

PRESIDENT'S PRIZE



Ray Heffernan LFRAIA

He is someone who found inspiration in the functional aesthetic, influenced by Richard Neutra and other 20th century modernists, and with a focus on the fundamentals of light and space.

Ray Heffernan's architecture embraced the International style and he skilfully adapted it to the Tasmanian context with a style that became distinctly his own.

Over a career spanning nearly 50 years, through his tutelage, Ray influenced a generation of students and architects and became one of Tasmania's most esteemed practitioners.

Ray graduated in 1959 having completed his Diploma of Architecture at Hobart Technical College where he was awarded the final year medallion. He initially worked in partnership with Graham Martin in the early 1960s before heading to Perth in 1963 to pursue professional cricket and architecture, then onto London and Toronto before returning to Tasmania in 1967 to spend six years with Bush Parkes Shugg and Moon as a design architect. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s Ray formed various partnerships with notable architects, some resulting from working on projects like the Antarctic Division Headquarters at Kingston and the ABC Offices in Hobart. By 1996 the partnerships had evolved into Heffernan Button Voss. Ray retired in mid-2007, however has since kept an ongoing interest in the practice and was closely consulted in the much applauded and awarded works carried out on his original Trial Bay House.

Some of Ray's notable projects include the Elizabeth Street Pier, Crematorium Cornelian Bay, Clarence Council Chambers, Government Offices Rosny, Silos Apartments Salamanca Place and the Bellerive Oval Redevelopment. Over the years Ray's projects have won a total of 11 Australian Institute of Architects Awards, numerous national and state commendations and other industry awards; a most impressive demonstration of peer group recognition for his chosen field of endeavor. Several of Ray's buildings, currently on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, such as the Triptree and Barnett Houses in Taroona and the Banks Paton building in Sandy Bay, are testament to the enduring qualities of his work.

Acclaimed as a major contributor to the landscape of Tasmanian architecture when given Life Fellowship of the Institute in 2007, I would like to further acknowledge his inspiration and contribution to our built history by awarding Ray Heffernan the 2012 President's Prize.