



Recipient Name: Francesco Bonato LFRAIA

Practice Name: Tectvs

Award given: Sir James Irwin President's Medal

Awarded by: Chapter President David Homburg

Over the last year, the SA Chapter has been focused on increasing the relevance of the profession in the wider community, but what we have been doing is not without precedent.

This year's recipient of the Sir James Irwin President's Medal exemplifies the idea of advocating for and delivering great design. As a leader of an architectural practice that has received 17 Institute Architecture Awards and over 40 other Awards since its inception in 1989, he has demonstrated this beyond dispute.

But beyond the projects, he epitomizes the role of the public professional – having a public opinion about architecture and design, teaching design to up-and-coming generations of architects, and embracing our colleagues from allied design professions.

The most striking aspects of his contribution to the profession, include:

- stewardship of the SA Chapter publication *Architect SA* and then *Place Magazine*
- leading the South Australian Collaborations Steering Committee in 2001, bringing together a group representing 12 of the major design and arts professional organisations in South Australia
- Co-Chairing the organising committee for the Asia Pacific Space Designers Alliance 2016 Congress to be held here in Adelaide in September
- being a former State President and National Councillor 2003 – 2004
- Awards Director for the Institute's SA Architecture Awards program from 2007 – 2008 and in 2011
- and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Adelaide

This year's recipient, Fran Bonato, understands that good design and great architecture comes from hard work and dedication. Summed up by the three P's of Practice, Profession and Perseverance that were cited in the opening paragraph of his Life Fellowship nomination for the Institute.

Sir James Irwin President's Medal Citation

2016 South Australian Architecture Awards

And he understands that our efforts need to extend beyond the confines of our own discipline. In a world where exemplary outcomes increasingly rely on collaboration with our allied design professionals and others, Fran is as they say “ahead of the curve”.

But above all, behind his energy and commitment is a passion and drive to promote the relevance of what we do as design professionals, and in particular as South Australian design professionals. If the things that we are trying to achieve as a Chapter could be captured in one person, that person would be Fran Bonato. So it is with great delight that I award him the 2016 Sir James Irwin President's Medal.