Queensland’s moves to boost its Smart State status appear to be translating into seriously smart architecture after educational and research buildings scooped the 2008 Queensland Architecture awards last night.

The innovative Cherrell Hirst Creative Learning Centre at Brisbane Girls Grammar School, designed by m3 Architecture, was named the best public building, and was praised for reflecting the link between socialisation patterns and education.

Another educational building, the Chancellery at Sunshine Coast University, won the Harry S Marks award for sustainable design.

The naturally lit and ventilated building, designed by Architectus, gives individual users control over the internal climate.

The sustainable focus continued with the Robin Dods award for residential housing going to a solar-powered house at Samford village designed by architects Bligh Graham.

Best multiple housing project was the Bligh Voller Nield-designed Flow residences on the river at West End, while a future plan for Brisbane’s Fortitude Valley, put together by Hassell, won the Urban Design Award.