

# THE WEEKLY REVIEW

FEBRUARY 29 -  
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WHERE & HOW TO LIVE

A MODEL  
FOOTBALLER

# HARRY KEWELL

BY HARI RAJ

## INTERVIEW

PETER WILMOTH TALKS TO  
COLLEEN McCULLOUGH

INSIDE  
FOOD +  
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ARCHITECTURE \ The people from 3RRR's *The Architects* discuss their list of the best projects of last year, writes FRANCESCA CARTER.

# THE PERFECT 10

With its distinct façade of sandstone, zinc and glass, the architecture of Federation Square has elicited widespread comment. Some believe the design is too bold and too brash, unsympathetic to the city's skyline. Others, however, see the clusters of shard-like buildings as an exceptional public space that exceed even the most ambitious of expectations.

Whatever the opinion, Lab Architecture Studio's Federation Square has ignited a debate about contemporary architecture among the public. And what you think about the square might say something about you.

Architects Simon Knott and Stuart Harrison remember debating its aesthetics with everyone from architectural historians to taxi drivers. It's essentially what inspired them to do a one-hour weekly radio show on 3RRR called *The Architects*.

"Federation Square was certainly a catalyst at the start," says Harrison. "It had just been built and was generating a lot of discussion and our first segment was not long after it had opened. It was a really good way of talking about why good architecture is important and that it's necessary for architecture to be controversial."

"Since it opened we have seen a better conversation about architecture and more people appear to be interested. We like to think that we might have had a small part to play in that."

It started out as a fill-in program for a radio presenter on holidays, but *The Architects* quickly rose in popularity, obtaining a permanent spot every Tuesday evening.

Celebrating their eighth anniversary this year, Knott and Harrison have continued to maintain a commitment to the program, providing listeners with an informative, laid-back discussion on the built environment to an incredibly wide audience.

"We are really interested in having a broader conversation and taking our message out there a bit. In other words, getting outside a more internal thing," says Harrison.

Together with Christine Phillips and international correspondent Rory Hyde, *The Architects* also raises awareness about local and international talent by inviting special guests each week to discuss their work and approaches to architecture, urban design and sustainability – topics can be anything from Premier Ted Baillieu's launch of the Flinders Street Station competition to sustainable urban housing. "We want to make it accessible but not dumb it down. If we come across some idea that needs explaining, we'll explain it, because we think it's important for architecture not to be elitist. It's a fine balance to try and go for," says Harrison.

At the end of each year, *The Architects* organises a competition where it invites the public to unanimously nominate their favourite architectural projects. Once all the nominations are in, the judges vote on their top 10 projects, awarding each a score out of 10. The projects chosen are national and international, and can be anything from playgrounds to rooftop gardens.



On the dial: Stuart Harrison (foreground), Simon Knott and Christine Phillips. (MATT IRWIN)

"The whole competition was partly inspired by a little section in *The Trip* magazine. Every year there would be a top 10 albums, top 10 records, top 10 films, and we were asked to put in a top 10 as well. We thought let's have a go at this, so we developed a method of doing it... it's sort of a very small democracy, but there is a process and we all get to assess it together."

Last year, the team selected Rectangular Stadium (AAMI Park) by Cox Architects, admiring its expressive dome-like structure, its lyrical movements and its ability to optimise space and materials to create an exciting architectural expression that engages with its Olympic Park precinct.

This year, a residential project called 8 House by BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group) took out the No.1 spot. Suggested as a three-dimensional neighbourhood rather than an architectural object, the project consists of 150 row houses stretched through an entire block, twisting all the way from the street level to the top and down again.

"The 8 House is a very large housing project which really considers how you make a city, or part of a city, really active. It's a great example of architecture working on a very big scale, but actually being good at not being a scary housing project. It's a really good look of what is happening," says Harrison.

"This year there were quite a lot of international projects that were high up on the list. And, we really liked the idea that there are local projects mixing it up with really big projects. We think that's one of the real qualities of the process."

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• *The Architects* Tuesdays 7-8pm on 333R 102.7 FM, [www.3rrr.org.au/program/the-architects](http://www.3rrr.org.au/program/the-architects)

• Links to the top 10 can be found at [feeds.3rrr.fm/libsyn.com/rss/The%20Architects](http://feeds.3rrr.fm/libsyn.com/rss/The%20Architects)

ONLINE > Meet the architects behind the show.



It started out as a fill-in program



8 HOUSE



MILSTEIN HALL



1 8 HOUSE by Bjarke Ingels Group \ Copenhagen

On the outer edge of Copenhagen, 8 House is a bow-be-shaped 6.1-hectare mixed-use development that contains three different types of residential housing (apartments, penthouses and townhouses) and one hectare of retail and offices. The architect has cleverly stacked the elements of a lively urban neighbourhood into horizontal layers of typologies.

**Judges' comment** \ BIG always has one really strong idea that develops and becomes a complex thing. It's fine architecture for the masses.

2 MILSTEIN HALL, CORNELL UNIVERSITY by OMA \ upstate New York

Milstein Hall is the first new building in more than 100 years for the AAP (Cornell's College of Architecture, Art and Planning). Situated between Cornell's historic Arty Quad and the natural Falls Creek Gorge, the building redefines the entry for the northern end of the campus by creating a unified complex with continuous levels of indoor and outdoor interconnected spaces.

**Judges' comment** \ The project shows the skill of an experienced architect. They know when to edit, to hold back and when to go for it.

3 SKYLIGHT HOUSE by Chenchow Little Architects \ Sydney

Chenchow Little's residence in Sydney's Balmain proves that the inversion of a traditional Victorian terrace house is possible. Commended for its a masterful manipulation of a heritage-listed house, Chenchow Little has masterfully relocated the living areas to the top floor, where there is better access to the views and sunlight. A secondary bedroom and study are on the ground floor.

**Judges' comment** \ It successfully deals with the typology that a lot of inner-city housing has in Melbourne and Sydney: the tight little Victorian cottage that the architects opened it up, ensuring a fantastic light and sculptural quality.

4 PENLEIGH AND ESSENDON GRAMMAR by McBride Charles Ryan \ Melbourne

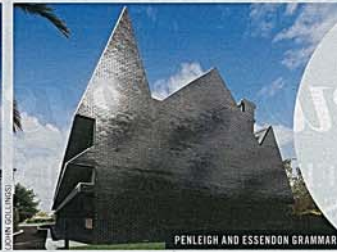
Known for its innovation and creativity, McBride Charles Ryan has come up with a robust, whimsical building in Penleigh and Essendon Grammar Junior School. It pushes the boundaries of educational design. The two-storey building houses years 5 and 6 boys and is an exceptional outcome of the Building the Education Revolution scheme. The new building toys with the idea of neighbourhood character.

**Judges' comment** \ The extrusion gate gives an amazing space on the upper level. The kids love it and the headmaster is in awe of it.

5 MOSES BRIDGE by RO&AD Architects \ Netherlands & Belgium

Designed by RO&AD Architects of Netherlands and Belgium, the Moses Bridge is an access route to the Fort de Roovere, part of the 17th-century defence structures. It has been described by the architects as an "invisible bridge" because all that can be seen from a distance is a marked line in the landscape that appears flat, not interrupting the views of the area. As you get closer, the fortress opens up, allowing you to experience the depth and unique concept of walking under water.

**Judges' comment** \ It's a startling image where the river gets cut in half. It takes the whole bridge typology to a new level.



6 MONA by Fender Katsalidis \ Tasmania

The Museum of Old and New Art is within the vineyard of Moonilla Estate. Set into the coastal landscape, Fender Katsalidis has designed new pavilions that emanate from the site with dynamic cartoon-like shapes and movement. The 9500-square metre building, clad in concrete and Corten steel panels, features roof gardens, a tennis court and spiralling walkways.

**Judges' comment** \ Impressed with the way it dealt with the site and the existing house and the sense of materiality. It's complex and rich.

7 SMALL HOUSE by Domenic Alvaro \ Sydney

Winning the small projects award at the National Australian Institute of Architects Awards, Small House is a five-storey ensemble built on a tiny 42-square metre corner in an inner-city suburb of Sydney. Small House has an external concrete façade, which is robust and elegant yet also malleable. Inside, it's minimal in palette and circulation; every space is pared back and used effectively.

**Judges' comment** \ A five-storey mini-tower of a house that looks a little bit like Japan in Sydney.

8 MEDIA-TIC by Cloud 9 \ Barcelona

Known for its experimentation with high-tech, Cloud 9 has created a 40-metre high cube, divided up into eight floors and clad in a warped mesh of steel cables and ETFE bubbles. This lends the building a quality of transparency but also serves as a unique environmental control.

**Judges' comment** \ Super sustainable with a very interesting façade system. It's a new way of approaching architecture.

9 SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES CENTRE by H2O ARCHITECTS \ MELBOURNE

From the street, the façade might look like a giant Lego piece, golf balls in a box or a piece of Swiss cheese, but on closer inspection the circular patterning and glazing provides an insulating thermal mass that lowers the need for temperature regulation. The front façade is dominated by a massive smart structures laboratory that houses equipment that can apply extreme loads to buildings. The transparency allows the public to watch scientists and engineers at work.

**Judges' comment** \ Swinburne University is a successful attempt to really mark it on the Hawthorn/Burwood precinct.

10 LAW STREET HOUSE by Muir Mendes \ Melbourne

Built over weekends for almost four years, Amy Muir and Bruno Mendes transformed a derelict 1880s worker's cottage into the self-built design. To pursue the desire to construct using their own hands, the architects created an immaculate, minimalist house, with smooth surfaces and dynamic shapes. Constructed from plate steel, the façade is robust and conceals the second storey within the adjusted roof pitch, mimicking the form of the site's former cottage. There is also a drawbridge to the front window, providing privacy and curating light when needed.

**Judges' comment** \ A spectacular project built almost entirely out of steel. Very efficient with space and a great step up from an emerging firm.