

AUSTRALIAN CIVIC TRUST INC.

AWARDS & BRICKBATS 2011: NOTES

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Civic Trust Incorporated was created in 1969 as the result of a public meeting of over 300 community leaders from South Australia and interstate to address the problems of urban blight and uncoordinated development. Ren De Garis, Don Dunstan, Hugh Stretton, Dame Roma Mitchell and many others have played their part.

The annual Awards & Brickbats program has since developed into an invaluable public forum for constructive public discussion and debate.

As a proudly independent and voluntary association, the Trust coordinates responses to community praise and concerns through panels comprised of community representatives, leaders and experts to encourage higher standards in the civic environment.

AWARD CATEGORIES

In 2011 the range of categories is being extended to include areas commonly associated with the public environment, including the natural and built environments, water, energy, etc.

This list can be extensive, so nominators are welcome add their own category to an initial list if they wish. Jurors are assigned in accordance with the categories nominated, which are taken as a guide. Examples of projects include:

Social – Equity & inclusion, community, business, culture and education:

- Social planning and policy, including equity, intergenerational value, capital, inclusion and cohesion.
- Community networks, including communication and consultation with the involvement of communities and stakeholders.
- Community development, including plans, business involvement and social action (cultural, urban, resources, services and political empowerment).

Environmental – Diversity, resources, natural productivity, water and ecological balance:

- Restoration or enhancement of biodiversity.
- Conservation or re-use of resources.
- Protection or improvement of natural features or landscapes.
- Economic programs that enhance communities and their environment.
- Clean and green food production that maintains genetic variety and contributes to public health.
- Promotion of an ethic of care for the environment.

Built Environment – Infrastructure, design, buildings, heritage, transport and land use:

- Planning processes, including community and business involvement, effective land use, cultural & aesthetic design and support of the environment.
- Infrastructure and services, covering integrated design, environmental issues, safety, support services, transport and its inter-relationships.
- Buildings – adapted and new, relationships to services, adaptability to change, responsiveness to resource availability, climate and water and reduction of energy use.
- Maintenance of valuable assets, both heritage and modern.

The categories are flexible and the jurors, who may consider issues beyond the specific points raised in a nomination, may extend their comments to broader associated issues.

Awards in general are given for projects that:

- Enhance the strength and evolution of the civic environment for present and future generations.
- Assist in the restoration and preservation of the natural environment.
- Improve the accessibility, quality and cultural sensitivity of the public realm.
- Support developments that enable greater social interaction between individuals and cultures and across generations.
- Are environmentally and socially sustainable.

Brickbats are given for projects that detract from the civic environment.

BENEFITS OF NOMINATING

- Successful award nominations raise the public profile of exemplary projects and present them as potential models for the future.
- Brass plaques are available for awards winners at nominal cost.
- Brickbat nominations identify problem areas and assist in the development of better solutions.
- All nominations contribute to the ongoing discussions and the progressive development of a vision for our civic environment.
- People's Choice awards will also be given to the most popular nominations in the Awards and Brickbats categories.
- The Awards & Brickbats process invariably attracts prominent media attention.

ELIGIBILITY

- Nominations may be submitted by any member of the public. The criteria are guidelines only and are designed to encourage the nomination of any project seen as beneficial to the civic environment.
- There is no entry fee.
- The judges' decision is final.

EXAMPLES of Awards, Brickbats and Projects (from several hundred since inception)

- Project: 50th anniversary of the 1954 earthquake – reporting and seminar
- Brickbat: Port Stanvac oil refinery site pollution
- Student Project: Parliament House tower design
- Brickbat: Lack of action with Victoria Square
- Award: Australian Refugee Association's Circle of Friends project
- Colonel Light Award: University of Adelaide Park Lands Study
- Stuart Hart Award: Student projects in SA country areas
- Ian McDonald Award: RiAus adaptive restoration of the old Stock Exchange
- Brickbat: Excessive stormwater flow into Gulf St Vincent