New education and research buildings score top marks at Queensland Architecture Awards


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New benchmark education and research buildings have stolen the limelight at the Queensland Architecture Awards - securing a virtual clean sweep of public architecture, interior architecture and sustainable architecture awards.

Announcing the Australian Institute of Architects’ Queensland Architecture Awards in Brisbane tonight (Friday 25 July), jury chair Rosemary Kennedy said five new dynamic education and research projects had picked up eight awards and commendations.

Topping the list, is the recipient of the 2008 FDG Stanley Award for Public Architecture and a commendation for Interior Architecture - the Cherrell Hirst Creative Learning Centre at Brisbane Girls Grammar School by m3architecture.

In awarding it the state’s top prize, the jury said: “This is a breathtaking building in every way and from every vantage - a dynamic learning place for girls and young women, which reflects the client’s depth of knowledge regarding links between socialisation patterns and girls’ education.”

An Architecture Award for Public Architecture was also awarded to The Chancellory at the University of Sunshine Coast by Architectus, described by the jury as a building which “embodies the university’s democratic and accessible character and takes the vision for an authentic and sustainable subtropical architecture to the next level”.

In a triple win for The Chancellory and Architectus, the jury also awarded it the Harry S Marks Award for Sustainable Architecture and the COLORBOND Award for Steel Architecture.

A third Architecture Award for Public Architecture was presented to the Queensland Brain Institute, St Lucia Campus, Brisbane by John Wardle Architects and Wilson Architects (architects in association).

In its citation, the jury said: “This outstanding building has established a new benchmark in design of research laboratory workplaces at the University of Queensland.” The project was also awarded the Institute’s Interior Architecture Award.

The win caps off a successful month for John Wardle Architects, who a fortnight ago scooped three of Victoria’s highest honours at the Australian Institute of Architects Victorian Architecture Awards - including the Victorian Architecture Medal and the William Wardell Award for public architecture.

This year’s Urban Design Award was presented to the Fortitude Valley Urban Vision by HASSELL, “the first step in setting a strategic direction for the next 15 years of development in the heart of a rapidly evolving inner city area”. The jury said it was an “exemplary study of an existing fabric, identifying core values and components of the area”.

BRISBANE GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL
The first commercial office building in a master-planned office estate at the Port of Brisbane, the Port Central 1 by Thomson Adsett Architects & Studio 39, was this year’s recipient of the Beatrice Hutton Award for Commercial Architecture. The jury described it as a “people-focused haven in a major industrial landscape”.

In the keenly-contested residential category, the state’s top award for Residential Housing, the Robin Dods Award, was presented to the Samford House at Pine Rivers in Brisbane by Bligh Graham Architects. The jury said: “This response to a challenging brief pushes the boundaries of detail and sustainability in a poetic and highly scientific manner demonstrating a relentless dedication to an informed vision.” In a double win, the house also received an Architecture Award for Interior Architecture.

An Architecture Award for Residential Housing was also presented to the Canoe Beach Residence at Yeronga in Brisbane by Steendyk, and to the Honeydew Residence at Ninderry on the Sunshine Coast by Sparks Architects.

An elegant inner-city riverfront multi-residential complex, Flow at West End by Bligh Voller Nield, received the Multiple Housing Award for its “smart construction techniques and innovative detailing” which “support a high level of coherent and integrated design”.

Two respectful adaptations and additions to existing houses received Architecture Awards in the Small Project Architecture category - the House of Orange (William and Mary’s Place) at Clayfield by Elizabeth Watson Brown Architects, and Indooroopilly House in Brisbane by Owen and Vokes Pty Ltd.

The 25 Year Award for Enduring Architecture was presented to Banfield, South Mission Beach by JMA Architects Qld. In its citation the jury said: “The design is of its climate and place, inviting close connection with the elements while providing shelter and protection.”

The state’s Art and Architecture Award was presented to Out of Mind at the Queensland Brain Institute by John Wardle Architects and Wilson Architects (architects in association) with Fiona Hall. Praising the project, the jury said: “The result of artist and architect collaboration demonstrates highly successful conceptual rigor, cost effectiveness and enduring integrated design, which links the public spaces with the intellectual ‘engine room’ with a sense of immediacy.”

All winners of Architecture Awards now go on to compete against other state and territory winners at the National Architecture Awards, to be announced in Adelaide on Thursday October 30.