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VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

Edition 2 / 2025

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Carlton Terrace, Photographer: Diana Snape



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Bustle House, Photographer: Peter Bennetts



Park Life, Photographer: Tom Ross



Park Life, Photographer: Tom Ross

Renovating a heritage house can be both exciting and daunting. Whether you're preserving the charm of an old Victorian terrace or modernising a mid-century gem, *our guide is here to help you navigate this rewarding journey.*

We created this guide to assist homeowners in harmonising the old with the new. Alongside 12 inspiring case studies, it shows how thoughtful design and cultural heritage awareness can enhance the value and liveability of your heritage house.

At home with heritage offers a practical starting point. This guide:

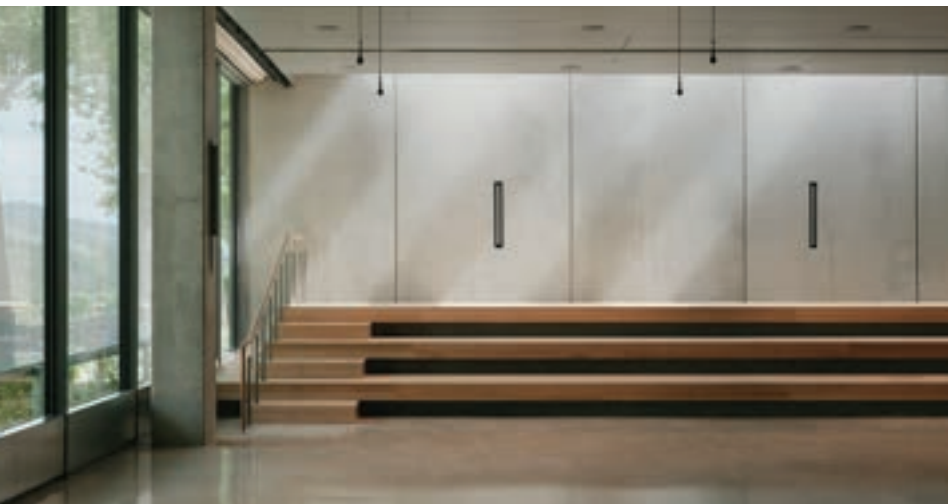
- explains the concepts of heritage value and significance
- outlines the opportunities and challenges you might face
- poses the design questions you'll need to consider



It also gives a brief overview of the heritage processes and procedures in Victoria, ensuring you understand the necessary steps.

Not sure where to begin? This guide will point the way.





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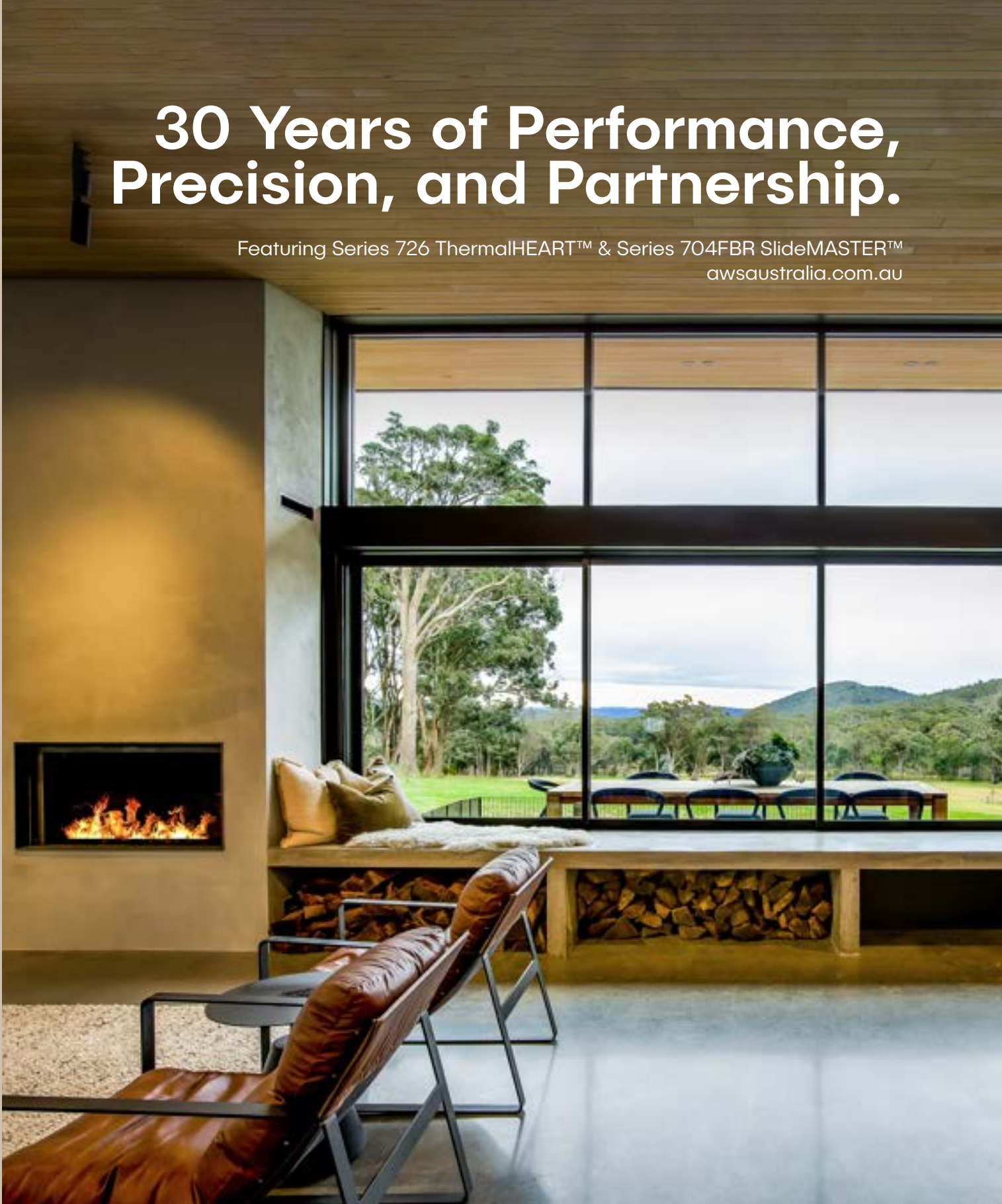
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**Australian
Institute of
Architects**

Architect Victoria

Official journal of the Victorian
Chapter of the Australian
Institute of Architects

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David Wagner FRAIA

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Ahead

(Bldg.Eng)

Project Northern Memorial Park Depot
Client The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust
Architect Searle x Waldron Architecture

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Architectural design is rapidly evolving in response to an ever-more complex array of parameters, regulations and considerations than we have previously witnessed. Sustainable design, designing with Country, stewardship of the existing environment and recognition of retained fabric for its heritage or cultural qualities, are just some considerations that are playing increasingly important roles in contributing to how architects start the design process, develop schemes and where projects ultimately finish.

This is the third year where environmentally sustainable design has had a high-profile role in the awards with an extensive checklist reflecting the expectation that we acknowledge the climate crisis and proactively support the role architects can play in decarbonizing designs through scheme design, building efficiency, selection of materials and building operation. Engagement with First Nations peoples to design with Country is liberating design and opening up how we experience space. In response to the greater palette of considerations, requirements and influences, architecture is becoming more sophisticated with architects appreciating the opportunities that lie within complexity. In parallel, listening to and judging architectural awards submissions is also evolving and requiring a more comprehensive appreciation and analysis of the myriad of considerations that increasingly lie at the foundation of designs.

Victorian Chapter President
David Wagner FRAIA



It was my privilege to witness and be involved in the informed debate and evaluation by Jury Chairs of the projects eligible for the highest honour of the Victorian Awards programme, the Victorian Medal of Architecture. Reaching a decision across a broad range of high-quality projects which grapple with the increased array of design and regulatory considerations is not simple. This year's Victorian Architecture Medal has been awarded to a project that has acknowledged and mastered the many challenges presented. Searle x Waldron's Northern Memorial Park Depot recognizes the complexity of a brief to support relatives and friends effected by grief, provide a depot to support the pragmatic and administrative functions of a cemetery, present as a public face and simply be a joy to experience. With extensive sustainability attributes, it is anticipated that the depot will achieve net zero operational energy consumption, eliminating reliance on fossil fuels and so reduce the building's carbon footprint. The project was also awarded the Melbourne Prize and received a commendation for Sustainable Architecture.

Another project in the the Victorian Medal discussion of named award winners was this year's winner of the William Wardell Award for public architecture. KTA's Eva and Marc Beson Centre at the Tarrawarra Museum of Art is a highly successfully outcome from engagement with the complexity of working with a multitude of complex parameters. Sitting beside Allan Powell's timeless Tarrawarra gallery and winery, and retaining a copse of mature poplar trees, the new project has taken a mature supporting role while still achieving a sublime outcome. This project has also received an Architecture Award for Interior Architecture.

The Victorian Architectural Awards is the largest Institute awards programme across Australia with 204 direct entries, and when including indirect entries for categories such as Sustainability, Melbourne Prize, EmAGN and Colorbond there were a total of 350 entries to be assessed and judged. There is an enormous amount of dedication going into all projects presented, which was evident and celebrated with the exhibition of entries held at both Monash University's Caulfield campus and Deakin University. As we all know, site visits are particular to the Institute's awards programme and underline the importance of appreciation of our built environment through experience, context and place, and not simply through images, as beautiful as they may be. This year 126 entries were shortlisted, and it is truly a credit to each practice to be shortlisted.

Congratulations to all 2025 award winners with a special thanks to our volunteer juries appointed by the Awards Committee chaired by Simon Knott, with Hamish Lyon as Chair of Juries. Thanks also to Victorian Chapter staff, in particular our Awards Coordinator Tasha Ugrinic, for successfully managing the complex awards programme of jury presentations, shortlisting visits and all that happens in-between. With our profession's ever-increasing engagement with sustainable design as well as greater acknowledgement of First Nations peoples and designing with Country, change is underway, and it is truly exciting to see how our leading projects have responded to the challenges as an opportunity to raise the bar of design excellence.



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Architects**

Australian Institute of Architects

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Acknowledgement of Country

I recognise First Nations peoples ongoing connection and caring to Country, and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded. I do this because this is protocol – I'm am not on my Country. I do not conduct business on my Country, I live, learn and work on the lands of the Kulin Nation.

Through tremendous adversity, Elders have continued to care for Country, and to share Traditional Knowledge when you have earned the right to receive it. By keeping culture alive, they enable us to feel pride in our Aboriginality. I'm extremely grateful for the role they've played in my life, and in particular want to thank my grandma for her incredible strength and determination. While I feel she has every right to be angry with the challenges and racism faced through colonisation, she's taught us strength and resilience; and to direct our anger and frustrations to create a better future for our Blak Brothers and Sisters.

I do this by first understanding three truths:

- The industry that I work in is complicit in the continued commodification of Country
- The industry that I work in played a significant role in Terra Nullius
- The construction industry is one of the most resource demanding and tangibly impactful industries on Country.

As built environment professionals, we have a long way to go to reconcile with how our industry has historically and continues to impact Country and First Nations peoples. Country holds embedded memory and narrative of place; landscapes are knowledge, and we know that there is an interconnectedness of Country (Sky, Land, Water, Below). This architecture of Country is how we understand place. First Peoples in the industry share a commonality in appreciating and understanding that we are always on somebody else's Country, and the work that we do primarily revolves around shaping places. We have a cultural responsibility to understand and respect the Country that we're shaping.

So, please, ask yourselves – how has the architecture of Country shaped the built environment? Where can we head if we all take the opportunity to care?

Always Was, Always Will Be.

Bradley Kerr RAIA
Quandamooka
Victorian Chapter Councillor

2025 Awards committee and Chair of juries

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Hamish Lyon LFRAIA	Chair of juries	NH Architecture
Ingrid Bakker LFRAIA	Committee member	HASSELL
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Michael Roper RAIA	Committee member	Architecture architecture
Madeline Sewall RAIA	Committee member	Breathe Architecture



Simon Knott FRAIA
Committee chair



Hamish Lyon LFRAIA
Chair of juries



Ingrid Bakker LFRAIA
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Melissa Bright FRAIA
Committee member



Ann Lau FRAIA
Committee member



Michael Roper RAIA
Committee member



Madeline Sewall RAIA
Committee member

Awards chairs and jurors

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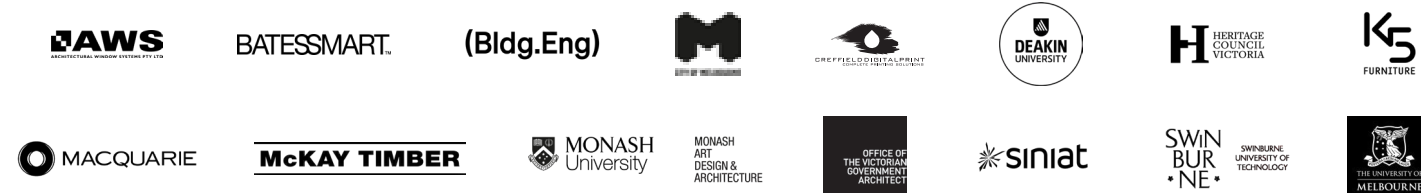
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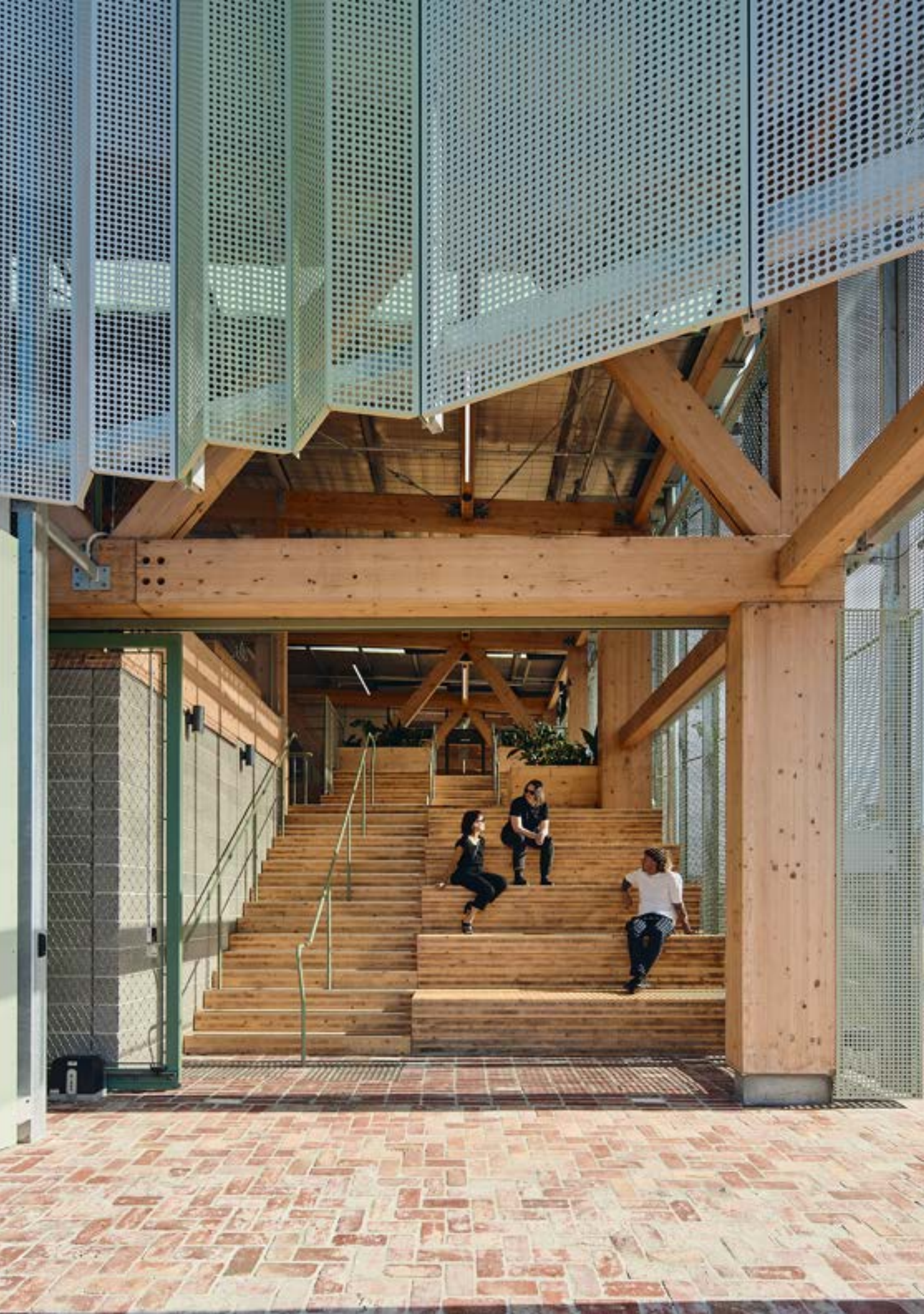


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Victorian Architecture Medal

The Victorian Architecture Medal is the highest honour awarded by the Victorian Chapter each year.

The Medal derives from the original 'Street Architecture Medal' introduced by The Royal Victorian Institute of Architects (RVIA) in 1926 as an award for the design of a building of exceptional merit. Today's Victorian Architecture Medal is

selected by the jury chairs (or their jury proxy) from the field of Named Award overall winners in each category. The winner of the Victorian Architecture Medal is therefore judged to be the most outstanding project of the entire field of entries, a building of exceptional merit.



Category sponsor

The Office of the Victorian Government Architect is the State's expert adviser for exemplary design in Victoria's public places and buildings. We put quality design at the centre of all conversations about the shape, nature and function of our cities, buildings and landscapes. We want Victoria to be a place that our community is proud to call home.



Victorian Architecture Medal

Northern Memorial Park Depot by Searle x Waldron Architecture

Wurundjeri Country

The Northern Memorial Park Depot by Searle X Waldron Architects reimagines an overlooked building type with clarity, care, and conviction. In a field of exceptional contenders, it stood apart for its generosity of spirit, sophisticated environmental response, and capacity to uplift both place and people.

Commissioned by the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, the project transforms the traditional depot into a light-filled, emotionally intelligent workplace that fosters wellbeing, connection, and dignity. Principles of care and repair are woven through every detail - from the mass timber structure and naturally ventilated workspaces to the robust, locally sourced materials that root the building to its site.

Collaborating closely with the clients and landscape architects, the architects have embedded the depot within an evolving ecological system of woody meadows, wetlands and future public space, framing the cemetery not only as a place of grief, but of life and regeneration. The design is attuned to its sensitive context, sculpting a built form that bends around mature trees and embraces its

industrial and natural edges alike.

The building's social and environmental performance is matched by its architectural refinement: a diaphanous steel screen lightly veils the upper level, floating above grounded masonry walls, creating a workplace both open and protected. With no precedent to follow, the architects have set a new benchmark - an optimistic, place-responsive architecture that elevates its typology and meaningfully contributes to community, landscape and culture.

The jury is proud to award the 2025 Victorian Architecture Medal to this transformative and deeply human project.

Practice team: Suzannah Waldron (Design Architect), Jack Jordan (Project Architect), Lisa Gerstman (Project Architect), Hannah Zhu (Graduate of Architecture), Pearl Dempsey (Design Architect), Jack Murray (Graduate of Architecture)

Consultant / Construction team: Oculus (Landscape Consultant), OPS Engineers (Structural Engineer), Lucid Consulting (Services Consultant), Philip Chun (Building Surveyor), Traffix (Traffic Consultant), Architecture & Access (Access Consultant), Red Fire Engineers (Fire Engineer), URPS (Town Planner), Zinc Cost Management (Cost Consultant), Buro North (Signage & Wayfinding), Acoustic Logic (Acoustic Consultant), Afflux Consulting (Water Management & Flood Modelling)

Builder: Building Engineering

Photographer: Peter Bennetts







Dimity Reed Melbourne Prize

The Dimity Reed Melbourne Prize recognises projects that have made a significant contribution to the city of Melbourne. All projects located within the urban growth boundary are eligible for

consideration. Projects may be of a built form, an urban design solution or an innovation that has influenced and improved the fabric of the city.



Nick James RAIA
Jury chair



Lucia Amies RAIA
Juror



Hugh Matthews RAIA
Graduate juror



Delia Teschendorff FRAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

The 2025 Dimity Reed Melbourne Prize shortlist presented a compelling cross-section of projects that reflect the evolving fabric of our metropolitan city. This year's shortlist spanned a variety of typologies, from civic depots to schools, community hubs, tertiary education buildings, revitalised towers and public spaces – each offering distinct and meaningful contributions to Melbourne.

Notably, the shortlist comprised a large proportion of projects situated in Melbourne's expanding northern and western fringes. These peripheral locations brought to light the complexities of designing architecture "at the frontier," with many buildings responding sensitively to greenfield or industrial contexts while establishing new civic precedents. The careful negotiation of spatial and cultural thresholds was also evident in urban settings, with most projects deliberately softening or erasing boundaries through permeable edges, views through the building and shared entry spaces.

A strong thread of community-led design emerged across the shortlist, with deep consultation and co-design

processes helping deliver spaces that reflect and elevate the aspirations of their users. The adaptability of these buildings over time, both functionally and socially, further speaks to their embeddedness in community life.

Throughout our site visits, we encountered proud clients and users who articulated with passion the tangible impacts these projects are already having. Their involvement often shaped key civic gestures, affirming the role of architecture as a catalyst for shared agency.

Across varied scales, the projects thoughtfully engaged with place, identity and culture, with many reconsidering how Country and city might coexist. Collectively, they advanced the idea of architecture as both a backdrop and stage for public life, distinguished by nuanced spatiality, material care and lasting utility.

We commend all shortlisted projects and celebrate the ways in which they have reimagined Melbourne's built environment – as poetic, practical, and proudly civic.



Category sponsor

The Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, incorporating the Melbourne School of Design (MSD), is a creative and people-oriented built environment faculty at the University of Melbourne, Australia's leading research-intensive university. Together with our students we are working towards sustainable and inclusive homes and cities that nurture Country.



The Dimity Reed Melbourne Prize

Northern Memorial Park Depot by Searle x Waldron Architecture

Wurundjeri Country

The jury was privileged to visit a diverse range of shortlisted projects for the 2025 Melbourne Prize. One project stood apart, impressing the jury in terms of its significant social and environmental credentials, and connection to the broader community.

The Northern Memorial Park depot by Searle X Waldron Architects is a project for the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust. The architect has redefined the depot typology, delivering a unique mass timber building that provides an uplifting, sustainable environment for people who learn and work in emotionally challenging roles.

Principles of renewal, repair, and wellbeing are woven through every aspect of the project.

A perforated folded steel facade, light and visually porous, wraps the upper level of the building. Sculpted to frame retained trees, the screen is anchored by lower masonry walls, made from locally sourced, recycled brick.

Collaboration with the landscape architect has fostered a forward-thinking ecological sensibility centred upon regenerating the site with woody meadows,

naturalising the adjacent creek, and extending the project into the landscape and wetlands beyond.

This building signals hope and opportunity, demonstrating the critical role that architecture can play in challenging convention and implementing change. With the support of a visionary client, the architect has created a building that has an enduring and positive impact well beyond its site boundaries. The Northern Memorial Park Depot presents us with architecture that is full of optimism and care, making it a worthy recipient of the 2025 Melbourne Prize.

Practice team: Suzannah Waldron (Design Architect), Jack Jordan (Project Architect), Lisa Gerstman (Project Architect), Hannah Zhu (Graduate of Architecture), Pearl Dempsey (Design Architect), Jack Murray (Graduate of Architecture)

Consultant / Construction team: Oculus (Landscape Consultant), OPS Engineers (Structural Engineer), Lucid Consulting (Services Consultant), Philip Chun (Building Surveyor), Traffix (Traffic Consultant), Architecture & Access (Access Consultant), Red Fire Engineers (Fire Engineer), URPS (Town Planner), Zinc Cost Management (Cost Consultant), Buro North (Signage & Wayfinding), Acoustic Logic (Acoustic Consultant), Afflux Consulting (Water Management & Flood Modelling)

Builder: Building Engineering

Photographer: Peter Bennetts







Regional Prize

The Regional Prize recognises projects that have made a significant contribution to Regional Victoria. All projects located outside the urban growth boundary are eligible for consideration. Projects may

be of a built form, an urban design solution or an innovation that has influenced and improved the fabric of the region.



Graham Crist RAIA
Jury chair



Clare Connan RAIA
Juror



Katerina Nomikos RAIA
Graduate juror



Luke Fry RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

The jury travelled close to 2000 kilometres to visit ten projects across the state. The jury acknowledges the contribution to regional Victoria of an extremely diverse group of twenty projects. These range from a stadium in Geelong to a boat shed conversion in Ballarat. We wish to acknowledge the standard of the projects, including those not shortlisted.

Four noteworthy themes emerged from the group.

First, Geelong as an urban proposition and Victoria's second largest city feels like a sub-category of the regional group. As a series of projects, they are contributing to the distinct urban identity of that city. They included a street front shop fitout, and NMBW's laneway project which is part of a broader plan to bring urban, walkable qualities to this regional city.

Second, a series of projects for First Nations communities, where there is an impressive sense of ownership and self determination by those communities, and evidence of collaboration and co-design working well. This includes a fine

project growing out of an architecture school design studio. Each exuded powerful optimism for the future.

Third, the continuing presence of the single house as a locus for architectural ideas and contribution to regional places. It is difficult to measure these against larger public buildings but their contribution and qualities is acknowledged.

Fourth, the presence of landscape is a powerful companion to the architectural works in almost every case. Often these participate in re-connecting indigenous landscape, and in each case, the collaboration with the landscape architects is acknowledged.

We regretted giving only one prize- though one of the key measures we used for awarding, was a sense of 'regional-ness' – a set of propositions which are outside of, or differentiated from Melbourne. A sense that the towns and landscapes outside the metropolis could offer something that the metropolis does not.



Regional Prize

Munarra Centre for Regional Excellence by ARM Architecture Yorta Yorta Country

The Munarra Centre for Regional Excellence in Shepparton holds together big, abstract ideas with local community aspirations for change. The Australian Aboriginal flag forms its roof elevation and a Nanyak Wall tells stories of local history. Munarra's architecture resonates with the canon of Australian architectural monuments (Grounds' National Science Academy) and with the everyday pathway connecting the Rumbalara footy club to the classroom. The building transcends its role as a school and creates generous public spaces with a circular gold courtyard at its centre and a deep arched loggia at its perimeter. It does this mostly, with the prosaic details of colorbond steel.

ARM have navigated a multi-player set of stakeholders lead by Yorta Yorta traditional owners and integrated the work closely with Bush Projects' landscape design.

This piece of architecture, both in its inception and its execution, takes a compelling position toward the future of Country in Victorian regional projects.

Practice team: Andrew Lilleyman (Design Architect), Jesse Judd (Design Architect), Howard Raggatt (Design Architect), Andrea Wilson (Lead Interior Design), Eliza Langham (Design Architect), Tom Jones (Project Architect), Jessica Heald (Project Architect), Ray Marshall (Project Architect), Nigel Reichenbach (Graduate of Architecture), Stuart Webber (Graduate of Architecture), Alana Brunton (Graduate of Architecture), Matthew Austin (Graduate of Architecture), Nadia Poppen (Student of Architecture), Paul Buckley (Student of Architecture), Simone Chait (Student of Architecture), Katherine Brown (Student of Architecture), Emma Croker (Student of Architecture), Alana Brunton (Graduate of Architecture)

Consultant / Construction team: Emergent Studio (formerly Bush Projects) (Landscape Consultant), WSP (Structural Engineer), WSP (Civil Consultant), Plancost Australia (Quantity Surveyor), Jensen Hughes (formerly Morris Goding Access Consulting) (Access), Spacecraft Studio (Art Curation), Kaiella Arts (Art Curation), Vivid Wayfinding (Wayfinding + Signage), Mack Group (Kitchen Planning), WSP (Services Consultant)

Builder: TVN on Country

Photographer: Peter Bennetts







Heritage Architecture

This category is for any built conservation project or study developed in accordance with the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, or any adaptive reuse of a heritage structure.



Ian McDougall LFRAIA
Jury chair



Stephanie Burton RAIA
Juror



Qun Zhang RAIA
Graduate juror



Suzannah Waldron RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

In the early 1980s the Victorian RAIA introduced two new awards categories – “Rejuvenated Buildings and “Conservation” – to promote quality design in the conservation and adaption of historic buildings and their community value – a national first. The 2025 Jury, mindful of this mission, assessed the entries looking for the highest standards of design “developed in accordance with the ... Burra Charter and/or adaptive reuse of heritage structure” to quote the Awards Handbook. The Charter’s definition of places of cultural significance casts a broad net. The 2025 entries were diverse, spanning from companion structures or additions to historic buildings to conservation rebuilds of listed icons and makeovers that bring new life to old buildings.

The entries were all of a high quality, and it is heartening to see designers increasingly underpinning their work through historical research of site and building, recognising place history, context, and importantly, engaging with indigenous presence. The jury shortlisted 7 buildings, exemplars of either restoration

that gives the buildings long life or creative adaptation for new functions. The winning projects were selected because they far exceeded the challenges of their remaking.

The extraordinarily meticulous replacement of heritage stone; the intricate rebuilding of a mid-century masterwork; the clever and sensitive revitalisation of a significant Melbourne house; the joy of a regional landmark given new presence and life, reconciling local history – all are evidence of architects doing so much more than just fixing up a building. In these instances, and of their own volition, the architects persevered, resisted mindless demolition, artistically interpreted another architect’s legacy and then created delight from dilapidation. Actually, that’s what the best architecture does.

Heritage awards go beyond the apparent focus on Heritage listings. This years’ jury recommends that architects consider this category when their projects engage with the past, with cultural significance and interweave with existing place.

Category sponsor



The Heritage Council of Victoria is an independent statutory body established under the Heritage Act 2017. It makes decisions about places and objects of (non-Indigenous) cultural heritage significance to Victoria. The Council reviews and decides what gets included in the Victorian Heritage Register, provides advice on cultural heritage protection and promotes and celebrates heritage. We are proud to sponsor the 2025 award for Heritage Architecture.



The John George Knight Award for Heritage Architecture
Central Goldfields Art Gallery by Nervegna Reed Architecture
 Dja Dja Wurrung Country

The Central Goldfields Art Gallery is housed in the old Maryborough 19th C Fire Station, a collage of 1860s ornate and practical sheds with a stunning 1888 heritage fire tower. The Goldfields Shire commissioned Nervegna Reed to significantly upgrade the modest spaces used as the Town's Gallery into a contemporary facility for touring shows and its permanent collection, but also as an attraction for tourists. Value for Money doesn't do the outcome justice. Functional demands have been exceeded with the new spaces light, connected and coherent. The original building is clearly legible and celebrated. Retaining the heritage front station doors shows off the original use of the building, with the clever addition of internal glass sliding doors allowing the gallery to open up to the street. The journey through is punctuated with purposeful glimpses of fire tower or landscape, and even the collection storage.

The whole project was done in close collaboration with the local DjaDjaWurrung, culminating in an inspiring indigenous garden area. New vistas have been created by expert excision, tying the

complex together - galleries, tower and garden. In short, the project is a joy. A deft weaving of contemporary elements and historic fragments unifies colonial and indigenous history into a valuable expression of community.

Practice team: Toby Reed (Design Architect), Anna Nervegna (co designer), Hsin-hui Tsai (Documentation), Duke Wang (Graduate of Architecture), Bruno Rabl (Documentation), Ming Lie (Documentation)

Consultant / Construction team: WebbConsult (Structural Engineer), Djandak (Landscape Consultant), 3 Acres (Landscape Consultant), Acor (Services Consultant)

Builder: Searle Brothers

Photographer: John Gollings







Award for Heritage Architecture – Creative Adaptation
 Gunn Ridge House by Kennedy Nolan
 Wurundjeri Country

Some buildings are not Heritage listed yet. Sometimes owners and architects have to initiate the Significance Strategy to refurbish. The late great Graeme Gunn's 1967 house for his colleague John Ridge is real history – Merchant Builders, Gunn, Ridge, Janne Faulkner, Ellis Stone. The house is reborn with thorough research, deep respect and empathy by Kennedy Nolan and the owner, reviving the original and sensitively extending its vocabulary. Gunn's original spaces are repaired or tweaked in manner befitting the natural ease of Gunn and Faulkner. Two elements have been added. The lower ground extension, using Gunn's crazy stone, brick and concrete palette, simultaneously extends the terrace off the living level and creates the kids' rooms below. And a new charred timber skillion space housing main bedroom amenities and study is perched over the driveway. The project is a lesson in conserving and creating; recognising an historic gem, understanding the original design and confidently making something new.

Practice team: Rachel Nolan (Design Architect), Patrick Kennedy (Design Architect), Dominic Wells (Project Architect), Marnie Morieson (Project Architect), Hugh Goad (Architect)

Consultant / Construction team: Snyders Engineers (Structural Engineer), Fiona Brockhoff (Landscape Consultant)

Builder: IBuildM

Photographer: Derek Swalwell





Award for Heritage Architecture – Restoration
 Parliament House Stone Restoration Works by FPPV Architecture
 Wurundjeri Country

In an age of BIM, Novated Contracts and Value Management, Parliament House Stone restoration project reminds us of the tradition of architectural craftsmanship and expertise. The building is a collage assembled over many years from 1854 to 1929, but by 2006 it was in a state of dangerous neglect. FPPV undertook the painstaking audit, documentation and administration of the repair works, halting further deterioration, fixing the leaks, and restoring the building, all while the built fabric was occupied. The project had 13 stages over 18 years. There was tenacious research into stone types. Each repair was resolved by close viewing and measurement, often high up on the building, and referenced to Peter Kerr's 1850s drawings. FPPV's own extensive drawing set is a delight to see – detailed, meticulous and orderly. The project is an exemplar of the persistence and collaboration, skill and passion of the client, architectural and craftsman team to preserve this significant public institution.

Practice team: Paul Viney (Project Director), Matthew Denier (Project Architect), James Hose (Project Architect), Giulio Lazzaro (Project Architect), Mark Humphrey (Project Architect)

Consultant / Construction team: Mark Hodgkinson Consulting Structural Engineers (Structural Engineer), BGSM Consulting (Building Surveyor), Julian Horman (dec) (Stonework Specialist), Vivian Sioutas (Advisor), Rodney Vapp & Associates (Quantity Surveyor), DDH Quantity Surveyors (Quantity Surveyor), Henge Consulting Engineers (Services Consultant)

Builder: O'Connor & Sons Stonemasons

Photographer: FPPV Architecture



Commendation for Heritage Architecture – Conservation

Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve by Lovell Chen

Country: Eastern Maar

Lovell Chen's careful work on Robin Boyd's 1969 Tower Hill, restoring the visitor centre and reconfiguring of the amenities block revitalises this significant heritage place. For Boyd's beautiful pavilion, they researched original building techniques and replaced fragile materials to ensure an authentic and durable rebuild. Collaborating with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and resisting calls to demolish the amenities block, Lovell Chen retained the structure, adjusted its layout to provide spaces to share with the Traditional Owners. The project is a skilful and faithful execution by an expert team.

Builder: Barpa Construction Services

Photographer: Robin Sharrock



Other entries for Heritage Architecture



Shortlisted • Her Majesty's Theatre Ballarat, Redevelopment Stage 3 • Conservation Studio • Wadawurrung Country • Photographer Conservation Studio



Shortlisted • Scotch College Errington Retreat • COX Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Bernie Wright



Shortlisted • Terrace House • Rob Kennon Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Derek Swalwell



BVIA on Bank • Agius Scorpo Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Thurston Empson



St Kilda Primary School
• Law Architects • Bunurong Country •
Photographer Derek Swalwell





Commercial Architecture

Projects in this category must be built primarily for commercial purposes, generally falling within BCA Classes 3b, 5, 6, 7 and 8.



Emily Kilvington RAIA
Jury chair



John Wardle LFRAIA
Juror



Billy Dong RAIA
Graduate juror



Sarah Hurst RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

Almost all the projects shortlisted and visited by the jury spanned the regions of central Melbourne where commercial activity occurs and included a varied range of project types across differing scales, typologies, and end users. There was much diversity across the category. This survey also covered work undertaken by a range of Victorian architects, small studios, and major national practices.

The type and scale align with the metrics of commercial investment with large scale corporate development set along the Collins Street spine and smaller scale projects of more variant type in the transitional areas such as Cremorne, Collingwood, and Fitzroy. Only one project stretches the boundary of this survey. These projects are generally all highly contextual and respond to a more 'neighbourhood' setting with a strong desire to give back to the surrounding area.

It was frequently these smaller projects in regions of the city undergoing substantial transformation that exhibited areas of greater exploration of programmatic and technological innovation.

A high volume of entries were designed, built and delivered during the Covid pandemic and as a result featured interventions that responded to user needs around health and amenity, such as end of trip facilities, staff social spaces, and F&B - in particular ground level cafes for public use.

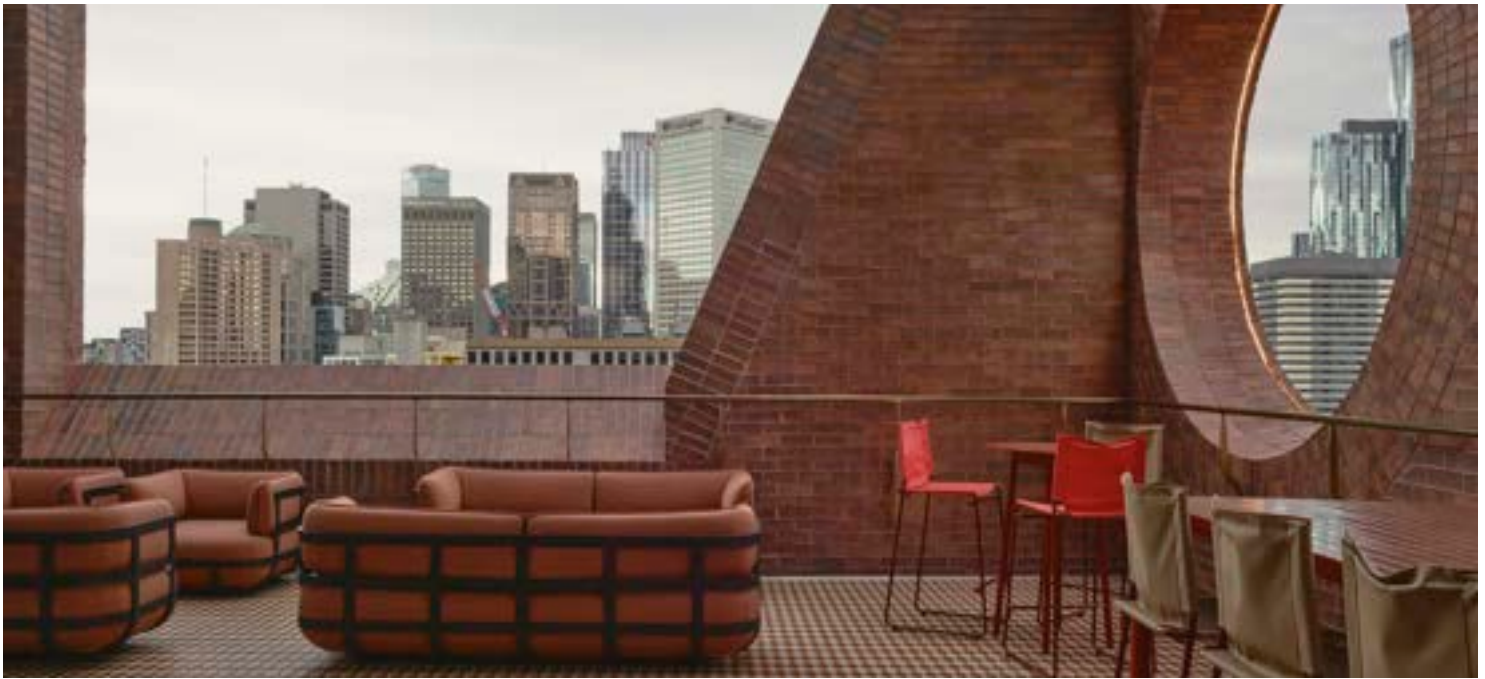
Natural ventilation and operable façades were a consistent element across many of the projects, as were resulting smart-building automation systems that intuitively respond to changes in the internal environment. Integrated landscaping featured across many of the projects – responding to wellbeing and environmental drivers. If it wasn't integrated within the building, it was often given priority at the ground plane.

Overall, we were impressed by the variety and depth across the Commercial Category this year, which was particularly bolstering given the downturn experienced over a number of years due to the global pandemic.

Category sponsor



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The Sir Osborn McCutcheon Award for Commercial Architecture

Melbourne Place by Kennedy Nolan

Wurundjeri Country

Hotels can be sentinels in the city that create new patterns of sociability and expand the city's capacity to welcome visitors while orchestrating new experiences for its community. Melbourne Place so aptly named has opened its doors to the city in a manner that has captivated both visitors and residents.

In a rare commissioning process, Kennedy Nolan has shaped the entire project from its inception. They collaborated closely with a small group that came together to create a brief for a hotel with the ethos of working within the structure and culture of 'Central Melbourne'. Shaped by both its frontage to Russell Street and three distinctly variant laneway elevations the building's form suggests 'good neighbourliness'. A series of vantage points for congregation have been established both as major spaces and open terraces that orient into street and laneways and across the city. The experience is constantly of being 'within Melbourne'.

The architect's early conception of "an abstract zoomorphic form" is strongly evident as both emblem and guiding rule

translated into every detail of a sequence of remarkable Melbourne interiors. With an orchestration that includes many local makers and artists Melbourne Place draws from and adds to the theatricality of the city's social life.

Practice team: Patrick Kennedy (Design Architect), Rachel Nolan (Design Architect), Michael Macelod (Design Architect), Jacky Oro (Project Architect), Adriana Hanna (Project Architect), Shin Kil (Project Architect), Elizabeth Campbell (Architect), Han Wu (Architect), Danny Truong (Architect), Candice Chan (Architect), Annie Paxton (Architect), Jack Lawrence (Architect), Dorothea Yannoulidis (Student of Architecture)

Consultant / Construction team: MGAC (Access Consultant), Renzo Tonin (Acoustic Consultant), ADA Consulting (Art Consulting), Alder Technology (AV Consultant), Studio Round (Branding), Codus (Building Surveyor), WGA (Civil Consultant), Cundall (ESD Consultant), BG&E (Facade Engineer), Omnii (Fire Engineer), Veris (Land Surveyor), Amanda Oliver (Landscape Consultant), WT (Quantity Surveyor), WRAP Consulting Engineering (Services Consultant), WSP (Structural Engineer), Ernesto A'de lima (Hotel Operations Consultant), Gallagher Jeffs (Project Manager), APP Group (Project Manager), DBIG (Development Manager), Longriver (Developer), Tracy Atherton (Hotel Consultant), JRF (Furniture Procurment)

Builder: Adco Constructions

Photographer: Derek Swalwell







Award for Commercial Architecture 116 Rokeby Street by Carr Wurundjeri Country

Rokeby Street exemplifies a sophisticated integration of user amenity, sustainability, and urban presence. Conceived during a period of shifting priorities in commercial architecture when health, wellbeing, and adaptability rose to the fore, it reimagines the office typology with intelligence and restraint.

The building commands a confident yet contextual position within the skyline, marrying industrial lightness with architectural strength. Its double-skin façade introduces a trafficable interstitial zone, while enabling the building's dynamic environmental responsiveness, automatically adjusting light, air, and temperature to enhance user comfort.

Prioritising user amenity is at the forefront of Rokeby Street. end-of-trip facilities are prominently located at ground level, while the lobby is conceived as an externalised extension of the street, animated by layered landscaping that define dwell zones. The limited street frontage is cleverly extended through the lobby via integrated hospitality,

contributing to an active ground plane that deepens the building's contribution to the public realm and urban streetscape.

Practice team: Stephen McGarry (Project Design/ Director), Kyal Erdman, (Designer), Lauren Gostin (Interior Designer), Rebecca Mallaby (Graduate of Architecture), Andreas Giuradei (Designer)

Consultant / Construction team: Gerard Black And Lowell Hunter (Artist), Floreancig Smith (Building Surveyor), O'neill Group (Civil Consultant), Figurehead (Developer), O'neill Group (Electrical Consultant), Arup (Engineer), O'neill Group (Engineer), Arup (Sustainability Engineer), Eckersely Garden Architecture (Landscape Architect), Traffix Group (Traffic Engineer)

Builder: Figurehead Construction

Photographer: Rory Gardiner



Award for Commercial Architecture Northern Memorial Park Depot by Searle x Waldron Architecture Wurundjeri Country

Searle X Waldron have reimagined the cemetery depot for Northern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (NMCT), shifting the typology from a typical 'shed' response. The project brings together NMCT employees, delivering a generous workplace that prioritises light, fresh air, access to landscape, and places for social interaction and respite.

The plan is formed around existing mature trees, while elevations adapt to relate to their context – the west elevation provides an active backdrop to the future cemetery, the east acts as a front door and responds to the industrial nature of its context, while the north anticipates future connections to Melbourne Water's wetland, providing landscape and access to future public space.

Sustainability strategies were embedded early and directly respond to the depot typology and users. Naturally

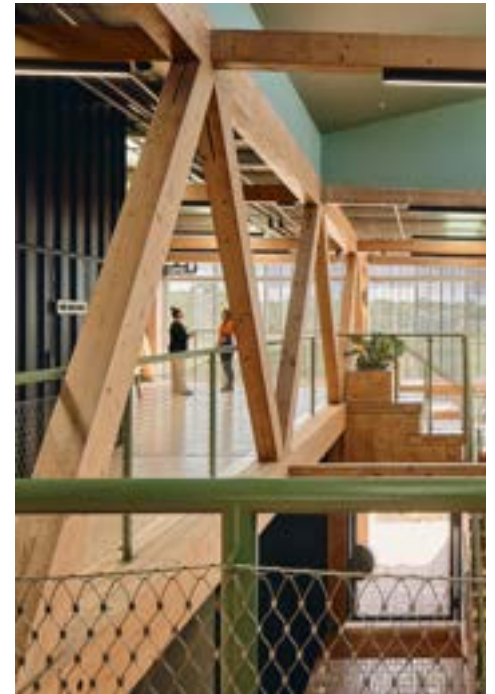
ventilated spaces are maximised, while impressive timber structure and flooring, combined with the diaphanous perforated metal façade, create spaces for staff that bring lightness to what can be a heavy occupation.

Practice team: Suzannah Waldron (Design Architect), Jack Jordan (Project Architect), Lisa Gerstman (Project Architect), Hannah Zhu (Graduate of Architecture), Pearl Dempsey (Design Architect), Jack Murray (Graduate of Architecture)

Consultant / Construction team: Oculus (Landscape Consultant), OPS Engineers (Structural Engineer), Lucid Consulting (Services Consultant), Philip Chun (Building Surveyor), Traffix (Traffic Consultant), Architecture & Access (Access Consultant), Red Fire Engineers (Fire Engineer), URPS (Town Planner), Zinc Cost Management (Cost Consultant), Buro North (Signage & Wayfinding), Acoustic Logic (Acoustic Consultant), Afflux Consulting (Water Management & Flood Modelling)

Builder: Building Engineering

Photographer: Peter Bennetts



Award for Commercial Architecture The StandardX by Woods Bagot Wurundjeri Country

More excentric neighbourhood rooming house than nostalgic corner pub, the 190-room Standard X is a precise fit into the network of small streets and surrounding creative entities in the heart of Fitzroy. This is a place of many extraordinary small enterprises that together form a tightly woven urban ecology providing fertile ground for creative endeavour.

The placement of a large international hotel in this location does not at first seem to align with the smaller scale of this locality, however the great success of the project is that its urban fit and programmatic arrangement enhances this tightly knit neighbourhood, enabling what has always been there to continue to flow in and around it.

Its various alignments form strategic adjacencies with its surroundings, while the Corten clad articulated facades affords legitimacy to its substantial scale.

The arrangement of lively and inventive interiors at ground level and rooftop align with the vibrant patterns of Fitzroy's authentic and distinctive street life.

Consultant / Construction team: Max Architects (Documentation architect), Dealcorp (Developer), JBA Consulting Engineers (ESD Consultant), Hecker Guthrie (Interior Designer)

Builder: Hamilton Marino

Photographer: Trevor Mein



Award for Commercial Architecture

Everlane Cremorne by Fieldwork

Wurundjeri Country

Fieldwork's Everlane adopts the classic commercial podium-and-tower typology, masterfully disrupting it at the lower levels to introduce a generous, human-scaled arrival experience. A recessed entry and planted laneway create an active ground plane with a street-facing café and lush green pocket, referencing Cremorne's suburban garden character and its neighbouring single-storey dwellings.

Adjacent to the recessed entry, end-of-trip access is democratised for both cycling and non-cycling users. Interiors, designed in collaboration with Mim Design, combine industrial textures with refined detailing to create a warm, inviting foyer. At the rooftop level, Openwork's lush landscaping continues, delivering communal amenities— including a barbecue area —with expansive views across Cremorne and towards the city skyline.

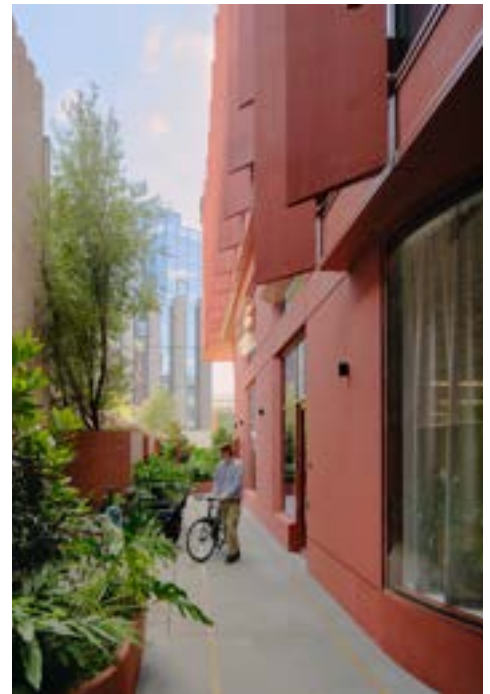
The red-pigmented concrete and powder-coated metal podium nod to the area's brick heritage, while the tower recedes through setback and lighter silver materiality. A landscaped edge at level four spills over the podium, softening the building form.

Practice team: Joachim 'Quino' Holland (Design Director), Tim Brooks (Project Lead), Sukhjit Kaur (Project Architect), Holly Slater (Architect), Vlad Doudakliev (Project Architect), Eoghan McCarthy (Architectural Technician), Piers Morgan (Graduate of Architect), Ahmad Ridzwan (Graduate of Architect), Lisa Garner, (Graduate of Architect)

Consultant / Construction team: Openwork (Landscape Consultant), Mim Design (Interior Designer), Before Compliance (DDA), BG&E (Façade Engineer), Omnii (Fire Engineer), Stantec (Electrical Services), Webber Design (Structure & Civil), Contour (Town Planner)

Builder: Figurehead

Photographer: Tom Ross



Commendation

for Commercial Architecture

Decjuba HQ by Jackson Clements Burrows Architects

Country: Wurundjeri

The new Decjuba headquarters brings together staff, who were previously in multiple locations, into one purpose-built home that reflects the brand's identity and Cremorne's industrial heritage.

JCB designed the building to optimise workflows. Each floor has a unique function, connected by a generous open stair that fosters incidental staff interactions and collaboration, while CLT and GLT elements bring warmth to the workplace.

At street level the active façade is setback to offer generosity to an otherwise narrow footpath, setting a precedent for future developments along Cubitt street.

Builder: Figurehead Construction

Photographer: Peter Clarke



Commendation for Commercial Architecture

120 Collins Street Revitalisation by Hassell

Country: Wurundjeri

The revitalisation of 120 Collins Street is a strategic and nuanced response to both urban and commercial challenges within a prominent CBD context. Through sensitive intervention, the project reconnects previously underutilised spaces across city blocks, while carefully unveiling and reinstating obscured heritage fabric and subtly referencing the site's historical layers.

A generous, reimagined lobby now serves both tenants and the broader precinct, while new external landscaping introduces much-needed greenery. Crucially, the project strengthens tenant retention, securing the building's position in a competitive commercial market.

Builder: Kane Constructions (Main Lobby and Site works), Buildcorp (EOT Facilities)

Photographer: Peter Bennetts



Other entries for Commercial Architecture



Shortlisted • 555 Collins Street • COX Architecture with Gensler • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Trevor Mein



Shortlisted • Office in Collingwood • MGAO • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Jack Lovel



Shortlisted • Rosella Cremorne • Rothelowman • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Peter Bennetts



Shortlisted • Melbourne Quarter Tower • Woods Bagot • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Trevor Mein



BVIA on Bank • Agius Scorpo Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Thurston Empson



Morris Moor Building 4 • ClarkeHopkinsClarke Architects • Bunurong Country • Photographer Diana Snape



Atlassian Melbourne Connection Hub • Craig Tan Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Eve Wilson



MRC Administration Building • Hassell • Bunurong Country • Photographer Victor Vieaux



Clarendon Works • Six Degrees Architects • Bunurong Country • Photographer Pier Carthew



Larnangurak (Our Place) • Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate and Community Centre • Y2 Architecture • Dja Dja Wurrung Country • Photographer Leon Schoots



Novotel & ibis Styles Melbourne Airport • FK • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Peter Bennetts



Educational Architecture

Projects in this category may be any preschool, primary, secondary or tertiary educational facility and/or joint research facilities in

which an educational institution is a significant partner. Education projects may not be entered in the Public Architecture category.



Elliot Spring RAIA
Jury chair



Tim Brooks RAIA
Juror



Frank Burne Thompson RAIA
Graduate juror



Sarah Kahn RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

With such a broad range of entries in this year's Education category, it was exceedingly difficult to shortlist those projects we wanted to see for ourselves.

It was even more challenging to select the winners and commendations. We went back to what we were being asked to do – review projects in terms of architectural excellence and how they support educational uses. While all projects presented to the juries portrayed elements of architectural excellence, we had to consider what made each project an excellent example of educational architecture.

Our tours of the eight shortlisted projects were revealing – inevitably, projects are so different when experienced in real life as opposed to photographs. Over and over, our car-ride conversations between sites focussed on the gap between our expectations and reality.

We found that when the client joined the site tour, the

experience was enhanced. As architects, we all sense what makes a building excellent, but with the aid of a teacher or principal, we gained a true insight into how a building supports pedagogy, culture and community; what made it worthy of an award or commendation.

With our education system under such financial pressure in Victoria, it was comforting to visit outstanding architecture that will support the learning journeys of children and young people.

As architects, we know how much space impacts behaviour. Educational buildings can enhance wellbeing, instil pride and support community connections. More than anything, they can enhance a student's learning outcomes. There are few project types more important.

And, as architects, we must fight for this typology – all educational facilities, across the state, must be excellent. Our future relies on it.

Category sponsor



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The Henry Bastow Award for Educational Architecture
 Pascoe Vale Primary School by Kosloff Architecture
 Wurundjeri Country

The result of a seven-year, three-stage relationship between architect and client, Pascoe Vale Primary School has been cleverly transformed in a way that sensitively respects the story of the campus, while setting the stage for exciting future learning. The growing strength of the relationship between Kosloff Architects and Pascoe Vale Primary is evident in the design outcome; each stage shows a deeper understanding of the site, context and the school identity than the one that precedes it. The introduction of Indigenous thinking from the second stage further connects the campus with place.

The outcome is a striking yet unified school campus that instils calm pride in its community. The building responds cleverly to its context, pushing hard against noisy roads, and pulling back to wrap around ageing peppercorn trees and sensitive spaces. Brick is the hero across all three stages, with the new buildings engaging in a playful dialogue with the original heritage building.

Learning spaces, both inside and out, are flexible, practical and fun. What makes this place special, however, are

the magical moments for learning woven throughout the design – from the solar system windows, to the integrated sundial, to the geometric gate by Kent Morris, every detail is considered. The result is a building that will remain in the memories of students well beyond their time at primary school.

Practice team: (withheld)

Consultant / Construction team: GLAS Urban (Landscape Consultant), Kent Morris (Artist), Agency of Sculpture (Maker/sculptor), Wood & Grieve/Matter Consulting (Structural Engineer), Lucid Consulting (Services Consultant), Resonate (Acoustic Consultant), Philip Chun Building Surveying (Building Surveyor), Studio Semaphore (Wayfinding and signage)

Builder: Alchemy Construct Pty Ltd and 2Construct

Photographer: Derek Swalwell





Award for Educational Architecture

Munarra Centre for Regional Excellence by ARM Architecture

Yorta Yorta Country

Named for the Yorta Yorta word for thunder, the Munarra Centre for Regional Excellence was conceived through Yorta Yorta self-determination and is a physical embodiment of deep listening and knowledge sharing. Located on a politically charged site, a complex group of stakeholders, strong but diverse community voice and competing briefing requirements have been resolved in a building that embodies strength, pride and connection to place.

The community is drawn together in an open courtyard which forms the centre of the plan. Internal spaces then pinwheel off this central axis, with diverse teaching, working and cultural spaces afforded access or views to Country, landscape and sky to suit nuanced briefing requirements. The building is sheathed in a defensive outer shell, broken down by a covered loggia that provides deep shading and generous in scale. Local artworks

integrated across all spaces express a proud community voice in a building focused on care and growth.

Practice team: Andrew Lilleyman (Design Architect), Jesse Judd (Design Architect), Howard Raggatt (Design Architect), Andrea Wilson (Lead Interior Design), Eliza Langham (Design Architect), Tom Jones (Project Architect), Jessica Heald (Project Architect), Ray Marshall (Project Architect), Nigel Reichenbach (Graduate of Architecture), Stuart Webber (Graduate of Architecture), Alana Brunton (Graduate of Architecture) Matthew Austin (Graduate of Architecture), Nadia Poppen (Student of Architecture), Paul Buckley (Student of Architecture), Simone Chait (Student of Architecture), Katherine Brown (Student of Architecture), Emma Croker (Student of Architecture), Alana Brunton (Graduate of Architecture)

Consultant / Construction team: Emergent Studio (formerly Bush Projects) (Landscape Consultant), WSP (Structural Engineer), WSP (Civil Consultant), Plancost Australia (Quantity Surveyor), Jensen Hughes (formerly Morris Goding Access Consulting) (Access), Spacecraft Studio (Art Curation), Kaiella Arts (Art Curation), Vivid Wayfinding (Wayfinding + Signage), Mack Group (Kitchen Planning), WSP (Services Consultant)

Builder: TVN on Country

Photographer: Peter Bennetts



Commendation for Educational Architecture

Kangan Institute Health and Community Centre
of Excellence by Architectus



Country: Wurundjeri

Providing a beacon and celebration of further education opportunities within the wider Broadmeadows landscape, the Institute provides a calm and inviting hub for hands-on learning, inspiring and nurturing the next generation of healthcare and community workers.

The architects' sure hand has successfully taken a complex brief for a variety of active and technology heavy teaching spaces and provided a coherent and elegant solution. Students and staff experience light-filled and connected learning spaces, with separate areas for study, collaboration, and quiet reflection thoughtfully woven throughout the facility.

Builder: Hutchisons Builders

Photographer: Trevor Mein

Woodleigh Regenerative Futures Studio
by McIlldowie Partners with Joost Bakker



Country: Bunurong

A coherent and complete expression of the school's ethos, Woodleigh Regenerative Futures Studios is a testament to the capacity of the project's team to manifest something more than the sum of its parts through considered collaboration.

The building's sustainable design considers the building as a pedagogical tool. A simple charcoal rendered façade belies the complexity and thoughtfulness woven throughout. Beyond a central sheltered courtyard, classrooms are imbued with an innovative but frank palette where each decision drives the creation of further learning opportunities.

Builder: South East Building Services (SEBS)

Photographer: Earl Carter

Other entries for Educational Architecture



Shortlisted • South Oakleigh College • Architecture architecture • Bunurong Country • Photographer Tom Ross



Shortlisted • Belerren Sports and Wellbeing Centre, The Geelong College • Wardle • Wadawurrung Country • Photographer Thurston Empson



Shortlisted • Auburn High School Senior Centre • WOWOWA Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Martina Gemmola



Shortlisted • St Kilda Primary School • Law Architects • Bunurong Country • Photographer Derek Swalwell



Brandon Park Primary School • Architecture architecture • Bunurong Country • Photographer Tom Ross



Padua College, Coolock Centre • Baldasso Cortese • Bunurong Country • Photographer Peter Clarke



Genazzano FCJ College Vacluse Student Reception • BCBA Studio • Woiworrung Country • Photographer Micha Elkaip



St Kevin's College - Glendalough • Chandler Architecture Pty Ltd • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Timothy Kaye



Banum Warrik Primary School • GHD Design • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Trevor Mein



Chelsea Primary School Community Hub • Jasmox (Canvas Projects) • Wadawurrung Country • Photographer Derek Swalwell



Bayswater Secondary College • Workshop Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Peter Bennetts



Little Lane Early Learning Centre - Glen Iris • Milton Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Milton Architects



Tarneit Senior College • Workshop Architecture • Bunurong Country • Photographer John Gollings



Interior Architecture

Projects in this category must be interior spaces and environments within a new building or the refurbishment of an existing building.



Amelia Borg RAIA
Jury chair



Erin Watson RAIA
Juror



James Embry RAIA
Graduate juror



Matthew Bird RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

The Interiors category is consistently one of the most diverse and challenging to assess, bringing together an extraordinary breadth of work across scales, budgets, and typologies. This year was no exception. The jury encountered projects ranging from modest fit-outs to expansive civic environments, each presenting a unique approach to the complexities of interior architecture.

What distinguished the most compelling projects was their ability to create immersive and memorable experiences. These interiors moved beyond the purely functional to craft spaces that engaged the senses, provoked emotion, and offered moments of delight. Many did so through bold experimentation with colour, texture, and materiality—pushing conventional boundaries while maintaining coherence and clarity in design intent.

A defining quality across standout projects was the expressive use of detail. Whether refined and elegant, playful and unexpected, or intentionally raw and lo-fi, detailing was deployed with purpose and precision. These elements weren't simply

decorative, but integral to the spatial storytelling, enhancing atmosphere and user experience.

The jury was also encouraged to see a strong emphasis on local engagement—through the use of Australian materials, collaboration with local craftspeople, and support for domestic manufacturers. This commitment not only contributes to the sustainability of projects, but also fosters a deeper sense of place and identity.

Many of the projects demonstrated a thoughtful integration of context—responding to cultural histories, landscape, and existing architectural fabric in ways that felt sensitive and deliberate. These interiors were not imposed, but evolved from their settings, resulting in spaces of authenticity and relevance.

Overall, this year's Interior Architecture entries reinforced the power of design to elevate the everyday. At their best, these projects remind us that interior spaces—whether modest or monumental—can offer profound and lasting impact through their material intelligence, cultural resonance, and spatial ambition.



Category sponsor

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The Marion Mahony Award for Interior Architecture Melbourne Place by Kennedy Nolan Wurundjeri Country

Melbourne Place is a richly layered and meticulously crafted interior that confidently redefines the experience of a contemporary hotel. Across sixteen levels, the project delivers a masterclass in spatial sequencing, colour, materiality, and expressive detailing. The design unfolds as a journey from the art-filled foyer and mezzanine through to the varied lounge, meeting, event, and hospitality spaces, with each area revealing a distinct identity while contributing to a cohesive whole.

Colour is deployed to transform experience, extending beyond surface treatment to become a strategy for mood, orientation, and atmosphere. Shifting colour palettes are used for wayfinding and as a way to filter light, views and the surrounding city. Custom details and locally sourced materials and fixtures are celebrated throughout. Every object from the smallest junction to furnishings and lighting are considered and composed with care. A playful circle motif appears as a recurring gesture, bringing character and lightness to typically overlooked elements.

The hotel rooms offer a generous and calm retreat, with operable windows,

soft lighting, and thoughtful bathroom planning that blurs the line between concealment and openness. These interiors speak to both the scale of the city and the intimacy of personal experience.

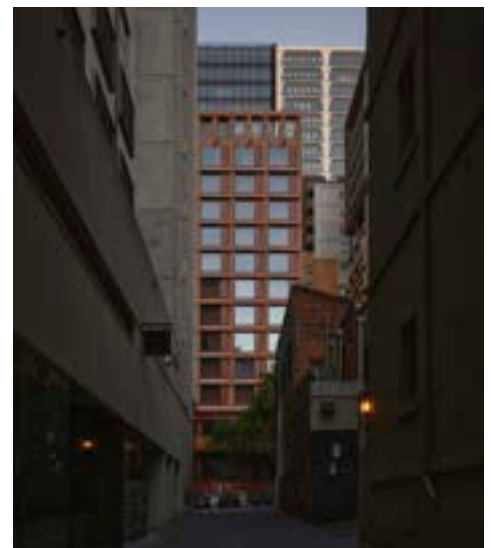
Melbourne Place is both sophisticated and irreverent; an interior of depth, delight, and cultural specificity. A deserving recipient of the Marion Mahony Award for Interior Architecture.

Practice team: Patrick Kennedy (Design Architect), Rachel Nolan (Design Architect), Michael Macelod (Design Architect), Jacky Oro (Project Architect), Adriana Hanna (Project Architect), Shin Kil (Project Architect), Elizabeth Campbell (Architect), Han Wu (Architect), Danny Truong (Architect), Candice Chan (Architect), Annie Paxton (Architect), Jack Lawrence (Architect), Dorothea Yannoulidis (Student of Architecture)

Consultant / Construction team: MGAC (Access Consultant), Renzo Tonin (Acoustic Consultant), ADA Consulting (Art Consulting), Alder Technology (AV Consultant), Studio Round (Branding), Codus (Building Surveyor), WGA (Civil Consultant), Cundall (ESD Consultant), BG&E (Facade Engineer), Omnii (Fire Engineer), Veris (Land Surveyor), Amanda Oliver (Landscape Consultant), WT (Quantity Surveyor), WRAP Consulting Engineering (Services Consultant), WSP (Structural Engineer), Ernesto A'de lima (Hotel Operations Consultant), Gallagher Jeffs (Project Manager), APP Group (Project Manager), DBIG (Development Manager), Longriver (Developer), Tracy Atherton (Hotel Consultant), JRF (Furniture Procurement)

Builder: Adco Constructions

Photographer: Anson Smart, Derek Swalwell







Award for Interior Architecture
 Eva and Marc Besen Centre by Kerstin Thompson Architects
 Wurundjeri Country

The Eva and Marc Besen Centre is a quietly powerful addition to the TarraWarra Museum estate, offering an exemplary model of how interior architecture can shape meaningful cultural experiences. Seamlessly integrated into the landscape and architectural lineage of the site, the Centre's interiors are at once functional, flexible, and deeply thoughtful. Arranged in two sinuous bands, the plan balances public engagement with back-of-house functions, turning archival storage into a visible and valued part of the visitor journey. The use of an insulated glass wall between the open store and public zones is a masterstroke; merging transparency with preservation and inviting ongoing connection with the collection.

Material selections and spatial gestures speak with restraint and clarity. The interior palette complements the landscape and allows moments of drama; such as the spiralling stair and the cylindrical entry drum to emerge with quiet strength. The design honours the site's architectural legacy while establishing

a language of its own, reinforced by the veil-like metal mesh that filters light and perception.

Embedded First Nations consultation and collaboration have contributed meaningfully to the project's depth, with symbolic and physical gestures grounding the Centre in Country. This is an interior of nuance, generosity, and lasting cultural relevance.

Practice team: Kerstin Thompson (Design Director), Claire Humphreys (Associate Principal), Martin Allen (Associate), Sophie Nicolaou (Associate), Grant Dixon (Senior Architect), Viet Truong (Senior Architect), Hilary Sleight (Architect), Michael Whittingham (Architect), Audrey Shaw (Graduate of Architecture), Leonard Meister (Architectural Student), Tamsin O'Reilly (Visualisation)

Consultant / Construction team: Urban + Reshape Development (Project Manager), Webber (Structural / Civil Engineer), GeoAust (Geotechnical Engineer), Wayne Mitchell Surveying (Land Surveyor), Oculus (Landscape Consultant), Craig Murphy-Wandin (Wurundjeri Horticulturalist and Artist), WSP (Services – Mechanical, Electrical, Hydraulic, AV, Lighting and Fire), WSP (Fire Engineer), WT Partnership (Quantity Surveyor), Acoustic Logic (Acoustic Consultant), Audio Systems Logic (Specialist AV), 2B Designed (Specialist Lighting), Finding Infinity (ESD Consultant), Contour (Town Planner), Greenwood Consulting (Arborist), Architecture & Access (DDA Consultant), United Building Consultants (Consulting Building Surveyor), Saville and Co (Relevant Building Surveyor), Terramatrix (Bushfire Hazard

Assessment), F&B Solutions (Kitchen Planning), Kerstin Thompson Architects (Interiors), Fiona Lynch Interior Design (Loose Furniture), Paoli Smith (Signage + Wayfinding)

Builder: McCorkell Constructions

Photographer: Rudi Williams, Leo Showell





Award for Interior Architecture
 she sells seashells by multiplicity
 Wadawurrung Country

she sells seashells is an immediately immersive interior. Taking cues from unpretentious 1950's beach houses, the inherently simple plan belies the complexity of the experience. Layered spaces are augmented by a supercharged palette of materials, stitched together with a looseness that is deliberate and dynamic. Natural finishes are offset by galvanised steel and FRP grating. Vintage carpet wraps the walls, while brick paving brings a robustness to the fray.

Located along a steep block, the living and dining rooms are anchored at street level, separated and connected by a shrouded deck that cuts into the plan, bringing in light and air. The kitchen window becomes a habitable benchseat, housed in a deep reveal that activates the dining space - drawing views out to the bush garden and the public desire line that cuts through the site, and framing the view back in.

Spaces for sleeping and bathing are nestled off a generous hallway, a spill-out space drawing back to the rear of the

site. Here the experience becomes more internalised. Views and light are filtered, accessed interactively, playfully, via periscope or hidden apertures.

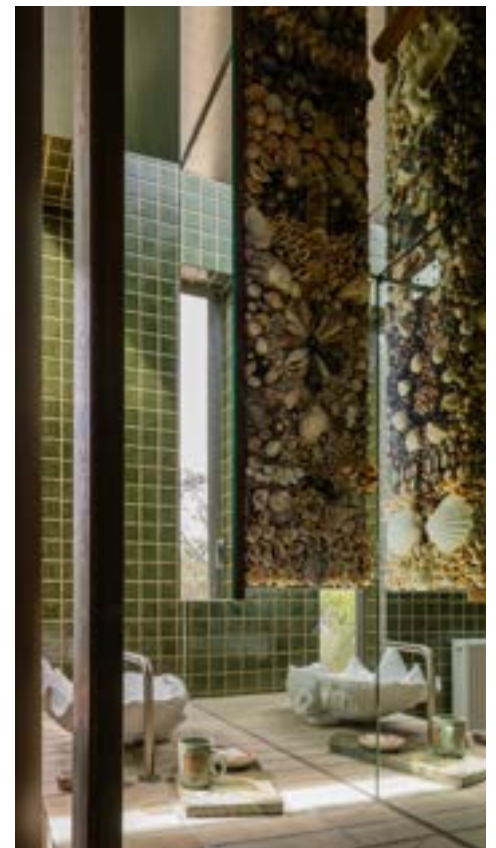
Creative outlet is found in the most mundane moments, there is fun, care and joy in every interior detail in this experimental house.

Practice team: Sioux Clark (interior designer), Tim O'Sullivan (Design Architect), Shayne Lacy (Documentation / Administration), Natasha Wheatland (Documenting Architect)

Consultant / Construction team: Tebbs Engineering (Engineer), Mel Ogden Landscapes (Landscape Consultant), Mac Hydronics (hydronic heating installer), Pickerings (timber window & door manufacturers), Innovative Windows (aluminium window & door manufacturer), Urban Renewables (solar pv installer), BSA building surveyors (Building Surveyor)

Builder: Kett & Co

Photographer: Trevor Mein



Commendation for Interior Architecture

Hume Council Chamber by Architecture Associates



Country: Wurundjeri

A model of civic generosity, the Hume Council Chamber dissolves the threshold between community and governance. Architecture Associates enrich a 1990s shell with local materials, topographic motifs, and an inclusive spatial program. The chamber is both dignified and open, anchored by a sweeping U-shaped table. Interstitial lounges and a glazed wall of cabinetry displaying local memorabilia invite deeper public engagement. This is community-embedded architecture that fuses ecological care with civic imagination.

Builder: McCormack

Photographer: Peter Bennetts

Domain by Flack Studio



Country: Bunurong

Domain demonstrates an elevated understanding of spatial richness and material nuance. Flack Studio expertly navigates heritage constraints to create a luminous interior world of contrast and cohesion. Juxtaposing terrazzo, marble, steel, leather, and glass brick with bold artworks and custom detailing, the interiors exude theatricality and restraint in equal measure. Light is carefully harnessed to animate moody volumes. The result is a sumptuous, tactile home where past and present dissolve into a singular, highly crafted vision.

Builder: McCorkell Constructions

Photographer: Anson Smart

Other entries for Interior Architecture



Shortlisted • Murran • First Nations Business, Retail and Arts Hub • Dawn Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Earl Carter



Shortlisted • Hopetoun Residence • Freadman White • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Sean Fennessy



Shortlisted • 120 Collins Street Revitalisation • Hassell • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Peter Bennetts



Shortlisted • Gunn Ridge House • Kennedy Nolan • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Derek Swalwell



Shortlisted • Sarah & Sebastian Armadale • Richards Stanisich • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Lillie Thompson



Shortlisted • Paula Fox Melanoma and Cancer Centre • Lyons • Bunurong Country • Photographer Peter Bennetts



351 Elizabeth Street • Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Nicole England



500 Bourke Street • FK • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Willem-Dirk du Toit

Other entries for Interior Architecture



C House • AXE Architects • Woioiwurrung Country • Photographer Yunwei Xu



Grey House • Adam Kane Architects • Dja Dja Wurrung Country • Photographer Timothy Kaye



Haileybury Brighton Year 9 Building • Architectus • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Trevor Mein



Erskine St. Residence • B.E. Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Martina Gemmola



CSL Global Headquarters and Centre for R&D • COX Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Peter Clarke



Aerofoil Workspace & Higher State • FK • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tom Ross



131 Smith Street • Freadman White • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Derek Swalwell



Spring Street Apartment • Lovell Burton Architecture • Bunurong Country • Photographer Tasha Tylee



Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital • Lyons • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Dianna Snape



Forme Lobby • Mirvac Design • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Timothy Kaye



Echo House • PARABOLICA • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Pier Carthew



Howqua River Lodge • Rob Mills Architecture & Interiors • Taungurung Country • Photographer Anson Smart



Park St • SGKS ARCH • Boonwurrung Country • Photographer Tania Lee



Crumpler Office & Workshop • Six Degrees Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tim Fenbt



Oval House • Topology Studio • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Timothy Kaye



Lanes End • studioPorter • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Fernando Javier Urquijo



Marvel Stadium Upgrades • Grimshaw with Smartform & Greenaway Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Dianna Snape



Public Architecture

Projects in this category must be predominantly of a public or institutional nature generally falling within BCA Class 9. However, this category does not include projects falling within the definition

of Educational Architecture or any BCA Class 9b building used primarily for educational purposes.



Julian Kosloff FRAIA
Jury chair



Lachlan Anderson RAIA
Juror



Diana Wanjiru RAIA
Graduate juror



Leyla Beiglari RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

The high calibre of entries in this year's Public Architecture category made the jury's task both immensely rewarding and notably challenging. From a field of 15 submissions, 10 projects were shortlisted for site visits. Over three days, the jury travelled extensively to experience a diverse and impressive range of public projects spanning health, recreation, transport, religious, community, and cultural facilities. These visits offered insight into the projects in situ, enabling meaningful conversations with clients and stakeholders and a deeper understanding of each project's context.

A strong and consistent theme across the shortlisted entries was the depth of community engagement, including with Traditional Owners, and a clear commitment to creating inclusive places for all. Many projects demonstrated a strong connection to culture and Country through thoughtful

integration with local landscape and urban fabric. A high standard of sustainability was evident, with projects showing a clear awareness of environmental responsibility and the cultural significance of place. Several entries extended their influence beyond site boundaries, activating adjacent civic spaces and landscapes and serving as catalysts for wider neighbourhood renewal.

The jury acknowledges the outstanding quality across all entries and commends the collective contribution to public architecture in Victoria. The care, ambition and dedication evident in each project have delivered meaningful new places of enduring value. We extend our congratulations to all entrants, with particular recognition for the shortlisted projects and this year's category winner, the Eva and Marc Besen Centre by Kerstin Thompson Architects.

Category sponsor

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The William Wardell Award for Public Architecture

Eva and Marc Besen Centre by Kerstin Thompson Architects

Wurundjeri Country

This exemplary project redefines the role of a regional cultural facility, elegantly uniting public engagement, education, and art conservation within a singular architectural expression. It performs a dual civic role—as a cultural repository and an educational hub—housing a curated selection of over 300 artworks from the TarraWarra Museum of Art’s permanent collection. An internal glass wall turns typically private “back of house” areas into public-facing educational tools, offering insight into the processes of curation and preservation.

Architecturally, the building forms a sensitive counterpoint to the original TarraWarra Museum by Allan Powell. Recessed into a hill, this new addition gently arcs, forming a softly curving boulevard that invites public gathering. The gaussian veiled façade dissolves the building’s edge, allowing it to sit lightly within its environment while concealing a consolidated series of flexible interior spaces. A new sculpture walk connects the centre to the existing museum, framing views of the Yarra Valley.

The interiors support an expansive program of workshops, lectures, exhibitions,

and performances for up to 200 attendees. The design’s spatial versatility and civic generosity foster cultural vitality and intellectual engagement. Both bold and refined, this project offers a compelling model for public architecture—one that celebrates access, learning, and the enduring power of art in community life.

Practice team: Kerstin Thompson (Design Director), Claire Humphreys (Associate Principal), Martin Allen (Associate), Sophie Nicholaou (Associate), Grant Dixon (Senior Architect), Viet Truong (Senior Architect), Hilary Sleight (Architect), Michael Whittingham (Architect), Audrey Shaw (Graduate of Architecture), Leonard Meister (Architectural Student), Tamsin O’Reilly (Visualisation)

Consultant / Construction team: Urban + Reshape Development (Project Manager), Webber (Structural / Civil Engineer), GeoAust (Geotechnical Engineer), Wayne Mitchell Surveying (Land Surveyor), Oculus (Landscape Consultant), Craig Murphy-Wandin (Wurundjeri Horticulturalist and Artist), WSP (Services – Mechanical, Electrical, Hydraulic, AV, Lighting and Fire), WSP (Fire Engineer), WT Partnership (Quantity Surveyor), Acoustic Logic (Acoustic Consultant), Audio Systems Logic (Specialist AV), 2B Designed (Specialist Lighting), Finding Infinity (ESD Consultant), Contour (Town Planner), Greenwood Consulting (Arborist), Architecture & Access (DDA Consultant), United Building Consultants (Consulting Building Surveyor), Saville and Co (Relevant Building Surveyor), Terramatrix (Bushfire Hazard Assessment), F&B Solutions (Kitchen Planning), Kerstin Thompson Architects (Interiors), Fiona Lynch Interior Design (Loose Furniture), Paoli Smith (Signage + Wayfinding)

Builder: McCorkell Constructions

Photographer: Leo Showell







Award for Public Architecture
 Paula Fox Melanoma and Cancer Centre by Lyons
 Bunurong Country

On arrival, a composed split-level landscape—negotiating public and semi-private thresholds—signals a clear prioritisation of patient wellbeing, both physical and mental. The spatial sequence establishes a calm, restorative tone that frames the entire architectural experience.

A patterned façade, derived from the cellular structure of healthy skin, operates at multiple registers: as solar and privacy screening, as a legible public identity, and as a quiet assertion of the centre's clinical purpose within a homogenous commercial context. Adopting a 'bench to bedside and back' model, the facility strategically co-locates diagnosis, treatment, recovery, research, and clinical trials within a singular, spatially coherent framework. This dissolves traditional silos and enables a more continuous patient journey.

Internally, the architecture privileges intimacy, with domestic-scaled volumes and framed landscape outlooks deliberately obscuring the complexity of upper-level clinical operations. Realised

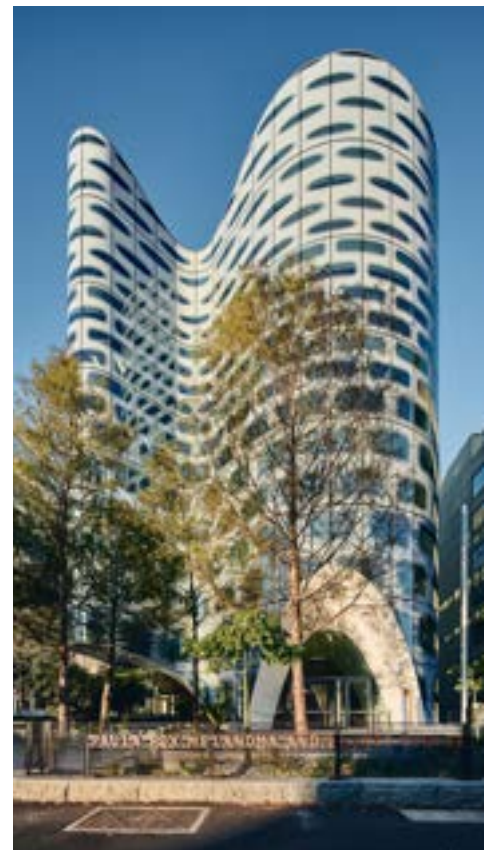
through rigorous consultation and enabled by philanthropic, government, and community support, the project demonstrates the architectural potential of integrated, human-centred healthcare delivery.

Practice team: Lyons (Principal Consultant, Design Architect, Health Planner and Interior Designer)

Consultant / Construction team: Rush\Wright Associates (Landscape Consultant), Meinhardt-Bonnacci (Structural Engineer), Meinhardt-Bonnacci (Civil Consultant), Meinhardt-Bonnacci (Facade Engineer), Philip Chun Advisory (Building Surveyor), One Mile Grid (Traffic Consultant), ID-LAB (Signage & Wayfinding Consultant), Coulter Advisory (Independent Laboratory Peer Reviewer), Madigan Surveying (Land Surveyor), Slattery (Quantity Surveyor), Urbis (Town Planner), Watermans AHW (Hydraulic Consultant), Watermans AHW (Mechanical, Fire Services and Vertical Transport Engineer), UT Consulting (AV Consultant), Watermans AHW (ESD Consultant)

Builder: Commercial Industrial Construction Group Pty Ltd (CICG)

Photographer: Peter Bennetts



Award for Public Architecture

Truganina Community Centre by Jasmax (Canvas Projects)

Bunurong Country

Located within a Growth Corridor in Melbourne's west, Truganina Community Centre is an exemplary model of local infrastructure that has been deeply shaped by a robust process of consultation and the needs of its diverse community.

Deftly navigating the uncertainty of unbuilt developments directly adjacent, the Truganina Community Centre negotiates a complex programme and determinate floor area allowance to provide the public with new library spaces, a community kitchen, maternal health consultation rooms, internet and computer access, multi-purpose rooms and unprogrammed break-out spaces punctuated by access and views to a curated landscape design.

The Centre is a well-detailed, sensitively scaled fine-grain civic node that is a stark contrast to the predominant coarse-grain urbanism of its surrounds. The design consciously challenges the formality of the Council building typology by employing a series of entry points, soft site edges and materiality to deinstitutionalise the form and create an out-reaching, welcoming architectural gesture.

Consultant / Construction team: Lucid Consulting Australia (ESD Consultant), OPS Engineers (Structural Engineer), OPS Engineers (Civil Consultant), Outlines (Landscape Consultant), Simpson Kotzman (Services Consultant), Lisa Waup (Artist), Prowse Quantity Surveyors (Quantity Surveyor), Access Studio (Universal Access Consultant), Octave Acoustics (Acoustic Consultant), Ben Perkins (Signage Consultant), Leigh Design (Waste Consultant), Vining Air (Independent Commissioning Agent)

Builder: Commercial Industrial Construction Group Pty Ltd (CICG)

Photographer: Peter Bennetts



Commendation for Public Architecture

St Mary's Coptic Church by Studio Bright

Country: Wurundjeri

Nestled into a tree-lined corner site in Melbourne's inner west sits the ambitious expansion of St Mary's Coptic Church by Studio Bright. Responding to a complex brief, Studio Bright skilfully catered to the growing needs of this congregation with the addition of new childcare facilities, a community kitchen, spaces for worship and underground carparking.

The design respectfully responds to the site's residential context through the scale and articulation of the building envelope whilst challenging the traditional demarcation of the suburban front fence by extending beyond in a generous civic gesture.

Builder: SJ Higgins Group

Photographer: Rory Gardiner



Commendation for Public Architecture

Dendy Beach Pavilion and Brighton Life Saving Club by Jackson Clements Burrows Architects

Country: Bunurong

Jackson Clements Burrows recessive pavilions replace an ageing surf lifesaving facility with clarity, care, and restraint. Embedded deep within the site, the building's stepped and folded geometry responds to topography and respectfully defers to the adjacent historic bathing boxes. A generous forecourt connects to an expansive stair and tiered ledges that form a civic-scaled amphitheatre—framing views, inviting gathering, and extending the public realm. The jury recognised the generosity of this public entity and its considered prioritisation of site preservation and the enhancement of the visitor experience.

Builder: FOURSQ

Photographer: Peter Clarke



Other entries for Public Architecture



Shortlisted • Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool • CO.OP Studio • Bunurong Country • Photographer Tom Roe



Shortlisted • Eagle Point Foreshore Hub • Common ADR • Gunaikurnai Country • Photographer Thurston Empson



Shortlisted • Glen Huntly Station • COX Architecture with Rush Wright Associates • Bunurong Country • Photographer Peter Clarke



Shortlisted • Deer Park Station • Denton Corker Marshall • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer James Taylor



Shortlisted • Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital • Lyons • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Diana Snape



Shortlisted • Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library • Buchan • Wadawurrung Country • Photographer Tom Roe



Shortlisted • State Basketball Centre • COX Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tom Blachford



Shortlisted • Olivine Community Pavilion • Jasmax (Canvas Projects) • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Peter Bennetts



Marvel Stadium Upgrades • Grimshaw with Smartform & Greenaway Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Peter Bennetts



GMHBA Stadium Stage 5 Redevelopment (Joel Selwood Stand) • Populous • Wadawurrung Country • Photographer Courtesy Populous





Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)

Projects in this category must be residential in nature, generally falling within BCA Class 1a, and must include renovations or alterations or additions to an existing building, whether or not the

building was residential in nature in the first instance. Projects with up to two self-contained dwellings may be entered in this category.



Tara Ward RAIA
Jury chair



Blair Smith RAIA
Juror



Chelsea Telford RAIA
Graduate juror



Antony Martin RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

The Residential Architecture - Houses (Additions and Alterations) category once again lived up to its reputation for attracting a high number of submissions, with 37 entries. Despite being a comparatively well-defined category, the entries displayed a great diversity of briefs, locations, budgets and housing stock. We visited 13 shortlisted projects in coastal, inner-city and suburban Melbourne.

The jury was pleased to see a recurring theme from the 2024 awards in strong work from emerging practices such as SSdH, Office MI-JI, MGAO and Lovell Burton Architecture as well as the first architectural submission from Flack Studio.

For this year's winners, the jury was drawn to projects that carefully balanced the competing concerns that so often come up in housing. The projects navigated neighbourhood context, existing buildings, client's desires, construction costs and sustainability, all while delivering joyful and beautiful homes. A number of projects demonstrated an admirable level of thoughtful detail and rigor despite modest budgets.

The jury was deeply impressed with SSdH's Dunstan, a project that demonstrates how we can respectfully renovate modest but valuable housing stock in a way that enriches rather than detracts from existing neighbourhoods.

The theme of identity and authorship, of working with existing character whilst leaving your own stamp was skilfully handled by Kennedy Nolan's Gunn Ridge House. Lovell Burton's Carlton Cottage is a testament to the transformative power of light, fresh air and garden on tight inner-city sites. Office MI-JI's A Light Addition presents a compelling example of how architects' creative thinking can add value to a project.

It was a privilege to be welcomed into so many homes over our three days of site visits. We believe the winning projects represent a positive contribution to housing design and we warmly congratulate all the winners, shortlisted projects and clients who trusted their architects.

Category sponsor

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The John and Phyllis Murphy Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)

Dunstan by SSdH

Wurundjeri Country

At its heart, Dunstan is a loving response to place. Set within the Newlands Housing Estate, it embodies the garden city aspirations of the original development while acknowledging the reality of our changing suburbs. For SSdH, the sheds, pergolas, clotheslines and carports that dot backyards and driveways are just as much a part of the neighbourhood's visual language as the houses themselves. The inventive handling of these unglamorous but necessary pieces elevates this project.

The observed notions of accumulation and assembly have clearly guided the tectonic response and spatial planning of this home. Courtyard gardens and brick blade walls are used to define spaces, curate views and blur edges. The low slung living pavilion sits under an oversized timber arbour, prioritising its garden and sky connection in a way the original building did not. The collection of new structures sit comfortably in their surroundings - the warmth of the new yellow trim amplifying the purple tones of the existing brick.

SSdH's granular response to context and the practicalities of their

clients' brief has been delivered with playful ingenuity- but in a broader sense, Dunstan is an exemplar of how our suburban buildings can be sensitively revitalised to create meaningful housing.

Practice team: Todd de Hoog (Project Architect), Harrison Smart (Graduate of Architecture)

Consultant / Construction team: McNuttndorff Landscape Design (Landscape Consultant), Code Compliance (Building Surveyor), Donnelly & Co. (Previously R.Bliem & Associates) (Structural Engineer)

Builder: REX Building Pty Ltd

Photographer: Pier Carthew







Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)

Gunn Ridge House by Kennedy Nolan

Wurundjeri Country

Homes pass from family to family, each new caretaker adding their imprint over time, they evolve to successive changes in the way we live. In this way the heritage of a house is like history itself, a continuum made up of overlapping layers. The Gunn Ridge House however, has a richer back story than most homes. Kennedy Nolan have partnered with the current owners to extend a dialogue with the original house designed by Graeme Gunn for John Ridge, with interiors by Jan Faulkner and garden design by Ellis Stone.

Kennedy Nolan's design is simultaneously sensitive and bold. It shifts from subtle interventions to elements that enhance and reimagine the original building fabric through to additions that are bold and easily discernible. It is a conversational approach to heritage, one that politely compliments the good, makes thoughtful suggestions where needed and bold arguments for change where necessary.

Practice team: Rachel Nolan (Design Architect), Patrick Kennedy (Design Architect), Dominic Wells (Project Architect), Marnie Morieson (Project Architect), Hugh Goad (Architect)

Consultant / Construction team: Snyders Engineers (Structural Engineer), Fiona Brockhoff (Landscape Consultant)

Builder: IBuildM

Photographer: Derek Swalwell



Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)
Carlton Cottage by Lovell Burton Architecture
Wurundjeri Country

It's a familiar adage within architecture that the simplest ideas are the hardest to pull-off.

Beyond a revitalised cottage and welcoming front garden, Lovell Burton have created an elegant, adaptable pavilion for the evolving needs of their young family. The new skillion roof discreetly peeps above the cottage roofline, dramatically dipping down towards the rear yard. Ferned courtyards become “gills” for light and air between old and new.

The payoff of this simple and clearly articulated gesture is surprisingly dynamic – where shifts in spatial experience and aspect are offset by the consistency of a singular ceiling plane overhead. A quiet, sophisticated approach to materiality and detailing reinforce the clarity of an overarching concept.

If this home were to be considered a prototype for Lovell Burton's ideology, it has struck an admirable balance: the confidence to experiment, paired with an approach to detail and arrangement that has been refined over time.

Practice team: Joseph Lovell (Design Architect)

Consultant / Construction team: RI Brown (Engineer), JALA Studio (Landscape Consultant)

Builder: Cale Peters Constructions

Photographer: Rory Gardiner



Commendation
for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)

A Light Addition by Office MI—JI

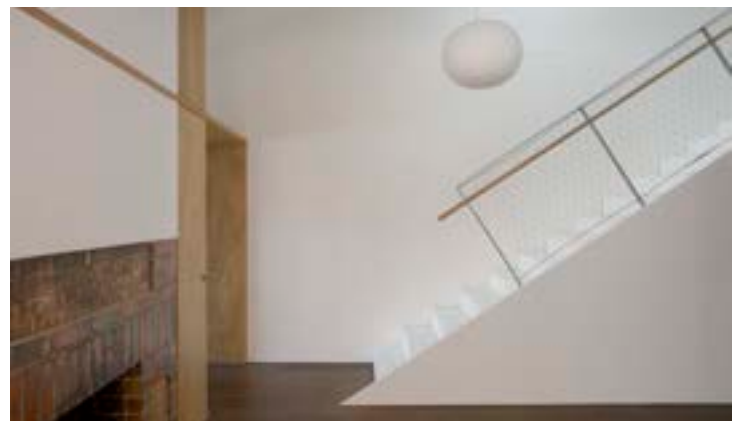
Country: Bunurong

'A Light Addition' gently transforms a constrained site, achieving a balance of connection, lightness, and spatial functionality. A multifaceted veil of obscured glass and a centralised open staircase floods the interior with natural light while offering privacy and connection.

Office MI-JI's approach is resourceful, making ambitious use of an existing steel structure from a prior renovation to support the new upper-level addition, resulting in minimal intervention. The outcome is strategically restrained, contextual, and supports an evolving family home.

Builder: Base Constructs

Photographer: Ben Hosking



Other entries for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)



Shortlisted • Mess Hall • Architecture architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tom Ross



Shortlisted • Park Life • Architecture architecture • Bunurong Country • Photographer Tom Ross



Shortlisted • Fox Hall House • BKK Architects • Bunurong Country • Photographer Shannon Mcgrath



Shortlisted • Domain • Flack Studio • Bunurong Country • Photographer Anson Smart



Shortlisted • Bryant Residence • Freadman White • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Sean Fennessy



Shortlisted • Ayr House • Ha Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Michael Pham



Shortlisted • House in Anglesea • MGAO • Wadawurrung Country • Photographer Jack Lovel



Shortlisted • The Apple House • Sally Draper Architects • Bunurong Country • Photographer Trevor Mein



Shortlisted • Oval House • Topology Studio • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Timothy Kaye



Lanes End • studioPorter • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Fernando Javier Urquijo



Clarke • Austin Maynard Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Derek Swallow



Erindale • Austin Maynard Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Victor Vieaux



Harvest House • Cera Stribley • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tom Ross



Carcassonne • FMD Architects • Bunurong and Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Dianna Snape



Hopetoun Residence • Freadman White • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Sean Fennessy



Princes Hill Residence • Freadman White and Flack Studio • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Gavin Green, Anson Smart



Danson St • Jack Fugaro • Bunurong Country • Photographer Dave Kulesza



Patio and Pavilion • Justin Mallia architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Peter Bennetts



Flow House • Lai Cheong Brown • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Jaime Diaz-Berrio



Allegato • mcmahon and nerlich • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Shannon Mcgrath

Other entries for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)



White House Prahran Egg Terrace • Nervegna Reed Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tommaso Nervegna Reed



Brunswick Corner House • Office Fora • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tom Ross



Goodwin House • Olaver Architecture • Bunurong Country • Photographer Tom Ross



Chaucer House • Pohio Adams Architects • Bunurong Country • Photographer Ryan Wehi



Fitzroy North House • Pop Architecture • Woivurrung Country • Photographer Willem-Dirk du Toit



Bridge House • Powell & Glenn • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Sharyn Cairns



Werrin • RN Architecture • Gadubanud Country • Photographer Peter Bennetts



Barkhill Farmhouse • Sheldon Williamson Architects • Gunaikurnai Country • Photographer Thurston Empson



A House to Gather • Sibling Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Christine Francis



Bank Street House • Technē Architecture & Interior Design • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tom Blachford



Brooklyn • Trower Falvo Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Ben Hosking



Clique • WOWOWA Architecture • Bunurong Country • Photographer Martina Gemmola



Silhouette House • Inbetween Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Peter Bennetts



Residential Architecture – Houses (New)

Projects in this category must be residential in nature, generally falling within BCA Class 1a, and must be new builds. Projects with up to two self-contained dwellings may be entered in this category.



Kim Bridgland RAIA
Jury chair



Andrew Child RAIA
Juror



Cara Banks RAIA
Graduate juror



Matilda Blazey RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

A total of 38 projects were presented, with 13 shortlisted. The submissions represented a wide spectrum of scale, budget, and context — from high-end homes to resourceful, budget-conscious owner-builds. Projects were located on compact inner-city sites, suburban quarter-acre blocks, and expansive coastal and rural settings. The jury appreciated the diversity of opinion and breadth of assessment considerations, which fostered respectful and robust discussions around each project.

The shortlisted projects captured this diversity with clarity. Established practices with access to greater budgets and resources demonstrated the value of experience in delivering refined, high-quality architecture with exceptional detail. Emerging practices were also strongly represented. The jury respected the considerable efforts of architects working with

constrained means to produce inspiring and intelligent design responses — a reminder of the critical role cost-effective architecture plays in shaping responsible, future-ready housing.

Each shortlisted entry exhibited a strong response to site, client brief, and budget, coupled with a commitment to sustainable design and the considered use of natural amenity.

The awarded projects reflect this rich diversity and are united by a clear conceptual framework, an inventive approach to materials and construction, and deeply integrated sustainability. The jury's discussions around housing futures speak to the key concerns of Victorian architecture today. We believe the awarded works offer exemplars of design excellence that will inform and elevate architecture across the state.

Category sponsor



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Harold Desbrowe-Anneer Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)
Hedge and Arbour House by Studio Bright
Wurundjeri Country

Set within a quintessential Melbourne suburb, this project deftly reconciles the tension between domestic suburbia and the wild terrain of the bushland reserve below. A tall sculptural hedge replaces the traditional façade, redefining the street interface and liberating the architecture to engage meaningfully with landscape rather than formal presentation. The design is organised through a series of robust, low-maintenance layers—garden walls, arbour, and landscape thresholds—that mediate privacy, topography, and climatic conditions with remarkable clarity.

Prioritising passive design, the house is oriented to maximise northern light, enable cross-ventilation, and eliminate the need for mechanical conditioning. Living spaces connect seamlessly to contemplative gardens on both sides, creating a home that is compact, efficient, and deeply grounded in its setting.

Through a collaboration with Bush Projects, the landscaping reimagines the suburban garden, introducing native plantings at the entry and a restrained lawn at the rear. In a subtle but powerful

gesture, the building meets the bushland without dominance—draping downward instead of cantilevering out.

This project offers a replicable, forward-thinking model for how suburban housing might evolve—one where built form and environment are not at odds, but are integrated with sensitivity, restraint, and innovation.

Practice team: Melissa Bright (Principal and Design Director), Emily Watson (Director of Architecture), Rob McIntyre (Director for Design Realisation), Pei She Lee (Architect), Maia Close (Architect)

Consultant / Construction team: Sarah Hicks (Landscape Architect), Lucida Landscapes (Landscape), Meyer Consulting (Engineer), Fotia Group (Building Surveyor)

Builder: SJ Higgins Group

Photographer: Rory Gardiner







Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)
 she sells seashells by multiplicity
 Wadawurrung Country

'She Sells, Sea Shells' on the Victorian Surf Coast, evokes the nostalgic fibro beach shack that we recognise from childhood memory. multiplicity tread a confident and atypical path, establishing an exemplar of what a beach home can offer; a place to live simply, enjoy informality, explore architectural quirk, connect with place and others, embrace abandon.

Materials are composed and carefully detailed, speaking to the craft of their assemblage. A dedication to sustainability is evident through prudent spatial planning, recycled and renewable materials, adoption of passive solar principles and energy efficient technology. The specificity of the interior palette; collected shell-encrusted cabinetry, vintage 70's carpet upholstery, wood wool ceilings, cork floors, and FRP panelling is refreshing. It's hard not to feel the joy and sense of whimsy embedded in the dwellings expression, quite clearly a reflection of the owners identity and the tight-knit client-architect relationship which has evolved over multiple projects.

Practice team: Sioux Clark (interior designer), Tim O'Sullivan (Design Architect), Shayne Lacy (Documentation / Administration), Natasha Wheatland (Documenting Architect)

Consultant / Construction team: Tebbs Engineering (Engineer), Mel Ogden Landscapes (Landscape Consultant), Mac Hydronics (hydronic heating installer), Pickerings (timber window & door manufacturers), Innovative Windows (aluminium window & door manufacturer), Urban Renewables (solar pv installer), BSA building surveyors (Building Surveyor)

Builder: Kett & Co

Photographer: Trevor Mein



Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)
Terrace House by Rob Kennon Architects
Wurundjeri Country

Guided by its heritage neighbours, the front elevation of the house provides a restrained street contribution that conceals its unexpected internal spatial organisation.

Essentially three buildings, the house has a surprising external entry via the front building's undercroft and through a delightful courtyard between the two buildings which comprise the main parts of the house.

There is a clever spatial variety throughout this house. Spaces are compressed and expanded as floors are sunken or raised, and areas are tightened or widened as the house moves from private to more public and back again. The separate buildings and alternate pathways through the house provide privacy and flexibility for its inhabitants.

External apertures throughout the house are often pronounced with deep

thresholds that are decoupled from the ceiling and floor planes. These serve to curate views and accentuate the transfer from internal to external spaces.

The project is beautifully detailed and there is a calm materiality throughout. A highly considered and thoroughly resolved outcome.

Practice team: Rob Kennon (Design Architect), Jack Leishman (Project Architect), Mietta Mullaly (Project Architect)

Consultant / Construction team: GJM Heritage (Heritage Consultant), Meyer Consulting (Structural Engineer), Metro Building Surveying (Building Surveyor), Robyn Barlow (Landscape Consultant)

Builder: Overend Constructions

Photographer: Derek Swalwell



Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)
Otway Beach House by Kerstin Thompson Architects
Eastern Maar Country

Otway Beach House redefines fire zone architecture as a platform for expression rather than constraint. Embedded in a coastal slope within a designated Flame Zone, the home deploys an elemental concrete strategy—locally prefabricated panels and deep beams—to create a monolithic form that is both fortress and framework. Living spaces open to the horizon, while bedrooms nestle calmly into the land. The building's sectional narrative, from grounded intimacy to expansive outlook, mirrors the ecological and emotional spectrum of its site. Here, architecture negotiates between domestic and civic: the structural grammar is infrastructural, yet interior warmth is achieved through refined Blackbutt linings and joinery. While the project carries significant embodied energy, it offers a profound provocation on the durability of materials versus the fragility of planning

policy. Initially deemed unbuildable, its eventual realization is a testament to perseverance, technical ingenuity, and design-led advocacy.

Otway Beach House is not just a resilient shelter but a call to rethink how and where we build in a fire-prone future. A grounded, dignified retreat that addresses risk with resolve, and situates architecture as both protector and poetic interlocutor in the coastal Australian landscape.

Practice team: Kerstin Thompson (Design Director), Lynn Chew (Associate Principal), Hilary Sleight (Architect), William Samuels (Architect), Sarah Cooper (Associate Interiors Lead), Laura Patterson (Interior Designer)

Consultant / Construction team: OPS Engineers (Structural, Civil Engineer, Mechanical, Electrical, Hydraulic), YTTRUP & Associates (Geotechnical / Land Management), AGR GeoSciences (Geotechnical / Land Management), Harlock Consulting (Quantity Surveyor), Planning Central (Town Planner), South Coast Bushfire Consultants (Bushfire Consultant), AH & LJ Jeavons (Land Surveyor)

Builder: G.L. Building & Construction

Photographer: Sharyn Cairns



Commendation for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)

Fishharven by Neil Architecture



Country: Bunurong and GunaiKurnai

Fishharven exemplifies a refined rural architecture that is both contextually grounded and forward-thinking. Drawing inspiration from the vernacular farm outbuildings of South Gippsland, its sculptural rooflines and minimalist material palette celebrate restraint, durability, and place. Thoughtfully oriented to capture sweeping views while offering sheltered outdoor living, the home balances ruggedness with warmth. Fishharven stands as a testament to timeless design—deeply rooted in landscape, sustainably crafted, and enriched with a quiet, enduring character.

Builder: Kane Worthy Construction

Photographer: Tom Blachford

Shady Creek Farm House by MRTN Architects



Country: Brataualung

Shady Creek Farm elegantly solves the complexities inherent in its brief; the functional tension between working farm and domestic refuge and polarities of scale; from vast open pasture to inner human sanctum. Diagrammatically these are legible as a series of graduating voids and thresholds. The daily traverse home from the infinite horizon of the sheep paddock through a gravel arrival court encircled by a cluster of rural sheds, through the ubiquitous farm gate (in this case a theatrical colorbond slider) into a walled Australian zen garden. This adept mediation of scale is the ultimate success of the project, paired with the clever adaption and detailing of shale grey Colorbond Corro. Shady creek achieves a lot with the discipline a little.

Builder: Kane Worthy Construction

Photographer: Dave Kulesza

Other entries for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)



Shortlisted • Howqua River Lodge • Rob Mills Architecture & Interiors • Taungurung Country • Photographer Anson Smart



Shortlisted • Grey House • Adam Kane Architects • Dja Dja Wurrung Country • Photographer Timothy Kaye



Shortlisted • Warrandyte House • Figureground Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tasha Tylee



Shortlisted • House on a Hill • Leeton Pointon Architects and Allison Pye Interiors • Bunurong Country • Photographer Lisa Cohen



Shortlisted • House on the Bay • Lovell Burton Architecture • Bunurong Country • Photographer Rory Gardiner



Shortlisted • Dusty Miller House • Not All Architecture • Wathaurong Country • Photographer Tom Ross



C House • AXE Architects • Woiwurrung Country • Photographer Yunwei Xu



Danthonia Passive House • Etha Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Marnie Hawson

Commendation for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)

Stumpy Gully House by Adam Markowitz Design
with Stavrias Architecture



Country: Bunurong

The front elevation of this house provides an elegant contribution to the neighbourhood. A finely detailed procession of timber columns leads from the front carport to a relatively secluded entry door. Within the home, a linear grid expressly orders the columns, raked rafters, window mullions, joinery and lights, providing a subtle logic and a calm order to the spaces. Along with the external expression of this structural grid, timber walls and screens extend into the long north facing garden to subtly modulate this sunny external space. An inventive crafting of timber is evident throughout, from the scale of the building down to the joinery. A highly considered response within the constraints of a tight budget.

Builder: Bakka Constructions

Photographer: Pier Carthew

Other entries for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)



Little Brick House • Ben Callery Architects
• Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Pier Carthew



Huon Creek House • Akimbo Architecture •
Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Jeremy Weihrauch



Parkside • Austin Maynard Architects •
Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tess Kelly



Erskine St. Residence • B.E. Architecture
• Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Martina Gemmola



Blairgowrie Beach Club • Bower
Architecture and Interiors • Wurundjeri
Country • Photographer Shannon McGrath



Eaglemont Residence • Chandler
Architecture Pty Ltd • Bunurong Country •
Photographer Tom Blachford



Maree House • Circle Studio Architects
• Eastern Maar Country • Photographer
Tatjana Plitt



Otway House • Denton Corker Marshall
• Wadawurrung Country • Photographer
Tim Griffith

Other entries for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)



Anglesea House • Eckersley Architects
• Wadawurrung Country • Photographer
Tasha Tylee



Thomas Street House • Embrace
Architects • Bunurong Country •
Photographer Charlotte Jane



KROSS HOUSE • FIGR. Architecture
Studio • Bunurong Country • Photographer
Tom Blachford



Cliff House • Finnis Architecture
and Interiors • Wurundjeri Country •
Photographer Timothy Kaye



Temple House • J. Kidman Architecture
with Golden & Studio Tali Roth •
Jardwadjali Country • Photographer Sean
Fennessy



Horsham House • Jake Taylor Architecture
• Bunurong Country • Photographer Jack
Lovel



Costa's House • Kyriacou Architects •
Gadubanud Country • Photographer
Tom Blachford



Olive Street Cabin • MGAO • Wurundjeri
Country • Photographer Jack Lovel



Coppin Residence • Piccolo Architecture
Pty Ltd • Bunurong Country • Photographer
Peter Clarke



Coastal House • Rob Kennon Architects
• Boonwurrung Country • Photographer
Derek Swalwell



Park St • SGKS ARCH • Bunurong Country
• Photographer SGKS ARCH



Two Parts House • Sonelo Architects •
Bunurong Country • Photographer Pier
Carthew



Norfolk • Travis Walton Architecture •
Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Sharyn
Cairns



Artisan House • Wall Architects •
Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Nicole
England



Contour House • Zen Architects with
Camilla Molders Design • Wurundjeri
Country • Photographer Derek Swalwell





Residential Architecture – Houses (Multiple Housing)

Projects in this category must be residential in nature and comprise of or include two or more self-contained dwellings (whether or not the building includes uses for other purposes).



Claire Humphreys RAIA
Jury chair



John McIlldowie RAIA
Juror



Meagan Velleman RAIA
Graduate juror



Oliver Mayger RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

The multi-residential typology remains uniquely placed to offer diverse financial models, innovative living arrangements and critical land and carbon efficiencies. The shortlisted projects provide quality denser living across all generations and price points, running the gamut from social housing, co-housing and micro housing to more generous apartments conceived to entice buyers away from single residential. Several shortlisted projects are from the government's Big Housing Build and these projects deserve recognition not only for the quality of their architecture and landscaping but also for the engaged support staff and intrepid residents who are energizing the common areas and building these new communities.

The awarded projects share a foundation of consistent amenity, elegant technical resolution, sensitive contextual responses and considered resident and visitor movements. All show an impressive level of care towards each occupant despite very different cohorts and budgets. Each project is ambitious

in extending what the typology can deliver. CROSBY Architect's The Paddock disregarded an existing low-density subdivision to instead provide a successful model for regional low-carbon density and meaningful ecosystem regeneration. At the other end of the plot ratio scale, Splinter Society's Newburgh Light House occupies a footprint of only 150m² next to a train station. The technical complexity of this endeavour is well concealed in its resolution, and it stands as a literal beacon waiting for others to pick up the cue. Clare Cousin Architects' Shiel Street Community Housing uses clever strategies to tackle a complex site, budget and resident profile – efficiency, durability, privacy and safety coexist with sensitively designed apartment balconies, a delightful street entry sequence and well-used rooftop gardens. Breathe's Nightingale Preston challenges the sector to do better not with rhetoric, but with action: by enabling community, embracing climate responsibility, and championing dwelling diversity to address affordability.

Category sponsor



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The Best Overend Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Multiple Housing)
Nightingale Preston by Breathe Architecture
 Wurundjeri Country

Nightingale Preston sets an elevated benchmark for apartment living, prioritising the fundamentals while establishing a lively neighbourhood - both within and to its surrounds. Positioned on a challenging corner site bounded by an elevated train line and tram depot, its robust precast façade addresses this context. The building quickly softens on approach, revealing considered details in the balconies, drainage, metalwork and brickwork. The north-facing ground floor café opens onto a pocket park, providing the ingredients for success. Street frontages are enlivened by ‘Teilhaus’ micro terraces, designed for means-tested first home buyers. These inventive, affordable homes take advantage of a taller ground level and offer layered facades that successfully balance privacy and passive surveillance. The lobby is breezy and welcoming and each floor has light, fresh air and orientating views. True to the Nightingale model, sustainability is embedded in every design choice, from major services to joinery details. Finishes are deliberately pared back but are warmed up by timber, brick, colour, and

hand-painted signage. Residents’ personal expression is evident throughout, with niches in the corridor plan leaving space for an expanded sense of ownership. Shared spaces - workshops, laundry areas, and gardens - are not just amenities but integral parts of daily life. Even a trip to the bin room feels thoughtfully integrated into the overall experience.

Practice team: Jeremy McLeod (Design Architect), Renee Agudelo (Design Architect)

Consultant / Construction team: MAB (Developer), Nightingale Housing (Collaborator), T.C.L (Landscape Consultant)

Builder: Balmain & Co

Photographer: Derek Swalwell







Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Multiple Housing)
 Shiel Street North Melbourne, Community Housing Project by
 Clare Cousins Architects
 Bunurong Country

Anchored by a captivating washed red brick plinth, Shiel Street Community Housing exemplifies how quality housing can be simple, affordable, and uplifting. A single, bold setback challenges planning convention to simplify the building's form, linking the streetscape and tree canopy, while improving value for money and resident amenity.

Communal rooftop gardens occupy the setback, offering generous shared landscape spaces activated by residents, with panoramic views across the city beyond. The upper levels are recessive, textured to offset the brickwork below, and focus on preserving access to natural light. Balconies in particular are provided with thoughtful screening to ensure both privacy and views, with details carried across multiple scales for consistency. Internally, a looping central circulation spine elegantly resolves the complexity of the deep site footprint, improving safety, enabling personalisation, and increasing everyday functionality with additional storage for residents.

A refined and robust material palette is carried throughout, delivering spaces rich in texture and character. Though apartment variation is modest, the project supports NDIS-compliant dwellings and homes managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria, contributing to a socially diverse and inclusive residential community. Flooded with natural light, apartment interiors belie their affordability, demonstrating that thoughtful design can elevate everyday living without compromise.

Practice team: Clare Cousins (Design Architect), Aida Stopa (Project Architect), Matt Sansom (Project Lead/Registered Architect Tasmania), Jessica Wood (Project Architect), Tom Goodchild (Project Architect), Maddie Di Salvo (Project Architect), Timothy Mettam (Project Architect), Jamie Bond (Architectural Assistant)

Consultant / Construction team: Webber Design (Structural Engineer), JBA Consulting Engineers (Services Consultant), JBA Consulting Engineers (ESD Consultant), Omnii (Fire Safety Engineer), RBS Building Surveyors (Building Surveyor), Clarity Acoustics (Acoustic Consultant), Kate Patterson Landscape Architects (Landscape Consultant), Alex Kerr (Artist), Webber Design (Civil Consultant), Tract (Town Planner), DDEG (NCC Consultant), United Building Consultants (Consultant Building Surveyor)

Builder: Buxton Construction

Photographer: Tess Kelly



Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Multiple Housing)

Newburgh Light House by Splinter Society Architecture

Wurundjeri Country

This project is forged from and defined by its site's considerable constraints and sensitive context, responding with a resounding “why not?” The answer is a beautifully simplistic and functional architectural response rising beyond its neighbours, almost imploring them to follow suit.

Located to the rear of a retail strip, adjacent to Vic Track land and the historical Auburn Train Station, the land-locked 150m2 site rises 10 levels, with every millimetre of the site utilised and moulded to provide light-filled and cross-ventilated homes occupying one level each.

Each constraint or hurdle is visible yet invisible in this project's materiality and architectural response. In-situ concrete through the base, required to withstand the impact from a derailed train, manifests in the creation of façade and seating for the small café tenancy on the ground floor. The intricate, interconnected, prefabricated glass block façade panels provide privacy and boundary fire separation whilst maximizing light penetration into the apartments and achieving views.

These south and north facing glass block facades within their repetitive framed grid define the architectural language internally, echoed through the rhythm and proportions of the timber panels, tiling and stone finishes. At night these glazed block facades become a

beacon, or lighthouse, visible across this leafy suburb, or dramatically from the train as it passes through the platform.

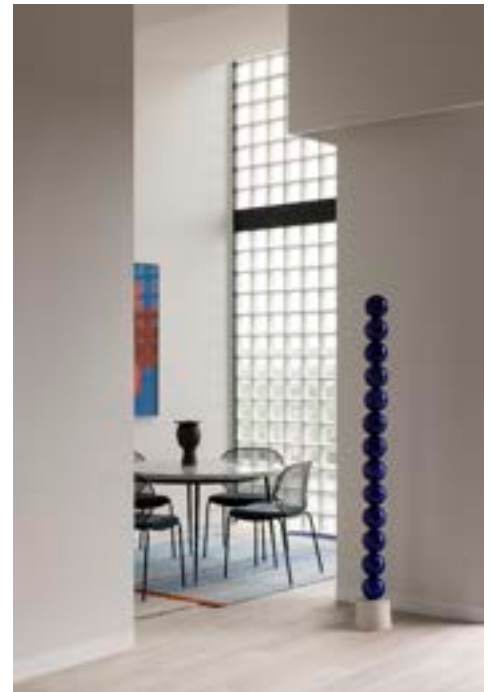
This project challenges the more traditional responses to site and context, resulting in a building that is absolutely of its place and relevant as we look to solutions to utilise our available building plots to further infill and densify our suburbs.

Practice team: Chris Stanley (Design Architect), Asha Nicholas (Design Architect), Wai Yeen Yip (Project Architect), Jake Wilson (Project Architect), Chris Austin (Graduate of Architecture)

Consultant / Construction team: Philip Chun Building Compliance (Building Surveyor), BCE Design (Structural Engineer), Kinematic Building Solutions (Services Consultant), Ark Resources (ESD Consultant), Strategic Consulting (Fire Engineering), Access Solutions National (Disability Consultant)

Builder: WAF Constructions

Photographer: Timothy Kaye



Commendation

for Residential Architecture – Houses (Multiple Housing)

The Paddock by CROSBY architects

Country: Dja Dja Wurrung

The Paddock is a compelling exemplar of ecologically conscious design, developed through shared values and collective input. The masterplan carefully orientates 27 terrace homes in a protective ring around a central landscape space, building both a strong sense of community and engaged stewardship over the shared land. Utilising density to retain landscape, the project demonstrates how regional suburban development can embrace ecological regeneration and resilience. The design thoughtfully incorporates low-impact materials and integrated water and energy strategies.

Builder: Stage 1 - FNG Group, Stage 2 & 3 - Langdon Building, Stage 4 - Regional Home Builders

Photographer: John Gollings



Other entries for Residential Architecture – Houses (Multiple Housing)



Shortlisted • Brighton Social Housing • SJB • Bunurong Country • Photographer Aaron Puls



Shortlisted • Como Terraces • Carr • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tom Ross



Shortlisted • 131 Smith Street • Freadman White • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Derek Swalwell



Shortlisted • Assemble 15 Thompson Street, Kensington • Hayball • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tom Ross



Shortlisted • Bangs Street Prahran • Jackson Clements Burrows Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tom Blachford



Shortlisted • Housing Choices Preston • Six Degrees Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tom Roe



Shortlisted • The Victoria Street Collective • Zen Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Tom Ross



Shortlisted • Westgarth • Walter Walter • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Pier Carthew



North Melbourne PHRP • McBride Charles Ryan • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer John Gollings



Scape Victoria • Denton Corker Marshall with Plus Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer James Taylor



161 Eastern • Kavellaris Urban Design • Bunurong Country • Photographer Veeral Patel



The Gladstone • Studio.SC • Dja Dja Wurrung Country • Photographer Greystar



The Walton • Warren and Mahoney • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Courtney King



Beach House • Warren and Mahoney • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Mark Roper

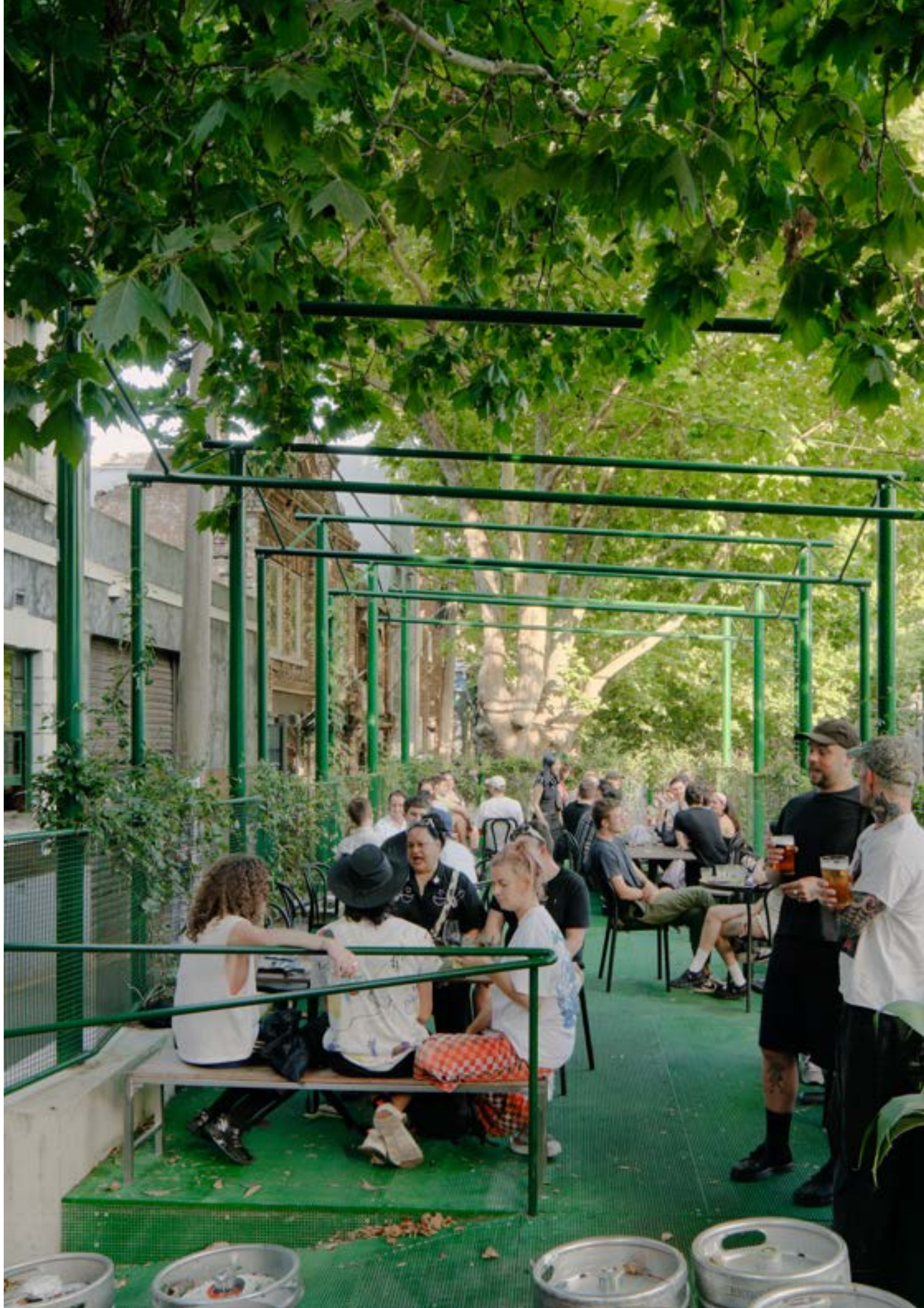


Esplanade Brighton • Wood Marsh Architecture • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Derek Swalwell



Mitchell Street Residences • C.Kairouz Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Rubin Utama





Small Project Architecture

Projects in this category will be those considered to be “small” in terms of area or budget. Projects are recognised that have been constrained by space or cost restrictions, but have achieved a level of invention, creativity and craftsmanship despite these constraints.

This category can accommodate projects, typically projects in the public realm, which may be over-looked against larger scale projects in other categories or may be transient or experimental in nature. Projects of all functional types may be considered.



Holly Board RAIA
Jury chair



James Taylor RAIA
Juror



Rachael de iongh RAIA
Graduate juror



Hugh Goad RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

Inventiveness, experimentation, social responsibility and craftsmanship formed the essence of this year's Small Project Architecture entries. As a jury it was a joy to be presented with the enthusiasm, creativity and rigour displayed in the diverse entries submitted. Whilst most projects were public in nature, budgets and scales ranged from petite to more moderate, serving a variety of population scales.

Many of the projects explored ideas of memory; though an exploration of materiality, site history and identity, and collective contextual narratives. The presence of water was also an influencing factor in many of the small project's identities and expressions. How water was captured, directed and managed was a source of celebration in many projects presented.

Of the projects shortlisted a variety of urban settings and stunning landscape environments were present, with half being regionally located. Two of the projects – Malop Arcade and Fourth Green Bridge established renewed linkages within their

context, the outcome being embraced by the communities they serve. Grace Darling Hotel Parklet and Wangun Amphitheatre both facilitated the gathering of people, celebrating the coming together of friends and community. As a jury we once again gained the immense benefit from site visits, where an honest appraisal of a project was able to be undertaken along with the gift of experience that comes with being in place.

We warmly congratulate all shortlisted and awarded projects. Ultimately the jury was unanimous in its awarding of the Named Award, a project that exemplifies the value and mighty strength that small can entail – the Grace Darling Hotel Parklet. Clever thinking and problem-solving result in Ambition and Impact coming together in this humble little project creating a thriving piece of architecture, meticulously detailed and sensitively set within its context; an oasis of experience for the pubgoer within the modest setting of an urban parklet.

Category sponsor



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The Kevin Borland Award for Small Project Architecture

Grace Darling Hotel Parklet by Kerry Kounnapis Architecture Practice

Wurundjeri Country

Not many good and lasting things came out of the pandemic. Parklets are a typology that became commonplace during that time, and few are either good or lasting. We are happy that the Grace Darling Hotel Parklet by Kerry Kounnapis Architecture Practice (KKPA) is here to stay as a permanent parklet, and attest to its playful and considered execution. The project has its own personality, independent of the bar venue, successfully speaking to this city's public furniture, toilets, and kiosks, through its use of colour and form made from well-detailed steel elements.

The bluestone kerb and gutter make for a tricky surface to house tables for alcoholic beverages, however KKPA have managed this and the sloping street expertly via small non-descript adjustable legs, atop which floating concrete pads and planting beds sit to create a level datum. These create a rhythm and pattern, both in elevation and plan. Each element, whether it be the zig-zagging balustrading and handrails, up to the roof structure, have a unique language, yet are purposeful. The outcome positions patrons up and between the two adjoining trees at branch

level, is pleasing on the eye as a whole, and grabs at every chance it has been given to produce great design and creativity.

Practice team: Kerry Kounnapis (Design Architect)

Consultant / Construction team: Yarra City Council (Authority), Maurice Farrugia and Associates (Structural Engineer)

Builder: Good Wood Sugar Pty Ltd

Photographer: Tom Ross







Award for Small Project Architecture
 Geelong Laneways: Malop Arcade by NMBW Architecture Studio
 with ASPECT Studios
 Bunurong Country

Geelong Laneways: Malop Arcade is a subtle yet impactful transformation that demonstrates a nuanced approach at both the strategic and fine-grain scale. Through adaptive reuse and alteration of a two-storey building, NMBW has created a generous, poetic pedestrian link and public space that stitches together the laneways of Geelong's CBD.

Through detailed forensic investigation by the project team, this exemplary project has carefully and meticulously revealed the site's unique layers of history. With a nod to the memory of the original building, new elements—noticeably a galvanised steel earthquake structure—stand in deliberate contrast to the existing brick, timber, and bluestone fabric. Water is celebrated through a landscape strategy that channels rainwater into planters and sunken garden beds animating, in time, the public path with greenery. Malop Arcade successfully helps to connect the Geelong laneways whilst honouring its layered history through a restrained

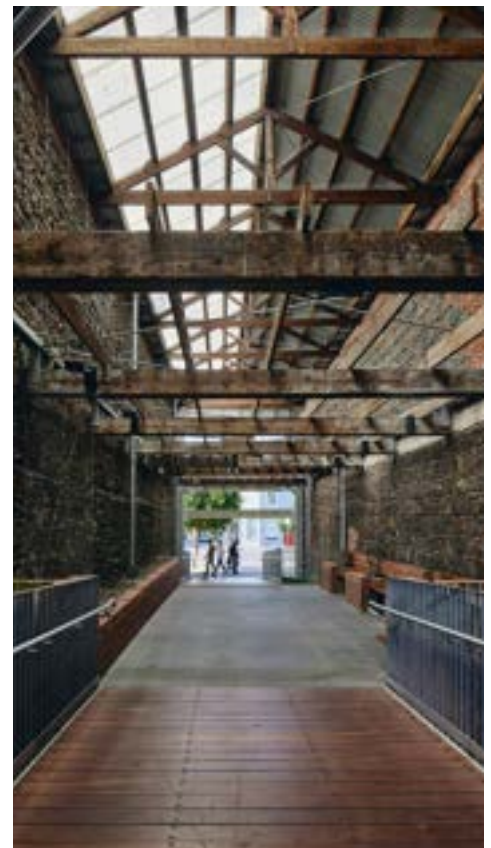
architectural approach, reminding us that restraint can often deliver the most profound impacts.

Practice team: Marika Neustupny (Design Architect), Nigel Bertram (Design Architect), Lucinda McLean (Design Architect), Jonathon Yeo (Project Architect), Fiona Robertson (Graduate of Architecture), Laura Bruscia (Student of Architecture), Matthew Mackay (ASPECT Studios), Terence Stapleton (ASPECT Studios), Xiao Lin (ASPECT Studios)

Consultant / Construction team: Akt. Project Management (Project Manager), FMG Engineering (Structural Engineer), WSP (Civil Consultant), ZINC Cost Management (Quantity Surveyor), BSA Building Surveyors (Building Surveyor)

Builder: Rendine Constructions Pty Ltd

Photographer: Peter Bennetts



Commendation for Small Project Architecture

Wangun Amphitheatre by Equity Office

Country: Gunaikurnai

Nestled amongst eucalypts on Gunaikurnai land, the Wangun Amphitheatre encapsulates the importance of co-creation design and connection with land. Rather than dominating the site, the amphitheatre sits in harmony with it, aligning with view lines, cross winds, and sacred spaces.

From the outset, the design was guided by cultural consultation and on-Country workshops that reflected local knowledge and needs. Architectural features here local artisans and materials. It stands not only as a shelter, but as a space of teaching, ceremony, and ongoing connection to Country.

Builder: CADBuild Construction

Photographer: Rory Gardiner



Other entries for Small Project Architecture



Shortlisted • Fourth Green Bridge • Inarc Architects • Bunurong Country • Photographer Timothy Kaye



East West Play Structure • Pop Architecture and Revival Projects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Willem-Dirk du Toit



Lake Wendouree Boat House • Luke Jarvis Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Luke Jarvis



Macleod Village Public Amenities • Cassisi Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Ari Hatzis



Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre Changing Places Facility & Parenting Rooms • Folk Architects • Bunurong Country • Photographer Lillie Thompson



Urban Design

Projects in this category may be single buildings, groups of buildings or nonbuilding projects, studies or masterplans, which are of public, civic or urban design in nature. Awarded projects

must have enhanced the quality of the built environment or public domain or contribute to the wellbeing of the broader community.



Anna Maskiel RAIA
Jury chair



Michael Frazzetto RAIA
Juror



Emily Sproule RAIA
Graduate juror



Mena Kubba RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

Projects considered by the Urban Design Jury in 2025 spanned the full spectrum of building types that support our shared lives in Melbourne: a stadium, housing projects, schools, train stations and sporting clubs. Common threads included ecological repair, infill and the revitalisation of existing buildings and places. Projects' timelines varied from 4 months construction to 14 years from start-to-finish, reflecting the varied procurement and policy settings Architects expertly navigate as they continually repair and remake our city. Client types varied too – we saw Architects advocating for the public good across both the public and private

sectors, finding ways to deliver on clients' varying requirements whilst enhancing public spaces, equity, access and sustainability. The most successful projects demonstrated innovation in their typologies – in some cases, like Munarra Centre of Excellence, they broke with conventional wisdom to privilege iconography and impact for community. In other cases, like Glenn Huntly Train Station, the innovation is a result of quiet, incremental pushing of boundaries resulting in a station that feels on the one hand familiar but also remarkably generous, easy to navigate and beautiful.



The Joseph Reed Award for Urban Design
 Glen Huntly Station by COX Architecture with Rush Wright Associates
 Bunurong Country

Sitting prominently on Glen Huntly Road, the new train station, delivered as part of the level crossing removal program, deftly supports seamless, generous connectivity across multiple transport modes. The complexity of the site at the start of the project: congestion, complex electrical infrastructure and entrapment of commuters in the 'snorkel' to exit the station has been so expertly resolved, the end result feels effortless for users. Leveraging their expertise in station design, Cox tested multiple station configurations, driving an outcome that prioritises solar access, a generous public realm, exceptional amenity and a strong sense of this place.

The project delivers site-based sustainability initiatives such as rooftop solar and water-sensitive landscaping but, perhaps more importantly, encourages increased human-powered and public transport through the eastern suburbs. Delivered over an extraordinary 4 month construction timeframe, the exceptional result reflects the fluency of the project team with this particular typology, procurement and delivery method. Glen

Huntly station exemplifies what we need more of: nuanced, site-specific generous and high-quality public spaces.

Practice team: Andrew Hayes (Design Architect), Jessica Chapman (Project Architect), Rae Ong (Project Architect), Valerie Leong (Project Architect), Amanda Barker (Project Architect), Colin Wilson (Project Architect), Vanessa Jackson (Project Architect), Teina Purdie (Project Architect), Duy Dang (Project Architect), Nitesh Janakiraman (Project Architect), Nazanin Shaigan (Project Architect), Junhong Huang (Project Architect), Ann Gie Tee (Project Architect), Philippa Choong (Project Architect), Sam Chesbrough (Project Architect), Paula Alvarez-Garcia (BIM Manager)

Consultant / Construction team: Acciona Coleman Rail Joint Venture (Construction Manager), WSP (Engineer) Beca (Engineer), Rush Wright Associates (Landscape Consultant), CODUS (Building Surveyor), Philip Chun (DDA Consultant), Meagan Streader (Artist)

Builder: Acciona Coleman Rail Joint Venture

Photographer: Peter Clarke







Award for Urban Design
Dendy Beach Pavillion and Brighton Life Saving Club by
Jackson Clements Burrows Architects
Bunurong Country

More than a decade in the making, Dendy Beach Pavillion is an exceptional re-making of a place that is many things to many people: a tourist icon, a local surf lifesaving club, a part of the bay's edge. The urban design response seamlessly knits together these varying, occasionally competing, demands into a rugged, cohesive whole that seems embedded in place. A good neighbour that has improved the legibility and public realm along the foreshore, the Pavillion is cleaved in two to create an un-briefed central bleacher stair, the new hero of the site. The careful urban design of this modest community building offers visitors and locals alike a place to hang, to watch the sunset, a destination to cross the bay to visit. After many long years, the Pavillion feels contemporary and site responsive – demonstrating the endurance of the design.

Practice team: Graham Burrows (Design Director), Vervan Curnow (Project Director), Simon Beeton (Architect), Joe Shepherd (Architect), Thom McCarthy (Architect), Stephanie Burton (Architect)

Consultant / Construction team: Site Office – Landscape Architecture (Landscape Consultant), Stantec (Engineer),

WSP (Pavement design), Storm (WSUD), Waterman AHW (Engineer), Slattery (Cost Consultant), McKenzie Group (Building Surveyor), Before Compliance (Universal Access), Traffix Group (Traffic Engineering), Lovel Chen (Heritage Consultant), BG&E (Façade), Gincat (Fire Safety), Homewood Consulting (Arborist), Ecology & Heritage Partners (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage), Cardno (Geomorphology) FJP Safety Advisors (Safety in Design), Hardrock (Geotechnical), Landserv Environment (Soil Contamination)

Builder: FOURSQ

Photographer: Peter Clarke



Commendation for Urban Design

Munarra Centre for Regional Excellence by ARM Architecture

Country: Yorta Yorta

You spot the Munarra Centre of Excellence long before you arrive – a chamfered colossus on the outskirts of Shepparton singing out in black, yellow and red. A demonstration of community pride it is front and centre, loud and proud. The new Centre of Excellence together with other site works including a bridge to give access to the football field, netball courts and change rooms (including new facilities) re-organises how community enter, approach and use these vital community spaces.

Builder: TVN on Country

Photographer: Peter Bennetts



Other entries for Urban Design



Shortlisted • Marvel Stadium Upgrades • Grimshaw with Smartform & Greenaway Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Simon Anson



St Kilda Primary School • Law Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Derek Swalwell



Canopi Valley Lake, Keilor East • Bird de la Coeur Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Guy Lavoipierre



Melbourne Place • Kennedy Nolan • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Derek Swalwell



Tullamore, Doncaster • Mirvac Design • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer James Newman



Sustainable Architecture

This category recognises projects which excel as architecture, and also display innovation and excellence in terms of environmental sustainability.



Deb Adams RAIA
Jury chair



Kieran Leong RAIA
Juror



Elias Hanna RAIA
Graduate juror



Shanica Saenrak Hall RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

In this year's Sustainability awards there were a total of 39 entries, from this 13 were selected to present to jurors following a review of the submitted material. The presentations allowed the entrants to showcase additional material and for the jury to ask any questions to better understand the projects. Further to this 6 were shortlisted and received site visits.

This year's projects highlighted innovative responses to sustainability across housing, education, commercial and public sectors in a variety of forms and scales. Site visits were undertaken over two sessions and provided valuable deeper insight into the thinking behind each of the selected schemes.

The competition between the Named and Architecture award was a close contest, however The Paddock by Crosby Architects took out the Named award impressing the judges with its ambitious Living Building Challenge targets, extensive materials research and thorough stakeholder engagement to not only create buildings with highly sustainable outcomes,

but also a sustainable community. The Architecture award winner, Woodleigh Regenerative Futures Studio, is an exemplar of sustainable education design. Each material has been meticulously selected for its sustainable credentials and waste has been minimized through both the building's design as well as during construction. The project both supports, and is integral to, the pedagogical approach of the school and delivers not only a sustainable home for students but also local plant life and insects.

The commendation was awarded to Searle and Waldron's Northern Memorial Park Depot for its intelligent integration of sustainability within an unconventional and challenging building typology, creating a warm, welcome and durable environment for the parks staff.

Congratulations to all the participants in the 2025 Sustainability category, particularly to those who were shortlisted and received awards.



The Allan and Beth Coldicutt Award for Sustainable Architecture
 The Paddock by CROSBY architects
 Dja Dja Wurrung Country

The Paddock is a regenerative housing project that reimagines the scope and responsibility of architectural practice. Through 27 healthy, low-impact homes, it supports a thriving community and ecosystem. Guided by Living Building Challenge principles, Crossley Architects collaborated with researchers, ecologists and future residents to deliver a biophilic response that brings nature and people together. Five townhouse clusters frame a sunlit, sheltered landscape of food gardens, orchards and wetlands. A strong ecological intent was embedded from the outset, and today the site is witnessing the return of native species.

While generous in its positive impacts, the Paddock is minimal in its physical and ecological footprint. The 85-125m², 2-4 bedroom homes are 100% electric, achieve over 8 stars NatHERS and use rainwater for laundry and toilet flushing. More than four times the electricity consumed is generated. Every building element was rigorously assessed to minimise embodied carbon, exclude toxins and avoid red-list materials. Recycled and locally sourced materials were prioritised as

were local builders and trades, all without compromising performance or quality.

The jury was impressed by the project's restorative impact on the site, its support for sustainable living and the architects' holistic commitment to a harmony of architecture, community and place. The Paddock offers an inspiring model for regenerative residential design.

Practice team: Geoff Crosby (Design Architect), Jennifer Pryce (Documentation & Administration), Kylie Ashby (Documentation & Administration), Lucy Williams (Project Architect), Annabel Mazzotti (Materials Research & Specification), Matt Brebner (Student Architect - Documentation), Bhargav Sridhar (Student Architect - Systems Research, Imaging), Hannah Miller (Documentation), Debbie Taylor (Client & Purchaser & Event Liaison)

Consultant / Construction team: Bush Projects (Landscape Consultant), Vivid Civil Engineering (Civil Consultant), Remi Rauline (Project Manager), Lycopodium (Electrical Consultant), Vivid Civil Engineer (Structural Engineer), David Broad & Co (Hydraulic Consultant), Alternative Technologies Association (Renew) (Energy Consultant), Concepz Town Planners (Town Planner), Lewin Energy Ratings (Energy Rater), EGBP Building Surveyors (Building Surveyor), Adrian Cummins & Associates (Land Surveyor), Blue Environments (Waste Management Consultant), Geotechnical Testing Services (Geotechnical Engineer), Biourban (Ecological Analysis), DBQS Consulting (Quantity Surveyor), Ehpic Assessments (Wastewater Consultant), C J Arms & Associates (Water Balance)

Builder: Stage 1 - FNG Group, Stage 2 & 3 - Langdon Building, Stage 4 - Regional Home Builders

Photographer: John Gollings







Award for Sustainable Architecture
Woodleigh Regenerative Futures Studio LLDS by McLidowie Partners
 with Joost Bakker
 Bunurong Country

This project represents the very best of sustainable practice in educational design. Situated on regenerated farmland the building embodies the pedagogical goals of the school, providing an opportunity for students to gain real-world learning through the design.

Judges were impressed by the depth of sustainable thinking and how this is woven into the the incredible learning environment created.

The project goes above and beyond conventional sustainable considerations, sequestering carbon through hemp joinery, straw Durra panels and the 800sqm green roof, which also enriches biodiversity, providing a home for endangered butterflies. Materials are adapted and reused, such as timber from St Kilda pier and waste textiles used in acoustic panels. Waste was significantly minimised in both design and construction; 95% was diverted from landfill. Careful consideration was also given to the impact materials have on the health and wealth being of end users and contractors.

Aligned values across client, design team and contractor has led to a highly successful outcome, one which the team should be very proud of.

Practice team: Frank Burridge (Project Architect), John McLidowie (Design Architect), Craig (Project) Director, Elizabeth Burger (Interior Designer)

Consultant / Construction team: Joost Bakker (Design Lead), Sam Cox Landscape (Landscape Consultant), TGA Engineers (Structural Engineer), BRT Consulting (Services Consultant), A2M Consulting (Cost Consultant)

Builder: South East Building Services (SEBS)

Photographer: Earl Carter



Commendation for Sustainable Architecture

Northern Memorial Park Depot by Searle x Waldron Architecture

Country: Wurundjeri

The Northern Memorial Park Depot holistically integrates sustainability and biophilic design within an unconventional building typology to foster human connection, calmness, and wellbeing. Early collaboration and a sensitive reading of user needs in an emotionally challenging workplace allowed the project to respond thoughtfully to its diverse context. The design balances staff wellbeing, material selection, orientation, and longevity with complex operational demands. The project embraces its digitally fabricated engineered Mass Timber structure (Cross Laminated Timber and Spruce Glulam Timber), which enables visual and physical connection between both levels and framed views of the landscapes beyond. Locally sourced bricks from a neighbouring factory further ground the project in place. The 100% electric building, powered by a 99kWp solar PV system, utilises a centralised heat-pump for hot water and VRV systems for heating and cooling.

Builder: Building Engineering

Photographer: Peter Bennetts



Other entries for Sustainable Architecture



Shortlisted • Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool • CO.OP Studio • Bunurong Country • Photographer Tom Roe



Shortlisted • Danthonia Passive House • Etha Architecture • Dja Dja Wurrung Country • Photographer Marnie Hawson



Shortlisted • Larnangurrak (Our Place) - Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate and Community Centre • Y2 Architecture • Dja Dja Wurrung Country • Photographer Leon Schoots



COLORBOND® Award for Steel Architecture

The COLORBOND® Award recognises projects in which steel products play a significant role in the architectural solution and which exemplify innovation in the use of steel products. Use of

BlueScope products, including COLORBOND®, is a criterion for selection or award.



Christopher Botterill RAIA
Jury chair



Laura Bailey RAIA
Juror



Brian Duong RAIA
Graduate juror



Bianca Dentesano RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

This year's entries for the Colorbond Steel in Architecture award covered a wide array of typologies from small residential alteration and additions projects to more substantial civic, workplace and cultural projects. Projects presented to the jury also covered varying contexts, including bucolic landscapes perched over inland lakes, renewal of inner-city landscapes and tight urban infill sites.

The jury unanimously agreed on the themes and principles to judge this year's award, seeking architecture that was innovative, responsive to its context and cultural identity - not a test of material quantum.

A shortlist was derived from the 10 presentations that clearly communicated to the jury the design merit and aspirations of each project. Over 2 days the jury visited the projects and

deliberated feverishly on their value and points of difference, always reflecting on the core purpose of the award criteria to derive a decision.

Whilst all shortlisted projects were selected on the merits of the Architecture holistically, the projects awarded by the jury were exemplary in demonstrating the capability of Australian steel to innovate and fulfill the design intentions.

Architecture that re-interpreted the use of steel as a material 'fit for purpose' and narrated a story of the sites' cultural history and future were what stood out to the jury and were awarded accordingly.

The Jury would like to thank all entrants into this years Colorbond Awards for Steel in Architectures.

Category sponsor



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COLORBOND® Award for Steel Architecture
 Casuarina Pavilion by Greenaway Architects (GA) Architects
 Bunurong Country

Nested in the surrounds of the new Metro Tunnel precinct, Casuarina Pavilion emerges, providing shelter amongst the renewed landscape which celebrates the collection of water and disbursement into the surrounding site.

The abstracted roof profile draws inspiration from the Sheoak tree that existed in the sites' pre-colonial landscape, which the Jury found was an imaginative use of proprietary steel profiles. A structure that is finely detailed yet robust and enduring.

The chamfered gutter sits proud of the pavilion and like the leaves of the Sheoak, drips and flows back to the water on the site. Whilst the angular structure allowed for the adaptive reuse of the footings on the site.

An exemplar project to the power to which steel architecture can simultaneously blend effortlessly into its context and yet stand out with striking presence to achieve a refined harmony between the built form and the surrounding natural environment.

Practice team: Jefa Greenaway (Design Architect), Kyle Borg (Documentation Lead), Byron Watson (Documentation Support), Maya Wong (Project Architect)

Consultant / Construction team: Hassell (Landscape Consultant), ARUP (Structural Engineer), Maynard (Wayfinding), RSHP (Peer Review), City to Coast Architectural (Fabricator), Spiers and Major (Lighting Consultant)

Builder: Lendlease (as part of the Cross Yarra Partnership)

Photographer: Peter Casamento





Commendation for COLORBOND® Award for Steel Architecture

Munarra Centre for Regional Excellence by ARM Architecture

Country: Yorta Yorta

Munarra's large turtle shell-like protective armour of the Centre for Regional Excellence provides a loud, proud and welcoming envelope. ARM's material selection speaks symbolically to cultural use, but also as an economical large span roof and wall skin.

The external structure drapes over the program inside, allowing for a constant connection to the central courtyard, a place of 'coming together' and connection to the sky. The jury commends the use of a proprietary material, curated to speak loudly in a durable and long-lasting manner.

Builder: TVN on Country

Photographer: Peter Bennetts



Other entries for COLORBOND® Award for Steel Architecture



Shortlisted • A Light Addition • Office
MI—JI • Bunurong Country • Photographer
Ben Hosking



Shortlisted • Fitzroy North House • Pop
Architecture • Woivurrung Country •
Photographer Willem-Dirk du Toit



Casuarina Pavilion • Greenaway Architects (GA) Architects • Photographer: Peter Casamento



Maggie Edmond Enduring Architecture Award

Buildings of outstanding merit that, considered in a contemporary context, remain important as high quality works of architecture.

Open to buildings in Victoria of at least 25 years of age.



Category sponsor

City of Melbourne recognises the importance of celebrating excellent design, that creates a positive long-term legacy for Country and people, which is why we're proud to be supporting the Enduring Architecture Award.



The Maggie Edmond Enduring Architecture Award Stanhill Apartments by Frederick Romberg Bunurong Country

Frederick Romberg's Stanhill Flats, designed in 1945 and completed in 1951, stand as a landmark of Australian Modernism. One of only two high-rise buildings approved in Melbourne during the post-war austerity period, it embodies both architectural innovation and the ambitions of its client, Stanley Korman—whose personal apartment crowns the building's ninth floor.

Following the earlier Newburn flats, also by Romberg and Shaw, Stanhill continued the use of off-form concrete and introduced early central refrigeration. It broke decisively from the era's conventional U-shaped apartment layouts, adopting a bold asymmetrical form that steps toward Queens Road, responding sensitively to site, park, and neighboring buildings.

Romberg's design reflects the influence of Aalto, Scharoun, and Haering, particularly in his human-scaled massing, formal variation, and use of transparency. The building's southern elevation evokes Melbourne's row-house verandahs, while its north-facing sculptural concrete and sunshading gestures toward Aalto's

sanatorium and housing precedents.

Stanhill was misunderstood by some early critics, yet its influence deepened over time, particularly from the 1970s onward. It is now recognized as a seminal and richly inventive work that helped define the trajectory of Australian multi-residential architecture and gave its name to the national award for apartment design. It is a most fitting recipient of the Maggie Edmond Enduring Architecture Award.

Photographer: Wolfgang Sievers, 1951 (source: State Library Victoria)





Stanhill Apartments • Frederick Romberg • Photographer: Wolfgang Sievers, 1951 (source: State Library Victoria)



EmAGN Project Award

The EmAGN Project Award is a celebration of a project that has come about through the process of valuing and recognising the contributions members of the EmAGN demographic make, in the

areas of leadership, collaboration and application of expertise and quality of architecture.



David Wagner FRAIA
Jury chair



Claire Ward RAIA
Juror



Jonas Nutter RAIA
Graduate juror



Simona Falvo RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

Now in its fourth year as an award and third with a dedicated jury and site visits, the EmAGN Project Award celebrates excellence in projects where members within fifteen years of graduation and ten years of registration have led or made a significant contribution in the areas of leadership, collaboration, application of expertise and quality of architecture. Sometimes this is by practices with EmAGN cohort directors or sometimes where EmAGN cohort members have been the project architect or played a major role in the project delivery within established practices.

Jury presentation day was inspirational with the EmAGN cohort displaying a significant and enthusiastic understanding of their profession, portraying some fifteen fascinating and innovative projects. The EmAGN jury was treated to a vast array of projects with EmAGN involvement varying from small house extensions and new houses to first Nations' education centres, a stadium redevelopment, a large inner-city multiple residential

development and even a boat house! At the end of the day, six projects were shortlisted for site visits which occurred across two days. The shortlisted projects were 'BVIA on Bank' by Agius Scorpo Architects, 'Echo House' by 'Parabolica', 'Dunstan' by SSdH, 'Clique' by WOWOWA Architecture, 'Dusty Miller House' by Not All Architecture and 'North Melbourne PHRP' by McBride Charles Ryan.

After completing the site visits which included guided tours and explanations by their architects, the jury narrowed the selection down to two wonderful projects: the 'Dusty Miller House', a new house in Anglesea; and 'Dunstan', an extension to a 1930s house in Preston. The jury went back through the submissions, discussed and after further deliberation selected 'Dunstan' for its highly resolved, considered and crafted residential extension that best responded to the awards criteria and demonstrated a skill level beyond the years of its authors. Congratulations SSdH!

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EmAGN Project Award
Dunstan by The EmAGN Members of SSdH
Wurundjeri Country

At first glance from the street, 'Dunstan' presents the familiar domestic qualities that one may find in the well kept suburbs of Melbourne's outer neighbourhoods, a tidy brick facade, a considered garden greeting its street, a porched entry. However as one lingers a little longer outside this home, it becomes clear that this 'Dunstan' is far more than the typical suburban house.

SSdH have crafted a sequence of highly functional yet playful spaces that gently touch the existing home and extend into the rear garden. Within the existing house, a light touch approach has brought new life into the existing rooms, allowing considered joinery pieces and material choices to celebrate a new chapter for the occupants. A discernible sense of expressed elemental composition pervades while a series of courtyards populate the interior with garden views and extensive daylighting. Each finish, each material, each junction of 'Dunstan' has been considered for its contribution to the spatial journey and the experiential whole.

The Jury was impressed by the thoughtful and technical detailing that

pervades this project. 'Dunstan' is truly a delight and a worthy winner of the 2025 EmAGN Project Award.

Practice team: Todd de Hoog (Project Architect), Harrison Smart (Graduate of Architecture)

Consultant / Construction team: McNuttndorff Landscape Design (Landscape Consultant), Code Compliance (Building Surveyor), Donnelly & Co. (Previously R.Bliem & Associates) (Structural Engineer)

Builder: REX Building Pty Ltd

Photographer: Pier Carthew





Other entries for EmAGN Project Award



Shortlisted • BVIA on Bank • Agius Scorpo Architects • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Thurston Empson



Shortlisted • Echo House • PARABOLICA • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer Pier Carthew



Shortlisted • Clique • WOWOWA Architecture • Bunurong Country • Photographer Martina Gemmola



Shortlisted • Dusty Miller House • Not All Architecture • Wathaurong Country • Photographer Tom Ross



Shortlisted • North Melbourne PHRP • McBride Charles Ryan • Wurundjeri Country • Photographer John Gollings



Emerging Architect Prize

The Emerging Architect Prize recognises an emerging architect's contribution to architectural practice, education, design excellence and community involvement.

Emerging Architect Prize Stephanie Kitingan, Jacqueline O'Brien, and James Flaherty

Stephanie Kitingan, Jacqueline O'Brien, and James Flaherty are deserving winners of the 2025 Emerging Architect Prize for Victoria. This trio has made prolific and generous contributions to the practice and culture of architecture through their emerging studio, Placement.

Their design excellence is matched by a collaborative, people-centred approach, evident across their architectural and teaching work. This ethos extends

beyond the studio to active service within the profession and broader community — from leading EmAGN initiatives to delivering impactful projects with recent migrants and marginalised groups. The jury commends Stephanie, Jacqueline, and James not only for the quality of their work, but for the way they work — with humility, clarity, and generosity.

Placement studio represents a model for a thoughtful, socially engaged

architectural practice. Their ability to sustain and grow a meaningful practice amid the current pressures facing small, emerging studios is especially noteworthy. The jury congratulates Stephanie, Jacqueline and James on the strength and timeliness of their collective approach and wishes them much success with their future endeavours.

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Stephanie Kittingan, Jacqueline O'Brien, and James Flaherty • Placement • Image: Supplied

Bates Smart Award for Architecture in Media

The Bates Smart Award for Architecture in the Media is Australia's most prestigious media award for journalists, editors, producers and event organisers working in the field of architecture and design. It is an annual award to encourage and to recognise media discussion of architecture.



Daniel Kumnick RAIA
Jury chair



Toby Reed FRAIA
Juror



Rachel Hurst FRAIA
Juror

Category sponsor



Advocacy Award

When Robin Boyd Went to Japan

by NMBW Architecture Studio and Robin Boyd Foundation with CIBI

Worthy of the highest recognition, this compelling submission focuses on the work and influence of Robin Boyd, and his associations with Japan. Comprised of the 'When Robin Boyd Went to Japan' exhibition and a permanent online resource, 'Robin Boyd & Japan', the suite demonstrates how ostensibly modest, niche or regional projects can become exemplars for architectural advocacy across a surprising range of aspects and audiences.

The Robin Boyd Foundation was central in these deeply collaborative outcomes and the two components are complementary. 'When Robin Boyd Went to Japan' is active, spatial and sensory with finely curated displays, installations, and allied pedagogical events. The online exhibition 'Robin Boyd & Japan' opens the Foundation's collection permanently to the international design world, with rigour, clarity and accessibility.

Together they expand the discourse on Boyd beyond the parochial, across geographic and disciplinary boundaries, using diverse methods to engage. The spirit of Boyd's era is made immediate through contemporary oral histories, textile and food workshops, ceramics and objects of daily life.

Collaborations with archivists, makers, architectural students and educators have produced exemplary results, and a model for holistic design promotion to the community. Most refreshingly this outstanding project illustrates the agency of architectural history as a resource for contemporary design.



State Award

March Studio: Making Architecture, Material & Process

by Dr Fleur Watson

This third addition to the excellent EDITIONS: Australian Architecture Monographs series is the result of an ongoing partnership between RMIT and publisher Thames & Hudson in recognising the work of influential design practices at strategic points in their careers. Fleur Watson successfully weaves together March Studio's eclectic output, ranging from retail, interior and product design to architecture, within a framework of making as prototyping in a refreshing pushback against blandness and design as a second- or third-hand process.

At the core of the book is a long-form essay punctuated by short project descriptions and conversations with March Studio that offer personal insight into the evolution of the practice. The author's skill and commitment to the monograph as an enduring medium for the sharing of architectural ideas is commendable and this book is an accomplished affirmation of its relevance in an increasingly digital world.

Visually rich and a joy to hold, Making Architecture: Material and Process has also benefitted from a clear synergy between the author and the work of distinguished book designer, Stuart Geddes. The result is a book that is at once highly polished and experimental, embodying the ethos of making as craft in bringing to light an intriguing and relevant body of work to a broader audience.



National Award

Grounds, Romberg & Boyd

by Maria Larkins

Maria Larkins book 'Grounds, Romberg & Boyd: Melbourne's mid-century modernists' is a fascinating document centred on one of Australia's most important architectural practices, at a crucial moment in Australian architectural culture. Given the individual importance of the three architects that made up the practice often referred to as Gromboyd (as architects, educators, and in Robin Boyd's case, a writer), the book serves as an important document for Australian cultural studies.

The book fits neatly, filling a gap, between the series of books and publications which have streamed steadily out of Melbourne in the last few decades, books which have mainly focused on Boyd. Therefore, Larkins book focuses on the gaps in the research, primarily the collaboration, de-emphasising some of the more individual smaller works. In this way the book caters to the initiated reader with an understanding of the other works and the broader architectural context.

The style of the book is a coherent and compelling collage of letters and documents primarily written by the three protagonists, with connecting text by Larkins. Even the uninitiated reader will find the book a gripping story of three personalities trying to run a cutting-edge architecture practice against all odds. The design of the book visually accentuates and completes this narrative style allowing for an excellent reading and visual experience.

Pascoe Vale Primary School • Kosloff Architecture • Photographer: Derek Swalwell



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