Awards recognise outstanding school facilities in Victoria

The 2012 CEFPI winners turned in iconic, practical and environmentally sound designs

**Category 1**
**New educational facility construction / entire educational facility**

**Winner**
KIOSC (Knox Innovation, Opportunity and Sustainability Centre)
Woods Bagot

**Architects’ statement**
KIOSC is part of the Federal Government’s Trade Training Centre Program and is a collaborative partnership between the Knox Consortium of seven schools and Swinburne University of Technology. The Discovery Centre has been conceived as an immersive environment for students in Years 7 to 12 in the concepts of sustainability, technology and innovation.

**Judges’ citation**
A dramatic architectural form based on strong sustainability principles. The building acts as a learning tool to help students understand the environmental role of buildings. The design incorporates a careful integration of colour, materials, form, technology and simulation to invigorate the learning spaces and engage learners in discovery.

The building embraces and defines exterior settings with strong links between indoors and outdoors. The designers describe how themes of ‘reflection’ and ‘refraction’ have influenced the design of the dramatic cranked vertical sun-blades, which provide active protection to glazing.

This architecture is the result of a collaborative partnership with multiple stakeholders.

**Category 2**
**New construction / new individual facility**

**Winner**
Warrnambool College Science and Language Centre
NOW Architecture

**Architects’ statement**
More than a building, the new Warrnambool College Science and Language Centre is a symbol of this community’s commitment to educational excellence and innovation. The “energy” in NOW architecture’s design is not only the breathing PV facade, but the way teachers and students have engaged with the flexible learning spaces.

**Judges’ citation**
Excellent collaborative planning process. Classrooms design and furniture layouts are adaptable to support the variety of intended teaching methodologies.

Building designed to utilise steep sloping site and incorporate numerous environmentally sustainable elements.
Category 3
Renovation / modernisation over $1 million

Winner
St Monica's Middle School
Baldasso Cortese Pty Ltd

Architects’ statement
The Middle School project delivered the task of modernising an Edwardian school building of traditional classrooms without compromising the strong heritage aesthetic and the school community’s emotional investment in the building’s history.

Judges’ citation
Transformative conversion of a traditional classroom layout into a finely nuanced range of agile learning areas with a wet construction area/kitchen at its heart.

Added benefit of multiple integrations between interior spaces with new outdoor learning ‘rooms’. This is a respectful architectural intervention of new to old with a sophisticated and non-institutional interior design. The interior resolution is exemplary for its purposeful settings.

Category 4
Renovation / modernisation under $1 million

Winner
Chelsea Primary School (The Bunjil Centre)
ClarkeHopkinsClarke Architects

Architects’ statement
Beginning in 2008 with the master plan, the school has undergone a total makeover based on the school’s clear sense of purpose – to provide contemporary learning spaces to support the schools’ constructivist pedagogy for 550 students.

Commendation
Hartwell Primary School
Baldasso Cortese Pty Ltd

Architects’ statement
ClarkeHopkinsClarke collaborated with Belmont Primary School to transform the existing cellular classrooms into flexible learning areas that support the school’s evolving pedagogy.

The new learning environments allow students to be grouped according to need, encourage collaborative and cooperative learning, and enable individual personalised learning while maintaining the school’s heritage character.

Commendation
Belmont Primary School
ClarkeHopkinsClarke Architects

Architects’ statement
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The new learning environments allow students to be grouped according to need, encourage collaborative and cooperative learning, and enable individual personalised learning while maintaining the school’s heritage character.
Architects’ statement
ClarkeHopkinsClarke worked with Chelsea Primary in bayside Melbourne to transform the cellular classrooms and associated areas on the first floor of their beautiful heritage red brick building.

They now have a dynamic, contemporary, student-centred, learning community that respects the building’s heritage and creates adaptable, inspiring spaces for junior students to discover their passion for learning.

Judges’ citation
Clear pedagogical vision managed throughout the process with consideration to enabling differentiated learning and teaching.

A transformation of a traditional brick school building opening up classrooms into a learning neighbourhood, this scheme can be seen as a useful prototype in terms of its approach for other schools in upgrading facilities to support contemporary pedagogies.

Restrained and focussed use of colour, finishes, acoustic considerations and formal insertions to define a range of pedagogical settings.

Commendation
Mt Beauty Primary School (Kiewa Room Years 3 /4 Learning Space)
No. 42 Architects

Architects’ statement
The Kiewa Room project transformed isolated, gloomy classrooms into an attentive, purposeful, reflexive, fluid, interactive, vibrant series of spaces that supports a whole range of pedagogical encounters.

Within this space the students appropriate spaces that suit their multimodal learning needs and respond to the affordances that the settings offer.

Category 5
Education initiative or design solution for an innovative program

Commendation
LaTrobe University Learning Commons
Baldasso Cortese Pty Ltd

Architects’ statement
The Latrobe University Bundoora Campus brief called for the conversion of underutilised rooms and corridor ‘eddy spaces’ into informal student focused hubs, available 24/7 with access to the wireless network. The installations occurred in the Donald Whitehead Building, Education and Humanities Corridor and Social Science Corridors.
Commendation
Places for Learning Publications
Kneeler Design Pty Ltd Architects

Architects statement
‘Places for Learning – Contemporary Designs in Education’ engages the educational community by presenting the best of contemporary facilities in a published format.

It allows the broader community a valuable insight into the school design process and also communicates vital information about the future direction for Victorian / Australian school design.

Category 6
Landscaping / outdoor learning area
Winner
St Macartan’s Primary School Outdoor Learnscapes
Law Architects Pty Ltd

Architects’ statement
St. Macartans natural outdoor learning spaces have become thriving places for active, engaged learning and playing.

A true collaboration of ideas and creative design, involving the school community, Law Architects, Sam Cox Landscapes and RB Landscapes has resulted in a seasonally responsive tactile natural place of wonder and delight that continues to evolve.

Judges’ citation
An extensive master planning process explored the ideals and philosophies of the school community and related the new school environment – both inside and out.

Attention to the ‘edges’ and the spaces ‘in between’ meant the design of the landscape and the buildings was able to occur simultaneously. The landscape exposes students to the natural world in a tangible and real way, thus engaging students as an active participant in their learning.

Design Awards Compendium
The Council of Educational Facility Planners International is a worldwide organisation sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices in planning, designing and building great learning environments including early learning centres, schools and higher education facilities.

The Victorian Chapter of the Australasian Region has been conducting an awards program for six years, and is the only architectural and design awards program that focuses on learning outcomes as a key criteria for success.

Each year Places for Learning – Contemporary Designs in Education is published as a compendium of the award submissions representing exemplar learning spaces in Victoria. This high quality publication is an excellent resource for educators and designers, to provoke ideas on how to use space to support pedagogical objectives.

Queensland-based Digistorm Education has developed a school-specific app for iPhone, iPad and Android devices. The company broke new ground when it released Australia’s first native iPhone App for a K-12 school in 2010, for King’s Christian College. Close to 50 schools across Australia and New Zealand have since adopted the School App including: Scots College in Wellington, St Paul’s School and Somerville House in Brisbane and Radford College in the ACT.

Parents, teachers and students at these schools can now access notices, event information, newsletters and urgent alerts anywhere, anytime. The School App also provides schools with the capability to send targeted push notifications instantly to users, at no cost. This was used to great effect by schools in Queensland to keep parents updated during the recent flooding.

Digistorm Director Tim Oswald says that, although the primary purpose of having a school app is to communicate efficiently with parents and the school community, there are significant cost savings to be had too. For example, by switching to a digital newsletter, a school with 1000 students can save up to $6000 annually that would otherwise have to be spent on a printing a fortnightly six-page newsletter.

The Digistorm School App comes in three packages. The entry level White Package provides schools with an easy to use communications platform for notices, and an events calendar.

The Orange Package adds a newsletter and contact directory, while the comprehensive Blue Package includes a virtual school map, as well as photo and video galleries. Each app is customised to the school’s needs and can be upgraded and expanded.

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