The Awards were presented at a spectacular held in the Grand Ballroom, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The State Awards announced at the Brisbane Convention Centre on August 18 were the culmination of a six-months-long program. Mark Roche, the Deputy Awards Director and with Judith Gilmore, RAA State Director and Awards Manager Jane Jeff, started in Rockhampton on the third of March. By the time we had travelled to Toowoomba, the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, North and Far North Queensland, 53 projects had received commendations in this year's Regional Awards program, thereby becoming finalists in the State Awards program.

The Queensland State Awards program is the most widely ranging architecture awards regime in Australia. It recognises the regional basis of development in Queensland and acknowledges the high quality architecture which is being produced much further afield than the south-east.

A continuing regional pattern of innovation and excellence maintains standards first established with the rural development of Queensland starting in the second half of the nineteenth century. Architects, attracted by the opportunities for building infrastructure for the mining, agricultural and pastoral industries, worked creatively throughout regional Queensland establishing architectural traditions which subsequently have been much admired.

This year, the contributions of individual architects were recognised in the naming of regional building of the Year Awards. In Toowoomba, the architect William Hodgen (1866-1943) who designed buildings throughout all of southern Queensland was remembered. Among his numerous country pubs was the famous Coroora Hotel in Charleville. On the Gold Coast it was the Australian-born architect, town planner, urban designer and landscape architect, Karl Langer (1903-1969) who designed Lennox Broadbeach Hotel and the first canal subdivisions. In Central Queensland, it was J.W. Wilson (1872-1911), who was responsible for much of Rockhampton's notable heritage of Victorian buildings. In North Queensland, two brothers practising in Townsville, Oliver Allan Turbin and Walter Howard Turbin (1885-1954) were commemorated by the Turbin Award. Walter Turbin and also commanded Queensland's third contingent to the fine and reinforced concrete construction in Melbourne. In Cairns, Eddie O'Brien (1927- ) was acknowledged. Eddie's studio featured prominently in Austral Edens, a recent pictorial survey of Australian architecture. He is still designing innovative houses for himself—not in the tropics but on the Granite Belt.

Last year the contribution of the pioneering Rockhampton architect Beatrice Hutton who was the first female member of an Australian Institute (AIA, 1917) and later a partner in a large Sydney practice was recognised by the State Commercial Building Award and this year the name of the creative Toowoomba architect Harry Marks (1871-1939) who was an enthusiastic and successful innovator in climatic design has been given to Queensland's Energy Award.

Soon after the colonists were created, architects developed a reputation for their houses. On an international scale, the Queensland House has often been regarded as the single most distinctive architectural contribution made by Australia. In recent years a disproportionately large number of national awards in the Houses category have gone to Queensland entries.

But as yet there is no equivalent in Queensland of the Historic Places Trust of NSW to both preserve and display important or representative works of architecture. Despite remembering Robin O'donoghue in the State Award for Houses, few of O'donoghue's own houses now remain relatively unaltered. Several houses by F.G.S. Stanley after whom the Award for Public Buildings is named, were until recently in public ownership. If his Grafton House at Bundaberg or his Shafston House at Kangaroo Point were on the edge of Sydney Harbour instead of dozens of the banks of the Brisbane River, they would probably now be in public parkland (and possibly publicly accessible) instead of privately owned. More general contributions such as to public housing should also be recognised.

The first State Advances Corporation dwelling survives much altered. Does a representative example of one of the Corporation's typical between-the-wars houses remain intact? Post-war houses have fared no better. The John Dalton designed residence for Zelman Cowen (whose architectural patronage is commemorated by the Institute's National Award for Public Buildings) and a House of the Year in its day was recently bulldozed by the University of Queensland. Peter Heatwood's Spear House—known internationally like Zelman Cowen's house)—was also demolished recently. Few of the best houses by Hayes and Scott (Camm Scott) was acknowledged by a President's Award last year remain in anything like their original condition. Eddie O'Brien's house and studio survive in Cairns but for how long? Beatrice Hutton's best house in Rockhampton is on the market. In Brisbane Charles Fulton's own house at Enderbyloop—which won an award in 1946, the first year after World War 2 when awards were given—of one of the best modern houses in Queensland and with its interior intact—has been for sale for some time. For a small fraction of the budget of the proposed modern art gallery or the icon in the park at Roma St, a top award winning or earlier award-worthy houses could be established across Queensland.

However, a reassuring aspect of this year's awards is a commitment of particularity of state and local governments to good design. There are many successful projects commissioned by local authorities or institutions which are a positive step in the right direction.

The commitment to design at a Federal level is more problematic with good results depending on the processes and expectations of individual Departments or federally funded authorities. No projects directly sponsored by the Australian government were entered this year and their moves to deregister the profession are not directed at raising design standards.

Evident as we moved around the state for the regional awards program was the sorry prospect of the disposal by Government, particularly the Commonwealth, of high quality public buildings (as opposed to houses)—in particular post offices and custom houses—to the highest bidder. At a time when iconic may be an expectation in major new public projects it is sad to see the icons of an earlier time—for example Q1. Payne's Townsville Customs House—being discarded for a paltry economic return.

The generous demeanour of clients in the awards process was memorable with many going out of their way to comment of their high regard for their consultant architects. In a situation where these projects are one-off designs being produced without prototypes and often without related precedents is extraordinary. Likewise the high standard of finish is a tribute to contractors and sub-contractors working throughout the state. Providing that budgets are sufficient, it is evident that there are still highly skilled tradesmen able to realise whatever can be designed.

My thanks goes to the many sponsors of this year's Awards program. Throughout the awards program, national, state and regional sponsors have been generous in many ways contributing funds, goods and their time towards making the program a success. We are all the beneficiaries of their generosity.

It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to be part of the Awards Program.

I thank my Deputy Mark Roche, Judith Gilmore and Jane Jeff, and the many regional organisers and jurors for their assistance in the last six months, and Project Services and in Mark's case, Daryl Jackson's office for their forbearance during our absences. I to thank all the architects and their talented staff, their clients and the contractors of buildings entered this year for producing the excellent projects which they have submitted to the risks and limited rewards of this peer review process.

The only consolation I can offer to those who have been unsuccessful in 2000 is that the standard was very high. Better luck next year when Mark will be directing the Queensland Chapter's Awards for 2001.

On behalf of the Queensland Chapter Council and Public Affairs Committee I would like to thank Don Watson for his enduring commitment to the awards program over the last two years. Don has the ability to highlight the historical aspects of architecture in Queensland and the awards program and has much benefit from this. Thank you Don.

Jane Jeff, Awards Manager

Robert Arlo

CONGRATULATIONS & welcome

ELEVATION TO FELLOWSHIP
Warren Coyle David John
Neal Graham Stuart Shakespeare
Peter Hoolay

TRANSFER TO RETIRED STATUS
Judith Corrigan

NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS
Natalia Higham

NEW GRADUATE MEMBERS
Kelley Christ Simon Hughes
Lucy O'Connell Lindy Low Osbourne
Peter Hockley/Warren Coyle David John

The Arts Awards 2000 held in the Grand Ballroom, Brisbane Convent and Exhibition Centre.
R A I A Q U E E N S L A N D S T A T E A W A R D S 2 0 0 0

The Civic Design Award
Denton Corker Marshall

The Recycling Award
Archiblox Pty Ltd

The Beatrice Hutton Award
The Buchan Group

The Conservation Award
Robin Gibson Architects

FDG Stanley Award
BHP Colourbond Award

Winner - Museum of Tropical Queensland
Architects: Cox Rayner and Barrett Architects

Left: Receiving the Award from Don Watson and Ed Hayson are Michael Rayner & Jason Bight from Cox Rayner and Paul Nelson from Barrett Architects.

Olive Witty (nee Cannan) 1904-2000
The Institute has been notified that the death occurred this week of a pioneering Queensland woman architect. Olive Witty (1904-2000) (nee Cannan) graduated from Sydney University in 1926. She was the second Queensland woman graduate - Lorna Lukin (from another Brisbane legal family) was the first - three years earlier. Olive Witty joined the QIA in 1927. She worked with Lange Powell before marriage and a family ended her architectural career. One of her projects was the redoing of St Augustine's Anglican Church at Hamilton where her funeral was held.