

2014 President's Medal Citation

This year's recipients of the President's Medal have made significant contributions to South Australian Architecture through exemplary design practice, extensive teaching, community involvement and volunteering.

After working in a range of practices in Sydney and Adelaide, they were fortunate to gain employment with Mitchell, Giurgola & Thorpe to work on the National Parliament House project. They were particularly fortunate to work closely with the wonderful Aldo Giurgola and Pamille Berg so early in their careers. It's the kind of mentorship that few of us have enjoyed. Giurgola's influence was significant - demonstrating the importance of collaborative practice not only with other architects and designers but also artists.

It was this experience that led them to winning their first significant commission in 1992 which specifically required collaboration between architect and artist. Giurgola's influence has continued to inform their work through their attention to detail, sensible use of materials and the inclusion of artists in their projects.

They place particular importance in developing and enhancing the sense of cultural identity within their projects. They have a strong commitment to environmental responsibility which further reinforces sense of place by responding to local climatic conditions. While their projects are sophisticated their architecture is accessible, down to earth and tangible.

They have both made significant contributions to the Institute through involvement in committees and the awards program and are well known passionate and articulate advocates for the importance of design and architecture in our community. They have also been excellent teachers in the Schools of Architecture.

It is interesting too that they have not only taught at Adelaide and volunteered at the Chapter but they have also been commissioned to improve both the Adelaide University's Architecture School and the SA Chapter's building in Flinders Street.

So there we have it - a local 22 year old practice that has unswervingly stuck to its principles of design excellence, collaborative practice, community engagement, environmentally sustainable design and advocacy while continuing to teach and nurture the next generation of architects.

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2014 President's Medal to Sue Phillips and Michael Pilkington.

SA Chapter President, Steve Grieve FRAIA
May 2014