



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## Jury names best architectural projects in country NSW

Two stunning houses at opposite ends of the NSW coastline have tied for the title of best new home in this year's prestigious Australian Institute of Architects' NSW Country Division Awards.

The jury of industry experts led by Jury Chair Sarah Aldridge crowned Byron Bay home Carlyle Lane by Harley Graham Architects and Escarpment House by Takt in Thirroul on the South Coast joint winners of the *Residential Architecture – Houses (New)* category.

'The calm ease and warmth of the architecture belies the skill and hard work that make these spaces so elegantly resolved,' the jury said of the Carlyle Lane and described Escarpment House as 'a treasure trove of innovative architectural ideas.'

Underscoring the very high calibre of this year's entries, the jury also awarded the *Small Projects* category jointly to two projects on the Far North Coast, Hidden Studio by Harley Graham Architects and Possum Shoot Shed by DFJ Architects. The same practice completed their trifecta of success in this year's awards by also winning the *Public and Commercial Building* category for the Ballina Sea Rescue Tower and the *Termimesh Timber Award* for Bangalow Farm House, which the jury described as a 'complete celebration of timber.'

Courtyard House by Davis Architects in Sydney's inner west suburb of Lilyfield won the very competitive *Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations & Additions)* category for a home the jury described as 'full of delight.'

A 'meticulously restored and renewed' 1920's bungalow, Sampson House in Orange by Source Architects, won the *Heritage* category.

At the cutting-edge of innovative practice, The Joint by Joint Modular in Thirroul won both the *Residential Architecture – Affordable Housing (under \$350,000)* category and the James Barnet Award for a project the jury felt was 'exceptional on account of its ambition, method of delivery, social ethos and high level of design resolution.'

In addition to the winners, the jury also awarded six commendations.

Cameron Anderson Architects' 'contemporary response to the traditional farmhouse' Lue Road Residence in Mudgee proved the most popular project with the public winning the *People's Choice Award*.



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NSW Chapter President, Andrew Nimmo, congratulated all of this year's award winners and noted the important contribution the profession as a whole was making to deliver more sustainable, cohesive communities.

'Each year we see the bar raised when it comes to the innovative design solutions and practices architects are implementing across regional NSW.

'The awards provide a fantastic opportunity to showcase and recognise the skill and expertise our members apply to such a range of projects. Architects apply design thinking to everything they do in order to do more with less and help clients realise opportunities that they did not know existed.

'What they all have in common is a creative and professional approach for integrating the built environment with the natural surrounds in a robust and complementary way that best meets the needs of the client and maximises environmental performance.'

### **NOTES TO EDITOR:**

High resolution images are available for download at  
<https://nationalarchitecture.awardsplatform.com/register/NpVKBVjQ>

Images are provided only for use in articles relating to the NSW Country Division Architecture Awards program run by the Australian Institute of Architects. Use in any other context is strictly prohibited without written permission from the submitting architect. All images must credit the architect and photographer.

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### **Full list of winning projects with jury citations by award category below:**

#### **Heritage**

**Winner** - Sampson House, Orange, by Source Architects

Jury citation: 'This project is a finely detailed and astutely refined adaptation within the Central Orange Conservation Area. The largely intact 1920's bungalow has been meticulously restored and renewed to present a handsome street presence. The insertion of careful pieces of joinery shows magnificent restraint and respect to the original house, while new skylights and windows make the rooms bright and comfortable. Historic brickwork and timberwork has been maintained and celebrated, and the new wing defers to the palette of materials of the original house. This project is an example of how strategic planning can reap maximum rewards. The shell of the new wing was deliberately constructed in a simple way, to allow better use of budget on richer joinery pieces and finishes. The result is also a fine example of the role of architects in reinterpreting and reinforcing heritage buildings.'



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### **Commendation** - Bangalow Farmhouse, Bangalow, by DFJ Architects

Jury citation: 'This project beautifully captures the spirit of the semi-rural Bangalow neighbourhood in which it sits. The placement of the new pavilion is a precise and skilled device which sets up two distinct gardens – an entry garden with three visible buildings grouped around a driveway and a private north-facing rear garden looking over a borrowed farmland landscape. The materials used in the new wing are richly eclectic but also pragmatic, and these complement the simple sensibility of the original farmhouse. While the detail of the restoration of the original house is not fully revealed, clearly decades of accretions have been removed, and the new wing facilitates a more modern informal way of living on the site.'

### **James Barnet Award**

#### **Winner** - The Joint, Thirroul, by Joint Modular

Jury citation: 'The Joint is a project that the jury felt is exceptional on account of its ambition, method of delivery, social ethos and high level of design resolution. This architect-builder collaboration provides an affordable dwelling of a design standard rarely seen in this sector. The simplicity of the construction, attention to detail and delightful outcome make this project a worthy winner of the 2017 James Barnet Award.'

### **People's Choice Award**

#### **Winner** - Lue Road Residence, Mudgee, by Cameron Anderson Architects

### **Public and Commercial Architecture**

#### **Winner** - Ballina Sea Rescue Tower, Ballina, by DFJ Architects

Jury citation: 'The building has been sited such that it commands an uninterrupted view of the river mouth and beach. The building demonstrates how programmatic functionality can be resolved to produce a visually simple, yet appealing building. Responding to its severe marine environment, the building uses a mixture of glazed bricks to provide a highly durable and visually textured exterior skin. A constrained budget has been used as an opportunity to refine the spatial efficiency of the floor plan to produce a compact volume that sits modestly among the coastal vegetation. The building's simple form, intelligent use of materials and effective integration of technical requirements make it a deserving award recipient.'

#### **Commendation** - iAccelerate Centre, North Wollongong, by ADM Architects

Jury citation: 'The iAccelerate building in North Wollongong pays its respects to the heritage of the Port Kembla area, while providing a centre for future innovation and technology. The built form articulates the internal functions through its building mass and use of facade materials, while providing a visual connection between the building users and the public street. This project demonstrates clear ambition, both in the design of the building and in its programmatic intentions.'

#### **Commendation** - Ocean Shores Soccer Club, Ocean Shores, by DFJ Architects

Jury citation: 'This is an example of a modest building typology that has been skilfully reworked to offer so much more than is normally delivered by buildings of this type. Located such that it acts as an acoustic buffer between the playing fields and the adjacent highway, the building's raised terrace also provides shelter and seating for spectators. The simply planned interior accommodates robust and cleverly ventilated player changing facilities as well as a canteen.'



### **Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations & Additions)**

**Winner** – Courtyard House, Lilyfield, by Davis Architects

Jury citation: ‘This skilfully resolved courtyard house extension in Sydney’s inner west is both materially rich and spatially warm. Davis Architects have deployed the well-used design strategy of the courtyard to increase surface area and amenity, but resolved this in a way that displays a deep understanding of site, landscape and living, to design and build a home full of delight. Gorgeous moments of garden showers, lush screen planting, the interplay between spaces, and the outdoor-room, create a home of depth that proves an excellent example of how less can be truly, meaningfully, more. A skilled delivery of high quality architecture for a very reasonable budget, which has much to offer its Sydney sisters and brothers.’

**Commendation** - Sampson House, Orange, by Source Architects

Jury citation: ‘This smart addition to a 1920’s bungalow makes great sense of its compact suburban site. The long, linear, north facing design strategy makes skilful use of the site’s attributes to provide a home, and an architecture, that offers a high degree of amenity for the clients. The undulating roof rises and falls to bring northern light into the living spaces, while remaining in touch with the scale of the original house. The house elegantly opens up to the rear with a modestly landscaped garden, and investment in a high level of craftsmanship makes the transition from old to new seamless.’

### **Residential Architecture – Affordable Housing (under \$350,000)**

**Winner** - The Joint, Thirroul, by Joint Modular

Jury citation: ‘Joint Modular is an innovative, initiative formed by the architect with a local builder to deliver a design-led construction service for affordable housing. The modular, semi-prefabricated building system developed by Joint Modular continues to evolve from project to project through the process of learning by making. The net benefit of this refinement of the design and construction is to bring a highly resolved building within reach of more modest budgets. The building is robust and low maintenance. Fibro shack materials are combined with double glazing, insulation, thermal mass and roof overhangs to achieve a high-performance building. Efficient space planning, building performance and highly crafted detailed components have been combined to provide an affordable dwelling that is not only cost effective but also truly joyful.’

### **Residential Architecture – Houses (New)**

**Winner (tied)** - Carlyle Lane, Byron Bay, by Harley Graham Architects

Jury citation: ‘Carlyle Lane is a confident & sophisticated architecture. The calm ease and warmth of the architecture belies the skill and hard work that make these spaces so elegantly resolved. The architect’s strategic design response is exemplified siting the home to properly address the street, capturing close lush garden views, while offering the relief of internal views of a distant sky, in what is otherwise a tightly defined site by Byron Bay standards. Deliberate long horizontal lines evoke the client’s love of mid-century architecture, and float over a well resolved plan that speaks to the site, climate and brief. The outdoor room elegantly expands the living space and responds appropriately to the climate.’



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**Winner (tied)** - Escarpment House, Thirroul, by Takt

Jury citation: 'Set in the coastal suburb of Thirroul, this residence takes many material clues from its local context. A black concrete slab and portal structure forms the lower living areas, while layers of lighter materials and natural timbers dominate the upper level. Highly customised, this family home has been designed to flex for different uses and occupants, and incorporates a treasure trove of innovative architectural ideas. An inventive construction sequence required a rigorous process and significant collaboration between client, architect and builder; a level of care and thought that is reflected in the craftsmanship and skilled use of materials throughout. Addressing sustainability at a number of levels, this project results in an adaptable, future-proof home built to an impressive cost to outcome ratio.'

### Small Projects

**Winner (tied)** - Possum Shoot Shed, Possum Shoot, by DFJ Architects

Jury citation: 'Possum Shoot Shed makes clever use of light to bring this small project to life. During the day, an oversize south facing window brings the outside in, flooding the house with natural light, while protecting from the intense summer heat. The brief was to build small and simple, allowing for a form of elegant camping; a shed that sits quietly across the contour of the land, taking strategic advantage of everything around it. The final result has sustainability at its core, and expresses its modest brief of living with less without compromising on quality design.'

**Winner (tied)** - Hidden Studio, Coopers Shoot, by Harley Graham Architects

Jury citation: 'Hidden Studio sits among the trees on a 20-acre property at Coopers Shoot. The brief was to create a guest pavilion that would complement two other buildings on the property designed by the accomplished Sydney School architect Ian McKay. The studio is totally private from the other buildings on site but cleverly references their portal frames. Hidden Studio effectively balances the relationship between structure and environment, and the rainforest surrounds influence the structure's tough aesthetic. Hardwood used throughout the interior works to soften the studio's tougher exterior frame, and careful orientation ensures privacy while ensuring both connection to site and natural ventilation throughout.'

**Commendation** - Green West House, Orange, by Source Architects

Jury citation: 'Green House West by Source Architects is a substantial rework of an early 1980's home in Orange. The clients, preparing for retirement, wanted their home to be functional and flooded with light. This was achieved by moving internal walls and restructuring the living, dining and kitchen areas. Using a warm neutral palette, joinery is the key to this renovation's success. Simplicity and clarity underlie everything, bringing calm and joy to all spaces in this home.'

### Termimesh Timber Award

**Winner** - Bangalow Farmhouse, Bangalow, by DFJ Architects

Jury citation: 'The Bangalow Farmhouse is a complete celebration of timber. The project uses spotted gum as the primary structural timber, used for decking, posts and the exposed eaves structure, as well as door and window frames. The same timber is used for the cladding, in a board profile specially milled to match the existing farmhouse. The cladding is preserved using the Japanese tradition of Shou Sugi Ban, in which the timber is charred to seal and protect it. This leaves the house self-finishing, with almost no need for ongoing maintenance; protected from weather and pests as well as providing a degree of fire-proofing. Timber also



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appears in internal finishes, and the presence of the raked wooden ceiling means sunlight reflects and refracts warmly around the space. The spotted gum tongue and groove ceiling board was milled with an oversized tongue to allow for an expressed joint between the boards. These visible internal timbers soften the choice of polished concrete floor, and allow the clients' vintage timber furniture to sit comfortably in the space. In addition, long solid timber shelves manage the clients' library of books and are echoed by adjacent timber mullions in the windows. A number of recesses, also judiciously lined with timber, echo some of the details of the adjacent original house.'

### **Vision Award**

**Commendation** - Coffs Coast Wildlife Centre by Regional Architects

Jury citation: 'Design entrepreneurialism, an important ingredient needed to transform business opportunities in regional NSW, is evident in this proposal for an eco-tourism development and caught the attention of the jury. In this proposal, innovative funding models are explored to develop a way for the Coffs Coast Wildlife Centre, which includes a teaching hospital, to be self-funded. A wide-reaching vision uses a flexible modular design to incorporate a range of facilities, and showcases local hardwood as a key material that anchors the Centre beautifully in the landscape.'

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The Australian Institute of Architects is the peak body for the architectural profession, representing almost 11,000 members across Australia and overseas. The Institute actively works to improve the quality of our built environment by promoting quality, responsible and sustainable design. Learn more about the Institute, log on to [www.architecture.com.au](http://www.architecture.com.au)

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