



Australian
Institute of
Architects

TAS

ABN 72 000 023 012

The Royal Australian Institute of Architects
trading as Australian Institute of Architects

1/19a Hunter Street
Hobart, Tasmania 7000

P: (03) 6214 1500
tas@architecture.com.au
architecture.com.au

Brett Torossi
Chairperson
Tasmanian Heritage Council
GPO Box 618
Hobart TAS 7000

Andrew Roberts
Director
Heritage Tasmania
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE)
Hobart TAS 7001

Kelly Grigsby
Chief Executive Officer
City of Hobart
16 Elizabeth Street
Hobart TAS 7000

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By email to: brett@newinsights.com.au, andrew.roberts@heritage.tas.gov.au,
enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au and ceo@hobartcity.com.au

RE: HERITAGE LISTINGS

Dear Brett, Andrew and Kelly,

The Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) is seeking advice regarding Tasmanian 20th-century historic cultural heritage and the potential for future nominations to the state heritage register.

The *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* defines historic cultural heritage significance in relation to a place as “significant to any group or community in relation to the archaeological, architectural, cultural, historical, scientific, social or technical value of the place”. This definition resonates strongly with the values that scaffold the Tasmanian Architectural Awards programme. As stated by our Past Chapter President Yvette Breytenbach, “The worth of good design is experienced by all of us every day, often unknowingly. It is reflected in people-friendly public spaces and urban design, conservation of our much-valued built heritage and landscape, and clever adaptive reuse that breathes new life into valuable but underused existing buildings.”¹

The Tasmanian Architecture Awards involves a state-wide peer-reviewed process of projects entered into a range of categories and involves named prizes for architectural merit. The Triennial Prize is one of the highest accolades within the Awards programme and recognises the

¹ Yvette Breytenbach, “President’s Message”, in *Tasmanian Architecture Awards 2018*. The Mercury: p. 2.

very best of Tasmanian architecture. The Triennial Prize has been awarded since 1963, with over 50 buildings being awarded. Given the peer review process and the criteria for the Triennial Prize, we would like to promote past recipients of the Prize from 1963–2000 as works of significant heritage value.

A pressing need felt by the Chapter is to ensure the preservation of Tasmania's built heritage across the 20th century. The Modernist, Brutalist and Post-modernist periods are returning to popularity and are being recognised for their valuable cultural heritage. Compared to other facets of 20th-century design—art, furniture, fashion or industrial and automotive design—architecture is under considerably more pressure from urban redevelopment. It is unfortunate these buildings are of an age where they may be perceived by others as 'run down' or 'out-of-date' and thus demolition worthy. While this period of built heritage is heavily under-represented on state and local heritage registers, there is some uptake in the recognition of prominent examples from their respective periods.

In the absence of any development proposals that address this issue currently, we would like to provide you with information on the Triennial Prize, so that you may consider its benefit for preserving buildings of significant cultural and historical merit.

The Triennial Prize is given annually in three alternating categories. The jury consists of jury members from the three preceding years, and are named as follows:

- The John Lee Archer Triennial Prize is open to named award and award winners in the public, commercial, educational architecture, and urban design categories from the three preceding years.
- The James Blackburn Triennial Prize is open to named award and award winners in all the residential architecture categories from the three preceding years.
- The Henry Hunter Triennial Prize is open to named award and award winners in the heritage, interior architecture, and small projects architecture categories from the three preceding years.

Attached as a separate PDF is a full list of Triennial Prize projects awarded from 1963 onwards. On request, we can provide images, plans, citations and descriptions of buildings from our archive.

If exploring these Triennial projects for inclusion in the Heritage Register is something you may consider, we would also like to recommend the inclusion of past recipients of the Tasmanian Architecture Medal and the named awards from the Tasmanian Architecture Awards programme.

Understandably, the process for nominating projects to a heritage register is multi-layered. If it is possible, we would like to be part of the process by nominating works, either as a group or individually.

It would be wonderful to meet with you and discuss the Triennial Prize further and ideally, to work with you towards the mutually beneficial objectives of preserving architecture, culture, and history.

Kind regards,



Stuart Tanner RAIA

Immediate-past President, Tasmanian Chapter
Australian Institute of Architects



Jennifer Nichols

Executive Director, Tasmanian Chapter
Australian Institute of Architects

The Australian Institute of Architects (Institute) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia. It is an independent, national member organisation with over 13,000 members across Australia and overseas. The Institute exists to advance the interests of members, their professional standards and contemporary practice, and expand and advocate the value of architects and architecture to the sustainable growth of our communities, economy and culture. The Institute actively works to maintain and improve the quality of our built environment by promoting better, responsible and environmental design. To learn more about the Institute, log on to www.architecture.com.au.