

Media House wins top award

Robert Harley

Media House in Melbourne, developed by Grocon, occupied by Fairfax Media, and owned by the Commonwealth Property Office Fund, was the big winner at the this year's Property Council of Australia awards.

The \$95 million property won the Australian development of the year award, the award for office development, and for best workplace project.

Property Council chief operating officer Ken Morrison said Media House was an "outstanding showcase of what Australia's property industry can produce".

"The development has achieved outstanding benchmarks in innovation and sustainability," he said.

The building, completed in 2009, is on the cusp of Docklands, opposite Southern Cross Station, and was designed by architects Bates Smart to house a changing media workplace, to push the bounds on sustainability and to connect to Melbourne.

It now has a "five star as built" rating from the Green Building Council of Australia and links to Melbourne with a "transparent ground floor" and plaza.

Mr Morrison said Media House had brought *The Age*, *The Australian Financial Review* and 3AW from a disconnected office environment to a new cohesive media landscape.

"Media House has a collaborative workplace designed to support a fast-paced work style, embracing change as the world of media evolves towards a highly integrated print and digital future," he said.

"The design of Media House's workplace expresses connection to the city and people of Melbourne, and is a true leader in Australian office design."

Along with Grocon and Bates Smart, the project team included Fulcrum Town Planners, Norman Disney & Young, Rider Levett Bucknall,



Fairfax Media's Melbourne office was praised for its innovation, sustainability and cohesiveness.

KEY POINTS

- The Fairfax site also won for office development and best workplace.
- It was part of a theme of sustainability in this year's awards.
- MONA won "best public building".

Westpac Banking Corporation and Winward Structures.

The award was presented in Sydney on Saturday evening.

Other winners were F Hannan Properties' Sydney Corporate Park for best business or industrial park development; the Stable Group's

Tryptych tower in Melbourne was the best residential development; and the best retail development was the extension of Sydney's Chatswood Chase by CFS Retail Property Trust.

Hines Property's Crown Plaza in Adelaide was the best tourism and leisure; the Kador Group's 39 Hunter Street refurbishment in Sydney won for best heritage and adaptive reuse; the Bonnyrig Living Communities project, being developed by Becton Corp for the NSW government took the award for best master-planned community; and Lend Lease's Martha's Point in Victoria was the best retirement living development.

Tasmania won two awards: Museum of Old and New Art for best public building, and The Charles, the Launceston Hospital revamp into a hotel, apartments and offices, for best mixed-use development.

Sustainability featured in three awards. The isek data centre developed by Brisbane Airport Corporation was the best sustainable development; the reworking of 1990s Carnegie Morgan Hill House in Sydney by Local Government Super was the best sustainable development of an existing building; and Grocon's Pixel project in Melbourne, won the award for innovation.