President’s Letter

The photo above, taken with our Patron, His Excellency Mr Michael Bryce, was shot at the recent AIA National Architecture Awards held in Canberra.

These Awards were just one of the many held towards the end of 2010 in which architects and designers presented their projects for judgement by their peers. Additional awards included the Architect’s Registration Board Awards, the Timber Development Awards, the Think Brick Awards and the IDEA Awards for interior architecture and design.

The categories included residential, commercial and public architecture and design. And while it is impossible to showcase every project, we have provided you with a small snapshot of some of the winners in this issue. I encourage you to view more of the varied body of works entered and the award winners at the relevant industry body websites.

As we come to the close of 2010, the board at the AAA is working hard to ensure that our program of tours, talks and events will continue to grow and develop in the decade ahead, providing you with plenty of opportunities to engage with our country’s architecture and participate in the many programs we are providing.

Approaching a new decade is always a time for reflection and I know that there are challenges ahead for architects and creators of our built environment. Sustainability is a word we have become very familiar with during this first decade of the 21st century, not just in the built environment but in every aspect of our lives. Learning to live more sustainably, and designing and building more sustainably are responsibilities we all face and this is an area that the Association will be addressing in future programs.

Many of our volunteers are architects who give of their time and expertise to educate and inform the public about our built environment. Several are specialists in environmentally sustainable design who will be presenting tours and talks next year. We are planning some exciting future events and I encourage you to keep up-to-date with them via our website and of course our newsletter, of which this will be the final issue until February 2011.

Until then, the AAA wishes you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Kate

Kate St James, FDIA
President
View new homes, apartments, kitchens, bathrooms, furniture, interior design styles, outdoor design ideas, renovation projects and ideas, pools, home technology setups and more. Plus you will find contact details for suppliers who can help bring your dream home to life.

SUSTAINABLE HOUSE TOUR
4 December 2010 (2:00 pm - 4:00 pm)
5 Strickland Street, Rose Bay

Our fourth Short Black - Architects in their Space talk will be given by well known Sydney architect Caroline Pidcock and Cameron Rosen from Australian Living who will present the Five Keys to a Sustainable Home. You will learn how the home was designed, constructed and why the home is truly sustainable. You will be able to see and hear about each of the four architect-designed, sustainable houses from the street front and then be taken on a tour inside and around one of the homes which is rated eight stars for thermal comfort. This home has been designed with true sustainability in mind and was constructed using sustainable building materials. The talk and tour will be followed by an opportunity for informal discussion with Caroline Pidcock and Cameron Rosen.

For more information and bookings:
www.architecture.org.au

TWILIGHT SYDNEY CITY
ARCHITECTURE WALK

Wednesday, December 01, 2010 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (GMT+1000)
Sydney, New South Wales
Entrance to Customs House

SYDNEY CITY ARCHITECTURE WALK

Saturday, December 04, 2010 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (GMT+1000)
Sydney, New South Wales
Entrance to Customs House

SHORT BLACK TALK - SUSTAINABLE HOUSE TOUR

Saturday, December 04, 2010 from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (GMT+1000)
Rose Bay, New South Wales
5 Strickland Street

For more information and bookings;
www.architecture.org.au
This latest addition to IMAGES 21st Century series presents a diverse sample of contemporary Australian and New Zealand architecture including the work of AAA volunteer tour guide, architect Kooi-ying Mah, whose Scarp House in Castlecrag, Sydney is a calming bush sanctuary which makes a unique indoor feature out of a rock outcrop. (This project was also selected for the Focus Tour Sydney Open in 2008).

The volume provides a snapshot of how trans-Tasman architects are forging their own architectural identity and responding to their unique environments in innovative and inventive ways.

From rural to chic inner-city dwellings, from scenic lakeside residences to suburban family homes, the collection showcases the finest examples of residential design currently being produced Downunder. Whether refashioning and reimagining existing properties or dreaming new creations, from the ground up, common to all projects is the theme of cutting edge, innovative design.

Additional highlights contained in this volume are Resort House, which adds a touch of the resort lifestyle to everyday living; Perforted House, with operable walls that challenge the notion of the house as static object; and Tattoo House, which overcomes space limitations with innovative design solutions.

An aspect evident in all of the houses is the emerging importance of energy efficiency and sustainable design, which is increasingly becoming a focus of contemporary Australian and New Zealand architects, who are facing the challenges of sustainability with designs that are both practical and aesthetically interesting.

21st Century Houses Downunder is an invaluable reference for anyone interested in quality architecture and contemporary living.
Nick Hollo is an architect, urban designer and Deputy Executive Director at the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (Harbour Trust). The Harbour Trust is conserving and opening up to the public a number of former Defence sites around Sydney Harbour, such as Middle Head, Georges Heights and Chowder Bay in Mosman, Cockatoo Island, Woolwich Dock, the former Artillery School at North Head, Macquarie Light House and the former HMAS Platypus site at Neutral Bay.

Nick is also an artist working with oil pastels wherever he goes, usually somewhere along the coast and often between Bondi and Coogee, on the harbour, from a ferry or at the beach.

He has had solo exhibitions at the Historic Houses Trust Members’ Lounge, The Mint, Macquarie Street Sydney in 2007, 2008 and 2010. He exhibits annually at Gallery East, Clovelly in late October.

Nick has been part of the AAA since 2005 and one of the architects who has led the AAA Harbour cruises since it started. He is a great storyteller whose knowledge of Sydney and its harbour foreshores is amazing; the people who listen to his tour always come away feeling very inspired, not only is it an architecture cruise but a history lesson on Sydney.

Nick has written and illustrated a book, “Warm House Cool House” – about sensible and attractive, low energy house design to suit Australia’s climates, which was published by Choice Books in 1995. He is currently preparing a revised edition of the book for UNSW Press.

In this book Nick Hollo provides a simple explanation of the principles of low-energy housing design, and illustrates these principles with more than one hundred inspirational examples, from project and kit homes to new architect-designed houses, renovations and extensions, and medium- to high density dwellings from all climatic zones.

Whether you are planning to renovate, build or buy, this book will offer you inspiration and ideas on how to make any house anywhere an environmentally sustainable, comfortable and attractive place to live in all year round, while keeping electricity, gas and water bills comfortably low.

This book reveals environmentally-conscious living at its best, and contains some of the most effective examples of Australian homes that stay cool in summer and warm in winter.
The 2010 Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarships

The Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarships (BHTS) bequeathed by the Estate of the late Byera Hadley, is administered by the NSW Architects Registration Board to enable winners to undertake a course of study, research or other activity approved by the Board as contributing to the advancement of architecture.

The Board has accepted this obligation as an important component of its role in promoting the discussion of architecture in the community. The scholarships are open to NSW registered architects who graduated in NSW, recent graduates and students of the four schools of architecture in NSW.

This year’s winners of the Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarship: were Andrew Daly for Lanes, Pockets and spaces left over; Tone Wheeler, for Between housing: finding a new mix of density, occupation and ownership; Christian Williams for Decorating the Duck; Tim Williams for Le Grand Pris and Lachlan Delaney for Sago Studio.

The 2010 Architects Medallion

The Architects Medallion has been awarded since 1924. Until the early 1950’s it was known as the Australian Medallion and awarded in conjunction with a travelling scholarship.

Since 1952 the Architects Medallion -as it became known- has been awarded annually to a graduate of the Bachelor of Architecture course from an approved school in New South Wales who has achieved distinction, both in a particular subject area at final level and generally throughout the last two years of the course.

The Head of School submits a nomination of its most outstanding student, in a prescribed form to the Board. A selection committee appointed by the Board chooses the winner.

The award consists of a certificate, medal and from 2009, a monetary prize of $5,000.

Winner of the 2010 Architects Medallion is Felicity Stewart.

Using Architects - Why we should.

“Engineers make things efficient, architects make things beautiful.”

Tristram Carfrae’s work at Arup, the worldwide building engineering consultancy, has included leading the team responsible for engineering Beijing’s ‘Water Cube’. He believes that looking to the future is much more important than most people appreciate.

‘Human nature tends to be the reverse’ he says, ‘it tends to be “what have we done before”. I think the best strategy is a combination of what is the best solution to date and how can we now do it better.’

For Tristram the need to be innovative is pressing. By 2050 he says, ‘we’re going to have six billion people living in urban environments and almost all that increase will come in the developing world where that environment has to be built between now and 2050. The resource and energy consumption of doing so will kill the planet if we don’t do it in an innovative, better, more efficient, more economical fashion.’

Winner of Architect’s Medallion 2010 Felicity Stewart.

Tone Wheeler, one of the 2010 Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarships winners.

Tristram Carfrae, Arup Fellow and opening speaker at the 2010 Architects Registration Board awards night.
From urban design to public, commercial, heritage, interior and sustainable architecture, projects skilfully blending these elements took top honours at the Australian Institute of Architects’ National Architecture Awards, the country’s most prestigious annual architecture prizes.

The 2010 awards were presented at a special ceremony in Canberra. A total of 33 awards and commendations across 12 categories were awarded to projects in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, and offshore in Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Tanzania, Indonesia and India.

Presenting the awards, Jury Chair Melinda Dodson said: “It’s a contradictory time for architecture — we’ve had economic buoyancy followed by economic downturn. As architects we’re part of a carbon-emitting industry, so it’s natural that the jury reflected on the future, applied the ‘enduring architecture’ test, and the essential test of sustainability. We were heartened by the many instances of architects demonstrating leadership advocacy and innovation. Projects where a positive transformative act had occurred, resulting in new ideas for the profession and for the community about architecture; architects doing ordinary things in extraordinary ways. Often leadership and perseverance was matched by the client.”

The 2010 Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Architecture was a clear demonstration of this, being awarded this year to the Epping to Chatswood Rail Link, Intermediate Stations in Sydney by national practice HASSELL. In a triple win for the firm, HASSELL also received the Emil Sodersten Award for Interior Architecture for the ANZ Centre in Melbourne and a National Commendation for Urban Design for the Adelaide Zoo Entrance Precinct in Adelaide.

Ms Dodson said “while the 2009 jury worried about a lack of expenditure on public urban design projects, in 2010 the opposite was true. Most notably, Mayor Clover Moore and the City of Sydney have demonstrated a commitment to the public realm with the Pirrama Park and Paddington Reservoir Gardens projects”. As a result, the City of Sydney and the Australian public emerged as this year’s big winners, with five projects commissioned by the council picking up major awards. Surry Hills Library and Community Centre in Sydney by Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp (fjmt) received a National Award for Public Architecture and a National Award for Sustainable Architecture. The much-used and enjoyed Pirrama Park at Pyrmont Hill by Thalis Architecture + Urban Projects/Aspect Studios/CAB received the Walter Burley Griffin Award for Urban Design, while the equally well-frequented Paddington Reservoir Gardens by Tonkin Zulaikha Greer with JMD Design and the City of Sydney received a National Award for Urban Design and National Award for Heritage.

The Jørn Utzøn Award for International Architecture was given to a revolutionary, naturally ventilated 66-storey apartment building in Bangkok, The Met, by Singapore-based practice WOHA. The Lachlan Macquarie Award for Heritage was this year awarded to a regional project of national significance, the Barcaldine...
Tree of Knowledge Memorial by Brian Hooper Architect and m3architecture – Architects in Association. The now-dead and memorialised ghost gum in the main street of Barcaldine is of national importance as the shelter under which striking shearers met 120 years ago, giving rise to the formation of the ALP.

An exemplary new commercial building in the heart of Kings Cross described by the jury as both a “placemaker” for the public and workplace communities — 5-9 Roslyn Street in Kings Cross by Durbach Block Architects — was awarded this year’s top Harry Seidler Award for Commercial Architecture. The jury said the building has “a particularly human quality” and they had “a strong sense that this building would adapt and change gracefully to changes in commercial use over time — a mark of an exemplar commercial building”.

For the first time in the history of the national awards, Australia’s most prestigious residential award — the Robin Boyd Award for Residential Architecture – Houses — was presented to a Tasmanian practice and house: the Trial Bay House by Hobart practice HBV Architects. The jury said: “An exceptional house may be one with such calmness and serenity that it is hard to leave. The remodelling and additions to the Trial Bay House have created such a house.”

The Frederick Romberg Award for Residential Architecture - Multiple Housing was presented to Brisbane-based practice Donovan Hill for the Seaspray Resort and Spa at Zilzie in Queensland. The practice also picked up a National Award for Residential Architecture - Houses for their Z House in Brisbane.
THINK BRICK AWARDS

Think Brick hosted its annual awards night at a formal affair at the Sydney Opera House forecourt in October.

ABOUT FACE, THE THINK BRICK CONCEPTUAL DESIGN COMPETITION, WAS AWARDED TO DURBACH BLOCK ARCHITECTS FOR THE INFINITY HOUSE

Aiming to redress the balance between shrinking home sites and ever-expanding houses, Sydney’s Durbach Block Architects advocates a return to nature and the original ideals of the early 20th-century garden suburb, with its wild and endless vegetation. Durbach Block’s Infinity House is a small dwelling nestled into and surrounded by a lush garden. The “figure 8” plan provides endless surfaces for house and garden to meet. At the junction of the two loops, large sliding doors blur the boundaries between inside and out. The unrestrained greenery climbs the walls and spills down from the roof-top terrace, covering 80 per cent of the modest site with landscape, a combination of native, deciduous and edible plants.


HORBURY HUNT, BUILT ARCHITECTURE AWARD RESIDENTIAL WINNER, DURBACH BLOCK ARCHITECTS FOR GARDEN HOUSE
The school is formed from a collage of buildings dating back almost 100 years, exhibiting a highly diverse range of styles. The school community had the stated aim for the new senior school to reflect a “new school model”, simultaneously accommodating and expressing the requirements and aspirations of a 21st century school.

The key studio spaces are for 40-60 students and follow a “team teaching” approach where spaces are configured to allow for flexibility and a variety of uses. This is achieved by a floor plan with an undulating perimeter and is further enhanced by easily operable full-height curtains, allowing for an optimum of supervision to occur within a variety of more discrete spaces. Bands of intense colour are applied to the core walls on each level, heightening a sense of identity and playfulness.

The bricks were painted with a cement-based paint without sand content. It acts like a light slurry, building up slightly unevenly over the textured brick face. This smooth whitewashing holds the pattern together, softening the edges and filling cavities, making a cohesive woven surface.


The brick facade is given a fabric-like quality through its pattern, texture and treatment; these elements were introduced randomly by the bricklayers. The team laid the bricks to a string line and the head bricklayer moved behind them, tapping the bricks in or out with the handle end of his trowel. Through these simple moves, an infinitely variable pattern emerges, resulting in a hand-crafted, soft and complex veil of brickwork.


HORBURY HUNT, BUILT ARCHITECTURE AWARD COMMERCIAL WINNER, MCBRIDE CHARLES RYAN FOR FITZROY HIGH SCHOOL

On a wider-than-normal site in Bellevue Hill, Garden House is built in an almost Tuscan-like part of Sydney. Established gardens surround gracious houses with generous verandahs, roof lines and materials. The coloured bricks not only are a modern interpretation of the surrounding Italianate architecture but also refer to the more bohemian nature of broader Fitzroy. “We loved the way the banding accentuated the form and was playful. We wanted a little fun, something sadly lacking in many pursuits these days.”


For more information on the awards and the other entries visit www.thinkbrickawards.com.au
American Express House was conceived with the concept of speed in mind.

The site, located adjacent to a bend in the elevated Western Distributor freeway, slices aggressively through the western side of Sydney’s central business district. As a result, the building is experienced at speed by large numbers of passing motorists.

Nick Tyrrell, Director at Cox Richardson, who worked in a joint venture with Crone Partners on the Amex project, said, “At that speed the relative positions and angles of the distributor and the building result in a potentially serious reflectivity issue for northbound traffic as late morning sunlight is reflected into the drivers’ eyes.”

“In response we supported vertical blades off the eastern facade to mitigate reflection, with deeper blades where there is a greater reflectivity.”

Determined by a specialist study, the design creates a “contour map” emphasised by changes in colour saturation – hence the orange colour. The blades also reduce external solar loads in the morning sun and provide a psychological buffer zone for workers near the façade.

Tyrrell said, “ESD initiatives in the scheme include fixed and operable external sun shading devices on the northern and western facades. These are targeted to the relatively small areas receiving major heat loads after allowance for the overshadowing effect of adjacent buildings. In combination with high efficiency lighting and mechanical systems, the building is designed to achieve a 4.5 Star Nabers Rating.”

The building foyer opens onto a through-site link activated by cafes and water features with direct connections to the public plaza in the space beneath the distributor and through adjacent sites to Wynyard Train Station. This through site link is protected by a glazed awning that spans across to the adjacent KPMG building.

“The Tower is designed as a sculptural composition,” said Tyrrell, “The eleven-level building is articulated by strong blocks of colour which not only assert a dynamic and enthusiastic urbanism but most importantly also actually mark its major environmental systems.”

Established in 1964, COX is one of Australia’s most awarded architecture practices well known for its many iconic projects. It is an integrated company providing services in planning, urban design, architecture and interior design to clients both nationally and internationally.

www.cox.com.au
Luxury Home Design is a superior residential design publication dedicated to providing readers with a comprehensive overview of new developments and design directions in the upper end of the home design market. Luxury Home Design features distinguished ideas and the latest trends and showcases the work of some of Australia’s most talented architects, designers, builders and artists to help you with your quest to create the perfect home.
Trésor, located on the corner of Chapel Street and Alexander Avenue in South Yarra, overlooking the Yarra river, Melbourne’s CBD, Port Phillip Bay and the Dandenong Ranges, is a premier apartment building that sets a new benchmark for life in Melbourne; the city of the arts, fashion and food.

Trésor means treasure in French and Trésor is precisely that: Featuring only 99-apartments complete with a 24-hour concierge, original artwork, private 20 meter Olympic lane pool, steam room, gymnasium and theatre, this distinctive residence boasts the internationally recognised architectural skills of Wood Marsh Architecture, with an exclusive commissioned sculpture by acclaimed artist Mira Gojak.

Occupying one of the most prized locations in Melbourne, Trésor will be a medium rise building, of 15 levels, skinned in a glass sculpted concave exterior that will literally shimmer in the sunlight. Located in what has most recently been the home of Lamborghini Melbourne, the neighbourhood is defined by the arches of the 1920s-built Church Street Bridge and prestigious South Yarra buildings by Boyd, Lawson, Desbrowe-Annear and Wood Marsh themselves.

The building will reflect light with a pewter reflective glass curtain tinged with a rose blush. Trésor will deliver a selection of one-to-four bedroom dwellings with the top floors occupied by four bedroom apartments boasting commanding east, north and west views, generous light infused living spaces, en-suites, a generous entertainer’s dining room, smart kitchen with elite European appliances, climate controlled wine cellar and an elegant powder room. Interiors will be amazingly flexible in planning, with a study that can simultaneously transform to a sitting room and studio space.

For the interior palette, Wood Marsh Director, Randal Marsh has selected either light or dark monochromes with a high sense of materialism, offering people a blank canvas which they can then embellish. Quality European fittings and appliances will be furnished throughout. Highly acclaimed architects, Roger Wood and Randal Marsh, the architects behind Yve and Balencea, have accrued countless awards including the National Walter Burley Griffin Award for Urban Design and the Australian Institute of Architects, Residential Multiple Award for Balencea.

Wood Marsh projects appear in publications and exhibitions globally and some of their work has been acquired by the National Gallery of Victoria, the Australian National Gallery, RMIT University and private collectors. Wood Marsh has been judged nationally and internationally, as possessing great conceptual strength and clarity.

In an exclusive collaboration with Wood Marsh Architecture, Trésor, is being developed by Cosmos Properties in association with Landsolve, a Queensland funds management group that specialises in strategic property and capital solutions.

Construction is anticipated to commence in July 2011 with completion expected late 2012.

www.tresorsouthyarra.com.au
www.woodmarsh.com.au
sales@tresorsouthyarra.com.au

ALL THAT GLITTERS
A sparkling combination of prized location and trophy architecture

LEFT: A glass sculpted facade shimmers in the sunlight. RIGHT TOP: Spacious living rooms are a feature of each apartment. MIDDLE: Stylish kitchens feature quality European appliances. BOTTOM: Residents’ facilities include a sparkling covered pool and gymnasium.
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