

Judging Criteria

Institutional Architecture

WILLIAM WARDELL AWARD

Projects eligible for this category must be of a public or institutional nature, being either new buildings or substantial alterations to existing buildings, and generally fall within Classes 3 to 9 inclusive as defined within the Building Code of Australia 1988 (BCA). The buildings should be of a non-commercial nature and exclude, for instance, the offices of a public corporation or an arm of government.

This category would include hospitals, churches, schools and buildings for predominantly public use.

1) Relationship of the building to its site and context

The aim of this criterion is to determine physical and social parameters affecting the building and how the design has responded to these. Does the amenity of the project give consideration to these parameters?

Consideration may be given to building/space type; building form; building alignment; materials selection; the significance of internal/external relationships; the significance of building/space relationships; and complexity of the required functions.

2) Architectural expression of the concept

- How were the architect's philosophies and understanding of the client's needs expressed in the project?
- What were the architect's motives in architectural expression?
- How fully was the concept followed through using detail, colour, materials, siting, etc?
- How successful was the architect in satisfying their aims for architectural expression?

3) Cost effectiveness

What was the progression of project cost analysis?

- Pre-design budget
- Schematic design estimate
- Pre-tender estimate
- Tender cost
- Final project cost

What management practices did the architect employ to achieve cost effectiveness?

What was the architect's interpretation of the client's idea of cost effectiveness?

4) Environmental/energy performance

Consider issues of sun, wind, rain, solar heating, and heat gain/loss:

- Was an energy audit prepared?
- How well does the fabric of the building perform?
- Was orientation of foyers and work areas given consideration?

5) Organisation of spaces and functions inside and outside

This criterion aims to inform how a brief was established; eg by design competition, or by preparation of a feasibility study or user preference survey.

Importantly, the question of whether the brief allowed for the needs of users should be raised here:

- Did the architect evaluate user needs as distinct from client needs?
- How were these reflected in the functional layout of the project?
- Who determined functional relationships - the client or the user?

Pertinent issues for consideration under this criterion are:

- How the floor area sizes were determined - ie advice from agents, market research, office partitioning studies, services engineering input, vehicular and pedestrian movement networks within the development, related to staff/client/visitors.
- Whether foyers and work areas within the building relate to useable/visual external landscaping.
- Whether the building layout is conducive to visitors finding their way around.
- How logical are the relationships between separate functioning areas?
- How did 'services' aspects dictate functional relationships?

6) Performance of structure, construction, materials and services

On what basis were decisions made for choice of structural systems, materials and engineering services?

- To minimise capital costs?
- To provide an easily maintained building?

How extensive was the architect's involvement in these decisions?

Was life cycle costing a consideration?

7) Contribution to architectural development

What features, ideas, and/or methods are expressed in the building which contribute to newness in architectural thinking?

8) User and client satisfaction

What assessment has the architect made in relation to user and/or client satisfaction?

What relationship exists between architect, client and user after construction?

Has a Post Occupancy Evaluation been considered/undertaken?