

# The Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts

under the  
UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for  
Cultural Heritage Conservation

# Background

The Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts recognizes newly built structures that demonstrate outstanding design well-integrated into historic contexts.

Previously known as the Jury Commendation for Innovation, this special award was established in 2005 and is given in addition to the conservation award categories.

The Award encourages submissions of completed new architecture and design projects that enrich the heritage setting.

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation recognize excellent achievement in successfully conserving or restoring heritage building and properties in the region by the private sector or by public-private initiatives.

Deadline for application is 31 March every year. For more information, please visit the Awards' website: [www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritage/wh/heritageawards](http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritage/wh/heritageawards)

# Awarded Projects



## 2005 Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts

### Meridian Gate Exhibition Hall of the Palace

Beijing, China

The construction of a modern exhibition hall located within the historic Meridian Gate building of the Imperial Palace complex is exemplary for its innovative technical and design solutions that have enabled the space to meet international museum standards. The choice of a contemporary architectural vocabulary provides an effective counterpoint to the vernacular timber structure, and indeed, serves to highlight the building's heritage values. The self-effacing sealed glass box that encloses the exhibition space demonstrates tremendous respect for and enhances the understanding of the historic building, while at the same time provides ideal conditions for sophisticated climate control. The project demonstrates how the application of modern engineering principles results in an honest and direct architectural solution. The project has demonstrated that through innovation, a perceived dilemma of having to adapt a historic building to house an important artefact collection can create a win-win situation.



**2005 Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts**

## **Yuhu Primary School and Community Centre**

Yunnan Province, China

Located close to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Lijiang, the Yuhu primary school project is to be commended for its beautifully nuanced design which evocatively reinterprets architectural traditions within the context of modern building practice. The deft handling of local building materials and the innovative recasting of indigenous construction techniques has resulted in a powerful materiality which is deeply rooted in the local context while - at the same time, pushing the envelope of sustainable building design. Seamlessly accommodating contemporary needs, the design is the culmination of multidisciplinary research into vernacular architecture and urbanism, local history, and social context. The marriage of vernacular and modern approaches, in combination with careful community consultation, serves as a model for sensitive new construction in historic contexts vulnerable to modern development.

**2007 Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts**

## **Whitfield Barracks**

Hong Kong SAR, China

This contemporary intervention to the former Whitfield Barracks has successfully reconfigured the historic military complex into the Heritage Discovery Centre. The new lightweight structure forms the core of the complex, thereby acting as a central circulation node linking all spaces. The transparency of the glass skin, designed in a modern architectural vocabulary, creates continuity between the interior and exterior spaces. The addition provides a fitting counterpoint to the ninety-year-old barracks and integrates seamlessly into the surrounding park context.



2008 Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts

## 733 Mountbatten Road

Singapore

The contemporary addition to 733 Mountbatten Road has successfully added needed floor space while retaining and conserving the original building. The spatial arrangement and the massing of the new building in relation to the historic bungalow create an appropriate balance between the old and new. This project, which demonstrates good conservation practice in combination with innovative solutions for providing additional space, sets a worthy model for reuse of heritage buildings in Singapore.

2009 Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts

## Maosi Ecological Demonstration Primary School

Gansu Province, China

The design of the Maosi Ecological Demonstration Primary School offers an attractive modern and locally-suitable alternative to the existing cave schools. It maintains continuity with long-standing local building traditions, in particular, by adapting the environmentally-sustainable aspects of vernacular earthen architecture. The careful selection of materials and techniques, combining mud brick with modern technology such as double glazing, has allowed the school to minimize its energy consumption. The school complex blends smoothly and fits comfortably into the surrounding landscape. The configuration of the buildings creates a liveable space at a human scale that is sensitive to this particular context of the Loess Plateau. Built in cooperation with the local villagers themselves, the project sends a strong message about the relevance of applying traditional wisdom to build in an ecological and socially sustainable manner.



**2011 Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts**

## **Ma'anqiao Village**

Sichuan, China

One of the villages devastated by the Sichuan earthquake in 2008, Ma'anqiao is a noteworthy example of post-disaster reconstruction that fits comfortably in its immediate cultural and environmental context. The reconstructed buildings use traditional construction techniques rather than modern brick or concrete systems. By ensuring that the vernacular rammed earth technology has been adapted to meet modern standards for both seismic performance and green buildings, the project ensures that the newly-built houses will sustain traditional lifestyles and protect human lives, while setting new standards for eco-architecture in China.



**2011 Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts**

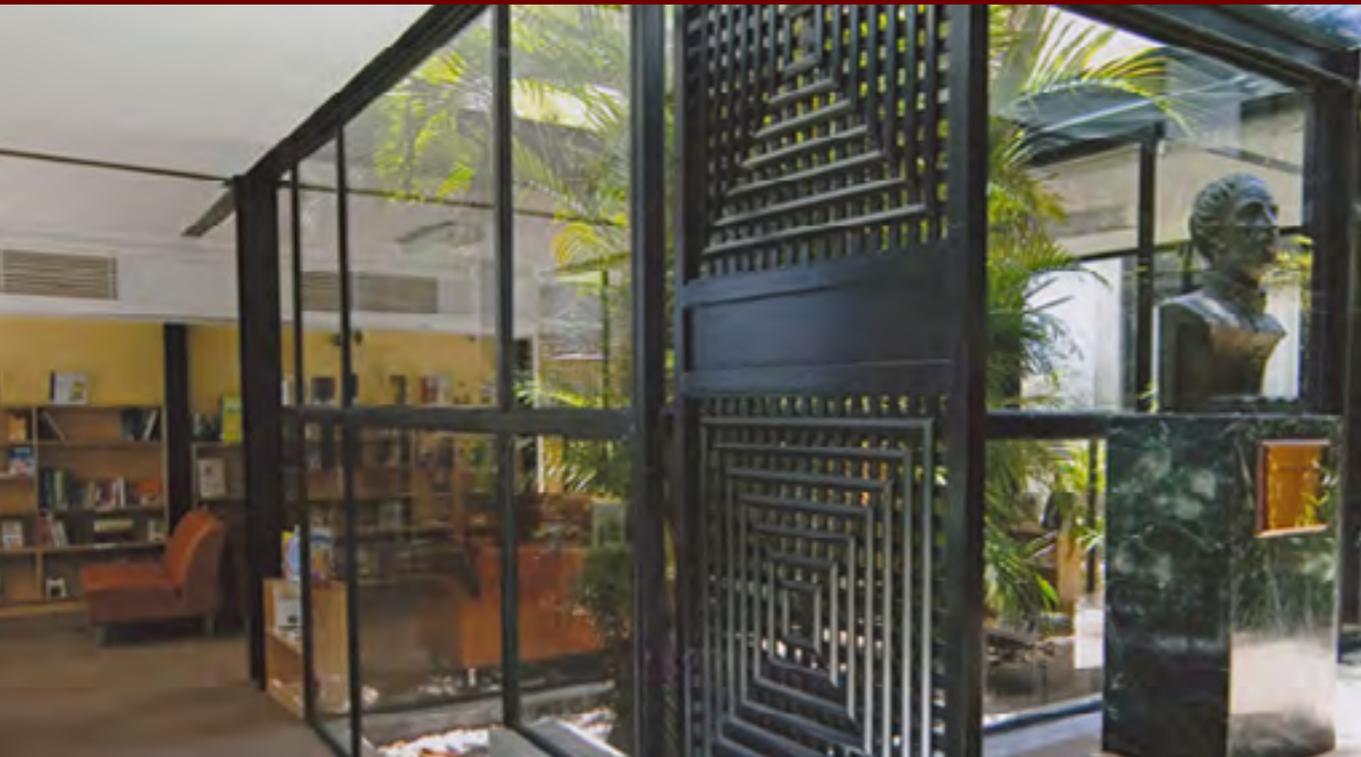
## **Sydney Harbour YHA and the Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre**

Sydney, Australia

The project successfully puts urban archaeology in the spotlight, showcasing the site through creative use as a youth hostel and a public education centre. It provides hands-on access to one of Australia's most well-known urban archaeological sites, offering visitors a glimpse of early European settlement in the late 18th century.

The new development sits lightly in the site, using innovative structural design to minimize the footprint on the archaeological remnants. Located in Sydney's historic harbourside precinct, with a view of the city's most prominent modern architectural icons, the building's sleek design stands out as a fresh contemporary counterpoint.





2012 Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts

## Reading Room for the Portuguese School of Macau

Macao SAR, China

Inserted into the courtyard of the Portuguese School of Macau, the new Reading Room has provided an understated contemporary addition to this aesthetically noteworthy 1963 modernist complex. The new steel and glass pavilion is seamlessly integrated with the original buildings, responding sensitively to their scale and architectural language. By demonstrating an elegant approach to extending the school's usable space in a highly dense urban context that faces redevelopment pressure. The new Reading Room contributes an additional layer of architectural significance to a modern heritage landmark and enhances the continued functionality of this icon of the Macanese Portuguese community.



2014 Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts

## Lucky Shophouse

Singapore

The Lucky Shophouse project combined conservation and modern design to create a new home in the heart of a residential conservation area in Singapore. As with other shophouses, the two-storey property occupied a deep and narrow lot exaggerated further by an additional section of unused land at the rear. Adhering to Singapore's stringent building code, the project's designers retained the footprint of the original 1920s structure. Non-structural interior accretions were removed exposing the old brick walls, timber rafters and floor joists. New elements were confined to a series of single-height offset box-like structures, interspersed within the rear garden space.

The final project contrasts existing and new components, giving fresh emphasis to historic textures and colours, while celebrating the unadulterated functionalism inherent in early twenty-first-century design.



# REGULATIONS

## Article 1 – Objective

- 1.1 In addition to the announced Awards, the Jury will, through its special Award for New Design in Historic Contexts, recognize newly-built structures which demonstrate outstanding architectural design that is well-integrated into historic contexts.

## Article 2 – Award and Frequency

- 2.1 The Award for New Design in Historic Contexts will be given at the discretion of the Jury.
- 2.2 The Award for New Design in Historic Contexts will consist of a bronze plaque for a selected number of entries.

## Article 3 – Eligibility for the Award

- 3.1 Projects should have been undertaken within the framework of a larger conservation project or should be located within or adjacent to a historic area whose essential elements are more than 50 years old.
- 3.2 Building annexes, new extensions, new buildings, new public spaces and new structures such as bridges are all eligible for consideration.
- 3.3 To be considered for the Award for New Design in Historic Contexts, the work must have been completed within the preceding 10 years at the time of submission. The project must also have been occupied or put to viable use for at least one year.
- 3.4 The submission must demonstrate that no structures of heritage significance were altered or cleared from the site for the purpose of the project submitted for the Award for New Design in Historic Contexts.
- 3.5 Entries which have been previously submitted will not be eligible for resubmission unless invited to do so by the Jury.
- 3.6 Projects which are new structures built as historic replicas, built against historic facades and historic theme parks will not be considered within the scope of the Award for New Design in Historic Contexts.
- 3.7 Projects which are submitted for consideration to the conservation category of the UNESCO Heritage Awards in the same year are not eligible for submission for the Award for New Design in Historic Contexts. Projects which are jointly submitted will be disqualified.

## **Article 4 – Criteria for Award for New Design in Historic Contexts**

- 4.1 The recipients of the Award for New Design in Historic Contexts will have conclusively demonstrated excellence in the following areas:
- a. outstanding design concept that demonstrates critical thinking in articulating an innovative response to the specific historic context;
  - b. how well the new structure helps to reveal the qualities of the place, including historical, architectural, cultural and social significance;
  - c. the compatibility and appropriateness of the new structure's programme/ function in its context;
  - d. how well the new structure integrates with the existing built and natural context. Factors include, but are not limited to, the following: typology, siting, massing, form, scale, character, colour, texture;
  - e. the justification of selection and quality control of materials and building techniques (either contemporary, vernacular or a combination of both);
  - f. the manner in which the process and the final product extend the local community's cultural and social continuum;
  - g. the influence of the project on architectural practice and design policy locally, nationally, regionally or internationally.

## **Article 5 – Selection Process and Jury**

- 5.1 The Awards recipients shall be selected on the proposal of an internal Jury.
- 5.2 The Jury shall be composed of
- a. One representative from UNESCO, and
  - b. Eight to ten international architects and conservation experts renowned for their knowledge of architectural conservation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- 5.3 UNESCO shall appoint the Jury for the full period of the Awards process.

## **Article 6 – Conditions of Entry**

- 6.1 Entries may be submitted by the registered owner, registered lessee, or conservation consultant, architect or designer, any of whom would have had to be involved in the process, preferably throughout the entire project duration.
- 6.2 Each entry must be submitted to UNESCO before 31 March.
- 6.3 Submission of an entry will be taken to imply granting UNESCO the rights to use, publish, display or communicate all materials and particulars of the successful schemes, without charge to UNESCO.
- 6.4 The wording of plaques and certificates will be based strictly on the details given on the entry form.
- 6.5 All submitting persons or firms will be responsible for delivery of their respective entries. Entry materials will not be returned.
- 6.6 One or more entries may be submitted by the same individual or institution.
- 6.7 The use of the UNESCO logo for any purposes related to the Awards requires prior written authorization from UNESCO.

## Article 7 – Materials Required for Submission

Each entry must be submitted with the following documentation in full:

- 7.1 Official entry form
- 7.2 Award for New Design in Historic Contexts project description (using the provided official format)
- 7.3 Occupant's comments
- 7.4 Owner consent
- 7.5 Rights authorization form
- 7.6 Drawings, A4 format
- 7.7 Photographs
- 7.8 Additional materials (articles, videos, etc) may be provided, as per guidelines on the Awards website
- 7.9 CD-ROM (including entry dossier in PDF format, drawings and photographs)

See the Awards' website for details and form:

[www.unescobkk.org/ru/culture/heritage/wh/heritageawards](http://www.unescobkk.org/ru/culture/heritage/wh/heritageawards)

## Submissions and Enquiries:

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Programme Officer

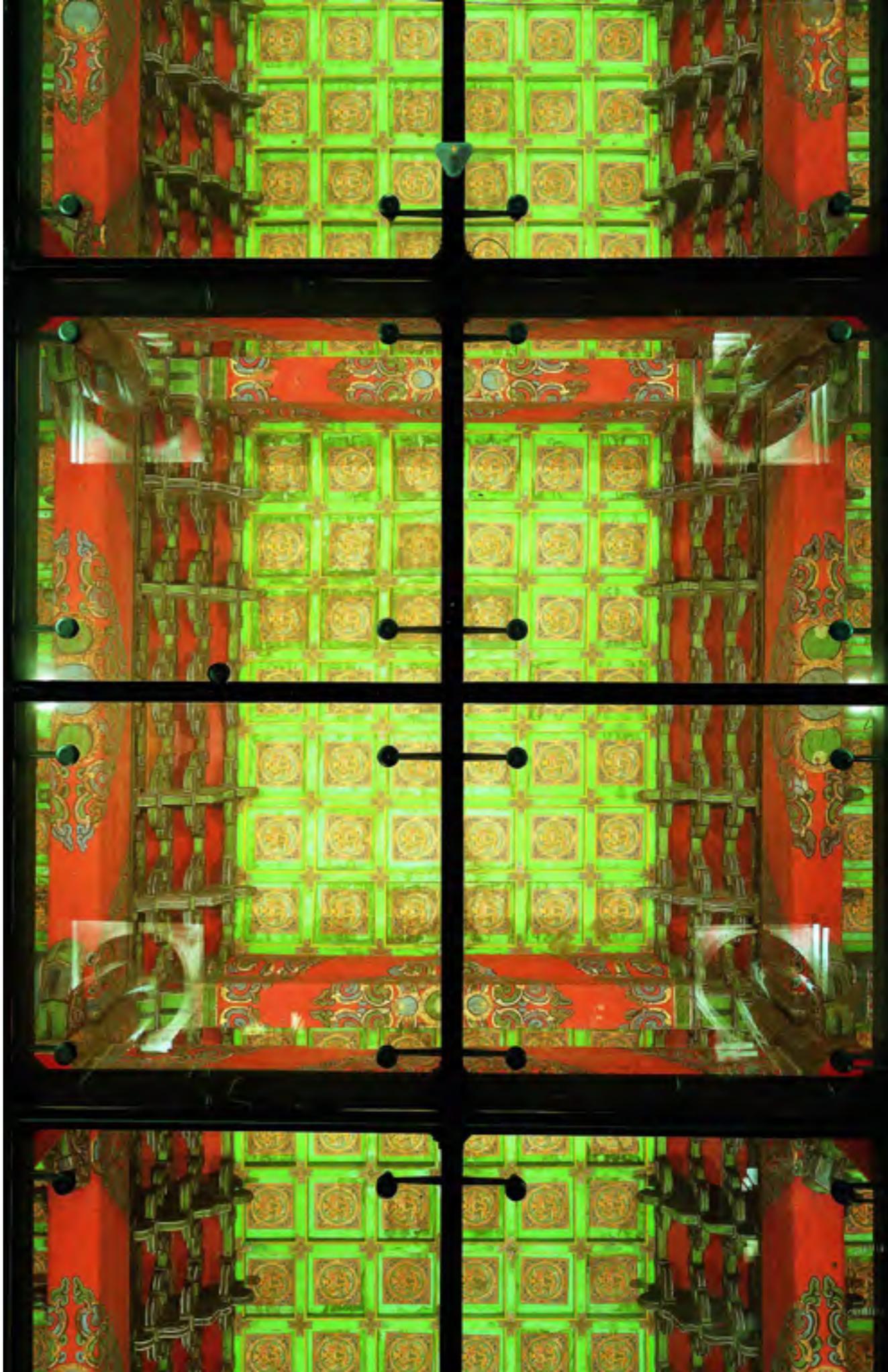
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