

# ACT CHAPTER

Australian Institute of Architects

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Australian  
Institute of  
Architects

# WHO WE ARE.

Since incorporation in 1930, the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) has evolved into a dynamic and progressive organisation. We offer a range of targeted programs to meet our member's needs, and we foster strong relationships with associated bodies, government, industry and community. We currently have over 11,000 members located across Australia and overseas.

The Institute exists to enhance the cultural, environmental and economic well-being of the community by advancing contemporary practice and the professional capability of members, and advocating the value of architecture and architects.

Being a member means you have a professional home and you are part of the profession. You are able to contribute to the voice of the profession through the Institute's advocacy activities, network with your peers through a range of local events, gain access to knowledge only available to members, and you can help shape the future of the architecture profession in Australia.

The ACT Chapter is based in Mugga Way Red Hill, and manages an active program of events and awards for practitioners in Canberra and surrounding regions.

## OUR PUBLIC FACE.

### PROMOTING ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHITECTS

We have identified advocacy as a strategic pillar for the foreseeable future. This includes government relations and industry partnerships to be the voice of the profession. We want to raise the profile of the profession and highlight the contribution that architecture makes to the well-being of the nation.

We also promote architects and architecture to the wider community through a range of programs.

• **The voice of the profession with government and industry** - the Institute advocates at a national and state and territory level on a range of topics through meetings with politicians, submissions to government and policy and advocacy positions. The local chapter has a very active dialogue with the ACT government and public service and our planning and practice committees regularly make submissions to government on issues of importance to the local profession. Our heritage committee regularly nominates buildings for recognition by the ACT Heritage Council.

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• **Leveraging our message** - we collaborate with other professional and industry associations in the Canberra region allowing us to join forces to deliver our message with a stronger voice.

• **Recognising great architecture** - the Institute has developed an outstanding program of regional, chapter and national awards for architecture. The ACT chapter receives around 45 entries each year. Award functions are held mid-year and winners of the local awards are entered into the national awards, which are announced in November. This provides us with opportunities to promote the value of good design and the work of local architects.

• **Showcasing our members work** - every entry into the Institute's awards program for the last 5 years is featured in the Awards Gallery on our website, resulting in over 4000 Architect designed projects being available to the public for viewing.

• **Promoting architecture in the community** - the sustainability committee hosts a Solar House Day lecture, exhibition and bus tours to highlight the benefits of solar passive design. The Contemporary Australian Architects Speaker Series and our involvement in the Design Canberra festival allow us to showcase great design and the value of architecture to the local community.

• **In the media** - the Institute continues to receive strong media coverage across national, regional and international press, broadcast and online platforms. For each activity, a strategy, media release, target media list and story angles are developed.

• **Profiling members** - all members have the opportunity to display their profile on the Institute's Find an Architect website, and all award entries appear in the members profile on the website.

• **Spreading the news** - the Institute has a national journal titled 'Architecture Australia' that is published bi-monthly through our associated company Architecture Media.

• **Our social media presence** - the Institute's presence on social media continues to grow in order to engage with both members and the wider community. We have a growing number of followers on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

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## SERVICE TO MEMBERS.

The Institute offers a range of opportunities exclusively to members. These include:

- **Forums, networking and CPD** - regular Chapter talks such as our small practice forum are well patronised as are CPD seminars on a range of topics that are generally classed as either formal or informal CPD.
- **Honouring individual members** - the ACT chapter has a number of individual awards to recognise and honour the accomplishments of individual architects.
- **State and national awards for members** - members have the opportunity to enter in the Chapter Awards program as well as attend presentation functions. The winners progress to the prestigious National Awards Program.
- **Gold Medal Tour** - this is an opportunity for members to hear from the winner of the highest award the Institute presents - the honour has been awarded for over 50 years. Since 2005, the recipient of the Gold Medal undertakes a National speaking tour to all Chapters.
- **Acumen** - members have access to an on-line guide to practice that replaces the previous hard copy practice notes.

• **The Environmental Design Guide** - is a guide on sustainable design in the built environment. With a publication history of 20+ years and over 200 peer reviewed papers and case studies, EDG continues to be a leading environmental design resource for architects and other built environment design professionals.

• **Contracts** - the Institute jointly develops a range of building contracts with the Master Builders Australia (MBA) and makes them available for sale through both the MBA and Institute networks.

• **Badged as part of the profession** - members are free to post the Institute member badge on their print and online materials.

• **Discounts** - members receive discounts on a range of products and services offered by our corporate partners.

## EDUCATION.

The Institute is actively involved at every level of architectural education and training, including developing resources for primary and secondary school teachers, and accrediting schools of architecture.

• **Maintaining educational standards** - the Institute is closely involved with the University of Canberra and participates in regular accreditation reviews of the architectural program.

• **National Conference** - members have an opportunity to attend a packed program of national and international speakers at the Institute's annual national conference.

• **National CPD Seminar Series** - the Institute is constantly developing continuing professional development (CPD) activities to encourage architects to actively maintain a broad and high level skill base.

• **Continuum** - this is the Institute's online CPD facility housing 84 courses with topics relating to the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) competencies of Design, Documentation, Project Delivery and Practice Management. Continuum is perfect for members who cannot attend face-to-face seminars.

• **Refuel** - the Institute has an extensive Refuel CPD Provider Network of over 90 external providers to supplement CPD material generated in-house. The Institute offers external providers recognition and endorsement of CPD events and activities, permission to use the Refuel logo as well as promotion on the Institute website and direct marketing to the 11,000 Institute members.

• **PALS (Practice of Architecture Learning Series)** - this program offers education on the contemporary practice of architecture and is comprised of 15 online modules with downloadable study notes. It is integrated with face-to-face tutorials facilitated by expert architects and consultants held in local state and territory offices. PALS is aimed at people preparing for the Architectural Practice Exam, architects returning to practice after taking a break, people wanting to set up their own practice and architects with overseas qualifications requiring education on Australian practices.

• **Promoting architecture to young people** - the Institute takes up opportunities to speak at career nights and community events to encourage school children to become architects. Additionally, school children are offered a 2 day school holiday program to design and build their own dream house under the supervision of architects and architecture students.



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If you want to find out more  
about becoming part of an  
exciting professional community,  
call us on 62082100.

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