

DESIGN MATTERS NATIONAL BUILDING DESIGN AWARDS 2024

GUIDELINES



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*Project: The Bromley
Member: Janik Dalecki, Dalecki Design
Photographer: Dion Robeson*



1 OVERVIEW

The theme of the 2024 DMN Building Design Awards is 'Elevating design excellence'. This was chosen because our Awards showcase great design which raises the bar, anticipates future needs, and demonstrates advancement in design skill, innovation, sustainability, and thoughtful consideration of the client's budget and needs. The Awards also inspire our members across Australia to reach even greater heights through their building design.

Since launching in 1996, the Awards have become our organisation's most important and prestigious celebration of the building design profession, with Ministers of government, industry leaders and other built-environment professionals attending.

With your input, we've shaped an Awards program that reflects our community's values. As usual, the Awards cover a broad range of categories, ensuring all kinds of building design are celebrated. This year, we'll again highlight that design excellence is discovered in myriad forms across Australia, from those grand architectural achievements to the modest yet meaningful designs found all throughout the country. From the West to the East Coast, every project, regardless of size, budget or postcode, has the potential to inspire and make a difference. We've also added some new Awards.

The Awards judging process will culminate in events in Perth and Melbourne where we'll announce State and National winners, and not only honour the achievements of our members but inspire future generations of building designers. We trust that the 2024 Awards will reaffirm the pride of past winners in their work, their association, and see the induction of another round of worthy Award recipients.

We encourage all DMN building designers to participate in the Awards and warmly invite every DMN member to attend the Awards ceremonies. Our Awards are more than a competition; they're a celebration of the power of design to improve lives and shape tomorrow. They're also the continuation of an almost-30-year tradition of rewarding the pursuit of excellence in building design.

DMN represents building designers all across Australia, so we look forward to receiving nation-wide submissions as we grow in strength and numbers as your national peak body.

Together, let's elevate design excellence.

Danielle Johnston
CEO

*Project: Di Placido Residence
Member: Shayne Le Roy, Shayne Le Roy Design
Photographer: Joel Barbitta*



2 ENTERING THE AWARDS

*Project: Eagle Bay Beach House
Member: Dane Richardson, Dane Design Australia
Photographer: Ange Wall*

AT A GLANCE

Boost your brand identity and showcase your business to your future clients and the public at large. All entrants have three chances to win an Award from the judging panel, past presidents and the public.

Whether you're a sole practitioner or part of a team, the playing field is even and every project entered receives recognition.

The Awards allow you to look back and reflect on your project and offering.

Making yourself known by entering the Awards is a cost effective path to promoting your business and being culturally aligned with the building design profession.

MEETING THE CRITERIA

To enter the DMN Annual Building Design Awards you must be a member and your project(s):

- Must have an occupancy permit by the closing date for entries
- Must have been completed within the last three years
- Must not have been entered previously in the DMN Building Design Awards.

LOCATION, LOCATION!

The location of a project (not the Building Designer) determines the state a project is entered into. If a building designer based in Queensland enters a project located in Sydney, the project will be classified as a NSW entry.

KEY DATES

Entries Open: **Monday, 25 March 2024**

Entries Close: **Friday, 14 June 2024**

HOW TO ENTER

Members must submit their entry via the [online portal](#). No other method of lodgement will be accepted. Each project entered will attract a fee of \$550.00 (incl. GST).

USE OF ENTRANT PHOTOGRAPHY AND IMAGES

Members must consent to Design Matters National collecting and using their entry photographs and images for the purposes of the Annual Building Design Awards, events, in promotional materials produced by Design Matters National and their sponsors and partners.

Editorial comments on, and photographic display of projects will be at the discretion of DMN. Whilst DMN aims to feature entries accurately, no responsibility will be taken for discrepancy error, omission or misrepresentation of any entry across all media publications.

3. JUDGING CRITERIA



DMN Building Design Awards 2023
Photographer: Baker Boys

HOW JUDGING IS CONDUCTED

- Judges review and pre-score all submitted entries and supporting materials.
- Judges are asked to give a score for selected criteria, as listed below.
- These will be combined to give an overall score for each entry.
- All judges' pre-scores will then be combined and the highest scoring entries will determine the shortlists.
- Judges will meet to discuss the highest scoring entries and then agree on the winner for each category.

THE STORY BEHIND YOUR DESIGN

What was your inspiration behind your design?

- Outline the opportunities and constraints arising from the brief and the site context.
- Describe the evolution of the brief in your own mind and your client's.
- What were the challenges, and how did you overcome them?

How does this design enhance human health and connection, biodiversity, water resources, and sustainability?

- Orientation and solar control
- Durable and low-embodied energy materials used
- Minimising waste to landfill
- Small building footprint
- Water conservation/storm water abatement
- On-site or local renewable energy
- The design's contribution and connection to the neighbourhood

How do the residents experience the building now, and how might it accommodate them in the future?

- Quality and functionality of design elements
- Surprises and delights for the client
- Thermal comfort
- Energy and water bills

The judges' decision is final and binding, and no correspondence will be entered into. The judges and Design Matters National, at their discretion, may not award a project in the category (or any other category) for which it is entered. The judges may also, at their discretion, reclassify a project with the prior permission of the entrant.



4 IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

*Project: Huff'n'Puff Haus
Member: Talina Edwards, Envirotecture
Photographer: Marnie Hawson*

PLANS

- Floor plans must have north signs – if you have deleted your title panel please check that the plans still have a north sign.
- Renovations and extensions must include the existing floor plan in addition to the new works plans.
- Clearly define new from existing.
- Include plans and elevations clean from amendment clouding.
- Plans must not identify the applicant's name (including within the amendment box).
- Elevations are to be included in an entry.

SUSTAINABILITY

- The NatHERS energy rating for new homes or the DTS report for a renovation must be included under the Sustainability Considerations section of an entry.
- The energy rating, ESD and BESS reports, Passive House certification, etc., must be added as attachments.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Showcase the beauty of the exterior and interior of your design in small detail and at scale. The story behind the design should be highlighted through the photography including:

- composition
- materials used, bulk, massing and articulation
- cohesion, symmetry and scale
- the integration of elements
- attention given to small details
- relationship to the surrounding landscape.

2023 BUILDING DESIGN AWARDS



BUILDING DESIGN AWARDS 2024





5. RESIDENTIAL AWARDS

AWARD CATEGORIES

New House: Up to \$300K

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and considered design for the future. Construction cost is up to \$300K including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping costs.

New House: \$300,001 – \$500K

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and considered design for the future. Construction cost is between \$300,001 – \$500K including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping costs.

New House: \$500,001 – \$1M

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and considered design for the future. Construction cost is between \$500,001 – \$1M including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping costs.

New House: \$1,000,001 – \$2M

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and considered design for the future. Construction cost is between \$1,000,001 – \$2M including GST and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping costs.

New House: \$2,000,001 – \$3M

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and considered design for the future. Construction cost is between \$2,000,001 – \$3M including GST and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping costs.

New House: \$3,000,001+

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and considered design for the future. Construction cost is from \$3,000,001 including GST and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping costs.

New Apartment: Up to \$3M (Class 2)

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and a considered design for the future, and be Class 2 self-contained accommodation that occupies part of a building. Construction cost is up to \$3M including GST and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates.

New Apartment: \$3,000,001+ (Class 2)

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and a considered design for the future and be Class 2 self-contained accommodation that occupies part of a building. Construction cost is from \$3,000,001 including GST and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates.

Dual Occupancy

Entries must demonstrate design excellence, considered design for the future, and demonstrate the benefits of urban consolidation. Entries must comprise of two dwellings on a single lot.

*Project: Canal Haus
Member: Sven Maxa, Maxa Design
Photographer: Marnie Hawson*

5. RESIDENTIAL AWARDS

AWARD CATEGORIES

Multi-Residential: 3-9 dwellings

Entries must demonstrate design excellence, considered design for the future, and the benefits of urban consolidation. Entries must be Class 1 or 2 buildings and consist of 3 to 9 dwellings to be eligible.

Multi-Residential: 10+ dwellings

Entries must demonstrate design excellence, considered design for the future, and the benefits of urban consolidation. Entries must be Class 1 or 2 buildings and consist of 10 or more dwellings to be eligible.

Bathroom Design

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and innovation in the design of the bathroom.

Heritage Design

Entries must demonstrate design excellence; and must involve an existing dwelling that is either: included in the Register of the National Estate; and/or registered with Heritage Victoria/Western Australia or equivalent; and/or listed with the National Trust; and/or subject to a planning scheme heritage overlay.

Interior Design

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and innovation in the design of the interiors.

Kitchen Design

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and innovation in the design of the kitchen.

Rural Design

Projects built in a rural setting. Projects are required to include a BAL assessment.

Small Works Project

Entries must demonstrate design excellence; and must be small structures which, when viewed as standalone elements, exhibit originality, inventiveness, and design skill. Such structures may include garages, carports, pergolas, decks, fences, letter boxes, cubby houses, pool facilities, woodsheds, dog kennels and other pet houses, and so on.

Small Home up to 100 sqm

Entries must demonstrate design excellence, and considered design for the future. Entries must be a single dwelling less than 100 sqm on a single lot; 100 sqm is excluding the area of any garage, deck, and so on. A dwelling on a multi-residential development is not permissible.

Conceptual Design

Entries may be proposals that are intended to be built.

Project: Hope House
Member: Aydan Doherty, AD DESIGN DEVELOP
Photographer: Tatjana Plitt

5. RESIDENTIAL AWARDS

AWARD CATEGORIES

Alterations & Additions: Up to \$500K

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and considered design for the future. They must differentiate between the pre-existing conditions and the alteration/addition. Construction cost is up to \$500K including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping cost.

Alterations & Additions: \$500,001 – \$1M

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and considered design for the future. They must differentiate between the pre-existing conditions and the alteration/addition. Construction cost is between \$500,001 – \$1M including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping cost.

Alterations & Additions: \$1,000,001 – \$2M

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and considered design for the future. They must differentiate between the pre-existing conditions and the alteration/addition. Construction cost between \$1,000,001 – \$2M including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping cost.

Alterations & Additions: \$2,000,001+

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and considered design for the future. They must differentiate between the pre-existing conditions and the alteration/addition. Construction cost is from \$2,000,001 including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping cost.

NDIS/Supported Living: Up to \$3M (Class 3)

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and considered design for the future. They must adhere to the [Specialist Disability Accommodation \(SDA\) Design Standard](#) which outlines the detailed design requirements for newly built SDA seeking enrolment under the NDIS. This standard has 4 categories of SDA design, as set out in the SDA Rules (2020): improved liveability, robust, fully accessible, and high physical support. Construction cost is up to \$3M including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping cost.

NDIS/Supported Living: \$3,000,001+ (Class 3)

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and considered design for the future. They must adhere to the [Specialist Disability Accommodation \(SDA\) Design Standard](#) which outlines the detailed design requirements for newly built SDA seeking enrolment under the NDIS. This standard has 4 categories of SDA design, as set out in the SDA Rules (2020): improved liveability, robust, fully accessible, and high physical support. Construction cost is from \$3,000,001 including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping cost.

*Project: GRID HOUSE
Member: Ari Karsarian, Ari Alexander Design
Photographer: Timothy Kaye*



5. RESIDENTIAL AWARDS

AWARD CATEGORIES

Special Residential: Up to \$3M

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and demonstrate considered design for the future. They must differentiate between the pre-existing conditions and the alteration/addition. To be eligible, entries must be a building that is not Class 1 nor Class 2. e.g., boarding houses, caretakers' residences. Construction cost is up to \$3M including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping cost.

Special Residential: \$3,000,001+

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and demonstrate considered design for the future. They must differentiate between the pre-existing conditions and the alteration/addition. To be eligible, entries must be a building that is not Class 1 nor Class 2. e.g., boarding houses, caretakers' residences. Construction cost is from \$3,000,001 including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping cost.

Project: Otago Edge
Member: Mike Cleaver, Clever Design
Photographer: Peter Mathew



6 COMMERCIAL /MIXED-USE AWARDS

*Project: Dispensary Lane Project
Member: Donna Monaghan, Form and Function Building Design
Photographer: Matt Seebeck*

AWARD CATEGORIES

New Commercial: Up to \$2M

Entries must demonstrate design excellence, and demonstrate considered design for the future. Entries must be a Class 3-9 building to be eligible. Construction cost is up to \$2M including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping cost.

New Commercial: \$2,000,001+

Entries must demonstrate design excellence, and demonstrate considered design for the future. Entries must be a Class 3-9 building to be eligible. Construction cost is from \$2,000,001 including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping cost.

Commercial Interior Design

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and innovation in the design of the interiors. Entries must be a Class 3-9 building to be eligible.

Commercial Heritage Design

Entries must demonstrate design excellence; and must be an existing Class 3-9 building that is either: included in the Register of the National Estate; and/or registered with Heritage Victoria/Western Australia or equivalent; and/or listed with the National Trust; and/or subject to a planning scheme heritage overlay.

Commercial Conceptual Design

Entries may be proposals that are intended to be built.

Mixed-use Development

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and innovation in a mixed-use development. Entries must be developments that consist of at least two substantive uses of the following: residential office, retail, tourism and leisure, community facilities or logistics/warehouse.

Industrial Design Class 7B: Up to \$2M

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and demonstrate considered design for the future. They must differentiate between the pre-existing conditions and the alteration/addition. To be eligible, entries must be Class 7b buildings which are typically warehouses, storage buildings or buildings for the display of goods (or produce) for wholesale. Construction cost is up to \$2M including GST; and should portray a realistic value of construction price based on commercial rates. This should exclude landscaping cost.

Commercial Small Works Project

Entries must demonstrate design excellence and must be small structures which, when viewed as standalone elements, exhibit originality, inventiveness, and design skill. Such structures may include civil or ornamental structures, places of the assembly, etc..



7

MATERIALS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

AWARD CATEGORIES

Excellence in the use of Steel

Entries must reflect the significant role of and an innovative use of steel in the design solution.

Excellence in the use of Lightweight Materials

Entries must reflect the significant role of and an innovative use of lightweight materials in the design solution.

Excellence in the use of Glass

Entries must reflect the significant role of and an innovative use of glass in the design solution.

Excellence in the use of Bricks

Entries must reflect the significant role of and an innovative use of bricks in the design solution.

Excellence in the use of Timber

Entries must reflect the significant role of and an innovative use of timber in the design solution.

Excellence in the use of Concrete

Entries must reflect the significant role of and an innovative use of concrete in the design solution.

Excellence in the use of Recycled Materials

Entries must reflect the significant role of and an innovative use of recycled materials in the design solution.

Excellence in the use of Stone

Entries must reflect the significant role of and an innovative use of stone in the design solution.

Excellence in Documentation

Entries must recognise an individual's excellence in documentation of the building scope for the purposes of costing, construction, and permit requirements through the preparation of outstanding documentation for the nominated project.

*Project: Treehouse
Member: Guy Holman, Holman Designs Pty Ltd
Photographer: Nic Stephens*



8. EMERGING DESIGNER AWARDS

*Project: The Arches
Member: Branden Pearce
TAFE: Bendigo TAFE*

ELIGIBILITY

Students/recent graduates enter their residential and/or commercial projects designed as part of their tafe/university curriculum.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- PDF files of the floor plan, site plan, and elevations
- Sections sufficient to explain the construction and design principles
- Landscape plan (if applicable)
- Coloured perspective drawings
- Details of scale sufficient to explain specific information about the proposal
- At least eight (8), high-resolution marketing images of the submission in JPEG format at 300dpi for use in promotional activities, plus
- An electronic photo of the entrant in JPEG format at 300dpi (head and shoulders only; file/s to be named as the entrant's name)
- A 500-word written description explaining the principles behind the design, and a brief schedule of materials and finishes
- A 200-word written statement about the submission, in Word format, for use in marketing material, and
- A project-specific budget for the project.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Excellence in Documentation by an Emerging Designer: Must include sections, details, and schedules to create a comprehensive set of technical working drawings.

Best Interior Design by an Emerging Designer: Must include a mood board showcasing the inspiration behind the design.

Best Digital Presentation by an Emerging Designer: Must include the digital presentation in mp4 format (5 minutes maximum length).



8. EMERGING DESIGNER AWARDS

Project: Performing Arts Hub
Member: Mitchell Gleeson
University: RMIT

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

DESIGN EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

The entry shall be aesthetically sympathetic and reflective of its environment whilst demonstrating innovative design and lifestyle options including response to brief and response to site.

COMPLIANCE

The entry shall demonstrate compliance with all building codes and standards. The entrant should consider the occupational health and safety of the occupants, maintenance personnel, and visitors to the building.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The design response should consider:

- **Building Lifecycle:** From resource extraction, manufacturing, on-site construction, occupancy/maintenance, demolition, and recycling reuse/disposal. This must include an analysis of the embodied energy in the construction of the material systems selected.
- **Passive Solar Design:** Demonstrate techniques to achieve a comfortable, internal temperature range using insulation, thermal mass, ventilation, glazing, window treatments, landscaping, and the like using passive solar design principles.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Demonstrate the strategies used to achieve a reduced energy demand for heating, cooling, and lighting using average commercial consumption as a benchmark. This may include photovoltaic systems as well as the management of waste heat and energy from other alternative sources to achieve partial self-sufficiency.
- **Water and Waste Management:** Demonstrate the strategies to achieve a reduced demand for potable water. This should include water collection and harvesting, grey, and black water recycling systems as well as stormwater management.
- **Use of Sustainable Building Materials:** Consideration to be given to the balance between the uses of materials with low embodied energy, low VOC emissions, low long-term maintenance, and the potential for recycling and reuse.



8.

EMERGING DESIGNER AWARDS

*Project: Nexus Kew
Member: Simon Killeen
University: Swinburne University of Technology*

EMERGING DESIGNER AWARD CATEGORIES

Best Response to a Design Brief by an Emerging Designer

This Award will recognise excellence in:

- presentation
- design solution
- compliance (regulations)
- innovation.

Best Digital Presentation by an Emerging Designer

This Award will recognise accurate, realistic imagery through digital interactive technology that effectively communicates form and design intent and concepts, yet still addresses the project brief. Such digital submissions should be no more than five minutes in duration. The digital submission will enable a streamlined design review process, where decisions can be made efficiently and economically.

Best Response to a Design Brief by an Emerging Interior Designer

This Award will recognise excellence in:

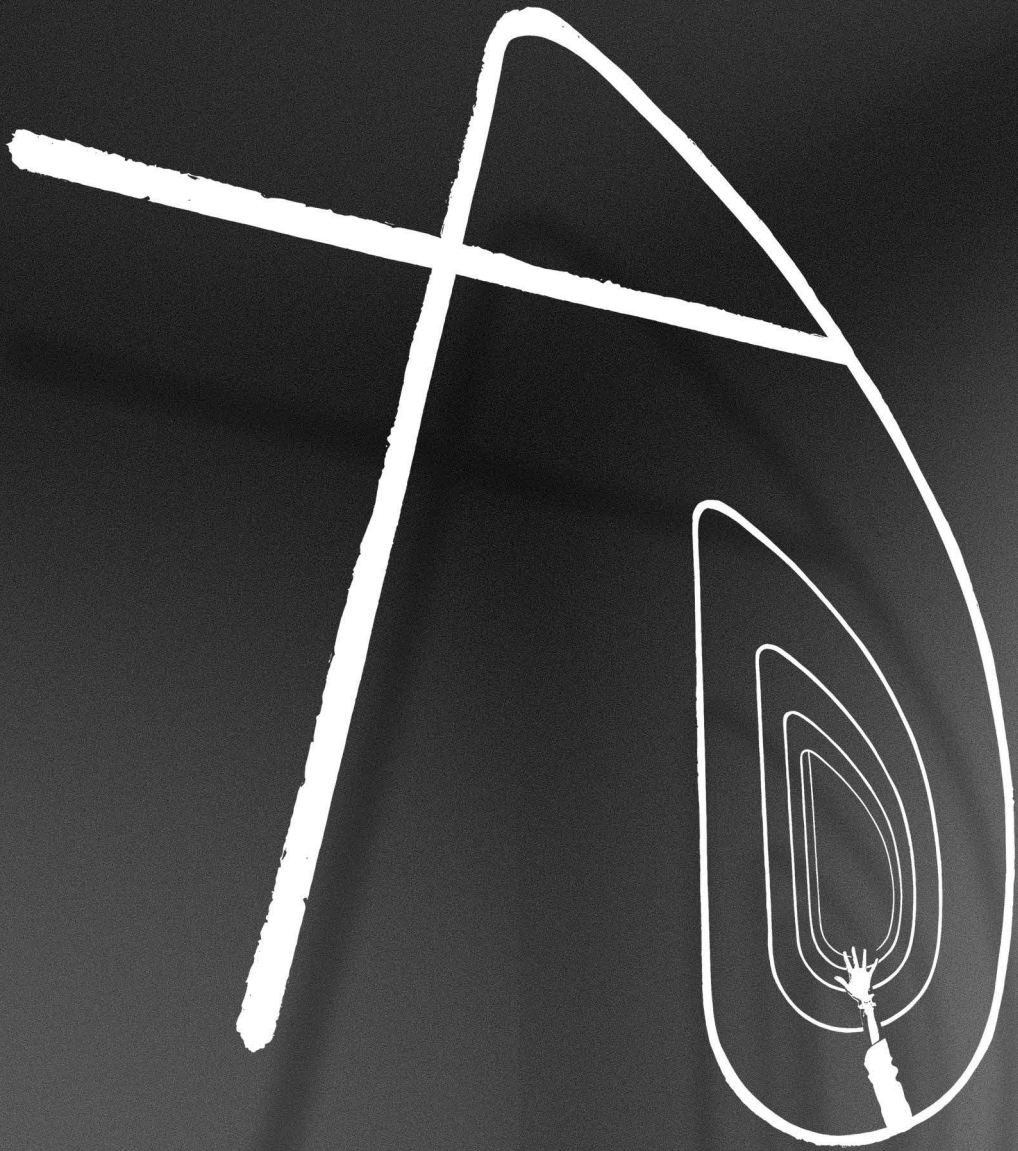
- presentation
- design Solution
- compliance (regulations)
- innovation.

Excellence in Documentation by an Emerging Designer

This Award will recognise excellence in the preparation of a set of working drawings as well as assessment of the building scope for the purpose of costing, construction and permit requirements.

Copyright & Moral Rights

Each entry shall be the original work of the entrant/s. The entrant warrants that the entry does not include any material that may infringe the copyright held by a third person. Entrants will retain copyright, moral rights or other intellectual rights of all work submitted in connection with this competition.



Any questions relating to the DMN Annual Building Design Awards please email awards@designmatters.org.au