



Australian Institute of Architects

Jury Chair: Sean Humphries

Jurors: Kirsty Hewitt, Sally Wilson

Guest Juror: Gordon Kanki-Knight

Category Overview: The Residential Architecture - New Houses category saw a number of exciting entries, which presented a diverse mix of different styles and approaches, each with its own unique spin on the 'Australian Home'. Ranging from the playful use of space, the mastery of structural gymnastics, to bold tectonic shifts in form that hug the landscape to which they are bound. These homes all successfully captured the dreams of their owners and the expertise of the highly skilled architects who crafted them.

Project Name: Plane Tree House

Practice Name: Architects Ink

Award given: The John S Chappel Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)

Award Citation: Dramatic architecture for dramatic topography, Plane Tree House is a homage to Japanese modernity. The omnipresent off-form concrete anchors the volumes to the site, wrapping all spaces and leaving their ends completely open to absorb enviable city views.

The house is about architectural tension and balance. Where one element, form, quality or material dominates, another is restrained to shift and layer the experience. Where the project has deliberately intended to be simple, singular and overbearing, a balancing gesture has been skilfully used to humanise the experience and allow the inhabitant to access and appreciate the wonderful drama of this house.

The material palette and formal language are simultaneously intense and simple. The striking materiality of rough, imposing and stark concrete is enriched by controlled composition of timber, used just enough to bring warmth and life, but not to overly distract from the raw and austere qualities of concrete and glass. The forms are simple and strong, yet the details refined and highly considered.

The outdoor experience of the site and balanced scale is choreographed by the architect. The expansive scale of the 'site beyond site' - the city of Adelaide, the horizon and the Gulf beyond - is experienced from most spaces. While the house extroverts towards these outstanding views, the house importantly and carefully introverts around the domestic scale of the Plane Tree Courtyard, offering relief and respite from the dominating sense of expansion. The courtyard is peaceful, respecting and celebrating the presence of a beautiful established Plane tree.

Plane Tree House is an exemplary exploration of a rarely used construction technique, which has produced a bold series of framed moments capturing the beauty of the site, with not only its view of the city, but its topography. The house is brutal and rich, tough and intensely considered, raw and refined in perfect quantity.

Residential Architecture – Houses (New) Award Citations

South Australian Chapter

Project Name: Robertson House

Practice Name: Max Pritchard Architect

Award given: Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)

Award Citation: Robertson House celebrates the sense of exposure experienced on the site, stretching confidently off the hillside in to a point towards the coastal view. Balancing the feeling of flight, the house anchors itself back into the hillside, embedded into the ground with a triangular backbone of stone collected from the site by its dedicated owners.

The slender profile of the delicate structure that supports the soaring roofline, guides your eye to the distant rural horizon. One bounding, concealed gutter in the eaves outlines the roof form, and cleverly funnels all water into a single underground rainwater tank. This tank, one of many on the site, allows the home to function off the grid, and forms the main axis from which the triangulated plan form arrives, and where the visitor's journey commences.

The experimental insulated suspended floors with a raw trowel finish enhance the rawness of the interior and honesty to its rural setting. At the apex of the triangular plan form, the panoramic expanse of north facing double glazing sheltered under the cantilevering eaves, asymmetrically and purposefully responds to solar requirements while simultaneously framing the views of the valley below.

Robertson House is symbiotic with the landscape, appearing to be an extension of the hillside. With astute engineering and slim profiling, the architect has allowed the hero of the design to be the view and the house to simply be the vessel in which one can be sheltered and observe it.

Project Name: Burnside House

Practice Name: Max Pritchard Architect

Award given: Commendation for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)

Award Citation: The Burnside House provides a sense of retreat from its bland suburban surroundings. The house pushes the envelope of what we consider the 'residential façade' and finds equilibrium of yin and yang in this Asian-inspired dwelling.

Without turning its back on the street the house is introverted, internalising its views and creating a tranquil lived experience. Efficient spatial planning and careful use of diffused light contributes to a rich and inviting dwelling that reflects the Oriental passions of the client. The architect has employed exemplary passive solar design principles, achieving a house in which every room faces north.

The material palette, with its emphasis on richly hued and delicately detailed timber elements, reflects the architectural intent of a reflective spatial experience. In its response to site Burnside House challenges the detached model of suburban residential development.