



Nomination for Urban Award

Waltzing Matilda Centre

Winton, Qld



Photo c/o RIA

Following the destruction of an earlier museum by fire in 2015, including the loss of valuable items related to the 1895 song, an architectural competition for a replacement was held in 2016 and Cox Architecture of Sydney won the chance to create the world's first museum dedicated to a song. The result strongly evokes the colonial spirit and complements other recent developments in the region. As a result, local Councilor Baskett expects "probably over 6,000 people coming into town". Major recognition of the Aboriginal culture of the region, however, remains to be highlighted.

The entry foyer leads to outdoor performance spaces, exhibition sheds, a café, gift shop and reading room in large spaces. Features such as termite mounds studded with opal-bearing rock show the geological associations, and the use of authentic, robust materials is an approach to sustainability in design. Arterial Design's exhibition around the main hall highlights Banjo Paterson's words, Christina Macpherson's music and the adoption of Australia's unofficial anthem. Historical associations are shown through cinema and photography, including of the local landscape.

The RAIA gave an award to the project, listing the Project Team as Brendan Gaffney (project director), Casey Vallance (design director), Justin Bennett (project leader), Michelle Mitchell, Steve Hunter (senior interior designers), Carol Brubaker (senior architect), Mark Shay (senior technician), Elizabeth Nel, James Baker, Ashley Beckett (architects), Mitchell Buckley (graduate of architecture) and Emma Spann (interior designer). The consultants were Resonate (Acoustic engineer), DDA McKenzie Group (Building certifier, Umow Lai (Electrical, mechanical and hydraulic engineer, Section J analysis), Arterial Design (Exhibition design, FSDA (Food and beverage design), RPS (Landscape architect), Peak Services (Project manager), Bligh Tanner (Structural and civil engineer).