

2019 SA Landscape Architecture Awards: Jury Report and Citations 28 July 2019

SA Jury – Grace Lin (Jury Chair) – City of Adelaide, Peter Semple – PSLA, Alex Lock – TCL (Taylor Cullity Lethlean), Simon Bradley -City of Prospect, Richard Stranger – Renewal SA

Jury Report - Grace Lin (Jury Chair)

The Jury for the 2019 South Australian Landscape Architecture Awards would like to express our gratitude to the profession for the opportunity to review a fine collection of entries. We would like to congratulate all entrants on the quality achieved across the broad range of projects and talent that our state offers.

29 entries were nominated across 10 categories, with projects located in urban, suburban and regional contexts around the state, and 15 entries receiving awards. From thoughtful small-scale innovations and delightful garden sanctuaries, verdant and vibrant places, engaging inclusive play spaces and activated open spaces, to integrated landscape and building settings. From places that celebrate cultural diversity and heritage significance, to major infrastructure projects and urban design frameworks, and all that fits between. Through these entries, the ability of the landscape architecture profession to lead and influence greater benefits for our communities, environment and economy is unquestionable.

At the core of what we do is a healthy measure of optimism, the conviction that we are contributing to such things as quality of life, rich human experiences, building capacity, well-being and resilience, to outcomes that largely stretch far beyond the present, and thinking that reaches further than the confines of any site. A common thread of the 2019 entries is a confidence in the role of a genuine, inclusive engagement process to contribute to meaningful outcomes for our communities and environments, without pre-determining what may come from cross-cultural or inter-generational engagement, and to open up space and time to allow for a shared design process.

Given the often-contested space that we work in, particularly in the public realm, we appreciate the foresight and commitment of practitioners representing the client and consultants to these entries. The excellent quality of entries is testament to the productive and collaborative partnerships required between all involved.

2019 marked the first year that AILA has facilitated a Presentation to Jury Day, where entrants were provided the opportunity to share insights into their projects with the broader profession, and included a Q&A session with the Jury. We were delighted with the level of interest generated and the discussions that followed.

It was a pleasure for the Jury to contemplate your entries. Your attention to detail, passion and commitment to landscape architecture is certainly palpable through your projects.

Thank you to my fellow jury members: Simon Bradley - City of Prospect; Peter Semple – PSLA; Alexandra Lock – TCL; and, Richard Stranger - Renewal SA; for the professionalism and broad perspectives that contributed to fruitful discussions, and which have made the chairing process a joy.

Please join us once again in congratulating all entrants and particularly the winners of the 2019 South Australian Landscape Architecture Awards.

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Category: Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage Award of Excellence: Felixstow Reserve Redevelopment

Entrant Practice: City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, in association with ASPECT Studios, Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association, Paul Herzich, Oxigen and Integrated Heritage Services

Precinct / Area: Felixstow, City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters

Aboriginal Nation: Kurna, Spencer Region

Client: City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters

Felixstow Reserve, in proximity to the River Torrens / Karrawirra Parri, showcases the rich cultural history of this significant waterway to the local Kurna people, including their traditional seasonal activities and mythological stories. The reserve includes a rare canoe scar tree as the primary cultural marker, retained and protected for learning and cultural purposes, as well as a series of other sensitively integrated cultural markers and signage by Ngarrindjeri/Kurna Landscape Architect, Paul Herzich, connected by an interpretive trail.

This meaningful, sensitive and thoughtfully considered reserve upgrade has been informed by an exemplary process to engage and collaborate with the Kurna community. The jury commends the project team for their approach to cross-cultural engagement and collaboration, which has clearly demonstrated the benefits of intentional and genuine reconciliation approaches to design. Felixstow Reserve is now an important and meaningful place for Kurna people as well as for the broader community to gain an appreciation and respect for Kurna cultural history.

Short version

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Category: Parks and Open Space

Parks and Open Space Landscape Architecture Award: Felixstow Reserve

Entrant Practice: ASPECT Studios and Oxigen

Precinct / Area: Felixstow, City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters

Aboriginal Nation: Kurna, Spencer Region

Client: City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters

Felixstow Reserve demonstrates best practice in contemporary design, incorporating considerations of site, water, community engagement and facilities. Together with the preservation and restoration of the natural environment and celebration of rich local history and living culture from a bi-cultural perspective, the jury commends the project team for delivering a great outcome for the Kurna and broader community.

The design explores the reserve's natural context, including its relationship with the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri, local Kurna history and artefacts. An existing canoe scar tree features as the major cultural marker and via an interpretive walking trail, links other cultural markers throughout the site, including a nature play space in the lower park inspired by the camps the Kurna people created on the embankments of the nearby River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri.

Use of local plant species and retention of existing mature trees will see the Reserve develop as an important ecological park, with a significant boost to local biodiversity adjacent the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri.

While the design primarily focusses on the Kurna heritage and culture, its Post-European heritage is also expressed through a contemporary pavilion structure, open recreation space, and orchards and vineyards that reference the previous agrarian landscape that characterised the area.

Short Version

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Healthy Parks Healthy People SA Award:

RECIPIENT: Felixstow Reserve Redevelopment

Entrant Practice: City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, in association with ASPECT Studios, Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association, Paul Herzich, Oxigen and Integrated Heritage Services

Precinct / Area: Felixstow, City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters

Aboriginal Nation: Kurna, Spencer Region

Client: City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters

The Felixstow Reserve project demonstrates exceptional application of all six principles detailed in [Creating Greener Places for Healthy and Sustainable Communities](#). Through careful consideration of connections with the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri, the rich Kurna history of the site and vision for future communities, this is an exemplar project that highlights the power of transforming existing sites to shape greener communities in our State. The authentic engagement process is evident across multiple layers of the design processes and project outcomes and has been instrumental in creating a high-quality public open space. The project will provide a new benchmark for developments along the River Torrens Linear Park corridor. The project team is to be commended for their leadership and the genuine, meaningful and holistic approach to creating an amazing place for people to explore, play, connect and learn.

Details are provided below highlighting how the Felixstow Reserve project addresses the six principles for Creating Greener Places for Healthy and Sustainable Communities, delivering quality green public space in South Australia.

Health and Wellbeing is promoted through provision of a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities.

Connections with Nature are showcased with the wetlands creating a natural centrepiece for the reserve and extensive new habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife.

Stronger Communities have been built through the extensive community and cultural engagement process leading to a design influenced by both the local Australian Aboriginal and European immigrant cultures.

Connectivity and Access is provided through pedestrian and cycle connections in and through the site, including a 1km running and walking loop and the River Torrens shared use path.

Neighbourhood Character has been built through the transformation of an underutilised site into a high quality, high amenity, multipurpose open space that will support the needs of existing and future residents for many years to come.

Support resilient neighbourhoods has been achieved through the planting of 291 new trees and together with the large trees already established, will eventually provide a total projected canopy cover for approximately 3 hectares (44%) of the site.