



# AUSTRALIAN CIVIC TRUST INC

## *AWARDS, BRICKBATS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES*

Ph: (08) 8232 0809  
Web: [civitrust.net.au](http://civitrust.net.au)  
[austcivitrust@gmail.com](mailto:austcivitrust@gmail.com)

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## **Supporting Notes for Nominators**

The Australian Civic Trust Incorporated was created in 1969 as the Civic Trust of South Australia after a public meeting of over 300 architects and community leaders from South Australia, Victoria and NSW to address the problems of urban blight and poor development. Key players have included Jack McConnell, Don Gazzard, Ren DeGaris, Don Dunstan, Robert Dickson, Newell Platten, Hugh Stretton, Dame Roma Mitchell and many others.

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

The annual Awards & Brickbats program has since developed into an invaluable public forum for constructive public discussion and debate. In 2012 it was extended to include Risks and Opportunities in the civic environment.

### **GUIDE TO CATEGORIES**

The categories are intended to be flexible according to the nominator's requirements but generally include areas commonly associated with the public environment, including natural and social elements, water, energy, etc.

As the potential list can be extensive, nominators are welcome suggest their own category if they wish, which is taken as a guide. Existing categories include:

#### **Social**

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

#### **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, reduction of energy use.
- Maintenance of valuable assets, both heritage and modern

## **AWARDS**

Awards are given for projects, strategies or plans 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.

**Special awards** may also be assigned by the jury or sought by nominators. Note that these awards are on an intrinsic quality basis and are not considered unless appropriate projects are nominated. Established special awards include:

- The Colonel Light Award for Urban Design
- The Stuart Hart Award for Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning
- The Hugh Stretton Award for Innovation in Residential Development
- The Australian Civic Trust Award for Political Reform
- The Ian MacDonald Award for the best in the Built Environment category

## **BRICKBATS**

Brickbats may be considered the reverse of awards and applied to projects that detract from the civic environment. The award categories may be taken as a guide.

## **RISKS**

Risks are potentially detrimental policies or directions. These need to be highlighted in order to facilitate public attention and debate, which may continue beyond the current awards program.

Examples include cumulative environmental degradation, inappropriate development strategies, inadequate planning and policy trends leading toward potential social disadvantage,

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

This is a mechanism for nominators to suggest opportunities that they see in the public domain, such as enhancements to precincts, proposed solutions to social needs, new conservation initiatives, better planning, etc.

Nominations should be sufficiently comprehensive for the public to understand the opportunity, its needs and outcomes, and be able to comment and debate it.

## **BENEFITS OF NOMINATING**

- Successful nominations raise the public profile of exemplary projects and present them as potential models for the future.
- Brass plaques are available for the 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 the community's vision for our civic environment.
- People's Choice awards will also be given to the most popular nominations.
- This annual event invariably attracts prominent media attention and public discussion.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- Nominations may be submitted by any organisation or member of the public. The criteria are guidelines only and are designed to encourage the nomination of any project seen as beneficial or of concern in the civic environment. Note that this does not imply an advocacy role for a nominated project.
- The awards are not competitive but are assigned on a quality basis. In some years no awards have been given in categories where there was no suitable project nominated.
- Nominators may be asked to provide more information, either initially or as part of the assessment process.
- There is no entry fee and the judges' decision is final.

## **EXAMPLES: Awards, Brickbats and Projects from the many since 1971**

- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1954 earthquake – media and seminar (2004 Project)
- Port Stanvac oil refinery site pollution (2005 Brickbat) – Government took action
- Parliament House tower design (2004 Student Project).
- Lack of action with Victoria Square (1994 & 2004 Brickbats).
- Australian Refugee Association's Circle of Friends (2004 Award).
- University of Adelaide Park Lands Study (2009 Colonel Light Award).
- Student projects in SA country areas (2009 Stuart Hart Award).
- RiAus adaptive restoration of the old Stock Exchange (2009 Ian MacDonald Award).
- Excessive stormwater flow into Gulf St Vincent (2008 Brickbat).
- Department for Families and Communities Housing SA (2010 Hugh Stretton Award).
- Turner from the Tate Exhibition (2013 Award for a Major Contribution to the Arts).
- Sir William Goodman Bridge (2015 Ian MacDonald Award)
- Tonsley Public Realm (2016 Stuart Hart Award)
- Conservation of Ayers House Ballroom (2016 Award)
- Lounder's Boathouse (2017 Award)