

MEDIA RELEASE

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AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW: AILA VIC Jury Chair Bridget Keane

Prestigious design awards name Victoria's best landscapes

A regional mall, residential garden, school yard and train station were all among the landscape designs honoured at this year's Australian Institute of Landscape Architects' (AILA) Victorian Awards. The awards were celebrated at a ceremony held at Melbourne's Plaza Ballroom on Thursday 5 June. From a field of 70 entries, the judges selected 35 winners across 16 categories.

AILA Victoria Jury Chair Bridget Keane says the diversity of this year's entries showcase the far-reaching power of landscape architecture. "From projects that bring new life into city centres to those that regenerate huge swathes of degraded landscapes, this year's winning work showcases the incredible contribution landscape architecture makes to our communities, culture, environment and economy"

Revitalised regional mall takes out two gongs

Ballarat's Bridge Mall Redevelopment, by Hassell Studio, was dually honoured with an Award of Excellence for Civic Landscape and a Regional Achievement Award. The project revitalises Ballarat's historic retail precinct into a vibrant, people-focused meeting place.

The jury praised the designers for their 'streets for people' approach, and their rigorous and collaborative design process. "The result is a high quality, skilful and contextually responsive sequence of civic spaces and experiences that have delivered on the potential for transformational change," according to the jury. Their high praise of the project continued: "Bridge Mall elevates Ballarat's urban experience and shows landscape architecture's ability to catalyse social and economic benefits in regional precincts."



Above: Bridge Mall Redevelopment, Hassell Studio
Photography: Tom Rowe

Best garden a “triumph of regeneration, biodiversity & habitat creation”

Hedge House garden, designed by Emergent Studios (Bush Projects), received an Award of Excellence. The project extends a neighbouring reserve's bushland, incorporating regenerative biodiverse planting and habitat features that contribute to the ecological restoration of the parklands.

The jury applauded the design's “immersive and evolving landscape”. This garden advocates for engagement with the local environment and highlights its potential to enrich everyday life. Simultaneously considered, exuberant and wild, it is a model of domestic design, ecology and sustainability. The jury concluded: “This project will help inform future approaches to our suburban gardens and landscapes.”



Above: Hedge House, Emergent Studios (Bush Projects)
Photography: Rory Gardiner

Meanwhile, **Stone Hill Gully and Escarpment Regeneration** (by Thomson Hay Landscape Architects) received a Landscape Management Award of Excellence for its transformation of what was once a degraded landscape. The project also took home an Infrastructure Landscape Architecture Award. In a touching tribute to the designers, the jury said: “The result shows that the country can be revived with will, skill and ongoing commitment. Care is forever.”

Designers awarded for child's play

Congratulations are also in order for the Central Park All-Abilities Playground, by SBLA Studio with City of Stonnington. Honoured with an Award of Excellence in the 'play spaces' category, the jury commended the designers for achieving a sense of wonder and discovery.

“This delightful small playspace offers a welcome contrast to the oft-heavily constructed playgrounds seen in our urban parks. The design feels more like a whimsical and interactive garden plucked from the imagination of a child and brought to life! It delivers a tapestry of tactile experiences and learning opportunities.”



Above: Central Park All-Abilities Playground (SBLA Studio)
Photography: Pier Carthew

AILA VIC 2025 Awards

All winners of an AILA VIC Award will now proceed to the National Landscape Architecture Awards, to be announced in October in Hobart/Nipaluna.

AILA is the peak body for landscape architecture in Australia, championing quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities, and greater environmental stewardship.

What is landscape architecture + how does it benefit all Victorians?

Landscape architecture brings nature into the heart of daily life, shaping parks, precincts, wetlands, and public spaces that invite us to gather, connect, and belong.

Well-designed landscapes strengthen local economies by attracting visitors and creating jobs, but their deeper value lies in cooling our cities, restoring ecosystems, and caring for Country.

The 2025 AILA Victoria Awards celebrate the projects and practitioners reimagining how we live with landscape and each other.

- Ends -

AILA VIC Jury Chair Bridget Keane is available for interview. Full list of entrants on following pages

[Link to the full entry gallery, with additional images and information available](#)

For more information/high resolution images, please contact:

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<u>Category: Civic Landscape</u>		
Project Name	Winner	Award Type
Bridge Mall Redevelopment	Hassell Studio	Award of Excellence
Woodlea Town Centre	MDG Landscape Architects	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Community Contribution</u>		
Tiny Patches	GLAS Landscape Architects	Landscape Architecture Award
Lalor Neighbourhood House Garden	FOOKS Landscape Architecture	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Gardens</u>		
Hedge House	Emergent Studios (Bush Projects)	Award of Excellence
Green Our Roof	Hassell Studio	Landscape Architecture Award
Private Garden	T.C.L with Paul Thompson	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Health and Education Landscape</u>		
Richmond High School	SBLA Studio	Award of Excellence
Munarra Centre for Regional Excellence	Emergent Studios (Bush Projects)	Landscape Architecture Award
Moondani Balluk	REALMstudios	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Infrastructure</u>		
Mt Derrimut Road, Deer Park Station	Hassell Studio	Award of Excellence
Stonehill Gully and Escarpment Regeneration	Thomson Hay Landscape Architects	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Land Management</u>		
Stonehill Gully and Escarpment Regeneration	Thomson Hay Landscape Architects	Award of Excellence

<u>Category: Landscape Planning</u>		
Project Name	Winner	Award Type
Frankston Play Strategy and Let's Play Implementation	Frankston City Council	Landscape Architecture Award
Warrnambool Foreshore Framework Plan	REALMstudios	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Parks and Open Space</u>		
Messara Park	SMEC	Award of Excellence
Michelle Guglielmo Park	GLAS Landscape Architects	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Play Spaces</u>		
Central Park All-Abilities Playground	SBLA Studio with City of Stonnington	Award of Excellence
AJ Davis Reserve Playspace	Playce	Landscape Architecture Award
Melton Botanic Garden Nature Playspace	Melton City Council	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Research, Policy and Communications</u>		
Reimagining Birrarung: Design Concepts for 2070	National Gallery of Victoria (curator); ASPECT Studios, Bush Projects, McGregor Coxall, OFFICE, Openwork, REALMstudios, SBLA and TCL	Award of Excellence
Climate Resilience Index	Tract and OneMap	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Small Projects</u>		
120 Collins Street Ground Plane Refurbishment	Hassell Studio	Landscape Architecture Award
Yaluk Langa	Openwork	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Tourism</u>		
Shepparton Art Museum (SAM)	Urban Initiatives	Landscape Architecture Award

<u>Category: Tourism</u>		
Project Name	Winner	Award Type
Castlemaine Maryborough Rail Trail Feasibility Study	Fitzgerald Frisby Landscape Architecture	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Urban Design</u>		
Sunshine Energy Park Vision Plan	Brimbank City Council	Award of Excellence
Heidelberg West Business Park Masterplan	Mesh Livable Urban Communities in collaboration with Banyule City Council	Landscape Architecture Award
Prahran Skatepark & Basketball Court	Convic	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Regional Achievement</u>		
Bridge Mall Redevelopment	Hassell Studio	Regional Achievement Award
Shepparton Art Museum (SAM)	Urban Initiatives	Regional Achievement Award
Munarra Centre for Regional Excellence	Emergent Studios (Bush Projects)	Regional Achievement Award
<u>Category: ShadeSmart</u>		
Frankston Play Strategy and Let's Play Implementation	Frankston City Council	ShadeSmart Award
<u>Category: Climate Positive Design</u>		
Messara Park	SMEC	Climate Positive Design Award
Michelle Guglielmo Park	GLAS Landscape Architects	Climate Positive Design Award

ENTRIES

Entries – 70

Awards of Excellence – 9

Landscape Architecture Awards – 20

Regional Achievement Awards – 3

ShadeSmart Awards – 1

Climate Positive Design Awards - 2

Jury:

- Bridget Keane (Jury Chair)
- Henry Crothers
- Joanna Bush
- Mathew Mackay
- Shay McMahon

- Prue Slatyer
- Paul Thompson
- Observer Fiona Chen
- Guest juror Justine Osborne

Please visit www.aila.org.au for more information.