



Australian Institute of Architects – SA Chapter

Sir James Irwin Presidents Medal 2011

The Integrated Design Commission

In 2008 the keynote address for the Australian Institute Of Architects, South Australian Awards, was presented by Ian MacDougall. Ian is a Director of one of the highest profiled architectural practices in Australia with projects in most states.

Ian's address centred on a dream for South Australia. A dream that envisaged a design rich culture which values, nurtures and applauds the finest that South Australia can deliver. A world leader in design where outcomes are measured by the enthusiasm of the community to celebrate South Australia as the best place to live, work and play. A unique place in Australia.

Whilst Ian's talk was nothing short of inspirational I suspect that most people in the audience believed he was suffering the affect of some hallucinogenic substance. South Australia could not and would not ever take such a leap of faith.

That was two years ago and much has changed. The dream presented by Ian could become a reality if we all appreciate the change and accept the challenge.

The South Australian Government led by Premier Mike Rann has, during this period, instigated a program of change. The State Government has given South Australians a new awareness through the continued refinement of the State's Strategic Plan and the introduction of thought provoking initiatives such as the Thinkers in Residence Program, to name just one of the numerous creative approaches embarked on during this period. The adoption of the recommendations made under these programs, and in particular for our profession the residency of Professor Laura Lee, has meant the introduction of new strategies to assist in making these recommendations a reality. New structures and mechanisms have been put in place to guide South Australia into the future.

The Sir James Irwin President's Medal has traditionally celebrated the work of a practitioner or client agency whose significant contribution to Architecture in South Australia has distinguished them for recognition. This year's President Medal looks at the future and the potential in making South Australia something that dreams are made of. Pivotal to achieving this change has been the establishment of an entity whose primary role is to work with State and local Governments, the design ,planning and development sector and the wider community to transform the urban environment and enhance the quality of life through a multi-disciplinary, design led approach.

It is with great pleasure that I award the 2011 Sir James Irwin Presidents Medal to The Integrated Design Commission for the potential it has in positively contributing to the physical environment for the enjoyment of future generations.

Nick Tridente