

RAH competition winners

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Slash (Vic): Revitalization of ground plan with greater circulation and connectivity.

Winners in the Royal Adelaide Hospital Site Design Competition were announced by South Australian deputy premier John Rau on 10 December, ending the five-month process of engagement to find ideas for the future of the RAH site, once the hospital moves in 2016.

The scheme by Victorian practice SLASH Phillips/Pilkington Architects was selected from the six finalists announced in September 2013, with the jury having considered each proposal against the seven criteria of the competition brief, along with stakeholder and community feedback gathered during Stage One of the competition. In its final report, the jury deemed the strength of the SLASH Phillips/Pilkington proposal to be its masterplan, “which proposes the selective removal of a number of secondary buildings, while retaining the more important heritage elements.” The jury continued:

“In doing so, the submission proposes a revitalization of the ground plan, with greater circulation and connectivity along existing (if clogged) arteries within the site, as well as the introduction of a new diagonal line of circulation, leading from the southwest corner through the site, to the Botanic Gardens.

“This submission expands the repertoire of civic spaces within Adelaide with a creative re-animation of the site’s historic fabric. While the existing city might be characterised as highly ordered and zoned, this scheme for a ‘miniature city within the city’ creatively and productively challenges this logic, within the extant framework. The reuse of existing buildings and the insertion of new elements represent an appropriate response that invites useability, delivers diversity and creates a new identity with sensitivity to the past. The design proposition is well considered, graphically clear and draws on a rigorous and emphatic examination of the site and its context.

“The jury was impressed by the depth of research into the social and physical history and condition of the RAH site. This research was evidenced and brought to life at all scales by the design proposal; from the architecture to heritage, engineering and landscape. The design solves the essential challenges of the site with minimal impact, and celebrates a continuing presence for the hospital buildings with subtlety, humour and respect. It presents a strong and innovative attitude to heritage, that preserves existing fabric and historic value, while integrating a new

aesthetic. In doing so, it offers a new identity for the site that extends rather than replaces its history.” — *RAH Site Competition jury*

Also announced on the day were the People’s Choice Award (more than 4,200 votes were received at closing on 9 December) and the student prizes resulting from a parallel process run with the University of South Australia and the University of Adelaide using the same design brief.

First Prize (\$200,000)

SLASH with Phillips/Pilkington Architects

Joint Second Prize (\$50,000 each)

Bonhag and De Rosa with Taylor Cullity Lethlean
Nice Architects with Mulloway Studios

People’s Choice Award (\$10,000)

Nice Architects with Mulloway Studios

Student winners (\$5,000 each)

Nigel Reichenbach (University of Adelaide)
Tom Hocking (University of South Australia)

Competition jury

Shelley Penn, chair (AIA immediate past president); Bob Nation (Sydney-based architect); Dr Catherin Bull (emeritus professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Melbourne); Timothy Hill (Brisbane-based architect); Tim Horton (Adelaide-based architect and former commissioner for Integrated Design); Marcus Spiller (SGS Economics & Planning); and Catherine Slessor (*The Architectural Review*). The jury was joined by competition advisor Andrew Mackenzie (CityLab) and Anne Dalton (probiy advisor and director of Anne Dalton Associates).

The RAH Site Design Competition Exhibition will be open until Wednesday 18 December at 35 Hindley Street, Adelaide.

See more information about the RAH Competition here, or read Stuart Harrison’s competition analysis from July 2013.

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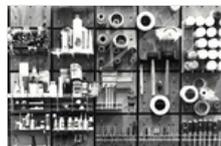
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