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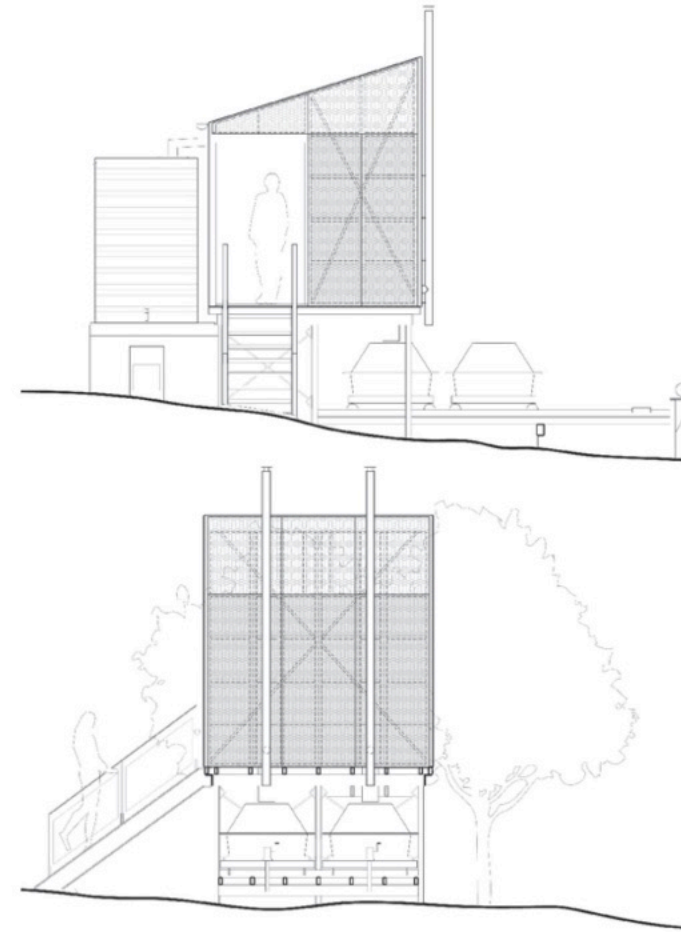
Victorian Architecture Medal

The Victorian Architecture Medal is the highest honour awarded by the Victorian Chapter each year.

The medal derives from the original 'Street Architecture Medal' introduced by The Royal Victorian Institute of Architects (RVIA) in 1926 as an award for the design of a building of exceptional merit. Buildings were judged on their urban propriety and architectural etiquette; the building had to front a street, road, square or court to

which public had access. It was expected to have a civic character, offering its architectural qualities to the greater public realm of the city.

Today's Victorian Architecture Medal is selected by the jury chairs from the field of category winners. The winner of the Victorian Architecture Medal is therefore judged to be the most outstanding project of the entire field of entries, a building of exceptional merit.



Category sponsor

Quality design is the essential ingredient at the heart of a successful place – it is not an optional extra. At OVGA, we put quality design at the centre of all conversations about the shape, nature and function of our cities, buildings and landscapes. We are an independent voice for Victorian design. Our team advocates for an approach founded in a deep understanding and respect for people and place. OVGA promotes high-quality design principles, processes and outcomes. We want to ensure that Victoria is a place that our community is proud to call home.



Victorian Architecture Medal
 Grampians Peaks Trail Stage 2 by Noxon Giffen Architects with McGregor Coxall
 Barenji Gadjin, Eastern Maar and Gunditj Mirring Country

In a list of outstanding contributions to architecture in Victoria, the Grampians Peaks Trail Stage 2 by Noxon Giffen Architects with McGregor Coxall is recognised for the highest levels of design accomplishment in the contemporary world we live in.

Grampians Peaks Trail Stage 2 demonstrates a resolution that is inextricably drawn from its context and the rich possibilities of contributing to a greater understanding of who we are and the land we live in. Modest but powerful, the project demonstrates how architecture can be strong and meaningful without having to be loud or over present. It is indeed a complete result of its context.

With an 18-year process of creation, importantly, an empowered Traditional Owners group led the site selection and indeed suggested the buildings take a step back so as not to overshadow the beauty and narrative of the landscape they sit in. Moreover, to enable a comprehensive appreciation of it.

The buildings demonstrate remarkable attention to detail, not only in the result itself but in designing for a challenging construction process. As collections of unassuming, yet especially well-crafted

pavilions, camping platforms and self-contained amenity structures, the different settings use a common design language and sophisticated detailing, with differentiation arising from an individual material and response to the geology, geography, vegetation, and outlook of each setting.

The project demonstrates an extraordinary level of sensitivity, commitment and collaboration between the client group, the design team, contractors, and the local Indigenous communities. The Grampians Peaks Trail Stage 2 is a catalyst for the sensitive exploration of the Gariwerd region, enhancing the experience of visitors and the community in general, and creating ongoing development of our collective understanding of Country and the vital role architecture has in that.

Practice team: Justin Noxon (Design Architect), Andrew Jenner (Project Architect), Darren Giffen (Design Architect), Stephanie Morgia (Design Architect), Olivia Peel (Graduate of Architecture), Sophie Chomard (Graduate of Architecture)

Consultant / Construction team: McGregor Coxall (Landscape Consultant), OPS Engineers (Structural Engineer), Nelson McDermott (Building Surveyor), WT Partnership (Quantity Surveyor), Ontoit (Project Manager)

Builder: Linct Group Pty Ltd

Photographer: Shannon McGrath





Regional Prize

The Regional Prize recognises projects that have made a significant contribution to Regional Victoria. All projects located outside the urban growth boundary are eligible for consideration. Projects may

be of a built form, an urban design solution or an innovation that has influenced and improved the fabric of the region.



Roger Nelson FRAIA
Jury chair



Anja de Spa RAIA
Juror



Brett Nixon RAIA
Juror

Jury chair report

All of us found this year's experience to be inspiring, humbling and vastly enjoyable. From 21 submitted projects, we heard presentations from 15 projects on the longlist. A shortlist of eight was then selected, with a focus on public, commercial, educational, and multi-residential projects making a wide-reaching positive contribution to their regional context.

Site visits to the shortlisted projects involved a regional tour of some 1300km over four days. We were shown that our profession is alive and bristling. All the projects represented an endeavour beyond the ordinary with deep understandings of their respective briefs enhanced with insightful contributions and leadership. This was no ordinary collection of outcomes and if we could, we would have given all of them award recognition. They deserve it.

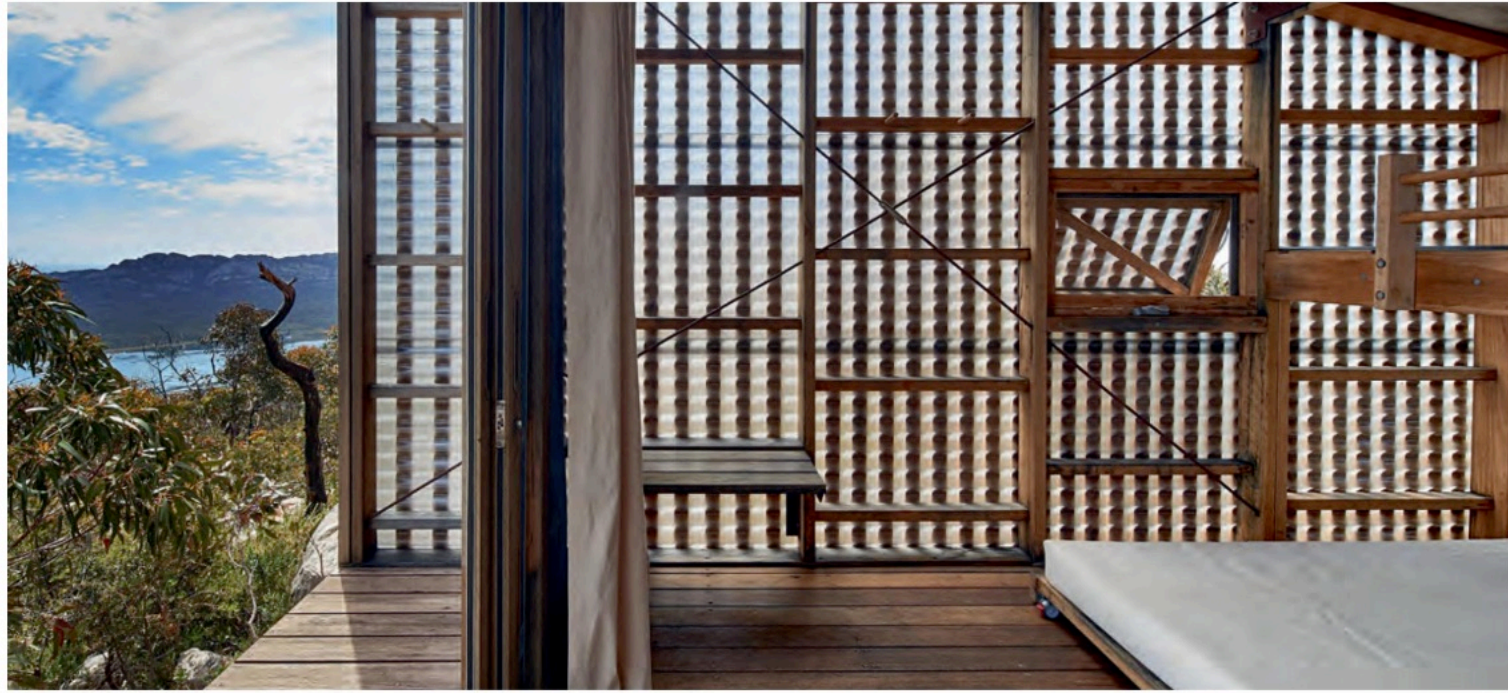
The thoughtfulness and sensitivity demonstrated a maturity and indeed robustness that augers well for the role of architecture in today's varying forms and clearly placed the human condition (as opposed to the object) uppermost in the execution

of the work. In doing so, they enabled an accessibility and engagement that truly contributed to the lives of the communities these projects sit in.

They all give more than they take, in all respects and have maturely understood and embraced Indigenous narratives and appreciation of Country beyond token gestures. There was a very intense resolution of detailing that also dealt with the complexities of regional construction. All projects completed during the last two years of pandemic and had conquered newer ways of working remotely and creatively, finding ways to engage with the construction process that would have previously been seen to be impossible.

Interestingly, all were conceived well before the 2020 pandemic but showed a deftness of design and suitability for the adjustments we have all needed to make in our lives and consciousness.

Congratulations to all the projects, their client groups and contractors that brought them to life.



Regional Prize

Grampians Peaks Trail Stage 2 by Noxon Giffen Architects with McGregor Coxall Barenji Gadjin, Eastern Maar and Gunditj Mirring Country

In a shortlist of outstanding contributions to regional Victoria, the Grampians Peaks Trail Stage 2 by Noxon Giffen Architects with McGregor Coxall demonstrates a resolution that is inextricably drawn from its context and the rich possibilities of contributing to a greater understanding of what our regions are.

Following from an 18-year period of consultation and site selection with Traditional Owner groups, the 11 campsites are deeply rooted in the spirit of their place. First Nations' interpretation of Country suggested the buildings take a step back so not to overshadow the beauty and narrative of the landscape they sit in.

The structures are a collection of modest, yet especially well-crafted pavilions, camping platforms and self-contained amenity structures. The different settings use a common design language and extraordinarily well-crafted detailing, with differentiation arising from an individual material and formal response to the geology, vegetation and outlook of each site.

The construction of the remote sites required a modular design response

which enhances the articulation of these careful structures. The shelters afford comfort, shelter, congregation, and a monastic appreciation of the breath-taking wilderness of Gariwerd.

The Grampians Peaks Trail Stage 2 is a future catalyst to the sensitive exploration of the region, enhancing the experience of hikers, campers and the community in general, and creating ongoing development of our collective understanding of Country.

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