

EMBARGOED UNTIL 8.00PM FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2020

## 2020 NSW Country Division Architecture Awards winners announced celebrating regional design

6 November 2020: Today the Australian Institute of Architects announced the winners in the 2020 NSW Country Division Architecture Awards, celebrating quality and diversity of architecture across regional and country NSW.

The jury selected the 25 best projects in 11 categories including new houses, heritage, commercial, public architecture and more, and from as far afield as the Northern Rivers, Central NSW, far South Coast, and even Lord Howe Island.

‘Architects working on regional projects across the vast state of NSW face different challenges to those working on city-based projects,’ said awards jury chair Nicholas Brown. ‘The architects recognised in this year’s awards demonstrate a deep understanding of place and creative approach to design that responds to the diverse lifestyles and environmental challenges across NSW – from mountains to coast, riverlands to bush.’

The **Bathurst Rail Museum** by Integrated Design Group took out the prestigious James Barnet Award and the award for Public Architecture. The museum successfully delivers on the promise of recording, rediscovering and reinvigorating the continuing social and railway history of Bathurst, Australia’s oldest inland European settlement. The design skilfully combines the preserving and enhancement of a heritage building with the successful addition of new buildings and insertions into the engaging precinct, adding a new built history to the existing. The contrasting form, colour and materiality of the contemporary buildings clearly defines old and new.

Across this year’s awards program, Integrated Design Group took out four awards. The honours also included the award for Heritage Architecture for **dAIRY CReATiVe** and the award for Residential Architecture - Affordable Housing (Under \$400,000) for **Mum’s House**. dAIRY CReATiVe offers a great collaborative workspace and preserves and reveals materials, trade and technology through the adaptive re-use of a 115-year-old brick ‘shed’. Mum’s House, in collaboration with Jennifer Price Landscape Design, epitomises true sustainability, delivering a sophisticated ‘shed’ with strong reference to the Australian farm vernacular.

Multi-award winning DJF Architects were recognised for three projects including: **Easy Street**, recipient of the Sustainable Architecture award and award for Residential Architecture - Multiple Housing; **Neal and Shirley’s** awarded Residential Architecture - Houses (Alterations and Additions); and **Coolamon House** awarded for Residential Architecture - Houses (New.)

Easy Street in Byron Bay delivers uncompromisingly designed, compact, low-cost apartments creating an affordable, flourishing community for key workers.

Neal and Shirley’s modest mid-century bones warranted preservation, and reconfiguring the beachfront pavilion into an efficient two-person home that better engages with its unique dune system setting saved the much loved 1957 Tweed Coast home.

Coolamon House perches on an exposed escarpment. By conceiving the home around a central oasis courtyard set within a transparent outer shell, the architecture affords protected immersion in the expansive landscape while capturing internal views through the house itself.



**Pearl Beach House** by Buckwell & Partners Architects took out awards for Residential Architecture - Houses (New) and Timber. Using thoughtfully resolved, recycled materials this passive solar house hugs the site and celebrates the natural beauty of its surroundings.

Harley Graham Architects received the Commercial Architecture award for the **Stone and Wood Brewery**. A steel and timber structure that deconstructs as it opens to the north where the courtyard defines the entry and greenery climbs the vertical timber screen, it creates a spiritual home for the team.

The award for Educational Architecture went to **Q Block** by GPG Architecture and Design with Mark G Golden and Associates. Here internal learning areas connect seamlessly with covered outdoor zones to create transitional learning environments that serve as natural backdrops to the energetic days of the occupants.

The Vision Award was won by Takt Studio for the **Conjola Connected Communities** masterplan to assist future development following the catastrophic bushfires of 2019/2020. It is a vision of a community that becomes more resilient, more inclusive and more sustainable than it ever has been.

**ANZAC Walk** by PELLE Architects received the award for Small Project Architecture. The Batemans Bay Soldiers Club 'ANZAC Walk' is a sensitive and respectful tribute to past servicemen and women, creating a contemplative and reflective arrival sequence and using undulating geometry to create compression and relief when transitioning through the space shaping the sculpted displays.

In addition to the 15 jury awards and ten commendations, **Pearl Beach House** by Buckwell & Partners Architects also won the People's Choice award by popular vote. Supporters were no doubt impressed by the state-of-the-art passive solar home that generates electricity, uses thoughtfully recycled materials and celebrates the natural beauty of the environment around it.

NSW Chapter President, Kathlyn Loseby, noted: '2020 was a particularly difficult year for regional NSW with unprecedented challenges including bushfires, floods and the pandemic. The contribution regional architects make to local communities through sustainable, resilient design, and creating place that enriches wellbeing cannot be taken for granted.'

The full list of awards and commendations can be found below.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors:**

High resolution images and project details are available for download from Awards Force at: <https://nationalarchitecture.awardsplatform.com/register/mjMXXIbX>

Images are provided only for use in articles relating to the NSW Country Division Architecture Awards program run by the Australian Institute of Architects. Use in any other context is strictly prohibited without written permission from the submitting architect. All images must credit the architect, photographer and the Australian Institute of Architects.

Interviews can be arranged on request through the Institute or directly with the project contact found in the media gallery.



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The Australian Institute of Architects is the peak body for the architectural profession, representing over 11,500 members across Australia and overseas. The Institute actively works to improve the quality of our built environment by promoting quality, responsible and sustainable design. Learn more about the Institute, log on to [www.architecture.com.au](http://www.architecture.com.au)

**2020 NSW Country Division Architecture Awards – Winners and commendations**

**JAMES BARNET AWARD**

Bathurst Rail Museum | Integrated Design Group | Bathurst

**SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE AWARD**

Easy Street | DFJ Architects | Byron Bay

**TIMBER AWARD**

Pearl Beach House | Buckwell & Partners Architects | Pearl Beach

**RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE - HOUSES (NEW)**

**Architecture Award**

Coolamon House | DFJ Architects | Byron Bay

Pearl Beach House | Buckwell & Partners Architects | Pearl Beach

Pine Springs – Ballifornia | Harley Graham Architects | East Ballina

**Commendation**

Camp Yarrowa | Takt Studio | Robertson

Lloyds Residence | BHI Architects | Kiama Heights



The Sticks | I ARCHITECTURE | Upper Kangaroo River

**RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE - HOUSES (ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS)**

**Architecture Award**

Neal & Shirley's | DFJ Architects | Pottsville

**Commendation**

Perry Street Residence | Cameron Anderson Architects | Mudgee

**RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE - MULTIPLE HOUSING**

**Architecture Award**

Easy Street | DFJ Architects | Byron Bay

**Commendation**

Larus Marinus - Wategos | Harley Graham Architects | Wategos Beach

Mona Lane Apartments | Zac Tooth Architect | Brunswick Heads

**RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE - AFFORDABLE HOUSING (UNDER \$400,000)**

**Architecture Award**

Mum's House | Integrated Design Group with Jennifer Price Landscape Design | Mount Victoria

**INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE**

**Commendation**

Art House | Villar Architect | Wentworth Falls

**HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE**

**Architecture Award**

dAIRY CReATiVe | Integrated Design Group | Bathurst

**Commendation**

Sir George Stable Restoration | Noel Thomson Architecture | Jugiong

**COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE**

**Architecture Award**



Stone and Wood Brewery | Harley Graham Architects | Byron Bay

**Commendation**

Island House | Derive Design | Lord Howe Island

**EDUCATIONAL ARCHITECTURE**

**Architecture Award**

Q Block | GPG Architecture and Design with Mark G Golden and Associates | Wagga Wagga

**PUBLIC ARCHITECTURE**

**Architecture Award**

Bathurst Rail Museum | Integrated Design Group | Bathurst, Central Tablelands

**SMALL PROJECT ARCHITECTURE**

**Architecture Award**

ANZAC Walk | PELLE Architects | Batemans Bay, South Coast

**Commendation**

Bangerang Park Amenities | Regional Design Service | Corowa

**VISION AWARD**

**Architecture Award**

Conjola Connected Communities | Takt Studio | Conjola

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE**

Pearl Beach House | Buckwell & Partners Architects | Pearl Beach