

# BRISBANE ARCHITECTURE UNDER LIGHTS

27 projects were commended in the Brisbane Regional awards announced on April 14. The high standard of entries was matched by the success of the function which was organised by Mark Trotter. More people attended than in 1999 despite concern that the higher ticket price (for a dinner instead of the usual drinks) would deter some people. The venue was a function room in the latest stage of the Gabba redevelopment. This prompted a spectator theme with the names of award winners illuminated on the ground's scoreboard. Special prizes went to Fred Iezzi for the Best Dressed Spectator, Deicke Richards for the Best Dressed Team, to Fulton Trotter Moss for Most Represented Firm and to the QMBA for best represented profession. State sponsor Hutchinson Builders contributed 'scratchies' for various prizes. The audio-visuals (expertly overseen by Jane Jell) were more successful than previously with a power-point presentation of all entries as well as the winners. Mark Trotter has volunteered to run the event for another two years – so next year promises to be even better. Let's hope the hangovers don't reflect this.

Liam Proberts expertly organised the local jurors – Noel Robinson, Colin Loel, John Price, Catherine Baudet, Alice Hampson, Peter Marquis-Kyle, Henk Mulder & Steffan Tuck and for the first time, a student representative from each of the architecture schools – Huw Fowles (UQ) and Mick Hellen (QUT). The contributions of all jurors were valuable. Thanks must also go to Mark Roehrs, Awards Deputy Director, for using his height for crowd control in the latter part of the evening. As usual Judith Gilmore and Jane Jell were indispensable. Regional sponsors – Laminex, Caroma, Signcorp & Barben Industries were welcome members of the audience. Their support is crucial to the success of the regional awards program.

The presence of many contractors on the night was encouraging and most welcome. Some were multiple winners Greg Thornton, Watts & Hughes and State sponsor Hutchinson Builders. Media coverage was good – with Channel 10, the Courier-Mail and the Financial Review all featuring the event.

To facilitate judging and to spread proceedings through the dinner, results were loosely grouped into categories. This was also a ploy – only partly successful – to cut conversation. Winners on the night included Southbank (with awards for the recent redesign, the Grand Arbour, Southbank House and the Thiess Centre), the Queen St Mall, several excellent houses (by Rex Addison, Libby Watson-Brown, Codd Stenders and Bligh Voller Nield) and public housing (ARC+, Fulton Trotter Moss, Robert Riddel). There was a deal of competition between the bars and restaurants in this year's awards with Harvey's (Geoffrey Pie and Cottee Parker) being judged the best. Two awards were given for conservation projects of a very different character – the Spring Hill baths and St Stephens Chapel.

Entries in the Unbuilt Category have been held over until the State Awards in August.

## The winners were:

Thiess Centre, Cox Rayner Architects  
North Lakes Sales Display and Project Office, Cox Rayner Architects  
Southbank House, Architect: Robert Riddel  
Built Environment and Engineering Precinct Stage 2: Architect: Bligh Voller Nield  
Commercial Retail and Medical Centre, West End: Russell Hall Architects  
Bonsai House, Brisbane Botanic Gardens. Architect: Planet Design  
Interpretive Centre, Brisbane Koala Park, Burbank, City Design (B.C.C.)  
Residential Tenancies Authority – New Headquarters, Herschel St. Architect: Archibett Pty Ltd  
Medical Centre, Thornlands. Architect: Richard Kirk  
Centro Stage II, Fortitude Valley. Architect: Cottee Parker  
Global Arts Link, Ipswich. Architect: Arkefield and Buchanan Architects  
Harveys Deli and Bistro. Architects: Cottee Parker and Geoffrey Pie  
Hope and Melbourne St Developments. Architect: Codd Stenders  
Conservation of the Spring Hill Baths. Architect: Robert Riddel  
St Stephen's Chapel, Brisbane. Architect: Robin Gibson  
Queen Street Mall. Architect: B.C.C. Queen St Mall Design Team (with John Mainwaring, Lawrence Nield, John Hockings, Bligh Voller Nield)  
Southbank. John Simpson and Denton Corker Marshall  
Grand Arbour. Denton Corker Marshall  
Villiers Street Public Housing. Architect: Robert Riddel  
Baker Clancy Residence, Toowong. Architect: Bligh Voller Nield  
Addison House and Studio, Taringa. Architect: Rex Addison  
St Lucia House. Architects: Elizabeth Watson-Brown and Peter Skinner  
Outlook House, Bardon. Architects: Elizabeth Watson-Brown Architects  
7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Housing Development, Sandgate. Architect: Fulton Trotter Moss  
St James St Units, Highgate Hill. Architect: Arkefield  
Villa Gotha. Architect: Codd Stenders  
Community Housing, Woolloongabba. Architect: ARC+ Architects

Don Watson  
Awards Director

The freedom issue is part of a larger one which I mentioned in the last MEMQ is being seriously addressed at national level. A National Council Workgroup 2000 has been formed, comprising State Presidents, to increase Chapter Council powers which I believe will be implemented – with a natural flow on to regions. The aim is to reunite the management of the RAIAs more directly with its members.

The most recent Awards in Brisbane were a spectacular success under the stewardship of Mark Trotter and his staff. Nearly 400 people attended, and as in Darling Downs and Rockhampton, it was great to see clients, builders and suppliers along fulfilling part of a greater aim to interface architecture more pervasively with the public and industry. Personally, I thought the standard of work shown was exceptional and I'm sure the juries had a tough time with the evaluations.

A related area where there has been a dramatic improvement is media coverage, not only of the awards in each region, but in our being sought for comment on urban design issues. We have engaged a freelance writer Elizabeth Marx to help us formulate our views and she has created several lines of access to journalists in The Australian, Financial Review and Courier Mail. I would welcome any ideas for articles, particularly from out of Brisbane, to come forward.

In Brisbane, it is great to see the re-emergence of the Brisbane members group, grown from about 6 at one stage to about 30 at the last luncheon. There is obviously here huge collective energy to tap for help with external committees of Council, State Government and other authorities to increase our influence, with a stronger feeling of camaraderie than ever before.

I said in the last column that I would report on the National Council's review of directions and I have only just received the report from Canberra – so I will do it next time.

