

MEDIA RELEASE
18 June 2025

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW NSW JURY CHAIR FIONA MORRISON

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11PM THURSDAY 26 JUNE

Parramatta, Barangaroo & Surry Hills among the sites of state's newly awarded best landscapes

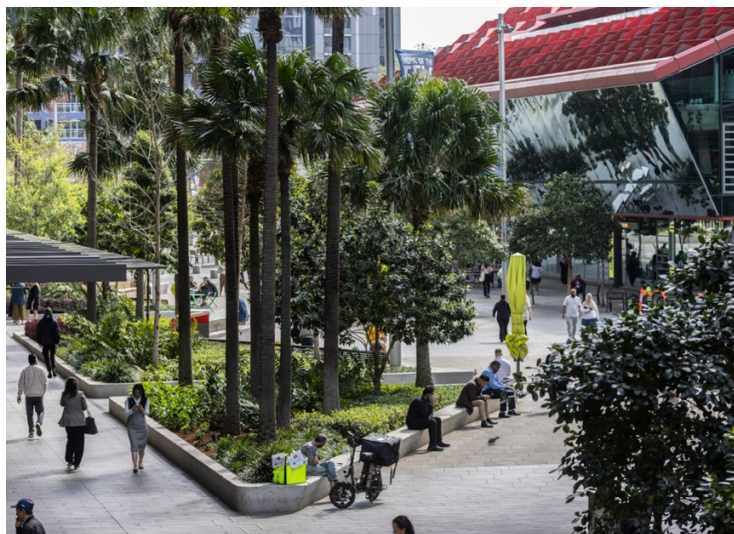
The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) NSW Chapter has announced the winners of the 2025 NSW Landscape Architecture Awards — recognising the most impactful and innovative projects shaping public spaces across the state. The awards were announced in a ceremony at the State Library of New South Wales on Thursday 26 June — celebrating achievements across design, planning, policy, research and community-led practice.

AILA NSW Jury Chair Fiona Morrison said this year's awarded projects highlight the essential role of landscape architects in shaping more inclusive, resilient and liveable communities. "This year's winners exemplify how landscape architecture can transform public spaces and help shape the way communities work, live and connect," Morrison said. "Whilst the projects vary in scale and size, all awarded projects show how our profession is responding to the challenges of climate, culture and community with considered, places-based and purposeful design."

Jury praises Parramatta projects

Parramatta Square, by JMD design with TCL, Gehl and TZG, was honoured with an Award of Excellence for Civic Landscape. The Jury acknowledged the designers' outstanding approach: "Parramatta Square stands as a benchmark project that affirms landscape architecture as essential to shaping vibrant, inclusive, resilient and transformational urban centres — positioning the profession as a critical force in the delivery of future public domain projects across New South Wales."

Further, the Jury applauded the designers for championing Indigenous engagement and for bringing cohesion to the design, including "...linking commercial buildings, significant heritage assets and transport infrastructure into a unified, legible and high-performing civic precinct."



Above: Parramatta Square, by JMD design with TCL, Gehl and TZG. Photography: Brett Boardman

Parramatta Light Rail (Stage 1) by Transport for NSW, Context and COX, received an Infrastructure Award of Excellence. Parramatta Light Rail Stage 1 is an iconic landscape architecture project delivering a contiguous, 12km green line of revitalised public domain, transport and green infrastructure in Western Sydney.

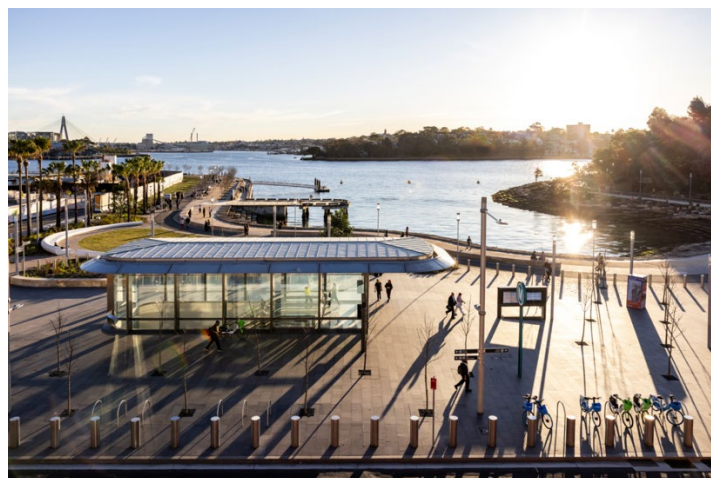
According to the Jury, the impact of this project is significant. “From the iconic green track, to the planting of over 5,000 new trees, the project sets a new benchmark for climate-responsive infrastructure.”



Above: Parramatta Light Rail (Stage 1) by Transport for NSW, Context and COX
Photography: Ameer Al Attar

Also in the category of Infrastructure, **Barangaroo Station Park** (designed by Arcadia) was honoured with a Landscape Architecture Award. The Jury commented: “Supporting the delivery of Sydney Metro’s new Barangaroo Station, the landscape connects key precincts — including Nawi Cove, Hickson Road and Barangaroo Headland Park — into a unified, accessible and high-performing urban environment.”

“Drawing on deep consultation with First Nations Knowledge Holders and archaeologists, the design incorporates interpretive elements and native planting to tell layered stories of Gadigal Country and early colonial heritage. A shell-seeded concrete seat, heritage boat inlay and biodiversity-rich planting palette reflect a thoughtful, place-specific response.”



Above: Barrangaroo Station Park by Arcadia. Photography: Brett Boardman

“Simplicity” triumphs at Surry Hills

Congratulations are also due to Sue Barnsley Design, who took out the Award of Excellence for Parks and Open Space — for the design of **Wimbo Park Surry Hills**. The Jury praised its simplicity and the way it belies the complexity of the site. They described the project as a “beautifully balanced integration of ecological design, infrastructure and community needs”. Further, the Jury commented: “The care taken to preserve local heritage, including the Wimbo Paddock Mural and the Stonemasons monument, adds depth to the park’s identity.”



Above: Wimbo Park Surry Hills by Sue Barnsley Design Photography: Will Jones

AILA NSW Awards

All winners of an AILA NSW 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 everyone in New South Wales?

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 NSW Awards celebrate the projects and practitioners reimagining how we live with landscape and each other.

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AILA NSW Jury Chair Fiona Morrison 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:

Tonia Zemek, Snr Marketing + Communications Advisor @ Lindy Johnson

T 0420 714 769 | tonia@lindyjohnson.com.au

<u>Category: Civic Landscape</u>		
Project Name	Winner	Award Type
Parramatta Square	JMD design with TCL, Gehl and TZG	Award of Excellence
<u>Category: Climate Positive Design</u>		
Wagonga Inlet Living Foreshore	REALMstudios	Climate Positive Design
<u>Category: Community Contribution</u>		
Living Lab Northern Rivers (LLNR)	University of Technology Sydney and Living Lab Northern Rivers	Award of Excellence
<u>Category: Cultural Heritage</u>		
The Meandering Pathway of Tranquillity	Phillips Marler	Award of Excellence
<u>Category: Gardens</u>		
NINE	McGregor Coxall	Award of Excellence
<u>Category: Health and Education Landscape</u>		
Resilience – Karuah Primary School	Terras Landscape Architects	Award of Excellence
<u>Category: Infrastructure</u>		
Parramatta Light Rail (Stage 1)	Transport for NSW, Context and COX	Award of Excellence
Barangaroo Station Park	Arcadia	Landscape Architecture Award

<u>Category: Land Management</u>		
<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Award Type</u>
Wagonga Inlet Living Foreshore	REALMstudios	Award of Excellence
<u>Category: Landscape Planning</u>		
Adventurous Spaces Guideline	The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Parks and Open Space</u>		
Wimbo Park Surry Hills	Sue Barnsley Design	Award of Excellence
Callan Park Waterfront Green	Tyrrell Studio	Landscape Architecture Award
Campbelltown Billabong Parklands	Campbelltown City Council in collaboration with Arcadia	Landscape Architecture Award
Pendle Hill Civic Park and Wetlands	Tract	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Play Spaces</u>		
Parks for People – Beaumont Hills	The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	Award of Excellence
Ian Stromborg Play Space at Paul Keating Park	ASPECT Studios	Landscape Architecture Award
Gregson Park Playspace	Phillips Marler	Landscape Architecture Award
Fagan Park Children's Forest	Hornsby Shire Council	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Regional Achievement</u>		
Living Lab Northern Rivers (LLNR)	University of Technology Sydney and Living Lab Northern Rivers	Regional Achievement Award
<u>Category: Research, Policy and Communications</u>		
Food Landscapes Australia	Dr Joshua Zeunert, UNSW	Award of Excellence
Nature Co-benefits in Practice	Tract	Landscape Architecture Award
Biodiversity in Place Framework	Government Architect NSW with Hassell	Landscape Architecture Award

<u>Category: Urban Design</u>		
<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Award Type</u>
Sydney Gateway	Transport Urban Design, CM+ and Context	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Tourism</u>		
Kangaroo Valley Bush Retreat Renewal	Edmiston Jones	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: Small Projects</u>		
Naremburn Local Centre	Phillips Marler Architecture Landscape Architecture	Landscape Architecture Award
<u>Category: ShadeSmart</u>		
Victoria Avenue Mall Refurbishment – Chatswood	Arterra Design	ShadeSmart Award
Pendle Hill Civic Park and Wetlands	Tract	ShadeSmart Award
<u>Category: Future Leader</u>		
	Alexander Brawn	Future Leader Award
<u>Category: Minister's Award</u>		
Wagonga Inlet Living Foreshore	REALMstudios	2025 Minister of Planning and Public Spaces Award for Public Space
<u>Category: 2025 AILA NSW President's Award</u>		
	Andrew Turnbull	2025 AILA NSW President's Award

ENTRIES

Entries — 51
 Awards of Excellence — 10
 Landscape Architecture Awards — 13
 Regional Achievement Awards — 1
 ShadeSmart — 2
 Climate Positive Design — 1

Jury:

- Fiona Morrison (Jury Chair)
- Roger Jasprizza
- Paul Melrose
- Anna Chauvel

Jury cont'd:

- Ian Andrews
- Kate Whatman
- Melissa Cate Christ
- Andrew Turnbull (ShadeSmart)

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