

DESIGN
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THE MOMENT



2022
EAT
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DESIGN
AWARDS

MEDIA RELEASE

NOVEMBER 2022

EAT DRINK DESIGN AWARDS WINNERS

AUSTRALIA'S MOST EXCEPTIONAL HOSPITALITY VENUES REVEALED

The winners of the [Eat Drink Design Awards](#) have been named for 2022, representing the most exceptional and visually remarkable hospitality venues in the continent. The Award winners are the forefront of design in the realm of restaurants, bars, cafes, clubs, hotels, retail and temporary hospitality structures and offer surprising insights into the dining and cultural habits in Australia and New Zealand. The full gallery of winners can be viewed [here](#).

Melbourne has the strongest presence in the awards this year, a testament to its enduring status as the arguable Australian hospitality nexus. The seamless blend of modern Australian art and Italian architectural features saw the lavish **Di Stasio Carlton by Hassell** take out the title of **Best Restaurant Design**.

Best Bar Design was won by the truly unique **Music Room by Dion Hall** in the Melbourne CBD; the interior of which immerses the public inside a luxe, music speaker. **Best Retail Design** was won by two stunning stores south of the Yarra River: **Baker Bleu Hawksburn by IF Architecture** and **Pronto by Via Porta by Studio Esteta** - noted for their sleek utility and sense of heritage and engagement with the neighbourhood, respectively.

Rounding out the Victorian winners is new Italian Gertude St eatery, **Rocco's Bologna Discoteca** which took out **Best Identity Design** for its sense of fun and nostalgia permeating the graphic design elements within the venue, designed by **Congrats Agency**.

Further north, the much celebrated and already iconic Sydney destination, **Ace Hotel Sydney by Flack Studio** took out the title of **Best Hotel Design** - noted for its seamless integration of its hospitality spaces into the lobby and, in turn, the venue into the neighborhood. Perhaps unusually given its location, **Best Cafe Design** was won by Brisbane's Airport's airside-viewing dining space, **The Common by Sullivan Skinner**. A testament to the strength of its extraordinary "taste of Queensland" experience and unexpected location.

Rounding out the award winners is the sleek and elegant **Adelaide Festival Pavilion - The Summerhouse by CO-AP**, in The City of Churches, which took home the title of **Best Installation Design**.

In a testament to its enduring and iconic status, Melbourne's beloved 68-year-old venue **Pellegrini's Espresso Bar (1954) by Smith, Tracey, Lyon and Brock** was inducted into the **Eat Drink Design Awards Hall of Fame in 2022**. This is a well-overdue accolade to the adored espresso bar which has endured the decades and continues to delight. A true beacon of hope, warmth and longevity in the Melbourne CBD.

The Eat Drink Design Awards jury explained the strength of the entries in this year's Awards along with the major themes that emerged from the winners.

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"Considering what the hospitality and design industries have gone through over the past two-plus years, it was surprising and incredible that in 2022, the Eat Drink Design Awards received their highest number of entries ever – a sure sign of the resilience and tenacity of these industries that we love," said the Eat Drink Design Awards jurors.

"Several related themes and observable trends made an impression on the jury this year amongst the winners. They are best understood when seen through the lens of our collective, not-quite-post-COVID moment as an Australian and indeed a global society. In uncertain, troubling times, the design community seems to be embracing a trend toward nostalgia and familiarity – one that is given form, thankfully, in original and innovative ways that avoid simple mimicry."

The Award Eat Drink Design Awards winners are:

- Best Restaurant Design - Di Stasio Carlton by Hassell (Carlton, VIC)
- Best Café Design - The Common by Sullivan Skinner (Brisbane Airport, QLD)
- Best Bar Design - Music Room by Dion Hall (Melbourne, VIC)
- Best Hotel Design - Ace Hotel Sydney by Flack Studio (Sydney, NSW)
- Best Installation Design - Adelaide Festival Pavilion - The Summerhouse by CO-AP (Adelaide, SA)
- Best Retail Design (co-winner) - Baker Bleu Hawksburn by IF Architecture (Prahran, VIC)
- Best Retail Design (co-winner) - Pronto by Via Porta by Studio Esteta (Kew, VIC)
- Best Identity Design - Rocco's Bologna Discoteca by Congrats Agency (Fitzroy, VIC)

In addition, one landmark venue is honoured with induction into the [Hall of Fame](#). The accolade recognises enduring excellence in the design of a hospitality venue of more than 10 years standing. In 2022 **Pellegrini's Espresso Bar (1954) by Smith, Tracey, Lyon and Brock** was named the latest addition to this venerated list of iconic Australian dining destinations. Pellegrini's joins hospitality icons such as Bills Darlinghurst, Cafe Di Stasio, Cumulus Inc, Cookie and Icebergs.

The full gallery of the winners can be viewed [here](#) and the subsequent pages of this media release.

Recognising excellence and innovation in the design of restaurants, bars, cafés, nightclubs, temporary venues and retail spaces across Australia and New Zealand, the winning projects represent the best hospitality venues from Australasia's sharpest and most innovative design minds. The Awards provide a window into the contemporary hospitality sector in the region and are a prism through which hospitality-aficionados can examine the current state of Australasian hospitality design and also survey the broader dining, food and community influences that shape the places where we eat and drink.

The 2022 winners were awarded by a jury of venerable industry leaders from the hospitality and design sectors. The 2022 jury consists of Shannon Bennett (chef and restaurateur), Rodney Eggleston (director, March Studio), Melissa Leong (Masterchef Australia judge and food writer), Fiona Lynch (founder, Fiona Lynch Office), and Cassie Hansen (editor, Artichoke).

The projects span the depths of the pandemic and beyond, encompassing all new projects completed between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2022.

The Awards were announced at Two Ton Max in North Melbourne on Thursday 10 November and are published in the November issue of Artichoke. Details of the winners are published online in the Eat Drink Design Awards Gallery and within other Architecture Media titles, both print and online.

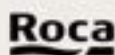
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Additional Comments from the Jury:

"After two years of COVID stagnation, hotels are back. The category winner, Flack Studio's Ace Hotel Sydney, is a fantastic endorsement of the return of the hotel, with a post-COVID twist. Rather than reflecting the generic internationalism of the modern hotel, here we have a venue that has been embraced enthusiastically by locals and travellers alike. It already feels as though it has always been there, which is an achievement in design."

"In more general aesthetic terms, it is apparent that the design community has further interpreted the collective mood by moving beyond a technique of layering up complexity in spaces. Singular, strong ideas for each venue and project seem to be a thing this year, giving form and materiality in a pared-back way. This was apparent in the winners of both the Best Retail Design and the Best Restaurant Design categories: less fussiness, less eclecticism, and yet again, hints of familiarity."

"The Best Identity Design category saw some unabashedly light and fun entries, expressed variously through playful, hand-flavoured illustrations, a fondness for colour and more than a hint of typographic nostalgia. The winner, Rocco's Bologna Discoteca in Fitzroy by Congrats Agency, is a case in point. As a whole, the identity component of the awards seems to be grappling successfully with a post-physical-collateral world – finding innovative ways to project brand ideas and identities in a society without business cards, where even menus are digital."

"Entries in Best Retail Design embodied these themes, with an emphasis on foregrounding the "comfort" element in the comfort food equation. Freshly baked bread (the category's two winners were both bakeries), gelato and other familiar treats predominate. We reach for what comforts us, both as consumers and designers."

"Taken overall, the jury can report a thriving Australian design community in synchronicity with the current historic and cultural moment: typically innovative and creative in its interpretation of the needs of the broader community, as seen through the prism of individual projects. These projects may not be strictly essential, in the way our health system has been essential in recent times – but even bars, bakeries and cafes have a role to play in maintaining our collective social health."

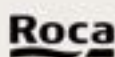
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Best Restaurant Design

Di Stasio Carlton by Hassell (Carlton, VIC)



Image credit: Peter Bennetts

Jury comment

As Di Stasio's third restaurant outing in Melbourne, Di Stasio Carlton is a combinatory experiment that may never have worked, if not for the astonishing cohesiveness and confidence of the execution. Both simple and truly special materials and elements are used in pared-back ways. Flawlessly combining very old, rather old and brashly new, the venue juxtaposes striking contemporary Australian art with a seventeenth-century Italian fountain, and black volcanic concrete with original terrazzo. The blending of seamless interiors and outdoor spaces takes the visitor on a dynamic journey from arrival to bar to table, where lunch can easily bleed into dinner – la dolce vita. This is simultaneously a place that feels very special for intimate outings, and yet remains a comfortable place to take your children to dinner.

A balancing act between nostalgia for what came before and an embrace of the here and now, this venue is fundamentally of its time and place. One juror described Di Stasio Carlton as “the essence of Melbourne food culture, and the soul of Carlton.” This is a worthy accolade.

Commendations

Arkhé by Studio Gram (Norwood, SA)
 BKK by Dion Hall (Melbourne, VIC)
 Her Bar by Dion Hall (Melbourne, VIC)
 Rocco's Bologna Discoteca by Studio Co and Co (Fitzroy, VIC)
 Sakura Kaiten Sushi by Bergman and Co. (Melbourne, VIC)
 Untitled by Flack Studio (Cremorne, VIC)

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Best Café Design

The Common by Sullivan Skinner (Brisbane Airport, QLD)



Image credit: David Chatfield

Jury comment

Working within an airport to find joy in an anonymous fitout shell and securing a high-quality design outcome are both achievements of note. The Common reaches these benchmarks and goes well beyond, providing an excellent airside-viewing dining experience. This experience is specifically shaped to give arriving domestic visitors a “first taste” of Queensland through bold colour, rich materiality, light and openness. Taking visual cues from the beachside lifestyle that Queensland boasts along its coastline, The Common has been conceptualized somewhat like an abstract painting. It is furnished liberally with Australian-designed pieces by Ross Gardam, DesignByThem and Linear Standard. Light fittings, hardware and custom finishes such as polished plaster have been installed, with a colour palette specially conceived for this particular installation. The outcome gives this transitory space a memorable sense of place and identity. It is the opposite of a “placeless” airport venue, working both with and against the homogeneity of the backdrop. It proves that good Australian design has a role to play in even the most generic of social and civic spaces, the twenty-first-century airport.

Commendations

Compass South by Flack Studio (Southbank, VIC)

Juno by Ritz and Ghougassian (McKinnon, VIC)

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Best Bar Design

Music Room by Dion Hall (Melbourne, VIC)



Image credit: Earl Carter

Jury comment

The jury members were impressed by the immersive, compelling and integrated experience that is the diminutive Music Room at Her, located in the new six-level venue on Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. In a first for the Eat Drink Design Awards, this space is a truly interactive experience, and it is magically shoehorned into an intimate volume no larger than the size of a double car space. Light, acoustics, music selection and visuals combine to create a unique experience for a small group of guests at any one time.

The beautiful detailing riffs on the concept of the listener being contained entirely within a custom speaker box, and a conscious effort has been made to restrict the palette of materials. Timber, leather, brass accents and amber glass predominate, with the perforated, backlit timber selected for its acoustic properties. The result is uniquely Melbourne in character and unlike anything we have experienced elsewhere in Australia.

Commendations

Auterra Wine Bar by IF Architecture (Armadale, VIC)

Lobby Bar Ace Hotel Sydney by Flack Studio (Sydney, NSW)

The Woollahra Hotel by Richards Stanisich (Woollahra, NSW)

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Best Retail Design (joint winner)

Pronto by Via Porta by Studio Esteta (Kew, VIC)



Image credit: Sean Fennessy

Jury comment

Located in an old shoe-repair shop with a 1970s facade, this tiny venue and shopfront is notable for its comfortable, charming feel and its sense of engagement with the neighbourhood. The jury was won over by the qualities of the interior combined with the simple, direct, roller-shuttered exterior facade. We can imagine the scene in the early morning, where the cranking of the roller shutter heralds the baking of a new day's bread. In contrast to nearly every other entry in the category, this retail experience is "externalized" by these simple touches, which project the space outwards and result in a venue that is a combination of an Australian and a European bakery encounter.

Commendations

Handpicked Wines Melbourne by Platform by Design Office (Melbourne, VIC)

Piccolina Hawthorn by Hecker Guthrie (Hawthorn, VIC)

Victor Churchill Melbourne by Loop Creative (Melbourne, VIC)

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Best Retail Design (joint winner)

Baker Bleu Hawksburn by IF Architecture (Prahran, VIC)



Image credit: Sharyn Cairns

Jury comment

This winning bakery project is significant for the success of its integration of interior and product. There is a great sense of utility about the placement and aesthetics of the bakery product here – the interior experience has struck a careful balance between the minimalism of fittings, finishes and materials and the earthy aesthetics of the actual baked goods as an integrated presentation. In a setting characterized by industrial galvanized metal and sleek minimalism, the bread and other products impart a balancing warmth. A high level of detailing in the resolution of the interior combined with excellent visual branding has resulted in a very resolved, modern setting – specifically designed for the product, easy to clean and serving its core function effectively and expressively.

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Best Identity Design

Rocco's Bologna Discoteca by Congrats Agency (Fitzroy, VIC)



Image credit: Emilio Scalzo

Jury comment

This venue is pervaded by a sense of fun and a “visit to Nonna's house”-level of nostalgia. The identity design is a winner because it enthusiastically comes to the Rocco party and stays to share a glass of vino and a bowl of pasta. The typeface, the colours, the youthfulness and the attitude all sing from the same happy songbook. It's light, it's refreshing, it doesn't take itself too seriously, it's familiar and it's good. Even the ashtray is memorable and was loved by the jury –and none of us even smokes! The attention to detail includes graphic work for signage, napkins, menus and business cards, with even the uniforms, glassware badging and product packaging carefully considered.

As a dine-in venue, this is familiar territory, but the identity work has been conceived to project its life well beyond the venue – in social media feeds and in the ephemera of the thriving takeaway side of the business, popular with locals. In short: we love it, and we are not alone.

Commendation

Black Star Pastry by Studio Ongarato (Chadstone, VIC)

Di Stasio Carlton by Pidgeon Ward (Carlton, VIC)

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Best Installation Design

Adelaide Festival Pavilion - The Summerhouse by CO-AP (Adelaide, SA)



Image credit: Ross Honeysett

Jury comment

The elegance of The Summerhouse pavilion, combining versatility with equal-parts simplicity and sophistication, has resulted in a worthy winner. Like the venerable Spiegeltent before it, The Summerhouse can come and go with the festival it celebrates, creating a memorable setting for Adelaide Festival's performances. In practical terms, the planning and resolution of services and movement of patrons and staff combine to keep back-of-house tucked neatly away and all action on the performances. There is a well-organized space for a sickle-shaped bar and an expansive central performance arena formed by the overlap of smaller and larger circles in plan: an elegant solution.

Beyond the clever response to planning challenges, the pavilion is visually striking. It creates an identity and beacon for the festival in a way that is highly original. A sense of drama and ephemerality combine with projection and lighting to render the pavilion a canvas that can be packed away and brought out again with a new lease of life for each festival season.

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Best Hotel Design

Ace Hotel Sydney by Flack Studio (Sydney, NSW)



Image credit: Anson Smart

Jury comment

The jury members were all impressed by the overall qualities of the interior of the Ace Hotel by Flack Studio. We particularly noted how integral the mix of food and beverage options, including the lobby bar, were to the overall experience. Simultaneously a combination of art, architecture and interiors, the hotel shows the skill of the design team to create a place that seems already worn-in. Both the hotel and its food and beverage venues convey the sense that they have somehow always been there, despite being brand new; this is a palpable strength of the combination of interior experiences. Hotel food and beverage venues need to operate smoothly as all-day offerings, but it's a design challenge to make a space as well suited to breakfast and mid-morning coffee as to dinner and late-night cocktails. This seems like a venue that will be embraced by locals as a breakfast spot, as well as by guests and travellers from far and wide enjoying these versatile spaces late into the evening – an excellent outcome for residents and visitors alike.

Commendation

Hyatt Centric by Hecker Guthrie & Architectus (Melbourne, VIC)

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Hall of Fame

Pellegrini's Espresso Bar (1954) by Smith, Tracey, Lyon and Brock



Image credit: Peter Bennetts

Jury reflection

Where does one begin with Pellegrini's? Too long left out of the Hall of Fame, this little espresso bar is still going strong 68 years after the architect Smith, Tracey, Lyon and Brock first submitted its charming design drawings to Melbourne City Council for approval. Little has changed since 1954. The current proprietor, David Malaspina, is committed to keeping every atom of Pellegrini's just as it is right now – which is to say, just as it has always been. No renewal, modernization or renovation plans in sight; and that is just the way that David, his staff and his adoring patrons like it.

In 1972, the two brothers who gave the venue its distinctive name sold their espresso bar to friends Nino Pangrazio and the much-missed Sisto Malaspina. Sisto was a beloved top-end-of-Bourke-Street fixture, a perennially welcoming presence, until he was cruelly taken from us in the terrible terror event of November 2018. Pellegrini's thrived back in the 1970s, and it is still going strong.

There is a magic in this modest place that is simultaneously difficult, and yet not that difficult, to pin down. Ask David, and he says that it's not that complicated. And that's the point – it's simple. It never changes because it doesn't have to. It isn't fancy – the design is simple – and it's more like a visit to grandma's house than a visit to a downtown restaurant. The food itself is also simple, honest, and cooked in front of diners in

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the rear dining room, across the scarred timber table – a menu offering as unchanging and seemingly eternal as the place itself. The coffee is, of course, perfectly good. Just as it always is.

David is often asked when Pellegrini's will get a liquor licence. His answer is simple: never. Why? Because it's important that the children keep coming in, and so he is happy to leave well enough alone. Speaking of children, during our visit, David recounted that he had recently entertained the newest member of the fifth generation of diners from one family. They have been coming to the venue since the 1950s. This is not so unusual for Pellegrini's.

Like many of the other venues that have graced the annals of the Hall of Fame, Pellegrini's does something unique beyond its physical fabric. It means something. It certainly means something to David, who is Sisto's son. David grew up in the venue with his sister, creating childhood memories running up and down behind the bar. It means something to the generations of diners who come again and again, because they love what they find there, knowing that it never changes.

Perhaps just as significant is the meaning of this genuinely iconic design artefact to the city and culture of Melbourne, which remains a dynamic urban centre piled up on stolen land, a place that has constantly been in frantic flux since first European settlement. The big money has come and gone many times, washing in and out of the Hoddle Grid with the booms and the busts. And for the last third of the modern city's life, Pellegrini's, with its stripped-back, post-war style and neon signage, has been there to witness it all.

Let's face facts: 2022 is tough times. With existential threats seemingly looming in every quarter around the world, it is good to recognize and acknowledge something we have close to home that we can rely on, that never changes. Long live Pellegrini's Espresso Bar.

The Eat Drink Design Awards are presented by Architecture Media, Australia's leading publisher for the architecture and design communities. Its market-leading portfolio includes titles Architecture Australia, Artichoke, Houses, Houses: Kitchens+Bathrooms, Landscape Architecture Australia and Architectural Product News, and websites ArchitectureAU.com, Selector.com.au and Productnews.com.au. Architecture Media has a reputation for delivering high-calibre, industry recognised events and programs that celebrate and promote achievements of architects and designers.

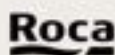
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