

Australian Institute of Architects – SA Chapter

Sir James Irwin Presidents Medal 2009



The University of South Australia Facilities Management Unit

The Sir James Irwin Presidents Medal traditionally celebrates the work of a practitioner whose significant contribution to Architecture in South Australia has distinguished them for recognition. Since its inception in 1992, past recipients of the award have represented a broad cross section of the profession and included client bodies, single practitioners and partnerships.

All have shared the common interest of shaping our cities, and transforming our built environment. As a society we recognise that the city is a vehicle for engaging more broadly within a global context. This is particularly important for Adelaide as it competes nationally for resources, funding and skills.

The 2009 Sir James Irwin Presidents Medal continues the tradition of recognizing a significant contribution to our cities, and the increasing importance of reaching out beyond state boundaries to compete in national and global markets.

Shaping our cities relies on an interdependence of factors including considered design, enlightened planning guidelines, an enthusiastic client and reasonable procurement strategies that acknowledge the realities of construction risks. The convergence of all of these factors ultimately determines the success of a project. And central to that equation is the role that client organizations play.

In 2009 we recognise the significant and unique contribution made to architecture in South Australia by one of those client organisations.

The University of South Australia Facilities Management Unit has shown a consistent commitment to the highest standards of design procurement and exemplary terms of engagement. Underpinning this is the University's acceptance as an article of faith that architectural design should be integrated into the business, the brand and the strategic planning of an organization. In realizing this vision through construction, the University has shown its commitment to a continued, central role for the commissioned architect.

The University has demonstrated a commitment to design services with the development of campus masterplans for City East, City West, Magill and Mawson Lakes campus. Through its Blueprint programme, the University has invested in the city west precinct and driven a rejuvenation of our city. This rejuvenation provides a vision for a confident city centred on education and research within a contemporary physical environment.

The University's commitment to developing high end advanced manufacturing through the Mawson Institute building, and a new Materials and Minerals Science Learning and Research Hub strongly driven by architectural solutions make the University a deserving recipient of this years Medal.

The University has already been recognised with awards for its building programme. However this award recognises the Facilities Management Unit for the role it has played, and for those individuals that have supported the development of a culture that values architecture in South Australia.

Tim Horton