

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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IMAS wins national architecture award

The University of Tasmania's home for the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies on the Hobart waterfront has won a prestigious prize at the National Architecture Awards.

Announced in Darwin last night at the Australian Institute of Architects' annual showcase, IMAS received one of only five National Awards for Public Architecture.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said the award was recognition of the care and expertise of everyone who had worked on what has quickly become an iconic Tasmanian building.

"Our connection to the Tasmanian community is very important to us and that is reflected in the quality of the physical places in which we study and teach," Professor Rathjen said.

"We have strengthened our presence in cities and communities around our island home thoughtfully and sympathetically. I congratulate the IMAS project team and the architects and contractors who designed and constructed a building of which we should all be proud."

IMAS was designed by Melbourne-based John Wardle Architects in association with Hobart firm Terroir and constructed the John Holland - Fairbrother Joint Venture.

Professor Rathjen also congratulated the teams behind the other three Tasmanian projects to win awards, all of which featured architects who studied at the University of Tasmania.

"These awards are particularly pleasing because they highlight that not only is our world class research and teaching happening in cutting edge facilities but that our students go on to great success in their chosen fields."

Room 11, featuring the work of Thomas Bailey, James Wilson, Megan Baynes, Nathan Crump and Josh Fitzgerald, won the National Award for Urban Design for GASP! Stage 02, part of the Glenorchy Art and Sculpture Park.

Birelli art + design + architecture, the Launceston firm of Jack Birrell, won the Nicholas Murcutt Award for Small Project Architecture for the Bicheno Surf Life Saving Club and Boathouse.

Philip Dingemans won a National Commendation for Residential Architecture for the Southern Outlet House in Launceston.

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