



Australian Institute of Architects

**Jury Chair:** Anthony Coupe

**Jurors:** Heather Griffin and Brent Dowsett

**Specialist Advisor:** Angelique Edmonds

**Category Overview:** The Institute's desire is to see sustainability as a core design philosophy, therefore the Sustainable Architecture category considers all buildings and projects entered into the awards program. The Jury reviewed all projects entered and developed an initial shortlist process for jury presentation, which was followed by a further shortlist of site visits. The Jury would like to note that jury members with identified conflicts of interest were not provided access to all category entries, and Awards Director David Brown supported the Jury during the initial shortlisting process.

This year's award entries offered much in terms of integrated sustainability measures and the vast majority of projects illustrating a high level of engagement with a range of sustainability issues. The Jury noted there was generally a good understanding of the complex nature of sustainability, with projects considering cultural, social, and economic sustainability measures as well as environmental.

It was also evident that this engagement was evident across all categories, from small residential alterations through to large public infrastructure projects. Many of the difficult building typologies, such as health, multi-residential and education showed architectural practices were clearly pushing sustainability measures across the board.

The most successful projects were those where sustainability issues were considered from the outset and integrated into the design process; where the client and architect were strongly aligned and the architect was involved in developing the brief, and most critically, where this engagement followed through to completion. In determining the awards given, the Jury had a clear understanding that the architects were at the centre of driving the sustainability measures.

The two awarded projects – at opposite ends of the scale – demonstrate a high level of skill by the architect in achieving sustainability measures that are integral to the good architectural outcomes; which provide benchmarks and have resonance for broader architectural development in their respective categories.

## Sustainable Architecture Award Citations

---

South Australian Chapter

**Project Name:** Jeffrey Smart Building, University of South Australia

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

**Award given:** The Derrick Kendrick Award for Sustainable Architecture

**Award Citation:** As part of the University of South Australia's major development programme, the Jeffrey Smart Building provides a range of student and teaching services including significant library uses and a central focus for the campus. The building and its immediate surroundings are highly accomplished architectural work, which demonstrates an integrated sustainability approach have been at the core of creating good architecture.

Providing over 13,000sqm of floor area, the building plays a prominent role in the urban framework of this part of Adelaide's west end and as a result demonstrates sensitivity to the social and cultural parameters of the area. The project's address to the street, wrapping of a public courtyard, open ground floor spaces and active ground floor facades, together with a general spatial arrangement, ensure a maximised active street.

Throughout the upper levels of the building, natural light is maximised in study spaces by articulation of the floor plate, and the indent which defines the courtyard provides a form that creates high levels of natural light within the building envelope. At the same time windows are shaded and views through and beyond the building are maximised.

Future adaptability is considered in the floor construction and a robust material palette helps minimise ongoing maintenance. A range of water saving and other environmental sustainability measures are embedded and vertical circulation by walking is encouraged through the use of wide staircases.

An integrated approach to sustainability at all levels has developed an outcome, which provides a rich piece of architecture that contributes to the city while skilfully delivering its own internal programmes.

**Project Name:** Grandfather Tom

**Practice Name:** John Adam Architect

**Award given:** Award for Sustainable Architecture

**Award Citation:** Grandfather Tom demonstrates how the sensitive consideration of sustainability approaches can enrich the built outcome. An integrated approach across the entire spectrum of architectural decision-making has produced an understated but well thought out project.

One of the core sustainability principles for this deceptively simple house addition was a desire to minimise the floor area of any additional space. Most of the pre-existing 'back-end' additions for the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century villa were retained and incorporated into the new living, kitchen and bathroom elements. Careful planning has enabled generous living spaces and doubling the hallway with study space allowed these to be constrained.

This approach enabled the garden with its early remnant fruit trees and suburban vegetation to be revitalised and provide significant fauna habitat. While this may be a small piece in the broader suburban picture, if considered a model, the philosophy has broader ramifications for typical suburban development and design practice.

The incorporation of good practice environmental controls such as hydronic radiators, good cross ventilation, northerly aspect, high levels of insulation and relatively low embodied energy construction, demonstrate the continuation of sustainable thinking into the detailed aspects of the project.

The architect was involved from the beginning of the project, which has resulted in a poetic outcome that has broader implications for best practice suburban redevelopment.