

ARCHITECTURE AUSTRALIA

JAN/FEB 09

AA Prize for Unbuilt
Work – the winners

WOHA – Singapore
hanging gardens
Lyons – aged care
Lend Lease – commerce
and sustainability

VOL98 N°1 AUS \$12.95



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2008 AA PRIZE FOR UNBUILT WORK

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Critiquing the present, speculating on the future. The premiated projects in the 2008 AA Prize all change our perception in some way, inviting us to look anew at a range of Australian urban conditions.

JURY OVERVIEW

The jury decisions in the 2008 AA Prize for Unbuilt Work were the culmination of an intense day of deliberation and discussion of the 118 submitted projects. We were seeking inventive projects that challenged or surprised us, work which suggested new ways of thinking about and looking at contemporary architectural issues. We looked for the rigorous exploration of ideas, through whatever medium. There was a huge array of work to consider, projects of all kinds and at all scales. Work ranged from the purely conceptual to that constrained by the exigencies of making a real building on a real site, with a real client.

In general we found the speculative work to be stronger than the unbuilt buildings. As a jury we were keen to find potentially realizable buildings that also presented inventive and strongly put propositions, but, for the most part, we found the polemical works to be the most exciting and the most challenging, and to be more socially engaged. The constraint we found in the proposals for buildings may simply be an effect of the exigencies of practice, particularly in what has, until very recently, been a very fast-paced environment. Nonetheless we were a little surprised.

Of course, one of the exciting things about the AA Prize for Unbuilt Work is that it provides a vehicle for the presentation and discussion of polemical projects, and such projects form a vital part of architectural culture. We are pleased that Australian architecture now has a means of recognizing this work. However, we would like to encourage the attitude that broad, inventive thinking should also be found in buildings.

In the 2008 prize the jury recognizes six projects – in addition to the overall winner we have made two honourable mentions and three special mentions. The premiated works all changed our perception in some way. They also work strongly as a suite of projects, and present a wide array of approaches, interests and contexts for the exploration of architecture. As a group, they point to the richness and diversity of architecture as a practice and a discipline, to the many ways of engaging and the many issues that can be explored through the medium of architecture.

We are particularly pleased to be awarding works that present interventions in three different kinds of Australian urban conditions – the inner-urban, the suburban and the regional – and which address social issues and concerns. These projects propose thoughtful and thought-provoking responses to contemporary conditions, sometimes in highly provocative ways, sometimes in a quite pragmatic, level-headed but very inventive manner. We are also awarding two rather more abstract projects, which, while serious and rigorous, remind us that delight also has a part to play in architecture.

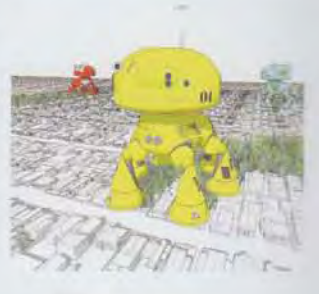
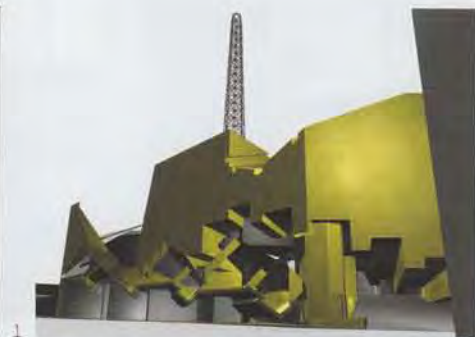
2008 AA Prize for Unbuilt Work Jury: Corbett Lyon, John Macarthur, Peter Mould, Rachel Neeson, Justine Clark.



Fisher & Paykel

AN ARRAY OF ENTRIES

We present a cross-section of the 118 entries received this year.



N°1 *Nine Quarter City*, Faculty of Architecture, The University of Sydney.

N°2 *Investigations into an architecture cast, new MSO HQ, Ballet School and Gallery*, Phil Redmond.

N°3 *Reforest*, Lucy Humphrey and Toby Breakspear.

N°4 *Ningaloo Reef Proposition 6707*,

Kelly Rattigan Architects.

N°5 *CVo8*, Andrew Maynard Architects.

N°6 *Federation Square Wharf Ferry Stop*, Lam Architecture.

N°7 *M1 Pedestrian Footbridges*, BKK Architects.

N°8 *W-house 8*, Matt Gibson A+D.

N°9 *Open Tower*, Offshore Studio.

N°10 *Dr*, Innovarchi.

N°11 *Serpentine Workshop*, Nicholas Byrne.

N°12 *Cluster Housing*, Enter Architecture.