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These awards are a small but vital part of an amazing process involving AILA NSW, the University landscape architecture courses and the employers of landscape architects in the private and public sector. The quality of the projects and their respect for place and people is the result of excellence in education; excellence in mentoring given by employers and colleagues; the support and trust of NSW clients; and the Institute tying it all together and creating an opportunity to present work through the awards, events and now exhibitions at Australian capital city airports. Of course for all this to work requires talented and thoughtful people, but that goes without saying!

Joshua, Julie and I are now past 18 months since we were voted in as the current AILA NSW executive. Superbly managed by Catherine and Carly, that’s over 39 newsletters, 18 executive meetings, over 50 AILA NSW committee meetings, 18 AIA Built Environment meetings, 40 or so AILA NSW and AILA Fresh events, two award programs, two new fellows (Phil Coxall and Graham Fletcher), a fabulous new awards program, exhibition and presentation night; and one Christmas party.

Other achievements so far include meetings with the Minister for Planning on the Western Sydney ‘Parkland City’ initiative; representations on the Council amalgamations, WestConnex, Barangaroo Casino, Newcastle rail projects and the Sydney Metro; an SMH op-ed piece on the natural beauty of Sydney; the My Park Rules Competition; presentations at Sydney Build 2016, the Local Government Landscape Design Forum and the Australian Gardens and Horticultural Society; planning underway for the NSW Living Cities Summit; high school sponsorship of Indigenous landscape architects; the Office of Environment and Heritage landscape heritage listing project; key meetings with the Greater Sydney Commission and the Committee for Sydney; and refreshed alliances with the LNA Landscape Association, the Australian Gardens and Historical Society, the Australian Institute of Architects and the Office of the Government Architect.

A big initiative for us this year, which started with a meeting with the NSW Minister for Planning, has been the drive for green infrastructure to pervade our cities. The AILA National Living Cities Summit has given us 5 points to build upon – funding green infrastructure, recognising green infrastructure as an asset class, stimulating green infrastructure projects in local government, enveloping the grey road infrastructure with the green and the systematic and consistent assessment of green infrastructure. We are now working with the built environment institute heads, the Government Architect, The Greater Sydney Commission and the Department of Planning to help provide design leadership and drive these points for greater Sydney. The GSC has said they are ‘all over this’, the Minister for Planning has stated this is the ‘time for good design’ and the NSW Premier has asked for green outcomes from our road infrastructure projects.

Landscape architects are at the heart of all this because our ideals and skills fit perfectly with the global desire for modern, liveable, cool, healthy, green and beautiful cities.

Gareth Collins
AILA NSW President
NSW LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AWARDS 2016
FROM THE JURY CHAIR.
James Rosenwax

Thank you to the NSW Executive for their invitation to Chair the NSW AILA Awards jury for 2016. It was a real honour for me to reconnect with the Landscape Architectural industry and witness first-hand the influence we are having on NSW communities and the thriving Sydney Metropolis. NSW is going through a once in a generation infrastructure boom not seen since the lead up to the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Firstly, I’d like to extend many thanks to my fellow jurors who gave generously of their time and energy and brought valuable insights to all levels of the assessment and citation preparation – Emma Brookes, Mark Tyrrell, Gareth Collins and our returning guest juror Architect and Urban Designer, Darlene Van Der Breggen. The jury was well balanced and delivered the necessary level of creative tension through the perspectives of government, the design studio, academia and city-shaping essential infrastructure.

Carly Wood and Catherine Scheen from AILA NSW played an integral role in the awards process, importantly keeping us aligned with the Institute’s goals and ambitions. As a team, they are running our NSW Chapter of AILA with clarity and confidence, and are steering us in a direction of greater influence and eminence. This is a place we have to be, after all, Landscape Architecture is the most consequential art of our time.

This year we saw a total of 41 projects submitted into a totally redesigned award process. AILA has increased the number of categories to better recognise the diversity of sectors we are all now influencing and greater encourage more practitioners to submit their work for assessment and recognition. You may have also noted that the award submission criteria have changed, and you are now required to communicate the ‘thinking’ ‘leadership’ and ‘results’ of each entry in five hundred (500) words or less with the assistance of ten (10) images. In some ways this reflects AILA’s acknowledgement of the ‘executive summary generation’, and as we all know, writing a brief piece is often harder than a lengthy one. For future entries, spend the time on constructing your core message - with fewer words to assess, the Jury noted the more well-crafted submissions.

The 41 award submissions were submitted across the following categories:

- Civic Landscape: 5
- Parks and Open Space: 9
- Infrastructure: 3
- Cultural Heritage: 5
- Land Conservation: 0
- Rural and Agriculture: 0
- Tourism: 2
- Urban Design: 4
- Research, Policy and Communications: 1
- Communities: 8
- Gardens: 4
- International: 0
Over a period of one (1) month, the jury read, reviewed and critiqued the entries, and after an exchange of assessments on a dynamic cloud-based score sheet, we met to discuss our final decisions. The jury day was hosted by AILA, and off the back of our virtual assessment process over the preceding month, our joint decisions were robust, equitable and decisive. Our decisions were based not only on the awards criteria, strength of the submissions and peer review, but also how the awards program fits with AILA’s key objective to profile Landscape Architecture and outreach our skills to the wider community.

Many of the entries demonstrated best practice and complex thinking at every scale, with good team collaboration across an ever increasing range of emerging professions and skills. Across all built projects, it was clear that landscape architects now deliver bespoke elements as ‘the norm’ - be they play, furniture or whimsical follies. In the master planning and urban design entries, it is clear that place-based planning is here to stay, with deep commitment to stakeholder engagement delivering a range of outcomes which better mitigate the often negative sentiment towards change.

One final observation is the smaller number of entries in the infrastructure category, particularly as we are in the midst of a construction boom in NSW. In future years, I’d like to see a broadening of the definition of infrastructure to include social and green/blue infrastructure as well as traditional transport projects.

In our deliberations the jury were struck by entries which had the following attributes:

- **Transformational and broad scale** - where landscape architects were integral to project leadership bringing design thinking and green infrastructure excellence to politically challenged projects of scale and complexity.
- **Complimenting architecture** - beautiful new parks that are restrained in their elegance complimenting both the surrounding building architecture and existing landscape.
- **Place-based Master Planning** – where a new township vision has been rooted in a place-based approach to revitalisation, engagement and sustainable evolution.
- **Celebrating cultural heritage** - innovative strategies and design resolution to communicate stories of place and people to the wider community.
- **Small scale and playful** – where design of smaller parklands and place spaces delivered diverse experiences and enriched site character for community benefit.
- **Emerging collaborations** – successful new recreational experiences revitalising underused space and engaging with the community.

It was a privilege to review this vast body of work and I believe we have awarded some wonderful projects which reflect the breadth and depth of our discipline. Congratulations to all the entrants and winners.
THE JURY.

James Rosenwax, AECOM Managing Director, Design, Planning and Architecture, ANZ (Jury Chair)
James leads a team of professionals specialising in the fields of planning, urban design, master planning, landscape architecture, architecture and strategic business consultancy.
James’ background in landscape architecture, environmental management planning and business leadership, coupled with the broad expertise of his team, gives him a unique point of view when providing strategic advice and direction on multidisciplinary urban development and public realm projects, at local and international scales.

Mark Tyrrell, Director, TYRRELLSTUDIO
Mark Tyrrell is founder and director of multidisciplinary design firm tyrrellstudio. Mark holds degrees in both architecture and urban design from the University of Sydney and a bachelor of landscape architecture from the University of NSW. Mark leads a growing team of talented professionals working on a large volume of education, public domain and major infrastructure projects in the Sydney studio. Mark also has an ongoing consultancy and research focus surrounding the role of urban design in the transitional development of informal settlements.

Emma Brooks, Landscape Architect, City Of Sydney Council, AILA
Emma Brooks is a landscape architect with more than 10 years experience in the design and implementation of places for people. Prior to her current role with the City of Sydney, she was involved in a broad range of public domain, masterplanning and regeneration projects in Australia, the UK, PNG and China. Of note is Emma’s contribution to award winning projects Great Lines Heritage Park (UK) and the regeneration of Bexhill-on-Sea (UK). Her current work focuses on strategic landscape advice, and helping private landowners achieve high quality, sustainable landscapes within the City of Sydney. She is an ongoing tutor in the Landscape Architecture program at UNSW.
Gareth Collins, AILA NSW President and RMS Principal Manager, Centre for Urban Design
Gareth is the current NSW president of AILA and the Principal Manager of the Centre for Urban Design in Roads and Maritime Services. He is a landscape architect and studied in Edinburgh in the UK. Gareth is the author of many landscape architecture and urban design policies and guidelines and was a recipient of the Australian Award for Urban Design in 2010.

Darlene van der Breggen, Executive Manager, Development Planning, Sydney Olympic Park Authority
Darlene van der Breggen; With qualifications in architecture, and a post graduate specialisation in urban design, Darlene has extensive experience in both the public and private sectors of architectural and urban design practice. She is currently Executive Manager of Planning Development with the Sydney Olympic Park Authority, providing strategic policy direction for the innovative and sustainable development of the Town Centre and Parklands at Sydney Olympic Park.

Gareth Collins, AILA NSW President and RMS Principal Manager, Centre for Urban Design
Gareth is the current NSW president of AILA and the Principal Manager of the Centre for Urban Design in Roads and Maritime Services. He is a landscape architect and studied in Edinburgh in the UK. Gareth is the author of many landscape architecture and urban design policies and guidelines and was a recipient of the Australian Award for Urban Design in 2010.
AWARD CATEGORIES.
1. Civic Landscape
2. Parks and Open Space
3. Infrastructure
4. Cultural Heritage
5. Land Conservation
6. Rural and Agriculture
7. Tourism
8. Urban Design
9. Research, Policy and Communication
10. Communities
11. Gardeners
12. IALD Landscape Lighting Award
13. ALA NSW Presidents Award
The Goods Line has proven to be a critical piece of social infrastructure in our city through the provision of high quality open space, active transport and recreation all from the adaptive reuse of a defunct rail line. Its true excellence lies in the demonstration of the role the landscape in delivering a new generation of urban connectivity. The repurposed rail line completes a missing link in a piece of green infrastructure connecting Central Park, Darling Harbour and Circular Quay. It is also an enjoyable and very popular destination in its own right with shaded performance spaces, fun play areas and spots for quiet reflection.
“...DELIVERING A NEW GENERATION OF URBAN CONNECTIVITY.”
This project impressed the jury with its transformation of Kensington Street, achieved with a confident design and well considered material selection. The new streets’ physical connectivity and integration of cars within a pedestrian-focused environment are both handled well by the designers and underpin the success of the project. However, it is the inspired choice of Bowral Brick unit pavers that add a level of fine detail and scale to the street which enlivens the once neglected heritage fabric. The ground plane offers an immediate sense of timelessness to the design, a characteristic that further develops through the use of a refined colour pallet and a pared back simplicity in street furniture choice. The end result is a contemporary ‘eat street’ for varied and changing use, a paved carpet of a fine and timeless quality rolled out in honour of the daily rituals of meeting and eating.
Building on the principles outlined in the precinct masterplan, The Crescent successfully delivers a space that is both functional and interesting. The design resists a uniform paving approach, instead translating the liveliness associated with the history of the place and an allusion to the shifting river sands of the area. A ribbon like path is drawn through remnant woodland with a light touch and the major site level change is connected through a well-proportioned stair. Details such as a layered and well detailed handrail of timber and steel help the project rest effortlessly into the wooded landscape scene. The designer’s attention to such details ensures that the project is at once capable of handling large scale events without drowning out the core values of place. As part of the award assessment process, the Jury reallocated this project from the ‘Cultural Heritage’ Category to the ‘Civic Landscape’ Category to ensure that it was fairly assessed against similar projects.
Working closely with the City of Parramatta, JMD has transformed the former Church Street Mall into a civic square that befits Parramatta’s status as the newest metropolitan CBD.

The clarity of the design approach has unified a shifting street alignment and diverse edge conditions into a coherent gathering place for the Parramatta community. Strategic ‘de-cluttering’ of the original mall, the introduction of a restrained, contemporary palette and the subtle engagement with Parramatta’s historic landmarks, has imbued the Square with the dignity and stateliness required for formal public events. Informal use of Centenary Square has also flourished through targeted retail strategies that promote outdoor dining and through both programmed and impromptu activation of the space. Centenary Square sets the benchmark for future public realm development in Parramatta as it rapidly evolves. As part of the award assessment process, the Jury reallocated this project from the ‘Urban Design’ Category to the ‘Civic Landscape’ Category to ensure that it was fairly assessed against similar projects.
OTHER CIVIC LANDSCAPE ENTRIES

Tract Consultants // Crown Street Upgrade
The public realm improvements along Crown Street, Surry Hills between Devonshire Street and Cleveland Street builds on City of Sydney’s Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision for a Green Global and Connected City and Villages. The project demonstrates these initiatives first hand through improving the quality of life for all users.

Photographer: Unknown

McGregor Coxall // Maitland Levee
High Street is the key public space in the historic Maitland CBD and was converted from a bustling retail street to a heritage pedestrian mall in 1988. The 270m long riverside mall design was typical of the global urban movement to remove vehicles from the centres of towns and cities. Subject to periodic flooding and competition from the expanding suburban shopping mall the street has been in major economic decline for the past decade.

Photographer: Simon Woods

Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp (FJMT) // Liberty Place
Uniting public, corporate, hospitality and retail architecture into cohesive urban design, Liberty Place provides an enabling, flexible and human environment and is a unique offering for Sydney’s CBD and its community. The ‘pedestrian street’ connecting Pitt St and Castlereagh St and its public plaza provides a unique ground plane and entry to a commercial building and is highly popular with tenants, workers and visitors.

Photographer: Andrew Chung

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The Sydney Park Water Re-Use Project takes a significant piece of sustainable infrastructure and integrates it into an existing, highly constrained parkland, successfully combining both system and place. The collaborative approach adopted by the project team has ensured the principles of landscape architecture are thoroughly integrated with engineering, public art, ecology and play. This has enabled an exemplar piece of green infrastructure that benefits the local stormwater system, enriches local habitat, and enhances the recreational value of the park. This project is the next stage in a significant urban renewal project that has been well conceived and executed, intertwining the needs of community, sustainability and infrastructure to form an educational, scientifically rigorous and enjoyable place.
“...AN EXEMPLAR PIECE OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE..”
Chelsea Street Park is one in a series of small local parks in the dense urban area of East Redfern. Supplementing the larger nearby parks and playgrounds that are reserved for high energy play; this playground is an adjunct to the private open space of the dense residential community that surrounds it. Essentially a communal backyard, this remarkably small park effortlessly accommodates a complex program that includes the same functions as a suburban yard - play, barbeque, veggie patch, dog lawn and a place to entertain friends. This is achieved through a clear and efficient spatial hierarchy defined and delineated by the careful placement of paths, planting beds, park furniture and play equipment to create a range of spaces that meet the needs of all. A combination of both standard and customised elements, most notably the cubby houses that mimic the profile of adjacent terraces, are configured into what is almost a miniature of the neighbourhood itself.
Barangaroo Reserve has been open approximately a year and shown itself to be a thriving, popular destination for Sydneysiders. The jury recognises the maturing of the park, the success of the native planting, the rugged beauty of the constructed sandstone foreshore and the proven value of the varied grassy spaces, rocky nooks, look-outs and coves for people to stroll, play and enjoy the harbour.
The Ponds Parklands is an example of successful masterplanning, rigorous process, and patience. Situated within a newly constructed suburb and created over 10 years, the Ponds Parklands forms 88 hectares of contiguous parkland that have revitalised a previously degraded landscape. The project team have worked consistently to ensure a careful balance between public amenity, ecological conservation and restoration: over 10Ha of Cumberland Plain Woodland are conserved, whilst extensive public facilities provide for a diversity of recreation. Despite the lengthy project gestation, the team has ensured rigorous design principles underpin each phase, creating a well-detailed, well-loved facility for current and future users. This project sets a precedent for environmental restoration and the creation of a valuable community resource within an extensive, new suburban context.
Fairwater Park contributes to Australand’s green development strategy which includes geothermal heating and cooling and a materials and waste recycling focus. Together these strategies led to the development being awarded NSW’s first 6 star communities rating from the Green Building Council of Australia. The project appealed to the jury in its restrained approach to urban waterway design which retains key mature trees and grassland from the previous golf course use and adds a collection of elements offering access to the water’s edge. An elegantly detailed concrete weir is placed parallel to the pedestrian bridge, becoming a beautiful signage element. The subtle conversation between the trickling weir and the static bridge element lends a sense of calm to the pedestrian circulation around the waterway which approaches the serene.
The concept design for Dyuralya Square contextualises the future space through a thorough exploration of context, drawing on history and surrounding physical fabric. A well communicated site analysis builds strong foundations for the eventual design. The particular climatic challenges of the space making it too hot in summer and too cold in winter leads to a mixed species planting scheme which will in time help to contain and create key spaces whilst also providing comfortable microclimate settings. The designers have considered the squares connectivity in relation to both the character and transport of the wider city. The final design confidently addressed all findings of the analysis and responds well to City of Sydney feedback creating a robust design solution of garden rooms, an urban lawn and an urban court. The final outcome is destined to be a well-used space with user comfort at its core. As part of the award assessment process, the Jury reallocated this project from the ‘Urban Design’ category to the Parks and Open Space’ Category to ensure that it was fairly assessed against similar projects.
**Sturt Noble Associates // Wulaba Park**
The design for Wulaba Park creates distinctive and memorable play spaces. A custom designed play tower referencing the classic Hills Rockets of parks gone by, and a raised fort landing incorporates multiple play experiences and is the key visual element in the park. This unique play structure is designed to enhance imaginative, and narrative based play and includes custom and off the shelf elements.

*Photographer: Simon Wood*

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**Tract Consultants // O’Connell Street Reserve**
O’Connell Street Reserve, Newtown represents a small intervention in a highly urbanised part of inner Sydney. The enhanced pedestrian circulation and visibility through the opening up of the corner site has made a significant contribution to neighbourhood amenity.

*Photographer: Unknown*

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**Ku-ring-gai Council // Ku-ring-Gai Bicentennial Park War Memorial**
Located in leafy Ku-ring-gai Bicentennial Park adjacent to a Community Hall, Kindergarten and an Endangered Ecological Community, this War Memorial acknowledges the nine men awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) during the WW1 Gallipoli Campaign and at the Battle of Lone Pine.

*Photographer: David Forward*

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**OCULUS // Caddies Creek Regional Open Space and Playground**
The design for Caddies Creek includes the section of the regional cycleway through the site as well as 3 key bridge crossings of the creek which provide access between the residential communities and schools located on the eastern side and the town centre, transport hub and residential precincts located on the western side.

*Photographer: Simon Woods*

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*Photographer: Simon Wood*
IRM Visual Planning + Design // Sydney Metro, City & Southwest, Chatswood to Sydenham Project - Landscape and Visual Assessment
IRIS Visual Planning and Design have prepared an exemplary landscape and visual assessment for the Sydney Metro City & Southwest Project, Sydney’s largest and truly city changing infrastructure project.
Photographer: NA

JMD Design // Marsden Park Infrastructure Hub
The project ties together several distinct infrastructure components to create one cohesive solution for the infrastructure hub at Marsden Park, these include: Richmond Road Upgrade for RMS; Endeavour Energy Zone Electrical Substation; and Marsden Park entry and arrival for Stockland.
Photographer: Simon Woods

Tract Consultants // M5 South West Motorway
M5 South West Motorway is a 20km Motorway corridor running from King Georges Road at Beverley Hills to Campbelltown Road in Glenfield. The route passes through a large number of diverse natural landscape and suburban environments.
Photographer: NA

There were no awards for this category
NSW LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AWARDS 2016
CULTURAL HERITAGE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

AUDLEY DANCE HALL AND IRONBARK FLAT RESTORATION

Phillips Marler

At the heart of the Audley Village, and located within Australia’s oldest national park, the Audley Dance Hall and Ironbark Flats have been newly revealed in a careful restoration of their original setting on the bank of the Hacking River. First established in the late 19th Century as a ‘resort’ or ‘pleasure ground’, Audley Village evolved over the next decades to meet the recreation and cultural needs of a growing Sydney community. Over time, many of the panoramic vistas into, within and out of Audley have become obscured. These have now been recovered so that the aesthetic value and experience of Audley as coherent parkland can be fully appreciated. Newer landscape installations have been deftly pared back to restore glimpses of the river beyond reinstated picnic lawns. The Dance Hall, adaptively reused as an event space and visitor centre, is at the heart of this setting, evoking both a strong sense of history and a sense of place.
“...EVOKING BOTH A STRONG SENSE OF HISTORY AND A SENSE OF PLACE”
The Bungarribee Homestead Park takes a significant piece of colonial heritage, and uses subtle, abstracted forms to both respect and celebrate the story of this site. The design process acknowledges both a rich, layered history and a beautiful setting, capitalising on the regional views of the Blue Mountains. The resulting park is a valuable asset for the new community of over 2000 residents that respects the legacy of the site. Both masterplanning and detail have been carefully considered in this design. The successful integration of landform has allowed the park to retain its prominent, elevated position, whilst lessening the visual impact of the adjacent housing development. The materials palette is contextual and refined, enabling a subtle focus on the interpreted building footprint, whilst also facilitating a robust, beautiful parkland. The Bungarribee Homestead Park sets a strong precedent for the creation of a respectful, contextual heart for a new residential community.
OTHER CULTURAL HERITAGE ENTRIES

Arcadia // The Platform
Sitting within the unique historical Carriageworks Precinct, rich in Victorian and industrial history, “The Platform” at Eveleigh delivers 88 designer affordable housing apartments, built for essential city workers on lower incomes. The Eveleigh Rail Yards are a major landmark in the Sydney landscape and define views to and from “The Platform” site. The site has important cultural, physical, visual and social connections with the surrounding suburbs.
Photographer: Cameron Bloom

Phillips Marler // Jibbon Headland Walkway
The Jibbon Headland engravings are a large and significant group of Aboriginal artefacts on a remote site close to Bundeena within Royal National Park. The site is co-managed by NPWS with the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council (LPLALC) representing the Dharawal Aboriginal community who have a strong association with Royal National Park.
Photographer: Eric Sierins Photography
There were no entries for this category
There were no entries for this category
TOURISM LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE CATEGORY

There were no awards for this category

TOURISM ENTRIES

ASPECT Studios // Sydney Zoo
ASPECT Studios was commissioned by Sydney Zoo to design the master plan for the 16-hectare site complementing the vision for the Bungarribee Precinct of the Western Sydney Parklands. The new privately operated zoo will feature over 30 exhibits showing native Australian wildlife as well as popular zoo attractions from various regions around the globe, providing visitors with an immersive and unique experience.
Photographer: NA

RPS // Elements of Byron
Elements at Byron is located at Belongil Beach, Byron Bay. The resort is a series of buildings nestled into the existing natural landscape. This natural landscape comprises many dynamic forms, from creeks and gullies through rainforest to ocean beaches and dunal plantings. A successful outcome of an ecological resort is to provide function and amenity whilst maintaining seclusion and romance.
Photographer: Dallas Nook
The Springwood Town Centre Master Plan exemplifies innovative and achievable town centre revitalisation at a very local scale. Leading a multi-disciplinary project team, the landscape architects have developed a suite of very workable strategies to incrementally transform the ‘retail strip’ of Springwood’s town centre into a unique township that engages both its cultural context as well as its spectacular Blue Mountains setting. The process has been informed by comprehensive analysis of generic urban conditions and opportunities – land ownership, movement patterns, urban form and so on. The final strategies however, reflect a high degree of local knowledge, gleaned through consultation with the client and the community, as well as the superior appreciation of place that landscape architects bring to a project. Combining a clear policy framework with a practical plan for interim and pilot projects, this is a robust master plan with the flexibility to guide the future development of Springwood into a balanced and memorable town centre.
“...SUPERIOR APPRECIATION OF PLACE THAT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS BRING TO A PROJECT.”
HASSELL // City North Streetscapes and Spaces
The northern section of Sydney’s CBD is undergoing significant change, with many public infrastructure and private development projects underway. The City North Streetscapes and Spaces Concept Design, developed by HASSELL, identifies opportunities to improve the public realm in the short term, and establishes a long-term vision to guide open space renewal post-construction and stitch the area into the surrounding city fabric.
Photographer: NA
ASPECT Studios // Metcalfe Park
Metcalfe Park ‘Park within a Park’ validates the role of community driven design in transforming underutilised city spaces into creative and connected public destinations which enhance the public life of the city. This unique research project was formed around a rigorous process, testing objectives and opportunities for underutilised space in collaboration with local community and businesses.
Photographer: Florien Groehn
The Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan sets a new benchmark for delivering an engaging place-based approach to revitalisation of regional town centres. The jury noted the intensive and rigorous community engagement process which was conducted over 16 months and included over ten (10) events and an interactive website. Locals have forever resisted change in Byron, and the master plan team tackled this head on and made ‘change’ the centrepiece of the conversation, turning this into a positive discussion around ‘place vitality’. The graphic style of the report has been skillfully tuned to engage the target audience and communicate place principles, activation strategies and short and long term master plan solutions for twelve (12) precincts within the township.
“..MADE ‘CHANGE’ THE CENTREPIECE OF THE CONVERSATION.”
OTHER COMMUNITIES ENTRIES

Arcadia // Monte Sant Angelo College
Arcadia designed the landscape for the modern, Brewster Hjorth designed O'Regan Arts and Cultural Common at Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College, an independent Catholic school for girls, which prides itself on its thriving community spirit. Arcadia was briefed to design an open space which would foster connection and play an integral role in the school community, with the entire project focused on providing a cultural hub for Monte.
Photographer: Tyrone Branigan

JMD Design // Marrickville Public Domain Strategy
The Marrickville Public Domain Strategy seeks to develop a consistent framework for public domain improvements across the entire LGA of Marrickville while retaining the distinct characteristics of each village. JMD design worked with consultation and engagement experts Kathy Jones & Associates to develop a strategy for engagement with the local communities, businesses and targeted stakeholders.
Photographer: JMD Design

Nicholas Architects // Tamworth
Regional Youth Centre
Coledale, a significant site for Housing NSW and Aboriginal Land Council residents, has seen an increase in criminal activity and social disconnection, an adverse community image and decline. Conybeare Morrison were engaged to write the Coledale Urban Renewal Masterplan Strategy. Council received a grant for the NOW Initiative under the Building Better Regional Cities Program, including a Youth Centre.
Photographer: Kate Isaacs

Paterson Design Studio // Stockland
Willowdale Green Street
Paterson Design Studio was commissioned by Stockland to design and document a large Vision / Sales Centre Garden and Builder Display Village comprising of 35 partner builder display homes at Willowdale. Willowdale is a large planned community in the rapidly developing South West sector of Sydney and will become the new home of over 3,000 new families.
Photographer: Paterson Design Studio
In 2012, the Avalon Beach community were experiencing the effects of a previously ad hoc approach to management and planning. Commercial tenancy was in a period of serious decline and occupancy rates had been reduced to 65%. The announcement of a pending town centre master plan provided the final incentive for local community leaders to connect, mobilize and ignite a unique community driven initiative.

Photographer: Sym Studio

Phillips Marler // Leichhardt Living Streets - Taylor Street and Douglas Grant Reserve

In 2010, Leichhardt Council received a NSW Environmental Trust grant of $250,000 to construct a Living Street over four years ‘to create and implement a model for sustainable living within an urban street context focusing on infrastructure changes and environmental education’.

Photographer: Eric Sierins Photography

Sym.Studio // Avalon Beach Place Planning

In 2012, the Avalon Beach community were experiencing the effects of a previously ad hoc approach to management and planning. Commercial tenancy was in a period of serious decline and occupancy rates had been reduced to 65%. The announcement of a pending town centre master plan provided the final incentive for local community leaders to connect, mobilize and ignite a unique community driven initiative.

Photographer: Sym Studio

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ANDREASENS GREEN
WHOLESALE NURSERIES
The name says it all, this exemplary residential garden project really is an ‘estate’ on Sydney’s leafy north shore. When the project images were shared on the Jury day, there was an audible sigh of appreciation in the room. You can tell from the level of detail and execution of this new sequence of garden rooms that this project has been a labour of love shared between the client, the landscape architect and the contractor. We’d all love to live here, moving between outdoor rooms and experiencing the pockets of finely detailed delight amongst the established tree canopy. The Jury was pleased to be able to celebrate the involvement of the Landscape Architect in residential garden design and nominate this for an Award of Excellence.
“We’d all love to live here...”

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NSW LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AWARDS 2016
OTHER GARDENS ENTRIES

Fresh Landscape Design // Rooftop Garden
Fresh Landscape Design’s challenge was to incorporate these goals into an attractive and robust design. We designed a roof garden that blends landscape architecture design and permaculture systems thinking, demonstrates many techniques for sustainable urban food production and is easily understood by visitors.
Photographer: Chris Curtis

Paterson Design Studio // Palm Beach Garden
This garden is all about creating an elegant, private, sun drenched, controlled sequence of syncopated viewing and stepped terraces. They link the main house, an inclinator, and cabana roof to a Pittwater level large pool and entertainment area. The level change is over fifteen (15) metres in elevation and great consideration was given to the design of the garden and large pool which is viewed from the upper house terrace, essentially the most looked upon aspect of the garden.
Photographer: Stephanie Zingsheim

Sprout Landscape Architecture // Coastal Cliff Garden
Set on the slope overlooking Warriewood Beach, this residential garden draws on an understanding of the greater landscape to establish a hierarchy of social spaces. Home to a family with teenagers the garden is surrounded by suburban dwellings of a typical Northern Beaches bulk and scale, gardens buffering homes from the street offering interpretations of the low maintenance ideal.
Photographer: Martin Pell
The OCULUS/ARUP design for the space under John Whitton Bridge takes an undervalued site with a history of vandalism and transforms it into a dynamic and activated landscape, completing a missing link in the public domain of the Rhodes peninsula. The lighting design is integral to the proposal and has clearly been developed alongside other landscape elements as a core part of the design process. The lighting responds to and highlights the existing site framework cleverly, varying colour temperatures to highlight materiality and the individual character of each element. The contrast between soft and hard landscape is exploited effectively to juxtapose fixed, solid elements with planting and the water as live, active elements with constant movement and activity. The playful ‘fractured’ elements create visual tension by sitting somewhere between the two, appearing solid but dynamic, as if they could suddenly come to life to further activate the space.

OCULUS and ARUP have achieved an outcome which doesn’t simply improve the space but rather feels as if it truly belongs to the site. Both existing and new features are treated with the same respect, attention and flair, ensuring a cohesive and successful design outcome.
“...COMPLETING A MISSING LINK IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN OF THE RHODES PENINSULA.”
Fairfield City Council // Nón Lá Light, Dutton Lane Cabramatta
As part of the upgrade of Cabramatta Town Centre, Council sought a permanent light fixture for Dutton Lane precinct that would speak of and provide a link to the vibrant culture and community that fills the town centre and gives it its vitality and life. Council engaged Electrolight to help create this feature lighting. The result was Nón Lá Light.
Photographer: Fairfield City Council

JMD Design // Centenary Square, Parramatta
JMD design and Electrolight were engaged by Parramatta City Council to transform the civic centre of Parramatta, Centenary Square (formally Church Street Mall). The revitalisation aimed at providing a comfortable gathering space for the diverse community of Parramatta whilst also improving connectivity and passive surveillance and re-establishing the space as the civic centre of the city to cater for large community events.
Photographer: Brett Boardman

McGregor Coxall // Central & Wilmot Street
As part of the city wide laneways revitalisation program, McGregor Coxall was appointed by the City of Sydney to undertake a review of the 2008 concept for Wilmot & Central Streets and further develop the designs for construction. The key design concept aims to provide a flexible platform for multi-purpose use and seamless integration to existing and future upgrades.
Photographer: McGregor Coxall

McGregor Coxall // Maitland Levee
The historic High Street Precinct at the heart of Maitland has been in decline for the past decade due to competition from suburban shopping malls. McGregor Coxall set out to implement community led tactical urbanism strategies to revive the local economy and repositioning Central Maitland as a leisure based retail activity centre capable of supporting night time events.
Photographer: Unknown
OTHER IALD LIGHTING ENTRIES

ASPECT Studios // UTS Alumni Green
The lighting scheme for the Alumni Green was designed by Steensen Varming and ASPECT Studios. The Garden lighting was manufactured by 3S Lighting. Prior to the redevelopment of Alumni Green, the UTS City Campus was characterised by a disparate collection of buildings with extremely limited opportunities for students to gather.
Photographer: Simon Wood

OCULUS // Napier Street
Substantial refurbishments to the UNSW College of Fine Arts (COFA) campus in Paddington have provided a new entry foyer, cafe and gallery space that will contribute to increased activation of the public domain in Napier Street. The anticipated increase in usage of the area was deemed by the City of Sydney to warrant the renewal of the road closure area to provide a vibrant and inviting public domain. The defining aspect of this space is the tree canopy comprising principally of large Fig trees and Bangalow Palms.
Photographer: Simon Wood

JOHNSON PILTON WALKER in association with PWP // Coastal Cliff Garden
Barangaroo Reserve is a new public park built from site-extracted sandstone, restoring the historical headland foreshore that has been inaccessible to the public in more than a century. Led by PWP Landscape Architecture and local Australian landscape architects, JPW, the lighting designers at Webb drew inspiration from the area’s rich and colourful maritime history, which once used light as navigational beacons, guiding vessels around Sydney harbour; linking past with present by marking out the original 1836 shoreline.
Photographer: Brett Boardman

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AILA NSW PRESIDENT’S AWARD

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS OF THE GOVERNMENT ARCHITECTS OFFICE

Government Architects Office, NSW

The Government Architect role is 200 years old this year. The position has now moved to the Department of Planning and taken on a more strategic role. This is just another change in a role that has evolved with the times.

One of the biggest changes and improvements to the Government Architect’s Office in the last 50 years has been the growth of the role of the landscape architecture profession. For this the President’s Award this year goes to the landscape architects of the Government’s Architects Office.

In the mid-1960s the first Government Architect Office landscape architects included Allan Correy and Neil Oates in the Special Projects Section. The Government Architect at the time was Professor Peter Webber who saw the need for Landscape specialists. Allan and Neil were ‘pioneers’, and worked with external consultants such as Bruce McKenzie.

From the mid-1970s onwards, the GA Landscape Architects were involved in a wide range of projects including public building projects (schools, hospitals, TAFE, courthouses, police stations, art galleries, heritage conservation etc.) and also the Zoo (Taronga and Dubbo), coastal dune restoration, rehabilitation post sand mining (Chipping Norton Island), Centennial Parklands, work for other government authorities such as the Historic Houses Trust (Elizabeth Farm, Vaucluse House, Rouse Hill House, Mint, Barracks etc.), National Park and Wildlife Service (buildings and landscapes at Royal National Park, La Perouse etc.), National Trust, Department of Lands, Centennial Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Ron Powell headed up and helped expand the landscape section in the late ‘70s and was also the joint recipient of the President’s Award last year for Barangaroo Reserve. Oi Choong took over the running from the mid-1980s – 1990.

By the mid ‘80s, the team had expanded to some 45 people (landscape architects plus technical officers) and it was arguably one of the largest landscape offices in the southern hemisphere. The group came into its own in this era with the Bicentennial projects at Circular Quay, Mt Tomah, Mt Annan and Bicentennial Park.

From around turn of the 21st century, the work became more strategic and overlapped with urban design. Mike Horne, then Penny Allan led the team. The current Principal Landscape Architect is Barbara Schaeffer who with her team in recent years has developed the Sydney Green Grid.

Under these leaders there have been many excellent landscape architects that have served the public interest, enriched government, honed their skills, learnt from peers, set benchmarks and went on to lead and influence many other organisations. Over the years this infusion of landscape architects has enhanced the Government Architect’s Office significantly and had a profound effect on the quality of the NSW built environment. I hope the role continues to evolve and be of influence for the next 50 years.
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