tasting 'pods' brings all joinery into the centre of the space, and as a result improves the legibility the main historic hall proportions. Early slate flag tank lids were re-used as feature panels at both ends of the hall, which divides the space into tasting area, restaurant and mezzanine. Materials such as bluestone and timber were revealed to enhance the early character of the place and colour was intentionally restrained to clearly distinguish the contemporary features.

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Project Name: Sir William Goodman Bridge

Practice Name: Flightpath Architects

Award given: Commendation for Heritage

Award Summary: The 1909 State Heritage listed reinforced concrete tram bridge over the River Torrens has been attentively restored and celebrated by Flightpath Architects. Reflecting Burra Charter principles, the project team developed innovative repair strategies to manage the decayed structure, while maintaining the distinctive geometry of the elegant engineering structure. New balustrading, lighting and decking were added to respond to the past use and angular form of the early bridge. The Charles Sturt and West Torrens Councils' should be applauded for undertaking the project to save a concrete cancer-riddled structure from collapse and creating an active urban design link between suburbs.

Project Name: 46 Mackinnon Parade

Practice Name: Phillips/Pilkington Architects

Award given: Commendation for Heritage

Award Summary: Remaining respectful of the 1966 architecture award-winning residence by Robert Dickson, Phillips/Pilkington has created a modest, but thoughtful addition to a North Adelaide townhouse. The architects have maintained the intent of the original residence while updating and extending the house to suit today's needs. Working with an informed client who appreciated the heritage values of the project, the residence has maintained its original form and materials palette as well as improving the connection back to its parklands context. The jury was impressed with the ability to still clearly see Dickson's original work next to this new layer of architecture.

Project Name: Mayfair Hotel

Practice Name: JPE Design Studio

Award given: Commendation for Heritage

Award Summary: The Mayfair Hotel refurbishment has resulted in the reinvigoration of a long vacant, mid-twentieth century State Heritage Colonial Mutual Life building. The new, vibrant 'jewelbox' façade to the 1980s infill building is a masterstroke, allowing a well-mannered, urban scale transition between the varying scale and detailing of the adjacent State Heritage buildings. The repurposing of the roof space into the 'Hennessy Lounge' now allows access to Adelaide's best collection of roof-top gargoyles and the opportunity to channel your inner paranormal energy, just like in Ghostbusters! The project team and client are to be commended for their care in conserving an important city building of our recent past.