



**ACT
Architecture
Awards**

2017 ACT AWARD CITATIONS



**Australian
Institute of
Architects**

Award: President's Medal

Award Recipient: ACT Emerging Architects and Graduates

Award Citation:

As a member-based organisation, we rely heavily on our members to function as a peak body, to advocate on behalf of our profession, and to educate members and the broader community. Voluntary participation from ACT Chapter members has been consistently strong, and in recent years we have seen this develop to include a more diverse level of engagement.

The President's Medal is a unique opportunity to recognise exemplary individual or collaborative commitment to our profession and the Australian Institute of Architects. In awarding the 2017 President's Medal, I hope to shine the light on a 'movement', rather than an individual, in the hope that it will inspire continued involvement by a particular demographic.

The 2017 President's Medal is awarded to ACT Emerging Architects and Graduates; who have shown that there are no barriers to delivering leadership and to strengthening our profession.

It has been delightful to see such motivation and engagement from our Emerging Architects and Graduates in recent years, and to know that they care deeply about the future of this profession and its members. They have acknowledged their role in the authorship of the Institute's future and are actively and collectively participating in current initiatives, and designing new initiatives that enable the ACT Chapter to move forward and remain relevant.

Without the energy of our ACT Emerging Architects and Graduates, we would be challenged to deliver the breadth of activities and educational programs that our chapter is afforded. These members are the majority of our Chapter Councillors, Committee Chairs, and organisers of events. They dedicate their time not for personal benefit but for the greater good of our industry.

The custodians of this year's President's Medal are without doubt our two most enthusiastic and generous members; Yuri Leong Maish and Lester Yao. Their individual involvement is overwhelming and epitomises that of the broader group. Yuri Leong Maish is a Chapter Councillor, contributes to the Sustainability and EmAGN committees, is integral to the Design Canberra Festival program, and has organised the Solar House Day event, architectural bus tours, and the Architecture Awards Design and Build program. Lester Yao is also a Chapter Councillor, Co-Chairs the Emerging Architects and Graduates Network, has organised numerous Design Canberra Festival programs and the Architecture Awards Design and Build program, and represents the ACT Chapter on the steering committee for the ACT Government Making Space Initiative.

Other highly noteworthy ACT Emerging Architects and Graduates contributing to the ACT Chapter include: Aarthi Ayyar Biddle, Alanna King, Annette Pogas, Ajanthan Bala, Duncan Hall, Evan Williamson, Jeremy Wells, Jessica de Rome, Jessica Ryall, Malin Paulsson, Nathan Beer, Nikki Butlin, Patrick Stein, Reine Roberts, Sander de Vries, Sarah Herbert, Shannon Battisson, Shoba Cole, Tristan Ryall, and Will Gardner.

On behalf of the ACT Chapter, I acknowledge the outstanding achievement of ACT's Emerging Architects and Graduates by awarding their collective efforts with the 2017 President's Medal. Because of your contribution, our Chapter will continue to grow and prosper.

Award: Clem Cummings Medal

Award recipient: Alan Roberts and Tim Reeves

Award Citation:

The Clem Cummings Medal recognises contributions by non-architects and architects to architecture and the public interest. The spirit of the award is exemplified by the public service exhibited by the late Clem Cummings FRAIA, who died in 1997. Clem was well regarded in the Canberra profession not only through his practice, C G Cummings & Associates but also through his contribution to the profession with the ACT Chapter Council, the Complaints Committee, as a founding member of the RSTCA Committee and in establishing the architectural student mentoring scheme.

On the bookshelf of every architect in the ACT is a copy of 100 Canberra Houses: A Century of Capital Architecture. It is a treasured snapshot of our domestic architectural history and a valued resource for exploration into our local vernacular. The book is also highly valued by our community, and has proven to be an extraordinary advocacy tool for the use of architects in the residential sector.

The recipients of the 2017 Clem Cummings Medal are authors, and researchers, Tim Reeves and Dr Alan Roberts. Neither Tim nor Alan is an architect, but both possess a love of architecture. The 100 Canberra Houses book illustrates a personal passion for architecture, and a commitment to educating the value of architecture in the growth and sustainability of a city.

Tim and Alan conceived, researched and wrote the book over a six-year period. It was published in 2013 by Halstead Press, and has gone on to sell over 4,000 copies. They approach their subject from the standpoint of social historians, which helped them write a text that non-specialists can understand and enjoy.

The book tells the story of Canberra's domestic architecture from 1913 to 2013 by focusing on 100 houses chosen for their individual significance and interest. The entries describe briefly and effectively the architecture of each house in an intelligible way to the general reader, explain the social, economic and political context in which they were built, and evoke the personalities of the people involved, whether as occupant, architect or builder.

The result has been a considerable broadening and deepening of appreciation for Canberra's architectural heritage and a better understanding of the key role of architects in achieving excellence in house design. This may be felt for years to come.

Between them, Tim and Alan have made a substantial and long-lasting contribution to the advancement of architecture in Canberra and the broader ACT region, a contribution that is worthy of the Clem Cummings Medal.

Award: Architectural Professional of the Year Prize

Award recipient: Shoba Cole RAIA

Category overview:

The ACT Architectural Professional of the Year Prize acknowledges an individual architect who has demonstrated exemplary skills in architectural practice. In doing so, it is hoped that this prize will broaden the base for the recognition of architects and the significant contribution they make to the built environment, the building industry and the delivery of high quality buildings. In 2017, the Prize has attracted high quality submissions from architects with a broad range of experience and skills. In particular, the jury was impressed by the strong response to the judging criteria which included contributions to architectural practice and the broader profession.

Award citation:

Shoba has made significant contributions to the profession of architecture through her project work, collaborative relationships, and mentoring and advocacy roles.

Shoba has worked in a variety of architectural practices across New South Wales and the ACT, and has gained widespread knowledge across various project types including educational, community, and commercial. Shoba has also made significant contributions in the field of Heritage, having gained a Graduate Diploma in Heritage. Shoba has spent the majority of her career at May + Russell Architects, commencing employment there in 2005 as a Registered Architect, and progressing to the senior position of Practice Leader.

Shoba's commitment to excellent project delivery is well demonstrated. Core to her value system as an architect is a determination to deliver exemplary projects which benefit the end user and other stakeholders. These traits are evident in her delivery of the Canberra College Cares Facility, which is a unique, specialised educational facility. Her passion for the project resulted in innovative engagement and collaboration strategies with her client and a genuine concern for how education design can inspire its users.

Shoba's considered approach ensures the design aspiration and functional needs of the project are always prioritised. Her professionalism and leadership skills build trust and collaboration within the project team, and inspire positive working relationships. She demonstrates excellent skills in establishing brief requirements, managing consultants, understanding construction and buildability issues, managing budget, and executing concise documentation. This has been clearly acknowledged by her clients and is a further recognition of contribution to the profession.

Shoba is an advocate for the profession of architecture. She has served on the Institute ACT Chapter Council, and has represented the industry in various forums. She has also been involved in the Design Canberra Festival, promoting the role of architects in the community. Shoba supports architecture students through her involvement with Emerging Architect mentoring events, as well as in the Practice of Architecture Learning Series program. Within the workplace, she effectively manages teams and inspires her peers.

Shoba undertakes the practice of architecture with a focus on collaboration and community and with an evident commitment to excellence. The jury congratulate Shoba on this award, and is confident she will continue to advocate for the profession, and excel in architectural project delivery.

Award: Emerging Architect Prize

Award recipient: Jessica De Rome RAlA

Award citation:

Jessica graduated from the University of Canberra in 2007, with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Architecture (Hons), and a Masters of Architecture. She is currently the Director and Architect at de Rome Architects, which she founded in 2013 after working at Colin Stewart Architects for six years as an associate.

With Jessica's time at Colin Stewart Architects, she focused on forming a deep understanding of the architect's role in the overall construction process, in parallel with a strong focus on design. She believes the dialogue we voice as a profession regarding the value of architecture is best promoted by the successful execution of design and by a strong understanding of the practice of architecture. She seeks to balance quality design, sustainability and buildability, while acknowledging the realities of business and practice.

Jessica has specifically aimed to lift the quality of small multi-residential developments. de Rome Architects has forged a presence within the sector, emerging as a design-focused practice for creating efficient, well design outcomes. She continues to educate developers on the importance of complete architectural services.

Jessica's ongoing involvement with the Australian Institute of Architects is highly regarded. She has been involved in various award juries, including the ACT Architecture Awards, Professional of the Year Prize and the Emerging Architects Prize.

Jessica has been involved with the University of Canberra as both a sessional Tutor and volunteer jury panel member throughout the past ten years and she joined the University Education Advisory Panel to provide input on the restructuring of the undergraduate and masters degree. Jessica has mentored a number of graduates and believes that gender equality is an issue that still needs to be addressed and has pursued avenues for recognition an improvement within the profession.

Jessica is a credit to the profession, a passionate and intelligent architect, and a strong role model to her peers and aspiring architects alike.

Award: Emerging Architect Prize ACT Chapter Special Commendation

Award recipient: Annette Pogas RAIA

Award citation:

Annette graduated from the University of South Australia with her Masters of Architecture in 2009. During this time, the architecture market in South Australia was in decline. Unperturbed, Annette decided to enrol at the University of South Australia in a Building and Construction Management degree to expand her knowledge and open new opportunities. When Annette debated with Philip Nayda, a lecturer, and also a Director of Hodgkinson, an architecture practice in Adelaide, she was asked to come for an interview for a graduate position.

Annette moved to Alice Springs where she was part of a three person team for Hodgkinson, which provided a steep learning curve, she describes her time as one of her best experiences in terms of her professional development.

After two and a half years she moved to Canberra and opened up a Canberra branch of the new joint venture firm ArPM and for almost four years, Annette has been building up the firm, teaching her a great deal about the business of architecture.

Annette has had an ongoing involvement with the ACT Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects, being an active member of several committees, including the Education Committee, Planning Committee, Design Canberra Committee and co-chair of EmAGN between 2015-2016. Through her role as co-chair of EmAGN, she encouraged wider construction industry connection through events such as 'Bring your own Consultant', which provided a networking opportunity between architects and other disciplines.

During the 2015 Design Canberra Festival, Annette facilitated a series of public discussions between architect, client and builder called 'ArchTeams' and volunteered to participate in the 2016 BEES Design and Build Your Dream House studio, taking a group of school children through a studio session about how people live and what constitutes their dream lifestyle.

Annette has been tutoring at the University of Canberra in the Built Environment Technology unit. Annette is a tenacious, pragmatic and optimistic architect, volunteering her time generously to improve the connections between the profession, public and the education sector.

Award: Canberra Medallion

Project Name: CONSTITUTION AVENUE

Practice Name: NCA, JILA, HILL THALIS, SMEC AND AECOM

Award citation:

Constitution Avenue is a project that negotiates the macro and micro scale with consistency, clarity and vision. As a central element of Griffin's plan, it was envisaged to be "an elegant and vibrant mixed use grand boulevard.....supported by an integrated transport system, broad tree-lined footpaths and outdoor dining and street parking." As it existed, Constitution Avenue was relatively narrow, lacked connectivity and had poor civic space and amenity.

Over a decade ago, NCA undertook the enormous challenge of realising Griffin's vision. Its sheer scale, extended time frame and orchestration of many contributors, no less in the complexities of its delivery, and the high quality of the design outcome is a testament to NCA's conviction.

Pedestrians and cyclists are prioritised above private vehicles, and high quality active zones invite the public to pause, dwell and engage. Like all good design agendas, it anticipates the mix of future commercial, entertainment and residential developments along its spine with generous offerings of colour and texture in built elements and landscaping. Finely detailed brass and timber street furniture are strategically located and consideration of seasonality is evident in its materiality and tree selections.

Its character is responsive to its particular location and adjacency, with subtle changes in scale and detail - from civic to boulevard, bushland to ceremonial, yet it successfully conveys integrated design aspirations. The NCA in its wisdom gathered a team of collaborators to achieve an outcome of immense public worth, and in doing so, have given us an exemplar to plan, design and deliver public domain works.

In recognition that places are above all for people, and that architecture can deliver beauty and delight in a purposeful manner, the jury believe Constitution Avenue to be a befitting recipient of the Canberra Medallion.

Award: The Romaldo Giurgola Award for Public Architecture

Project Name: WILLINGA PARK

Practice Name: COX ARCHITECTURE

Award citation:

Above all, Willinga Park celebrates the horse, not only by providing high quality facilities for riders but also for the general public to enjoy.

The architects have demonstrated deftness of skill to create three unique yet cohesive building forms that respond strongly to landscape, context and program. The experience of moving between the Equestrian Centre, Covered Arena and Polocross Pavilion, through themed landscaped gardens, is delightfully theatrical with a series of choreographed moments and framed vistas.

A consistent and rich sensory palette of natural materials across the complex include stone, copper, timber, steel and in-situ concrete walls. These complement the broad landscape setting as well as the immediacy of the earthy smell of horses and the ever prevalent leather saddles.

The Equestrian Centre is the social and communal heart of the complex. Here, the falling topography is cleverly used to embed the buildings into the landscape through a series of interlocking folded timber and copper roof forms. They simply, yet elegantly, define shelter and protection under which various functions are accommodated. Juxtaposed with these "dart" like forms, the spectacular rectangular copper clad roof of the Central Arena hovers magically over the ground plane.

The experience throughout is both theatrical and sensory, and the confident form making, while challenging in scale, is supported by careful and well resolved detailing. Above all, the architecture provides a fitting backdrop to showcase its equine clients.

Award: The J S Murdoch Award for Heritage

Project Name: EMBASSY OF SWEDEN

Practice Name: GUIDA MOSELEY BROWN ARCHITECTS

Award citation:

The Embassy of Sweden was completed in 1951 and recognised for its modernity by receiving the Sir John Sulman Award for Public and Monumental Buildings in 1952. Sixty years later, the aging premises needed extensive restoration of the exterior and interior fabric to achieve contemporary standards not envisaged in the 1950s.

Externally, the copper roof was replaced and redundant services removed. A new discretely designed ramp was installed to cater for accessibility and windows were restored to maximise energy efficiency. Internally, changes included remodelling of spaces to meet new functional and security requirements and the full restoration of the interior fabric.

It is evident that the architects displayed a highly disciplined approach to the project from the outset, taking great care in the complete restoration of significant fabric. Where restoration was not possible, new material that perfectly matched the original was sensitively introduced. This included matching rare she-oak and mahogany floors that had previously been covered or removed, and the seamless reconstruction of damaged terrazzo stair treads.

In this exemplary project, the architects have avoided the temptation to contrast the old with the new by delivering a beautifully resolved and seamlessly finished building incorporating modern functional requirements of security and amenity. The high level of craftsmanship evident throughout has delivered an outcome that is sure to last another lifetime.

Award: Heritage

Project Name: HOWITT STREET RESIDENCE

Practice Name: COX ARCHITECTURE

Award citation:

The original cottage on Howitt Street in one of inner Canberra's heritage precincts was set prominently in the middle of its shallow corner block leaving little private open space or connection to the garden.

A new wing at the north-western end of the cottage opens in three directions to differently themed gardens, two purposefully as private spaces and a third carefully landscaped garden facing the street.

The form of the new wing is a radical departure from the original. Its low-pitched skillion roof is set behind what appears to be a courtyard wall. In fact, this and the concealed roof house a cosy sitting area and kitchen that is set apart from the cottage. This careful offset allows for secondary entry points while leaving the original entry untouched as required by heritage guidelines. With the gentle upward sweep of the skillion roof, highlight glazing brings abundant natural light into the new space and offers views up into surrounding tree-tops.

In less deft hands, this addition may well have followed a more conservative approach by mimicking the original architecture. Instead, by deliberate contrast, the new addition celebrates the existing cottage more intently and allows a fresh interpretation of its heritage value. This project demonstrates that new architecture can be introduced into heritage precincts without

Award: Commercial Architecture

Project Name: NEWACTON NISHI

Practice Name: FENDER KATSALIDIS ARCHITECTS

Award citation:

Nishi is an impressively complex building with many different uses coexisting together to form a microcosm of a city. The complexity and artistry that the architect has achieved with this new benchmark commercial model is extremely impressive.

Sound urban design principles are fundamental to its success. The architect created a series of internal links and streets from which all of the buildings different typologies, including its commercial tenancies, can be accessed. In this manner, an important cross site link is achieved from the upper hotel lobby through to the commercial section of the building.

The commercial offices are contained in a rectilinear volume that provides the perfect foil to the curved undulating form of its residential counterpart. A simple, yet effective timber shade screen with planter boxes creates a cohesive facade and handsome backdrop to the New Acton precinct. Internally, the timber screen and greenery simultaneously provide sunshading and filtered views to the city.

The building achieves an ambitious environmental agenda with its Greenstar 6 star as-built rating. Compatible strategies of sustainability include on-site water harvesting and generation of back to the grid power with solar panels.

Nishi successfully demonstrates the seamlessly stitching together of many contributions by different collaborators and artists, including March Studio, Suppose Design Office, Ove Arup Engineers and Oculus. With Nishi, the architect has reimagined the traditional commercial building model, showing us that when treated as an urban proposition and community, a dynamic and social environment can be created.

Award: Commercial Architecture

Project Name: CASEY MARKET TOWN

Project Name: COX ARCHITECTURE

Award citation:

Casey Market Town provides an exemplar of how group centres in new residential suburbs can positively contribute to the simple, oftentimes routine, act of shopping. The building creates a high level of public amenity, and offers a strong attempt to engage with future landscaped zones and the public realm beyond its own boundaries.

The relationship between highly visible glass clad speciality shops and the grounded massing of the precast concrete supermarket pods offers a refreshing interpretation of the 'shopping centre' typology. Instead of inward facing, cavernous interior with blank facades, Market Town has implemented a highly engaging, vibrant street frontage that encourages the public to interact both within and along the street edge. Active facades and a light filled generously scaled interior streetscape welcome visitors in, and through its robust material palette, there is clearly an invitation to dwell longer. The generous use of plywood to the central ceiling spine offers a level of warmth that is often lacking in small town centres.

Surrounding commercial and multiple residential buildings are yet to be completed, and it is hoped, with the greatest of optimism, that their design reflects the generosity of spirit toward the community that the Casey Market Town clearly demonstrates.

Award: Commendation for Commercial Architecture

Project Name: SIKORSKY HELITECH – MH60R THROUGH LIFE SUPPORT FACILITY

Practice Name: DARYL JACKSON ALASTAIR SWAYN PTY LTD

Award citation:

Sikorsky Helitech MH-60R Through Life Support Facility is an operational and maintenance facility, and incorporates an 8 bay hangar that cleverly utilises steel in a pragmatic yet celebratory manner. Externally the building maintains its anonymity in a light industrial area. Like the aircrafts within, the building is finely tuned, with a high standard of finish and security.

The architecture is spare and conveys a resilience and crispness that is carefully crafted. In its planning, it reads like a big shed but its elevation shows controlled articulation of glazing elements to break up the expanse of the metal clad external skin. The entry is the most demonstrative element with a recess cut into the hooded canopy, with a playful display of helicopter blade as vertical fins.

Internally the building has a smart functional interior that is bright and utilitarian so the focus is the task at hand, and all elements within the fitout clearly express this in a purposeful manner.

Award: The W Hayward Morris Award for Interior Architecture

Project Name: WILLINGA PARK

Practice Name: COX ARCHITECTURE AND SALLY HIEATT INTERIORS

Award citation:

Upon arriving at the Equestrian Centre, you ascend a stately stair aside a cascading waterfall and arrive into a theatrical double height volume defined simply by a folded timber and copper clad roof floating over the building proper.

The space is both dramatic and restrained, and demonstrates confidence and skill in both vision and detail. Its success is that it does not feel like an "interior" but rather like an outdoor room. The double height frameless glazed wall de-materialises the bound edge of the building and invites the outside excitement of the dressage arena inside.

The program is organised around the central double height volume. A striking cantilevered concrete balcony and floating stair add drama, its rawness and tactility complemented by the large scaled abstract artwork of exuberance and colour. The restrained natural materials palette, of stone, timber paneled walls and ceilings provide warmth, and the careful selection of interior elements, together with the interior architecture, provide a cohesive and memorable experience.

Within the space, one is gently reminded of the equestrian nature of the facility. The restrained and skillful use of leather, on upholstery as well as custom detailed joinery panels concealing audiovisual, and the tactile experience of a hand stitched leather wrapped handrail provides sensory connections.

Cox Architecture and Sally Hieatt Interiors have collaborated seamlessly to create a space somewhere between inside and outside which celebrates the equine world of dressage.

Award: Interior Architecture

Project Name: CANBERRA AIRPORT - INTERNATIONAL

Practice Name: GUIDA MOSELEY BROWN ARCHITECTS

Award citation:

Canberra Airport International provides an exceptional world class experience offering a high calibre interior with a new departure lounge, arrival hall, processing areas and the prescribed sequence of meeting, working and dining spaces. These spaces, underpinned by a cohesive geometrical language, integrate seamlessly into the existing airport building. Within this envelope, the material palette of plaster, timber, stone, stainless steel and corian are thoughtfully incorporated with expert precision, evoking a contemporary yet timeless aesthetic.

A tapered triangular geometry dynamically articulates ceiling and wall surfaces, and by drawing the outside into the internal experiential excitement of travel, it inspires possibilities beyond mundane and every day routine. Custom designed seating modules provide transitory comfort and privacy, and merge effortlessly into the surrounding interior.

The challenges of security, processing and way finding for singular travellers are deftly controlled to provide a distinct and dignified gateway for Canberra. In heightening the contemporary travellers' aviation experience, it has greatly benefited our

Award: Commendation for Interior Architecture

Project Name: CASINO CANBERRA REFURBISHMENT

Practice Name: COX ARCHITECTURE

Award citation:

The transformation of previously drab, dingy spaces into a sophisticated contemporary interior is nothing short of remarkable. In the refurbishment of Casino Canberra, the architects defined a strong set of design concepts to breathe new life into what was widely perceived as the worst casino in Australia, if not the world.

The overall design layout is clear from the outset, with main functions of gaming predominant and sectioned appropriately, the bar centrally located and aligned to the entry, and dining at the periphery for privacy and to take advantage of garden views. Amenities are flanked discreetly along the perimeter.

The clarity of the design lies in the successful pairing of pragmatic and aesthetic principles in the application of the parallelogram grid and triangular geometry throughout. From structural elements to soft furnishings, the integration of these as symbolic motifs are woven into screens to filter views and into ceiling grids to conceal security and services.

The material palette is both rich and inviting, and from large scale to fine detail, it is clear that finishes are thoughtfully executed. The architects have created an environment of escape and excitement, and for Canberra, a casino that rivals any world class establishment.

Award: The Sir John Overall Award for Urban Design

Project Name: CONSTITUTION AVENUE

Practice Name: NCA, JILA, HILL THALIS, SMEC AND AECOM

Award citation:

Constitution Avenue is a central element of Griffin's plan and the parliamentary triangle, envisaged as a significant boulevard, to be "an elegant and vibrant mixed use grand boulevard.....supported by an integrated transport system, broad tree-lined footpaths and outdoor dining and street parking." As it existed, Constitution Avenue was relatively narrow, had poor civic space and amenity and generally was surrounded with low density development and carparks.

Over a decade ago, the NCA undertook the enormous challenge of realising Griffin's vision. The sheer scale of the project; its agenda, the complexities of approval and delivery and the high quality of design and physical outcome is a testament to the NCA's commitment and conviction.

The design creates an environment that prioritises pedestrians and cyclists followed by public transport then private vehicles. Its transformation into a generously wide tree-lined boulevard provides a high quality active public domain for the mix of future commercial, entertainment and residential developments.

The character of the avenue is responsive to its location and varies in scale from civic to boulevard, bushland to ceremonial effortlessly. The detailing and materiality of the public realm includes a suite of finely detailed brass and timber street furniture in strategic locations and configurations, with high quality bluestone paving as well as the incorporation of sustainable initiatives.

The NCA in its wisdom gathered together a team of collaborators to achieve an outcome of immense public worth, and in doing so, have given us an exemplar to plan, design and deliver public domain works.

Award: Urban Design

Project Name: WODEN STAIR

Practice Name: COX ARCHITECTURE

Award citation:

Woden Stair delivers a functional brief with poetic clarity. By replacing elevated linkages and overhead bridges that disconnected the Woden Town Square from the bus interchange and Town Park simply with a stair and lift, it is a testament to the concept that “less is more”.

At first glance, Woden Stair appears unassuming, but on closer inspection, consideration of scale and proportion is evident at all levels. From its response to the civic scale of the public realm to the human scale of the cadence of the step, there is clear attention to detail though contrast, from the floating edges of the stairs against its grounded centre, and from its deliberate containment to the long axial alignment beyond.

Pedestrian connectivity has been greatly improved between surrounding buildings and the public realm. Through simplicity and understatement, each element of the project is thoughtfully considered, from the subtle inclusion of bike ramp to the discretely located glazed lift.

The robust material palette is simple and effective. Stainless steel handrails and black edged borders provide a restrained and timeless aesthetic. Pre-cast concrete stair treads reflect surrounding materials, and provide a perfect tonal backdrop to the soft patina of Margel Hinder’s Sculptured Form. In recognising this as the centrepiece on top of Woden Stair, it joins the two and in doing so, heightens the significance of both.

Award: The Derek Wrigley Award for Sustainable Architecture

Project Name: CORNER HOUSE

Practice Name: JOANNA NELSON ARCHITECT

Award citation:

Corner House represents a creative and intelligent act of sustainable architecture in the context of an inner-suburban Canberra that is undergoing rapid change. The lightly remodelled house conserves embodied energy and gestures towards suburban living on a modest scale, offering an attractive and viable alternative to the 'complete makeover' or 'knockdown-rebuild'.

Corner House respects the material and cultural value inherent in existing built forms, while also opening the dwelling to the sun, to the garden, and to the surrounding environment.

Award: The Malcolm Moir and Heather Sutherland Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)

Project Name: MCCARTHY PURBA HOUSE

Practice Name: ANTHONY KNOBEL ARCHITECT

Award citation:

Located on an acute corner site in leafy Watson, the McCarthy Purba House reveals a delightful spatial experience richly textured with an honest material expression. On approach, its street presence is unassuming. An overhead timber clad form folds over scaled down white painted rectangular blocks, and only towards its entrance is there a hint of its spatial permeability. Yet internally, the experience subtly switches to invoke a protective sense of shelter.

The heart of the building is the double height central living space. It acts to connect private spaces located at each end of the house and to the upper level, which compositionally adds to the heightened interplay of scaled volumes throughout. Internal spaces are skilfully orchestrated, and balanced between needs for privacy and gathering, by being tight and directional to open, flexible and welcoming.

Raw materials are used in a considered manner, to articulate spatially and respond directly to program. Exposed Blackbutt timber joists provide rhythm and texture, and contrast strongly against the hues of plywood built-ins and the earthy solidity of the recycled brick blade wall. Detailed connections are not overly refined but attended to in a robust workmanlike manner. Externally, material expression is sparing and economical, and takes advantage of its landscaped setting to effectively frame and ground the building.

Award: Residential Architecture – Houses (New)

Project Name: SG HOUSE

Practice Name: BEN WALKER ARCHITECT

Award citation:

SG House explores the duality of protection and engagement simultaneously. From the street, the house presents a modest scale and restrained facade with minimum openings, economical in its material use of black metal cladding and face brick. Two volumes protrude forward of the primary building form to flank and announce an entry point. Against the severity of the facade treatment, it provides a strong and welcoming gesture with its generous canopy.

In direct contrast to the fortress-like exterior, once within the sanctuary of the interior, there is an abundance of light and air, and the line between outside and inside blur and merge.

There is evidence of precision in its planning, from the conceptual carving out of the central courtyard as negative space against the compositional whole - of two building wings and connecting spine. The courtyard provides the pivotal focus and active link to all parts of the house, as it is continually drawn into its interior experience and when circulating from room to room. By borrowing the outside in, it elevates the experience of the house and grounds it strongly to its landscape setting.

Privacy, amenity and function are optimally attuned not only to site conditions but skilfully to maximise solar access and ventilation. This is a project that simply reminds us that that there can be luxury in sparseness when restraint is exercised.

Award: Commendation for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)

Project Name: O'CONNOR HOUSE

Practice Name: DE ROME ARCHITECTS

Award citation:

O'Connor House presents a demure, unassuming elevation to the street. This deliberate effort not to impact on a much loved established streetscape demonstrates a high level of restraint in design that has been maintained throughout with a wonderfully cohesive result.

Through the dappled light of the entry pathway, to orchestrated glimpses of landscaped zones through and beyond the building, and with the cantilevered north eastern corner of the living pavilion, the building reveals a detailed and refined sensibility that is a welcome surprise behind its simple restrained facade.

While materials and finishes were selected to match the budget and capacity of the owner builder and to reference surrounding dwellings, it did not preclude the opportunity to explore unique detailing to elevate materials beyond their common reading. This project is impressive in its deft handling of limitations.

Award: Commendation for Residential Architecture – Houses (New)

Project Name: WINDYWOPPA

Practice Name: COLLINS CADDAYE ARCHITECTS

Award citation:

Windywoppa is a retreat house located on an elevated site above the Clyde River surrounded by a mature eucalypt forest. On arrival by boat, the approach to the house is via a steep ascent, and gradually through the foreground of majestic tall trees, the house is revealed as a refined element in the landscape.

Strong axial planning delineates the spaces across its crest, consisting of two pavilions oriented to overlook the river. Expressed through the careful composition of a minimalist palette of masonry, concrete and glass, the essential elements of path, wall, roof, floor and chimney are arranged in a considered manner, defining spaces which blur between dwelling and nature, resulting in a captivatingly austere sanctuary.

In acknowledging the constraints of access and the challenges in controlling the design integrity throughout the build, the jury commend this project for its ability to deliver against the odds.

Award: Commendation for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)

Project Name: THREE GENERATION HOUSE

Practice Name: LIGHT HOUSE ARCHITECTURE AND SCIENCE

Award citation:

A formerly dark, unexceptional 1980's farmhouse in Bywong has been transformed into a light-filled, efficient and characterful home that meets the needs of three generations living together.

Three Generation House displays commendable dexterity and resourcefulness in responding to the unique client brief, retaining and re-using materials, and retrofitting for thermal performance. A new semi-attached studio complements the well-chosen alterations to the original house.

The twin structures border a small, productive garden and together create a functional and inviting rural retreat.

Award: The Gene Willsford Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)

Project Name: MD HOUSE

Practice Name: BEN WALKER ARCHITECTS

Award citation:

MD House is a remarkable example of how seemingly impossible constraints can be deftly handled in the hands of a skilled architect. Reduced to a small footprint between the existing house and pool at the rear of the property, the architect has inventively stacked and switched back additions to allow the original disconnected interior to be light filled and engaged with its context.

The clients' wish to preserve the front facade and form of the original house led to key manoeuvres and a deliberate contrasting expression, with the strong box-like form of the new work strongly complementing the more delicate texture and scale of the original.

A strategically efficient approach utilised existing conditions to maximise natural light and cross-ventilation, and works cohesively with a circular staircase to connect to the upper level spaces. By setting the study bay back, this allowed for a generous double volume void facing the pool, an exaggerated scale that acknowledges its focus.

The coordinated material and colour palette is simple and well-balanced. Plywood, black metal and optimal glazing make up key external components and this is brought into the interior to add a consistent reading.

The result clearly speaks of the fruitful engagement between architect and clients in delivering a well-considered outcome sensitive to their needs and aspirations. It shows how limitations can be turned into opportunities with delight and ease.

Award: The Sydney Ancher Award for Residential Architecture - Multiple Housing

Project Name: NEWACTON NISHI

Practice Name: FENDER KATSALIDIS ARCHITECTS

Award citation:

The Nishi apartment building, with its expansive crumpled curved facade, sets up an impressive and iconic western gateway to the New Acton precinct. Each apartment is captured within its own concrete frame and articulated through an undulating twist to create its own topography and provide each unit with its own sense of identity and spectacular views beyond.

Fender Katsalidis Architects were deftly assisted with this complex facade by Suppose Design Office from Japan who were also brought in to assist with the interiors to impart a recognizable Japanese sensibility in small apartment living. In an era where "affordable" housing and urban infill are topical issues, Nishi utilises several innovative strategies. Apartment sizes as well as their widths are purposefully compact and minimised, while lengths are maximised to increase density. Key to the success of this strategy is to internalize some bedrooms to allow living areas to extend the full width of the apartment. Amenity is maintained by being double ended in its footprint, with ample cross ventilation and natural light brought deep into the floor plate. An innovative "conservatory" airlock provides an important buffer to the open circulation external balcony and mediates sound, light and ventilation. Flexibility and lightness is gained with considered use of sliding screens and a restrained material palette.

The external balconies wrap around a dramatic atrium, and provide an important communal and social focus. In an era where housing needs to be denser, more compact, of high quality, and closer to civic centres, Nishi New Action provides a compelling exemplar.

Award: Residential Architecture - Multiple Housing

Project Name: ATELIER

Practice Name: BATES SMART

Awards citation:

Atelier is a new apartment block on the eastern peninsular of the Kingston Foreshore. The precinct master plan mandated a building similar in scale to the adjoining developments and a U shaped building envelope around a landscaped courtyard. With three street frontages, it maximises water views to the west across the lake, with a fully glazed steel grid structural system as its main facade. This is articulated as a checkerboard pattern of deep recessed balconies offering shade and prospect off living rooms, with fixed vertical bronze coloured louvres that simultaneously deal with sun control and privacy to the master bedrooms located directly behind. Subtle variations of this theme extend around the northern and southern street facades to skilfully manage differing sun control requirements and again at the uppermost penthouse units atop and setback from the main building volume.

In contrast to its street facades, the internal courtyard provides a more domestic scale and textural expression with bagged painted brickwork and Juliette balconies. This building is striking in its departure from the concrete and masonry approach of neighbouring buildings, with a bold modularity mediated by delicacy of detail. The considered logic of its planning throughout is a welcome addition to its surrounding.

Award: Residential Architecture - Multiple Housing

Project Name: BARCELONA

Practice Name: GUIDA MOSELEY BROWN ARCHITECTS

Awards citation:

Barcelona is an imaginative and skilfully resolved fourteen-unit residential development in a prominent location in inner-north Canberra. Occupying an end block bounded by three streets, Barcelona is of similar scale to surrounding residential complexes.

Through its distinctive character and attentive design, however, the development enriches the urban streetscape without overpowering it. Well-balanced, contrasting brick volumes are enlivened by textured corners, smartly placed perforations and projecting window casing.

Rising from a spacious landscaped border punctuated by mature palm trees, Barcelona achieves a visual relationship of unity and variety that resonates with its exotic name, while maintaining dignity and sobriety.

Barcelona's one- and three-bedroom units are accessed via an entrance and open stair that reference the material character of the exterior. The amenity of the units has been maximised with wide balconies, good ventilation and light, and a northerly outlook for twelve of the fourteen apartments.

The relationship of built form to environment has also been well considered in positioning a shared outdoor area to adjoin the existing open green space of adjacent blocks. Barcelona demonstrates that a fine balance can be achieved between potentially conflicting development constraints, satisfying the client's commercial parameters without sacrificing liveability, the public streetscape or architectural finesse.

Award: COLORBOND® Award for Steel Architecture

Project Name: JOHN JAMES VILLAGE

Practice Name: DARYL JACKSON ALASTAIR SWAYN PTY LTD

Awards citation:

The immediate striking appearance of the John James Village is its limited material palette; glass, brick and, most memorably, the Colorbond metal roof folded and wrapped tightly to merge into wall in a taut skin-like fashion on all buildings on the site. All three materials work beautifully together, but it is the unifying of charcoal grey Colorbond wall and roof cladding that struck the jurors, particularly in its enveloping continuous form.

John James Village provides respite accommodation for patients from regional areas undergoing treatment for leukaemia. Metal cladding was selected as a familiar material prominently used on rural buildings, thus easing the transition from their home to an unfamiliar setting in an urban environment.

The cladding has not been used in a tokenistic or applied manner but in a refined and elegant architectural way. Longline305 was selected for its precisely formed ribs capable of being installed in continuous and uninterrupted lines from roof to walls with each rib individually capped at junctions giving a strong, seamless appearance.

The initial design anticipated that roof water would cascade over the edge and down the walls but sadly the builders installed concealed gutters overriding the original design intent. While pragmatism won the day, the overall effect of the continuous wrap with the metal cladding remains evident.

Award: Small Project Architecture

Project Name: POP INN

Practice Name: DARYL JACKSON ALASTAIR SWAYN PTY LTD

Award citation:

At a time when the notion of 'pop-up' retail is so prevalent, the Pop Inn demonstrates how well it can be implemented when care and consideration is applied to all aspects of its design and construction. Instead of opting to convert a caravan or container, the Pop-Inn was designed as a blank canvas, to explore spatial needs without limitations dictated by external conditions.

The module houses all items vital to the successful operation of a mobile wine bar, ensuring it can be transported, set up and packed down efficiently. Hardwearing and practical materials including black perforated metal panels, plywood and LED strip lighting provide an urban aesthetic. This appeal is intrinsic to the success of the start-up venture, so one is encouraged to look out for the next pop-up location to enjoy its unique experience in a changing urban room setting.

The material palette is necessarily durable, selected to sustain transit and the many episodes of being unpacked. Surprising though, it is also nuanced, finely detailed and bespoke in its assembly.

The success of the project is its deconstructed nature when established in situ. Opened out to its site, staff freely mingle among patrons and not behind a servery. The divide disintegrates, with the favourite spot often taken on the edge of the stage-like boxes.

Award: The ACT Award for Small Project Architecture

Project Name: CORNER HOUSE

Practice Name: JOANNA NELSON ARCHITECT

Award citation:

Corner House is an unassuming but deftly handled suburban intervention that improves the amenity of a 1960 O'Connor home while also advocating the merits of retaining and adapting the cultural and material fabric of Canberra's inner north.

The architect has successfully employed three design strategies to refashion the existing modest dwelling: a restrained approach to additions and alterations, judicious rearrangement of routes within and around the house, and the confident use of a corner site to encourage a lively dialogue between private and public domains. The client's needs have been met by creating a larger third bedroom, separate shower, bigger kitchen and a study within the existing footprint and with minimal alterations.

Small adjustments such as the introduction of a glazed panel or the positioning of a storage unit exploit spatial possibilities concealed in the original form. A new roofed terrace takes advantage of the site's northeast aspect and orientates the house towards the corner in a way that is conspicuous but understated, skilfully relating the built form to its environment and the opportunities for interaction with passers-by.

Clarity of purpose, economy of means and quality of execution lend Corner House a satisfying poise and grace, creating benefit for the users and appeal for the passer-by.

Award: The Pamille Berg Award for Art in Architecture

Project Name: WODEN STAIR

Practice Name: COX ARCHITECTURE

Category overview:

The Pamille Berg Art in Architecture Award aims to promote the inclusion of works of art within architectural projects as an integrated and symbolic part of architectural expression and communication. The spirit of the award is exemplified by the decades of work in Australia and overseas by Honorary AIA Fellow Pamille Berg AO in the inception, planning, and commissioning of site-specific works of art integrated into architectural and urban design. In her eight years of work on the Parliament House Art Program and as a Partner in Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp Architects (MGT) from 1988 – 2002, she collaborated closely with Romaldo Giurgola AO LFAIA and the firm's design teams in a unique role of developing opportunities for artists and craftspeople from within the architectural design process for each project. Since 2003 she has continued her preparation of public art strategies, policies, and public art programs for public and corporate clients as the Director of Pamille Berg Consulting Pty Ltd.

Award citation:

The benchmark of exceptional design, beyond a well-considered outcome, is its capacity to bring fresh perspective to its context. The role of architecture can be to add value to what is already there, and to celebrate its specialness. Woden Stair does this in a simple and poetic manner.

Margel Hinder's 'Sculptured Form', commissioned in 1970 for Woden Square, has over the years become increasingly hidden in plain sight due to the passage of time and lack of connectivity within its surrounding. As a key focal element in the alignment and destination of Woden Stair, the architects have recognised the value of public art and its contribution to the public realm.

Independently, both Woden Stair and Sculptured Form are recognised as important elements in the contained space, but in its relationship and context, there is a holistic reading that elevates them beyond pure function and pure sculpture. Together, their pairing resonates with new found meaning and contemporary relevance. The organic fluidity and softness of Sculptured Form's aluminium surface contrasts perfectly against the concrete robustness and regularity of Woden Stairs.

Sculptured Form now appears more luminous and radiates with new purpose as a centrepiece and destination on top of Woden Stair. It is a perfect synergy of materiality and form that far exceeds the sum of its parts.

Award: The Robert Foster Award for Light in Architecture

Project Name: CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Practice Name: GUIDA MOSELEY BROWN ARCHITECTS

Category overview:

This Award commemorates renowned Canberra artist, Robert Foster. Foster trained in traditional silversmithing at the Canberra School of Art and has successfully worked as a designer and maker of unique functional objects. Foster worked predominantly in hollowware, sculptural lighting, and furniture, and his work is held by all of the major institutions in Australia including collections at the Australian National Gallery and the Australian Parliament House. He also has pieces in notable overseas collections such as the Victoria & Albert Museum in London and the Museum fur Kunst and Gewerbe in Germany, as well as in several international private collections. His diverse understanding of process and his constant need to challenge visual language made him one of the most notable contemporary designer makers.

Award citation:

The lighting strategy for Canberra Airport International demonstrates great skill and vision, and displays a high level of control in the coordination of light and architecture to provide a luminous atmosphere to the travel experience. Dramatic natural lighting through windows and skylights celebrate spaces within and beyond, and while minimising the need for artificial lighting, the jury were equally impressed with the architects' capacity to use it to enhance spatial experience. By night, the lighting sensitively responds to the function of each space, whether for general, intimate or task related.

The triangular ceiling grid ingeniously integrates lighting and security into each triangular panel, collectively forming a dynamic bold composition. Sustainability through lighting efficiency has been maximised through the considered choice of lighting types and systems. The overall lighting strategy reflects the highly successful collaboration of Guida Moseley Brown Architects with Lighting Design Partnership, to achieve superior lighting solutions which enhance the interior using a combination of natural, artificial and integrated lighting.

Award: Enduring Architecture

Project Name: LAKEVIEW

Practice Name: HARRY SEIDLER 1984

Award citation:

Lakeview in Yarralumla is a group of eleven, near-identical three-bedroom townhouses designed by Harry Seidler and Associates in 1984. The complex is one of only three medium-density housing projects in Canberra designed by Seidler, the others being the earlier Campbell Group Housing and the now-demolished Garran Housing.

The townhouses incorporate a number of long-established Seidleresque themes: continuous, north-facing glazing subtended between expressed party walls, carefully modulated wall surfaces, inset balconies and a limited palette of robust materials—grey face brickwork, render, concrete floors, tiled roofs, painted fibre-cement panels and timber doors and stair treads. The design also introduces two aspects of the architect's later preoccupation with non-orthogonal planning: the fan-shaped plan allowing each house to step down the hillside and open out towards the north for admission of sun and lake views, and the Late Baroque-influenced interplay of straight and curved surfaces.

This interplay is apparent upon arrival to the underground garages, which are naturally lit by large, curved roof openings. These later emerge as sculptural elements within the shared, landscaped garden that leads to individual, private courtyards. The housing group sits comfortably within its environment, the shared garden provides opportunities for casual encounters between residents, and the absence of fences or privacy walls to the north promotes easy access to Stirling Park. The sculptural themes and spatial interplay of the swimming pool and courtyard walls culminate in the interiors of the houses, where open plan living spaces are dramatised by a skilful composition of alternatively curved balustrades on different levels and a masterful articulation of light and space.

Lakeview residents have described how the architecture of the townhouse group has been an ongoing source of delight, and instrumental in engendering a special kind of community: one in which residents respect each other's privacy, but also share common interests and work together on communal projects such as gardening.

The ongoing success of Lakeview over more than thirty years derives from Harry Seidler and Associates' strong design skills, all of which are exemplified in this confident, well-integrated and mature work of architecture, a worthy winner of the 2017 Award for Enduring Architecture.

Award: ACT Chapter Student Medallion

Award Recipient: DANIEL REARDON

Award overview:

The Medallion, first awarded in 1981, coincided with the ACT Chapter's formal accreditation of the course offered at the then College of Advanced Education.

Award citation:

Daniel Reardon is awarded the 2016 ACT Chapter Medallion for attaining the highest grade point average over the five years of his architectural education at the University of Canberra. Dan pursued his studies with an exemplary depth of focus and integrity. His studio projects showed considerable iterative exploration and resolution, reaching highly considered crafted outcomes. Dan generously provided leadership within the studio environment and sustained a consistently high performance across all five years of the architecture program.

Award: Daryl Jackson Alastair Swayn Graduate Prize

Award Recipient: ELEANOR KIRKHAM

Award overview:

The Institute's Graduate Prize provides encouragement and support for architecture graduates as they embark on their professional careers; it provides assistance through the registration process, supporting students in the transition from education to the profession.

Award citation:

Eleanor Kirkham is the 2016 recipient of the Institute's Daryl Jackson Alastair Swayn Graduate Prize, awarded for attaining the highest grade point average over the two years of the Master of Architecture course at the University of Canberra. Eleanor achieved a high level of excellence in all aspects of her studies pursued with intelligence, focus and conceptual clarity. Her achievement is underscored by a consistently thoughtful, coherent and finely attuned sensibility.

Award: John Redmond Prize

Award Recipient: CHLOE YIN

Award overview:

The John Redmond Prize was first awarded in 1978, in honour of Mr John Redmond, Chairman of the Chapter Education Committee 1969 -1978. John Redmond, graduate of the University of Adelaide, completed a three year town planning post graduate thesis under Sir William Holford at the London University. He then went on to be one of the first architects employed by the National Capital Development Commission, working there until his retirement in 1973.

Award citation:

Chloe Yin is the 2016 recipient of the John Redmond Prize, awarded for the highest achievement during the first three years of architectural studies at the University of Canberra. Chloe demonstrated a considerable aptitude for highly interpretive thinking, pursuing design responses of exceptional insight. Her work across all areas of study exemplified a rigorous, layered and highly articulated level of imaginative resolution.