

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Talented designers finalists in graduate awards

Four University of Tasmania 2015 graduates from the School of Architecture & Design are finalists in the Design Institute of Australia's Victoria/Tasmania Graduate of the Year Awards (GOTYA), to be announced in Melbourne on 13 April.

Three Bachelor of Environmental Design (Interior Design) students – Gabrielle Livermore (Hons), Janelle Vandervelde and Janika Chambers – and Furniture Design student Scott Van Tuil have all been shortlisted for the prestigious awards.

School of Architecture & Design Program Director Interior Design Kirsty Máté said the School was very proud of its graduates and the consistent presence of the School at the awards.

“Being a finalist is a wonderful achievement and acknowledgement of our students’ design skills, which are on par with - if not superior to – those of their interstate counterparts,” Ms Máté said.

“Since our first graduating year in 2011 we have had our interior design students in the finals for this prestigious award almost every year - except 2013 - and won the award in 2012 and 2014.

“This reinforces our program in interior design as being equal to the top universities in Victoria.”

Belinda van Donselaar of Launceston won the Interior Design category last year.

Her major work was a “dispersed hotel” to address ways unused premises in Launceston could be reused as a hotel.

The Furniture Design category has seen University of Tasmania graduates highly commended or named as winners every year since 2012.

Acting Head of Furniture Design Matthew Prince described Van Tuil’s shortlisted work as “designs for living”, including domestic items and furniture intended to serve their owners.

GOTYA is a unique awards program created to support designers in the early stages of their career.

Established by the Design Institute of Australia, the awards recognise excellence in emerging designers in the disciplines of interior design, interior design and decoration, industrial design, furniture design, jewellery design, fashion design, textile design and graphic design.

For more information on the awards go to <http://www.dia.org.au>.

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