

# MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 26 May 2008



## University of South Australia voted Australia's best

*University of South Australia's Kurna Building has been named Australia's best after winning the National Award for Public Buildings at the 2008 Property Council of Australia Rider Levitt Bucknall Awards for Innovation and Excellence.*

The development took out the prestigious award against a strong field of finalists to be awarded the title at a gala event held at Melbourne's Crown Casino over the weekend.

Dedicated to providing a functional setting for teaching and learning at University of South Australia's (UniSA) City West Campus, the Kurna Building is an essential part of the new campus development occupied by SA School of Art and the Louis Laybourne School of Design.

The building's design aims to integrate existing campus buildings with the disparate academic streams of Architecture and Arts in the same building, and exaggerate shared spaces within a confined building space.

As a result, the Kurna Building defies site boundaries and cantilevers over footpaths, erodes building mass, and generally avoids the conventions of building within tight site constraints.

Within these site limitations, the Kurna Building form has remained as compact as possible to minimise surfaces, therefore reducing the amount of building products required. While considering window placement, the ceiling perimeters have been splayed upwards to overcome floor to floor height limitations, increasing light penetration and reducing the reliance on artificial lighting.

The corridors, stairwells and foyers have become meeting places which encourage interaction between students and academics from different schools, providing settings for 'accidental' research.

UniSA also provided a set of Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Guidelines to the consultant team which included all criteria and design options impacting the sustainability of the building and environment.

Property Council of Australia National President, Mr Nic Lyons, said the awards showcase the finest development projects from around the country and distinguish industry projects that demonstrate innovative practice and design from large-scale multi-million dollar developments to individuals making an impact within the industry.

"This year's winners, including the Kurna Building, continues to raise the bar for the industry in setting new benchmarks in excellence, particularly in the area of innovative design," he said.

Other national winners on the night included:

- BlueScope Buildings Award for Business or Industrial Parks - Optus Centre, Macquarie Park (NSW)
- Award for Emerging Assets - Sydney Airport, Terminal 2 Redevelopment (NSW)
- Rider Levitt Bucknall Award for Office Developments - City Central Tower 1 (SA)
- City Plan Services Award for Residential Developments - Forest Ridge (QLD)
- Pitney Bowes Mapinfo Award for Shopping Centres - Queens Plaza (QLD)

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- Ryan Lawyers Award for Tourism & Leisure - Sydney Airport Terminal 2 Redevelopment (NSW)
- Award for Heritage & Adaptive Re-use - Henry Jones IXL Complex (TAS)
- ISIS Award for Future Leaders - Sven De Jonghe (WA)
- Award for Master Planned Communities - Jacksons Hill (VIC)
- Woodhead Award for Mixed Use Developments - Riparian Plaza (QLD)
- Phillips Group Award for Local Governance Leadership – City of Belmont (WA)
- Award for Public Buildings - Kaurna Building UniSA (SA)
- Overall Winner - Riparian Plaza (QLD)

Winners were announced at the 2008 Property Council of Australia Rider Levett Bucknall National Innovation and Excellence Awards gala dinner held at Melbourne's Crown Casino on Saturday 24 May 2008.

- ENDS -

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