

Design Excellence

INTRODUCTION

The achievement of design excellence for the overall SICEEP site is a key objective and accordingly the following key principles have been adopted:

- A layered and hierarchical architectural approach which seeks to draw inspiration from the local natural environment as well as the man-made and development heritage of the area.
- A design response that endeavours to create a form and public space that accommodates and reflects human experience, values and ideas, and builds on Darling Harbour's aspiration to be Australia's premier meeting place.
- An approach based on specificity, providing a unique design solution that develops from careful analysis of the site; physical, environmental, historical, cultural, commercial and social components.
- A design response that is conscious of minimising impacts and promoting the principles of positive urban design through the following strategies:
 - Creation of highly efficient and concise building planning and functionality;
 - Compliance with Stage 1 Concept Proposal Parameter Plans and Design Guidelines; and
 - The application of contemporary ESD principles and a minimum 4 stars GBCA Green Star rating.

In addition, INSW has established a Design Review Panel (DRP) specifically for the SICEEP project which has been involved in the design development for the precinct. The DRP is chaired by the NSW Government Architect.

Central to achieving design excellence is a team with formidable expertise and experience with a commitment to design innovation, quality and excellence.

THE ARCHITECT

fjmt is proud of its reputation as an architectural leader and innovator. fjmt strives to produce buildings of high architectural quality and merit without compromising value for the client, the user or for the community. fjmt has received recognition for its work receiving the highest industry awards and being published in national and international design magazines. Testimony to fjmt's success is the level of repeat work achieved from public clients where competitive tendering is mandatory.

fjmt's approach to architectural design is one of specificity: providing unique design solutions for each particular project. This approach requires careful analysis of the site (physical, environmental, historical, cultural, commercial and social), and of the brief (both functional and aspirational) and budget (time and cost). Superimposed onto this analysis is the quality and rigour of fjmt's design expertise across diverse building typologies and the innovation and creativity of the project team. From this overlaid process, unique design solutions emerge, which are subjected to critical review and refinement.

fjmt has won numerous design awards. The Scientia at the University of New South Wales won Australia's highest design and construction honours including the AIA's Sir Zelman Cowen Award

for Public Architecture and Lloyd Rees Award for Excellence in Civic Design. The jury described the Scientia as "a major work of ceremonial architecture, [which] has transformed the UNSW campus and given it a remarkably poetic and emblematic focus. The Scientia is a rare, highly defined work whose language is international yet whose varying and changeable transparencies are both elegantly rational and pragmatically Australian."

In creating the new Headquarters of the Historic Houses Trust, fjmt were fortunate enough to receive both the Sir John Sulman Award for Architectural Excellence and the Francis Greenway Award for Conservation. This was the first time that both awards were awarded to the same project simultaneously. The jury described the project as "a gift to Sydney... an exemplary collaboration of minds and skills...". The project embraced and enhanced the site's archaeology to create one of the most intriguing and intimate spaces in the CBD.

fjmt's design for Darling Quarter, Sydney was undertaken in collaboration with Lend Lease Design and is a true integration of urban design, architecture, and landscape architecture. fjmt sought to enhance the joy and beauty of Darling Harbour, one of the most popular public places in Australia, and to do so in a way that imbues it with a sense of quality and permanence.

Darling Quarter is where the western edge of the City and the Park meet and is celebrated in a series of defined public spaces, including a pedestrian boulevard, parklands, gateway, children's playground, and activated edges lined with cafes and restaurants. It is a place for everyone, for city workers at lunchtime and in the evenings, families, children, the young and old, visitors and locals.

fjmt's recent awards include a RIBA award as well as the NZIA Architecture Medal for the Art Gallery of Auckland and a Public Architecture award for the Concourse. A range of projects have also been shortlisted for the World Architecture Festival awards both at Barcelona and Singapore.

fjmt has a considerable body of work which has been reviewed nationally and internationally. Publications consistently note fjmt's work for its sensitivity to site and place, its materiality and tectonics, and its ability to both simultaneously be monumental and subtle.

fjmt Design Director, Richard Francis-Jones regularly contributes to design journals and magazines as well as continuing his involvement in architectural education as a Visiting Professor at UNSW. He was published in Phaidon's 10x10: 100 architects, 10 cities and is editor of Content: a journal of architecture (UNSW Press). Richard was recently appointed an Honorary Fellowship of the American Institute of Architects.

fjmt recognises environmental sustainability as one of the most pressing issues facing contemporary society. Accordingly, the practice places an emphasis on analysing the impact of a project's development on our environment and in turn has devised an impressive range of innovative design solutions.

A number of these projects have received local and international acclaim for achievements in environmental sustainability, including receipt of the American Institute of Architects/Boston Society of Architects Honour Award for Design Excellence – Sustainable Design Awards Program and AIA Award for Sustainable Architecture 2010.

AWARDS

AUCKLAND ART GALLERY TOI O TAMAKI

- World Building of the Year, World Architecture Festival , 2013

LIBERTY PLACE

- Office Category Winner World Architecture Festival, 2014
- Sustainable Development Award Urban Development Institute Australia, 2014

THE MINT - HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST OF NEW SOUTH WALES NEW HEAD OFFICE

- Sir John Sulman Award for Outstanding Public Architecture, RAI, 2005

SURRY HILLS LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

- National Architecture Award for Public Architecture, Australian Institute of Architects, 2010

DARLING QUARTER

- Darling Quarter International Architecture Award Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design, 2012

BANKSTOWN LIBRARY AND KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

- National Architecture Award for Interior Architecture, Australian Institute of Architects, 2015

META APARTMENTS

- Multiple Housing Commendation Award RAI (NSW Chapter), 2005

CAPELLA APARTMENTS

- Best New Commercial and Mixed Use Award, Randwick City Council, 2006

MANTA APARTMENTS, LITTLE BAY

- Winner, Medium Density Development (Austral Bricks Award for Excellence), Urban Development Institute of Australia, 2011

SUGAR DOCK APARTMENTS, JACKSONS LANDING

- Multi-Residential, Commendation, AIA NSW Chapter Awards, 2011



