Queensland architects take out a top national honour

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By David Earley

FOR the second year running, a Queensland firm working on a Brisbane project has taken out the Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Architecture.

The Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Architecture is Australia's top national architecture prize.

Brisbane's m3architecture won for its work on the Cherrell Hirst Creative Learning Centre at Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

Each level of the creative learning centre has dedicated spaces, from music on the ground floor to art on the upper level.

Alec Tzannes, the chairman of the national awards jury, said the panel was amazed by the quality of the design.

"I'd say it's an outstanding, world-leading facility for the learning experience, and equivalently for architecture and architects," he said.

Mr Tzannes said Brisbane Girls Grammar School had approached the project with the idea that women needed to develop their learning skills by combining them with relationships, and m3architecture had delivered.

"It's a brilliant resolution of the context - it took our breath away," he said.

Queensland firms John Wardle Architects and Wilson Architects received a commendation for interior architecture for their work on the Queensland Brain Institute.