



Premier's Design Awards 2008

Sustainable and innovative design practices have led the way at the biennial Premier's Design Awards in 2008. The awards which recognise the very best of Victorian design practice were presented at a gala event which took place in the Melbourne Museum on July 16. Twenty eight Premier's Design Marks were awarded in 10 categories with the winners representing designers and practices that have responded to the new more demanding market conditions, producing exemplary approaches and outcomes that are a contribution to a sustainable future.

Premier' Design Marks were given in Interior Design, Architecture, Fashion Design, Exhibition Design, Graphic Design, Hand Made Objects, Industrial/ Product Design, Landscape Design, Multimedia Design and Textile Design categories. The Marks identify and celebrate Victorian design practices and professionals who demonstrate an ability to deliver exceptional design outcomes that present a comprehensive design solution of the highest quality. In today's context, design quality is assessed by an increasingly discerning community that expects the innovative manipulation of function, materiality, space and aesthetics that delivers value, provokes delight and anticipates emerging social and environmental conditions.

The 2008 Premier's Design Marks were selected from 128 applications by a panel comprising local, national and international judges, each a leader in their design field. The panel was chaired by Professor Chris Ryan, Co-Director of the Australian Centre for Science Innovation and Society and Director of the Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab (VEIL).

Alongside their Premier's Design Mark, all recipients will receive a Premier's Design Award trophy commissioned by the Premier from renowned Melbourne architect Tom Kovac. The trophy has been prototyped in Melbourne and manufactured in Milan by Alessi.

All recipients are showcased in the Premier's Design Awards exhibition, a stand-alone display of the best that Victorian design has to offer, and online in a virtual pavilion also designed by Tom Kovac.

The Premier's Design Awards are part of the State of Design festival, which aims to position Melbourne and Victoria at the fore of the design industry. The festival and the awards are Victorian Government initiatives.

For more details on winners of the Premier's Design Awards and other events visit www.stateofdesign.com.au/premiersdesignawards

For further media information including images, please contact

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A Victorian
Government
initiative 

Commercial Hand Made Objects

Roseadora /John Waters: Trinity Buffet

The Approach

This hand made buffet is a modification of the one commissioned for The University of Melbourne's Trinity College senior common room. The piece was to serve as a storage cabinet for audio equipment, glassware and journals, while providing a contemporary element for the space. The centrepiece of the common room is a large fireplace featuring parquetry panelling. Bay windows framed by ornate plaster work refer to the late gothic revival Trinity Chapel on site. Both of these elements came to be reflected in the piece.

The Innovation

Focusing on the sustainable use of natural resources and the need to respond sensitively to cultural and heritage conditions, the three varieties of timbers used are either reclaimed or recycled. Grey Box was salvaged from a farm in Bateman's Bay (NSW) and from dead trees at Rushworth in central Victoria. The veneer is reclaimed Queensland Walnut from the Atherton Tablelands west of Cairns and the drawers are Queensland Maple left over from a boat built in Melbourne. The piece is four metres long and 1.1 metres high, yet appears surprisingly light. The use of veneering extends the use of the material.

The Outcome

The Trinity Buffet represents how vital it is that craftspeople are supported in the design and making process. The piece was entirely constructed at the Victorian Wood Design Centre, a cooperative space for independent and emerging furniture makers. The key to the design's success is the inclusion of the client in the decision making process from concept development through to timber selection and finishing. The piece inspired further renovation of the senior common room to accommodate a more refreshed aspect.

The Designer

John Waters began as a trades' assistant in cabinet making over 20 years ago. He began working professionally with a range of furniture makers in various styles including notable Victorian furniture producers Mark Tuckey and Thomas Gannon. Over the past six years John has worked at the Victorian Wood Design Centre workshop at the Meat Market, North Melbourne, where he coordinates day-to-day operations.

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