

Designer of the Year

Winner



idea.





Kennedy Nolan

"Deep thought and intellectual rigour are the consistent foundations for the practice's work. Each project displays a unique language specific to its context with the commonality being a clear and strong visual language, reinforced through the confident use of colour, texture and pattern making and often delighting in an evolving sequence of carefully considered vignettes." – *Jeff Copolov, IDEA 2019 Jury*

This year the IDEA Designer of the Year accolade has been awarded to Kennedy Nolan. As architects Rachel Nolan and Patrick Kennedy distil the essence of their architectural intention into every project, creating innovation and promoting connectivity between landscape, buildings and people.

Patrick Kennedy and Rachel Nolan met as two young students studying architecture at Melbourne University and it was at this time they identified a true meeting of minds. In 1999 their friendship led to the establishment of Kennedy Nolan where they have created an enviable reputation for fine architecture and interior design over the past 20 years.

The practice is perhaps best known for its residential projects; however, Kennedy Nolan has organically grown to include commissions within the institutional, education, hotel and commercial sectors, and this was evident through the variety of projects shortlisted in IDEA 2019.

The residential projects are considered and beautifully resolved and each is individual to client and site to become an exemplar of style and substance. Kennedy Nolan brings a distinct intention to all of its designs, where shared memories of history and landscape coalesce with texture colour and light. There is a deep reverence for the handmade and the artisanal and these inform its process at every turn. The practice delivers its own particular style of modernism where form and function are fashioned in tune with the practicalities of everyday life, whether the project is a house, a public space or a workplace.

Kennedy Nolan's always thoughtful, sometimes provocative and expertly detailed resolution of all its projects ensures the practice is a worthy winner of Designer of the Year and we applaud the talent and expertise of the practice, especially the principals Rachel and Patrick. Kennedy Nolan understands that good design is meant to enhance life and effect positive change and its work is the true embodiment of this.

opposite top left—Melbourne Central Arcade, category Public Space. **opposite top right**—Caroline house, category Residential Single. **opposite bottom**—Oak house, category Residential Single. **above**—Sandy Point house, category Colour. Photography Derek Swalwell



Oak house

D — Kennedy Nolan

P — Derek Swalwell

An adaptive reuse of a double-fronted Victorian house is distinctive for its large oak tree and red steel brise-soleil, which performs many functions, including that of sun shading. The interiors range from the dramatic to the tranquil using concentrations of colour in varying intensities.



Highly Commended

Sandy Point house

D — Kennedy Nolan
P — Derek Swalwell

Perched on the coastal dunes of eastern Victoria, this holiday house suits the family's long association with the modest beachside hamlet. It is built from timber suitable to its bushfire prone setting and is designed to grey off and be camouflaged in its indigenous-planted setting.