

Australian Institute of Architects – SA

Sir James Irwin Presidents Medal 2012

The late Kevin Taylor



The Sir James Irwin President's medal celebrates the work of a practitioner who has demonstrated exemplary contribution to South Australia through design.

The evolution of the design professions, due to an increased awareness of the fragility of our environment and of a greater understanding of the complexity of 21st century demands, has required a change in approach from those entrusted with forging our built environment.

This change has been slow and it has only been in recent years that there has been a better understanding of the balance of ingredients that are required to create places for people.

The recipient of this year's President's Medal understood long ago that changes to attitudes towards people and the environment were required to meet the needs of future generations. Having acquired a Degree in Architecture and then in Landscape Architecture the recipient set out on a journey to learn more about the Australian context, history, people, the environment and how to incorporate all of this into his work. It has been said that **"his work profoundly represents a conversation with and around the many dimensions of Place, and of human ambitions past and future."**¹ A pre-occupation for experiential places for people.

In 1991 the design practice of Taylor Cullity Lethlean was formed incorporating the disciplines of Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Visual Arts and Botany. The work by the Studio has all been derived by an acute awareness of contemporary life, culture, environment, context and community. This has been a common consistent thread in all of the projects undertaken by Taylor Cullity Lethlean, an aspiration and approach first originating with Kevin Taylor when he questioned the role of the Architect and the tenuous connection to people and the environment.

The Studio has completed many projects in Australia. One of the most significant projects has been the redevelopment of North Terrace, which involved extensive consultation with multiple stakeholders, the outcome being one of the most successful urban design projects delivered in South Australia. Testament to the success of this project is the number of people, from the broad community, who enjoy it. The project reinforces the benefits that are derived from sensitive design and has been pivotal in providing a home grown example to the South Australian design community to refer to, for inspiration and affirmation that good design can influence the way we use space.

It is with great pleasure that I offer this posthumous award for the 2012 Sir James Irwin Presidents Medal to Kevin Taylor for establishing an approach to the development of our built environment that we can all learn from.

N.² Tridente

¹ Phil Harris Troppo Architects