SA Architecture Awards —2020
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Chapter Awards Partners
From the SA President

Never has the adage of reflecting a point in time been more relevant as we celebrate the 2020 Awards Program with projects undertaken before the severe disruption that has transformed the way we live, work and play. Looking forward it will be interesting to see how the profession adapts to design outcomes for a new societal norm influencing future design parameters.

As a parochial advocate of visitation to experience the spatial creations of entrants, it has challenged us all in the way we see and represent entries as to how jurors debate and remotely explore the merits of the entries. We all have had to adapt and be flexible to a different delivery mode of the Awards Program this year. At least we were able to do the first (and hopefully not the last) presentations personally.

Every awards program helps us build on a portfolio of work that is representative of our South Australian identity and we should celebrate and promote our achievements and contribution to our community.

This year’s entries reflect a diverse span of nominations, responsive and relevant to their region and context. We have seen a large presence of interior architecture and educational projects contributing and influencing innovative working and learning environments. The presence of architects in the infrastructure sector is welcomed in extending our design influence in the State. Interestingly our view on the adaptation of these environments may differ coming out of the pandemic environment given densification, behavioural influences and protocols.

A big thank you to the jurors who contribute their valuable time in the promotion of the profession and in so many ways have a difficult and task of deliberating and adjudicating on the recipients, especially in adapting to the new remote judging framework.

A very special thank you to Lesley for keeping us all grounded and managing the difficulties of uncertainty in this year’s process. To Nicolette, Vanessa and Zaf a big thank you for your collaboration with the profession.

Thank you to Kristy and Catherine as the Awards Programme Directors.

I congratulate all the entrants regardless of recipient for putting forward their work and advocating their design integrity in South Australia. Sitting in on many of the early presentations, the sense of story-telling was passionate, evocative and truly captured the spirit of design.

Tony Giannone
SA Chapter President
In a year full of challenges it has been a privilege to be part of an amazing team of architectural and design colleagues delivering the Institute of Architects’ SA Chapter 2020 Awards program.

The spirit of adaptability and resilience in our industry has never been more evident. Despite the challenges, it has been heartwarming to see our industry supporting each other, sharing knowledge and resources, and pulling together.

This year’s awards brought interesting conversations about the ‘experience’ of architecture and the key role this plays in assessing success.

In the Residential category, entries demonstrated the human side of architecture, with successful working relationships between architect and client evident, resulting in the delivery of some very personal and beautifully crafted responses.

Across all categories, the respectful consideration of landscape, successful inclusion of sustainability principles, interiors alive with texture and play, and strong use of urban forms provided the juries with a high standard of projects to consider. Key projects showcased innovation and the creative use of materials producing iconic sculptural forms, whilst others balanced an effortless play of materials in a restrained and honest way.

A huge thanks to the Institute awards staff for their tireless work, the juries for their time and expertise and to the entrants who have been adaptive and highly professional despite exceptional circumstances.

Thank you to all entrants for delivering another year of projects at a very high standard. To the 2020 award winners, we congratulate you on your innovation and outstanding architecture.

Kristy McMillan
Awards Director SA – 2020

City of Adelaide Prize
Erin Crowden, Williams Burton Leopardi (Jury Chair)
Daniel Bennett, DJB La
Elina Walker, ESD Planning
Councillor Arman Abrhamizadeh OAM, Councillor City of Adelaide
Tom Doull, Grieve Gillette Andersen

Commercial Architecture, Small Project, Urban Design
Kirsteen Mackay, OODSA / Government Architect (Jury Chair)
Geof Nairn, Sole Practitioner
Eric Lien, Revolution Roofing
Catherine Startari, GHD Woodhead (Junior / Deputy Awards Director)

Educational Architecture
Adam Hannon, COX Architecture (Jury Chair)
Adrian Kenyon, Bakuultur
Felicity Sando, Mulloway Studio
Douglas Alexander, Flightpath Architects

Interior Architecture
Sally Wilson, Archaea (Jury Chair)
Hamish Price, Hamish Price Architects
Joanne Cys, Uni SA
Dina Cocca, Tectus

2020 Jury Members

From the SA Awards Director

Kristy McMillan
Awards Director
2020 Jury Members

Public Architecture
Tony Materne, MPH Architects (Jury Chair)
Wayne Grivell, Swanbury Penglase
Katrina Worssam, Brown Falconer
Sam Aukland, Catholic Education Office

Residential – Houses Alterations + Additions, Heritage
Michael Queale, Dept. of Env & Water, Heritage SA (Jury Chair)
Chris Morley, Echelon Studio
Justin Cucchiarelli, Studio Nine Architects
Julie Collins, Uni SA

Residential – Houses New, Residential – Multi Housing
David Brown, BB Architects (Jury Chair)
Lisa Martin, Detail Studio
Tony Lippis, Architects Ink
Kristy McMullen, Hodgkinson (Junor / Awards Director)

Sustainable Architecture
Yaara Plaves, Hames Sharley (Jury Chair)
Talin Patterson, Troppo Architects
Daniel Manno, Energy Architecture
Veronica Sowbarto, University of Adelaide

2020 Jury Members

COLORBOND® Award for Steel Architecture
Assessed by Jury Chairs without a conflict of interest
Erin Crowden
Kirsteen Mackay
Sally Wilson
Tony Materne
Michael Queale
David Brown
Yaara Plaves
Mark Amos

Award for Enduring Architecture
Honours Committee
Mario Dreosti (Chair) FRAIA
Tony Giannone FRAIA
Rob Cheeseman AM LFRAIA FRSSA MPIA
Lothar Mohyla LFRAIA
Elaine Davies LFRAIA
Lu Balsamo LFRAIA
David Hassell LFRAIA

Emerging Architect Prize
Tony Giannone (Chapter President) FRAIA
Mario Dreosti (Honours Committee) FRAIA
Lothar Mohyla (Honours Committee) LFRAIA
John Byleveld (Chapter Council SA) RAIA
Lauren Jeans (EmAGN Committee) RAIA
Thomas Hamper (EmAGN Committee) RAIA
Through collaborative and intuitive design, U City sets a new benchmark for multiple-use buildings in the City of Adelaide. A thoughtful, respectful and contextual analysis explores single site ownership for over a century and delivers generous additions to the public realm at street level by re-establishing Penaluma Place. The building continues to embrace the corner site, similar to its predecessor, however realises a greater level of integration, with small reminders of the site’s rich history layered throughout the building through material, form and motif.

Through clever and well resolved design, U City responds to a brief that can only be described as heroic in scale and complexity, brought together in beautiful detailing and form, with a clear focus on social and environmental sustainability. Meticulous planning and detailed engagement with the end users throughout the design process allows the architecture to seamlessly mask an impressive range of health and well-being services, aged care, a church and public open space.

U City shows a new approach for integrated development, housed within well-considered, resolved and thoughtful built form. The jury commends both client and architect for their evident partnership in realising a great outcome for the City of Adelaide.
Part Time Lover is a bold addition to its heritage fabric, breathing fresh air into a previously under-utilised, left-over space. Attention to detailing and planning of spatial arrangements makes for an enjoyable user experience while complying with complex access requirements of the site. Levering off existing structure and incorporating a passive thermal design approach, the result encourages activity and movement while keeping its promise of ‘being there when needed’.

City of Adelaide Prize Commendation

Part Time Lover
Sans-Arc Studio
City of Adelaide Prize Commendation

Tika Tirka Student Accommodation

Phillips Pilkington Architects

Tika Tirka is an ambitious approach to accommodation for Indigenous students living away from home. It carefully respects culture, place and connection to sky while creating a series of functional and private spaces. Sitting at ease in its surroundings, the delicately profiled screening and curve to the canopy soften the edges of the robust materials used throughout.
City of Adelaide Prize
People's Choice
St Aloysius College
AR Community Mural
Riggs Digital and St Aloysius College
Students, Staff & Community

Category Sponsor:

CityMag

Photography
Abigail Riggs
Sparkke at the Whitmore is an outstanding architectural interpretation of the strongly held brand and social values of an enterprising, proudly South Australian business.

Sparkke’s new home on Iparrityi, named in honour of Kaurna woman Amelia Taylor, gives vitality to one of Adelaide’s oldest hotels, with the licence dating from 1837. The theatrical interior tells of decades of changing occupation, revealing physical historic treasures stumbled over during construction and references colourful activities in the hotel’s various guises.

It is a neighbourhood corner-pub, micro-brewery, part treehouse escape activating a principal city square and making the most of a three-street facing site. There are new shop-front openings drawing visitors into the once secretive parlour rooms of the original hotel, a transparent, airy, light filled beer hall frontage to the square and a laneway return activated by a glowing wall and signs of the brewery business.

The intense energy that went into the entire process and the genuine client-architect-builder collaboration is palpable, and similarly evident in the detailed execution. The artisanal, light industrial curation of retained heritage fabric with significant contemporary additions heralds the latest incarnation of the Whitmore Hotel and is the perfect new home for the brilliant Sparkke.

Photography
Aaron Citti

Category Sponsor:
Located on a busy main arterial road on a very difficult site sloping away from the road, the Walkerville Vet is cleverly set midway with carparks located to the front and rear. The entrance features a large eye-catching mural by Seb Humphries that leads visitors into a well-planned interior surrounding a central kiosk with high ceilings, warm colours, an abundance of timber and natural light. There is a civic generosity and friendliness to the front of house that foils the highly technical and unique veterinary functional requirements, which is a highly commendable achievement of the design team.
Dowie Doole’s new cellar door sited within established vineyards is a modest composition of adapted shipping containers that is honest in its agricultural expression, yet houses a refined interior of tactile materials and bespoke detailing. Largely off-grid, the project rehabilitates a neglected site into a unique visitor destination. It is representative of the brand: thoughtful, accessible in every sense and destined to become McLaren Vale’s latest draw card.
Oaklands Station is an excellent demonstration of how the technical requirements of an infrastructure project are enhanced through the engagement of architects, landscape architects and urban designers.

The necessity of lowering the station to the rail corridor prompted an architectural statement visible from the street maintaining connectivity and openness.

The architectural form of the folded canopy cantilevers over the corridor identify the station, with only the top of the canopy hinting at what is positioned below grade. The canopy opens up on the west to allow visual connection between the street level and the station.

Vibrant coloured surfaces guide users to the station, with the consideration of durability of surfaces evident. The inclusion of public artwork from local artists visually connect the history of the area to the community adding to the public realm. The attention to detail through the inclusion of natural materials, new planting and existing gum trees all work together to enhance the plaza designed for the community.

Successfully delivered through an alliance, consisting of Government bodies, local council, contractor and design consultants, the execution of the project has set a precedent for the exemplary quality expected from similar projects in the future.

The Gavin Walkley Award for Urban Design
Oaklands Station
COX Architecture and Aspect Studios
Pembroke Middle School Redevelopment delivers a high-quality and engaging learning environment that is considerate to its local context. The project creates generous and ambitious spaces celebrating and enhancing the school’s teaching and learning philosophy.

The unique triangular site has been successfully transformed to create an exciting and fun building that is strong and seamlessly connected across its campus. Inspiring spaces create a series of rich, diverse and multi-dimensional settings to support formal and informal learning.

Materials are bold and carefully considered, creating a strong relationship between external and internal spaces that greatly enhance the school identity. The honest and robust palette captures natural daylight and frames external views, inviting interaction between staff and students across a collection of vertically connected spaces.

Grieve Gillett Andersen have successfully collaborated with their client and builder to create this transformative project that reinvents its school master plan to create a generous, aspirational and highly successful building that sets a benchmark for contemporary learning.

The Dr John Mayfield Award for Educational Architecture

Pembroke Middle School Redevelopment

Grieve Gillett Andersen

Photography
Sam Noonan
Pulteney Grammar Middle School provides a timeless and elegant response that embraces and complements its history. Sitting gracefully within its traditional setting it offers an engaging learning program that is considered, responsive and highly successful.

Commencing as a simple refurbishment, JPE and their client expanded their brief to create a new learning environment that combines a diverse internal program with a contemporary external expression. The lightweight external facade and restrained materials allow the building to transform the surrounding campus and take inspiration from the Parklands landscape.

An energetic and transparent ground plane opens and connects previously landlocked buildings and outdoor spaces providing a significant and successful landscape for staff and students. Simple and confident internal planning maximises the effect of this ground level connection and allows the elevated learning areas to float lightly above the surrounding campus setting.

JPE Design Studio have managed an evolving brief to deliver a highly successful learning environment that transforms its campus setting with simplicity, elegance and confidence.

Award for Educational Architecture

Pulteney Grammar Middle School

JPE Design Studio

Photography

Sam Noonan
Award for Educational Architecture

Kildare College Brigidine Centre

Walter Brooke

Kildare College Brigidine Centre has been purposefully located to complement its established campus environment and adjacent residential context. The project combines an articulated and considered external expression with functional ease and flexibility to deliver a successful multi-purpose learning environment.

Expertly planned through careful consultation, the project integrates and enhances the school campus, offering generous spaces and multiple access points that activate and engage the school community.

External treatments are considered and honest in their expression, allowing the building scale and materials to respond directly to its site. Double height articulated precast facades sit gracefully in their sporting field setting and metal screening wraps around lower height elements to engage with the existing campus and connect the public ground plane.

Internal space planning is highly effective and functional, providing a variety of learning areas that are both flexible and purposeful. A refined and well considered interior offers personality and identity to the user.

Walter Brooke have worked closely with their client to deliver a new learning environment that complements and enhances its campus context and provides a new identity that celebrates a program of multiple learning opportunities.
The New Junior School Building at St Martin's provides a playful and exciting building that responds to its junior primary users. The building exudes care, nurturing and flexibility in its planning and details, allowing movement, activity and discovery. Internal spaces are bold, playful and well considered, offering connections to shared and external space.

Detail Studio has created a delightful and engaging learning environment through a thoughtful journey with their client and school community.

Commendation for Educational Architecture
St Martin's Catholic School, New Junior Primary Building
Detail Studio

Photography
Tomek Photography
The Craigmore High School Stem Project is a bold and carefully controlled transformation of an old-style cellular learning building to a flexible open and light-filled learning space within a very limited budget.

Transparency and adaptive reuse are combined with an expressive structural intervention that achieves character and a contemporary expression supporting the STEM learning program.

Tridente Boyce have successfully adapted their brief and budget providing a highly effective and transformational outcome for this traditional school environment.
The Trinity College Innovation + Creativity School is bold in its concept and futuristic in its external form and internal program. Deriving its base from the original log cabin on the site, the project twists to express a future masterplan, and provides an integration of complex requirements across multiple spaces throughout the reimagined learning environment.

Detail Studio has realised the opportunity of an aspirational brief and delivered a quality outcome redefining this school campus environment.
Fino Vino presents a palette of materials that speaks to the South Australian landscape. An understated and refined interior allows every material to stand alone and yet blend harmoniously. The duality between raw dilapidated tenancy and refined furnishings and interior find connection with the raw produce and fine food of the restaurant.

Clever spatial planning and design responses were implemented to overcome challenges to the existing tenancy parameters. The jury was impressed with the architect’s collaboration with local artists, artisans and fabricators to produce a space that is restrained but acutely detailed.

The Robert Dickson Award for Interior Architecture

Fino Vino

studio-gram

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BHP Adelaide is an exemplar commercial interior, the result of a thorough, research-based design methodology. The project has delivered significant people-focused workplace culture benefits for BHP. The interior echoes the textured materials and forms specific to raw ore. Use of exposed framing references the industrial architecture of a mine site while the meticulous and luminous copper stair serves to further connect the identity.

The jury applauds the prioritisation of inclusiveness and diversity in the design approach. The design allows a diversity of users, including family friendly areas and spaces for calm contemplation as well as recreation. It is a project which champions stakeholder engagement and finds success by framing the client’s vision.

Award for Interior Architecture

BHP Adelaide
Woods Bagot

Photography
Trevor Mein
Pembroke Middle School is a sophisticated approach to the design of educational interiors that activates and supports students’ engagement in learning. The jury were inspired by the unapologetic and clever use of bold colour and materials. A building form as a didactic instrument whereby the learning of craft and technology can be engaged with first hand. An overall thoughtful approach to design showcasing a remarkable collaboration between designer, client and student.
The planning and organisation behind Salisbury Community Hub provides a highly effective spatial flow and volume, creating a range of opportunities for members of the local area to visit the hub, make use of its resources, and connect as a community. Respectful and authentic references to the late modern antecedent interiors contribute to a welcoming, robust and responsive interior. The jury noted the clever use of a strong ‘marketplace’ concept which has translated distinctively into the final design and spatial planning.

Commendation for Interior Architecture
Salisbury Community Hub
HASSELL

Photography Lile Thompson
Commendation for Interior Architecture

Barr Smith South Redevelopment

ARM Architecture

Barr Smith South Redevelopment is a project with an impressive technical mastery of scale, colour and pattern to integrate three-dimensional furniture and spatial elements with two-dimensional surface treatments.

The jury commends the architect’s approach when faced with the challenges of the subterranean. The project draws fascination and intrigue from playful forms; experiential surface treatments and the establishment of the bazaar. A tangible design which displays a high level of detailing and ideology.
The Jack McConnell Award for Public Architecture

Salisbury Community Hub

The brief for the Salisbury Community Hub required the development of a centrepiece for a revitalised community precinct addressing a number of challenging functional requirements.

The architects, HASSELL, have ensured a strength and consistency of architectural and interior expression from the external ground plane to the upper level. The expressive foyer allows daylight to permeate the building’s spaces making the activities of Council’s staff and public apparent to each other. The design invites opportunities for community use, both internally and externally.

The composition of the building with visual shifts, setbacks and cantilevers off its strong horizontal plinth forms has successfully created a ‘human scale’ to the large four storey building, befitting its function as a public facility.

The building is sited immediately adjacent a local cemetery and the design team has successfully embraced this unique site feature providing a strong sense of place for the building’s users. This unusual feature serves as a reminder of the development’s new position as an important part of the Salisbury community, gently looking back to the past and nodding forward into an exciting future.
Award for Public Architecture

U City
Woods Bagot

The jury members were unanimous in their consideration of the U City project as a carefully and confidently executed public work of high calibre. U City has a commanding presence and confidently contributes to Adelaide’s CBD skyline and streetscape. Functionally intricate and deeply aspirational, it succeeds in displaying its intent boldly with its strongly articulated, modelled and stepped vertical form.

Functions have been successfully defined visually through a series of stacked “floating” blocks that are articulated with sculptural shaped terraces. The façade treatment of the blocks comprises an elegantly detailed palette of glass and vertical stria of light cladding. The three-dimensional nature of the facades is a subtle historical reference to the past built form on the site.

At the ground floor there is a high level of transparency and any delineation between U City and the public realm is intentionally blurred. The level of transparency diminishes progressively to the upper floors reflecting the transition from public to private functions and enhancing the dynamic character of the building.

The jury commends the designer for a sophisticated building that is both functional and elegant.
Oaklands Station provides a prominent landmark for Marion, a strong identity – easing congestion and improving public amenity. The folded roof form responds to the safety requirements of a railway line while creating a visual statement and sense of arrival to the public. A successful display of the importance and impact good design can have on an infrastructure project and the public realm.

Commendation for Public Architecture
Oaklands Station
COX Architecture

Photography: Iain Bond
This new facility is a bold and respectful expansion in the Prospect Town Hall precinct. Through a carefully crafted folding screen which traces an abstract silhouette around the forms of the adjacent heritage building, it successfully showcases the activities within, invites community engagement, while also filtering and providing solar control.

Interior spaces are equally inviting and successfully arranged around a double height transparent, light filled arrival space invoking connection between functions old and new.
The David Saunders Award for Heritage

Smyth Memorial Chapel
Arcuate Architecture

Smyth Memorial Chapel is a 150 year old gothic icon within West Terrace Cemetery. The conservation works, led by Arcuate Architecture, are an exemplar of contemporary conservation practice.

All conservation actions were based upon a Burra Charter approach, carefully balancing heritage value against necessary physical intervention to conserve fabric. An early photograph provides clear visual evidence of lost architectural decoration to the roof, spire and carved stone grotesques. A meticulous and sensitive conservation project then commenced. Laboratory analysis of mortars and masonry informed the wall repointing strategy. The decayed slate flag floor was lifted and re-bedded on limecrete, managing moisture movement in a traditional but innovative manner. Traditional trades were sourced to replace the complex roof sheeting, carve new grotesques, repair delicate timber moldings and even forge decorative front door hinges.

The architects are to be congratulated for their dedication to this architectural jewel.
Award for Heritage
Sparkke at the Whitmore
Troppo Architects

For the socially-conscious client, the creative adaptation and conservation of The Whitmore Hotel into SPARKKE at the Whitmore infused new life into this historic corner site. Known to date from the 1870s, works to the hotel involved the meticulous peeling back of layers, unearthing an original 1851 structure, re-writing the significance of the site. Due to the compressed program, one could expect a series of knee-jerk reactions to those discoveries, yet TROPTO produced a series of innovative internal spaces celebrating the 1851 finds, well executed, sympathetic and balanced in interpretation between new and old.

Internally, there are a diversity of functions, from brewery, beer garden, and rooftop to function rooms, bottle shop and fine dining restaurant. The transition between spaces is subtle and blurred through rich industrial insertions which complement exposed heritage brickwork and timber roof shingles.

This internal theatre is also expressed externally, through a balance of transparency, screening and repair. Early facades are celebrated, the open roof deck facing Whitmore Square is delicately screened and entries are expressed as glass boxes.

With an overarching response to sustainability this project provides a plethora of delightful discoveries and responses to adaptive re-use and conservation.
The Allied Health building, Lot Fourteen, has been adaptively reused in an innovative, sustainable and complementary manner. The design team has transformed the existing austere institutional spaces of the building into a series of dynamic, distinctive interiors for a mix of innovation tenants. Intrusive later additions were removed, and significant heritage fabric has been carefully conserved to provide the backdrop for a mix of 21st century co-working spaces showcasing contemporary needs and the heritage values of the place.

Photography
David Sievers
The John Schenk Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)

Outside [the] box
Troppo Architects

This project re-imagined a dark villa with a south facing 1990s addition into a light filled extension embedded in a garden.

A conscious decision to improve existing space rather than create additional space has resulted in a project that added only 35m² to the overall building area.

Aligning a new entry to the front gate and creating a new living space to the east have simplified circulation. The result is an extension surrounded by garden which opens to the north and south via two large doors which slide beyond the building to create an outside room.

Troppo Architects have provided natural light, cross ventilation and thermal mass, resulting in a project which requires minimal conditioning.

An existing established deciduous tree, external blinds and roof overhangs provide solar protection. Lighting is strategically located with emphasis placed on activity.

The play of materials and the detailing of connections between timber and steel are well resolved, precise and provide a sense of warmth. The project delivers authentic and comfortable spaces with an inherent connection to nature which the family will enjoy for many years to come.

Photography
Mitchell Lowe
Making no apologies for its individuality and incorporating a sense of playfulness, the use of a metaphor from Alice in Wonderland reflects an exciting and bold intervention to an archetypal mid-twentieth century Australian brick house. Alterations filled with joy and exuberance are as much a result of the clients’ and tradespeople’s participation as they are of the architect’s role as a collaborator, enabling individuals to express their lives and personalities through the building they inhabit and love.

‘Through the Looking Glass’ House responds with respect not only to the clients’ needs and desires but importantly, to the environment, wider community and its own past. Perched on the edge of a creek, the family home of over 50 years holds emotional significance for its inhabitants, who wished to retain its character and special features while reimagining it as a place for their future. Its connection with the environment has been strengthened through the integration of landscaping, reflecting both the delight and sustainability requirements which were integral to the design brief.

Bespoke fittings commissioned from local trades and craftspeople enhance the 1950s red brick house, while the transparent glass additions add more than just functional space, livening and lightening the interior.

Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)

Through the Looking-Glass

John Adam Architect

Photography
John Adam

Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)
Originally designed by celebrated Architect Newell Platten, the Hawthorn Residence demonstrates restraint and respect for the underlying bones of the existing building. With a light touch, the architects have re-envisioned internal spaces under the main roof to allow them to sing again. By paring back the interiors to create an aesthetic which responds to the client’s present day needs, this house demonstrates the robustness and timelessness of well-designed residential architecture when coupled with sensitive and intelligent alterations.

Commendation for Residential Architecture Houses (Alterations and Additions)

Hawthorn Residence
Grieve Gillett Anderson

Photography
Sam Noonan
Through a series of key design moves: subtract, pinch, mould, outline and celebrate, Archaea have successfully reconfigured a period villa. Creative responses to historic context and passive design generate a playful pitched roof and ceiling line. The strategic and sympathetic sidestep of the rear addition ensures the contemporary insertion sits comfortably to the rear of the existing villa and addresses the northern aspect.

This delightful project will continue to settle in its place as the deciduous foliage matures and produces some soft shadow play on the interior spaces.
Spinifex House is the new kid on the block, an unexpected and well-considered house along a prominent beach-side streetscape in Adelaide’s west, typically dominated by bulky, larger houses. A challenging site enhanced by views through to the beach, this house is a true and thoughtful response to its context. Overshadowed by taller houses, buffeted by sea breeze and scorched by setting sun, the new house rises to all these challenges with an understated response.

Spinifex House is an effortless play of materials that are considered, yet simple in detail and finish, expressing both solidity and lightness, refinement and honesty. The result is a restrained and tasteful revisit of the modern Australian shack aesthetic.

This simple yet elegant house provides a clever response overcoming the challenges of the site and celebrating a relaxed beachside lifestyle.

Photography: Peter Barnes
A clean linear response to an extraordinary site, Naiko Retreat provides an iconic sculptural form set in a stunning landscape. Perched on the southern edge of the Fleurieu Peninsula next to Deep Creek Conservation Park, Naiko Retreat is oriented so that the restrained internal spaces have breathtaking views over a private cove across to Kangaroo Island. The curved roof form is reminiscent of the rolling hills and ocean waves, giving the building an instantly recognisable identity and sense of place.

Commendation for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)
Naiko Retreat
Max Pritchard Gunner Architects
Commendation for Residential Architecture - Houses (New)

Fleurieu White House
Taylor Buchtmann Architecture

A respectful exploration of context and form combined with the client’s desire to maintain the nostalgia of the original shack has resulted in a modest yet elegant house. The simple built form encases beautifully crafted internal spaces for both entertaining and respite from working life on the land. The restrained approach results in a low key but considered response to the site expressing both client’s and designer’s nuances of personal involvement and history.

Photography Peter Barnes
Satoyama Crow’s Nest is a simple, understated pavilion situated in a vast native and agricultural landscape. The architect’s personal connection and contribution to the project is evident in the finely crafted response to the client brief. The result shows a highly considered use of materials, a respectful consideration of the landscape and elements of flexibility and adaptability in the planning to maximise the accommodation provided.

Commendation for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)

Satoyama Crow’s Nest
John Adam Architect

Photography
John Adam
In a growing cityscape of multi-storey buildings in the CBD of Adelaide, the building provides a cleverly articulated built form with considered opportunities in the creation of both private and communal spaces. The design successfully demonstrates a consideration of both built form and negative space. The podium provides relief from a potentially overdeveloped site, offering a popular community space not usually successful in multi-residential tower developments.

Commendation for Residential Architecture – Multiple Housing

Kodo Apartments

Woods Bagot
Challenging the brief for a 5 Star Greenstar rating and ending with the first 6 Star Heritage refurbished building in Australia, the Allied Health Building sets the tone for the precinct redevelopment of Lot 14, a global innovation neighbourhood of entrepreneurship, research collaboration and cultural activity.

With a holistic approach to site, the decision to aim higher was deliberate, setting the building as the leader of the precinct, so that future projects will aspire higher.

The environmental sustainability requirements were successfully met while celebrating and enhancing the heritage character of the building, with social sustainability literally at the heart of the design. Permeable ground floor space with central services encourages social interaction and cross-pollination between the various start-ups occupying the building, while minimizing environmental impact.

A successful transformation of one of the oldest hospital wings of the relocated Royal Adelaide Hospital into a sustainable co-working hub.
From larger site considerations to the details of hand crafted locally sourced tables, the Dowie Doole Cellar Door thoughtfully and charmingly activates its environs and engages with visitors. The carefully selected materials age gracefully in a reflection of the seasonal nature of the organic vineyards that surround it. The design embraces regenerative design principles as well as being versatile and adaptable, designed to be relocated and reused as part of a larger, long term vision for the site.

Commendation for Sustainable Architecture

Dowie Doole Cellar Door

Scholz Vinall
Born of personal connection with and deep understanding of the site, this charming retreat balances aesthetics with passive design principles that go beyond the building envelope. Siting, orientation, raised footing system and landscaping come together in a considered and skilful manner. The building is compact yet perfectly suited to the owner’s requirements in both function and atmosphere, demonstrating a balanced responsiveness to both the brief and the site.
Pembroke Middle School incorporates Colorbond cladding as a key element within a rich palette of materials, which also includes a layering of primary and secondary steel components forming structure, screening and decorative features. The cladding references the utilitarian industrial shed buildings often occupied by creatives, makers and innovators and hints at the collaborative workspaces inside.

The Colorbond cladding, with its variable pan width and matt finish, adds softness and depth to the otherwise hard-edged facade, while staying true to the robust nature of the education program housed within. Standing seams at varying intervals provide an urban scaled texture against more monolithic concrete elements and the smooth, flush-framed glazing, modulating the scale of the building within the context of the smaller buildings surrounding the site.

The architecture celebrates the opportunities provided by steel resulting in a sculptural building expressive of a lively culture of contemporary learning.
The 2020 recipient of the Sir James Irwin President’s Medal is a champion of heritage and architectural conservation in South Australia and internationally. This is a sector of our profession that frequently goes uncelebrated in the struggle to maintain the integrity of our urban fabric. Heritage architects are frequently at odds with, and challenged by government and developers for defending the integrity of our built environment and advocating for the retention of historic buildings.

As an award-winning conservation architect, author and teacher, she is a past President of Australian ICOMOS, Getty Scholar and an Adjunct Professor at both Deakin University in Melbourne and Hong Kong University. She is a partner in the firm McDougall & Vines, a practice with extensive experience and an exemplary record of achievement in conservation architecture and heritage town rejuvenation throughout Australia and Asia. She consults to a wide range of government authorities and local councils throughout the region, and is a consultant to UNESCO, the Getty Conservation Institute, the World Bank and the European Union. In 2007 she established the Streetwise Asia Fund to assist modest heritage projects in Asia and in 2009 was awarded the Medal of The Order of Australia for Services to Heritage Conservation and Architecture in Australia and Asia.

As architects, we are the generational grandparents of significant cultural buildings and precincts, acting as their custodians and voice. It is my privilege and honour to bestow the Sir James Irwin President’s Medal to Elizabeth Vines OAM FRAIA for the exemplary role she has played in championing and reimagining our cultural heritage.
This year’s South Australian Emerging Architect Prize presented the panel with an extremely strong field of entrants all worthy of recognition across a range of contributions to our profession.

Architects are most often recognised for design excellence and profile through our own awards program and also that of other organisations. These awards recognise the outcomes of what we do, and some remarkable design outcomes have been completed by this year’s field for emerging architect.

However, architecture is wider than the work alone and the criteria for this award have been further strengthened to recognise the traits which elevate our role in society and in our communities. As well as high professional design standards this award recognises involvement, contribution and leadership across professional affiliations, education and community as primary elements of our valuable role in society as architects.

This year’s recipient has demonstrated a unique commitment to the Institute, student engagement and also broader community contributions over many years, commencing soon after graduating and continuing to this day.

This year we congratulate and recognise our recipient for leadership through the Institute at a local and national level, the Emerging Architects Graduate Network, SONA, The Adelaide City Prize and WDAC, while also providing key practice roles on multiple award winning projects.

Congratulations Erin Crowden.

Emerging Architect SA Judging panel:
Tony Giannone (Chapter President) FRAIA
Mario Dreosti (Honours Committee) FRAIA
Loita Mehuya (Honours Committee) LFRAIA
John Byleveld (Chapter Council SA) RAIA
Lauren Jeans (EmAGN Committee) RAIA
Thomas Hamper (EmAGN Committee) RAIA

Emerging Architect Prize
Erin Crowden
Williams Burton Leopardi
The chapel for the Methodist Memorial Youth Centre at Nunyara received an Award of Merit in 1966 after being completed in 1963 to a design by Maurice Doley, with project delivery by Laurie Wyman. After more than 50 years the building maintains its strong connection to its context both in its use as the Chapel for the Nunyara Convention Centre and in its relationship to its site.

The chapel celebrates its position overlooking the Adelaide Plains from within a treed area on the edge of Belair. The positioning, transparency and lightness of the building emphasise the wonderful outlook, making it a beautiful place entirely appropriate for use as a chapel.

The form of a light pavilion structure on top of a sandstone base on the side of the hill is simple and remains effective. The building largely retains its original interior with straw panel ceiling under a slim roof on similarly slim columns. Externally the simple construction enhances the lightness of the chapel above its base.

Environmentally, timber framed glazing on three sides provide abundant daylight, supplemented with lighting consistent with the original design. High-level opening windows allow natural ventilation, and although evaporative cooling has been added, it maintains a low environmental impact.

This small project remains relevant, attractive and appreciated by the many people who use it, making it a fine example of enduring architecture.