



Media Release
For immediate release

National award recognises WA architects for social housing

September 25th, 2009: Leading Australian architecture practice CODA from Perth, Western Australia has won the invitation only About Face Award as part of the 2009 Think Brick Awards.

The 2009 brief called on entrants to address socially responsive architecture.

CODA's winning design aims to address the growing need for affordable housing and supported hostel accommodation in the region of Mandurah, an hour from Perth.

The About Face competition is a research-based competition, which allows architects to undertake architectural research within their own practices.

CODA's proposal was for affordable housing and supported hostel accommodation, where an increase in density through changes in residential zoning for the area has created an opportunity to create a new approach to urban planning.

Mandurah is situated in the Peel Region, the fastest growing region in Australia where there are geographic limitations to housing availability as well as limited employment opportunities

Kieran Wong from CODA explains; "Brick inspired us to create a connected community on that particular site."

"We were very interested in how social housing might be pivotal in forming a neighbourhood centre. Mandurah is Australia's least affordable city," said Emma Williamson from CODA.

The winning design was awarded prize money of \$20,000.

Commendations were awarded to Sydney architects DRAW and Brisbane-based Owen and Vokes.

DRAW's design transformed disused and neglected land into functional and valuable public space at Yagoona Town Centre.



Owen & Vokes design was focused on green spaces in neighbourhoods and inserting sympathetic new buildings in accordance with Garden Oriented Design principles to help suburbs like Brisbane's New Farm become more sustainable and affordable.

About Face is an annual design competition between six invited architectural practices, run by the Australian brick industry's peak body, Think Brick Australia. Chief Executive Officer Linda Ginger believes this year's competition reveals the widespread interest in rediscovering some of the lost craftsmanship associated with traditional building materials like clay bricks.

"The winning entry reveals that a design material like clay brick can be anything. The scope is limitless and once again we are very excited by the richness of ideas and possibilities presented to us by these amazing architects." Ginger says.

The About Face National Student Design Award was presented to joint winners Muizz Adam Nazmi from RMIT University and Susan Young from Curtin University of Technology.

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