

Interior Design Awards 2019

Portraits **KRISTINA SOLJO**
Words **GAVIN KIRK**

Selected from an astonishing array of submissions, the recipients of this year's **BELLE COCO REPUBLIC INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS** represent a thrilling cross-section of Australia's immense design talent.

BEAUTIFUL BREW

Adopting materials inspired by centuries-old Japanese techniques, the ethereal composition of Sydney cafe Edition Coffee Roasters garnered Best Hospitality Interior for design practice Amber Road in the 2019 Belle Coco Republic Interior Design Awards. Photograph by Prue Ruscoe.

David Flack
FLACK STUDIO



INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS
WINNER
Belle Coco Republic Interior Designer of the Year

INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS
WINNER
Best Residential Bathroom CAULFIELD NORTH RESIDENCE

MELBOURNE-BASED INTERIOR architecture and design practice Flack Studio demonstrated they're an ongoing force to be reckoned with at this year's Interior Design Awards. For the impressive line-up of projects presented to the judges, traversing residential, commercial and hospitality categories, founder and director David Flack has been awarded 2019 *Belle Coco Republic Interior Designer of the Year*, and Flack Studio was awarded Best Residential Bathroom Design for its Caulfield North residence. David explains that the Caulfield North client's brief was for something sophisticated and timeless, while still maintaining grunt. Answering this call, Flack Studio's signature manoeuvring of materiality and a fastidious eye for detailing came into full effect. Inspiration for the design was drawn from fashion, art and the home's original architecture, resulting in a daring, high-energy space. Flack Studio's glowing Fitzroy residence was one among the body of work considered for the award. See it on page 152. Congratulations to David and the Flack Studio team. flackstudio.com.au



PROJECTS BY
Flack Studio



PHOTOGRAPHS: SHARIN CHAINS (HAWTHORN RESIDENCE, CASTORINA & CO.), ANSON SMART (CAULFIELD NORTH RESIDENCE, SANDY BAY RESIDENCE)

This page, clockwise from top left Interior architecture and design firm Flack Studio delivered to the panel of judges a stand-out selection of projects across residential, commercial and hospitality categories. Hawthorn residence living room. The bathroom at Caulfield North residence won Best Residential Bathroom. Hawthorn residence kitchen. Sandy Bay residence. The design of Fitzroy's Castorina & Co. complements the Italian furnishings on show. Fashion, art, design and the home's original architecture inspired the Caulfield North residence project.



Rachel Nolan
Patrick Kennedy
KENNEDY NOLAN



INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS
WINNER
Best Residential Kitchen
CAROLINE HOUSE

THE KITCHEN IS VITAL to a home – used at all times of the day and by all members of the household. Receiving the gong for Best Residential Kitchen Design, Patrick Kennedy and Rachel Nolan of Kennedy Nolan explain the approach for their Caroline House project as an aesthetic expression which is both clearly that of a kitchen but also a passive, gentle background to the open-plan arrangement of the home. They explored the elements that make up a kitchen and softened them or reduced them to a texture. The home's island bench is modelled as a curving form which relates to the overall geometry of the house and makes it seem less dominant in the space. Further, the tonal materials – small-format glazed baguette tiles and limed cabinetry – are consistent with the master palette. Continuous tiled surfaces break down the articulation of separate elements, including the rangehood tubes, while judicious integration of kitchen elements reduces visual noise and resolves in a peaceful kitchen design that doesn't attempt to conceal its essential use. Kennedy Nolan's Caroline House was also a finalist in 2019's Best Residential Interior category, see page 160. kennedynolan.com.au

TRANSLATING THE OWNER'S DESIRE for a spa-like space with gym functionality, and a nod to an Australian vernacular, lead designer Anna Trefely of Esoteriko conceived polished but simple interiors for Shelter in Sydney. The vision was to combine four distinct but interlinked wellness streams under one roof: ice baths, sauna, gym and juice bar. Housed within a former restaurant in the back lanes of Double Bay, the space was reborn in a palette of pale pink-tinged timbers, finished stainless steel, polished concrete floors, fresh grey and white painted walls, hand-cut snowy white tiles and generous slabs of warm orange granite. A play of light and shade and reflection is seen throughout the raked shed-like structure, including the naturally illuminated entry and juicery with its communal wooden table and built-in bench, draping greenery and eucalypt plantings. Moving further into the interiors, the semi-industrial ambience intensifies into the darkening and more intimate spaces of the gym, sauna and ice baths. Rather than fixed walls, screens delineate zones, keeping the sense of space without the loss of privacy. Visit homestolove.com.au/belle to view Shelter by Esoteriko. esoteriko.org

INTERIOR DESIGN AWARDS
WINNER
Best Commercial Interior
SHELTER

Anna Trefely
ESOTERIKO



Sarah-Jane Pyke
& Juliette Arent

ARENT & PYKE

INTERIOR DESIGN
AWARDS

WINNER

Best Residential Interior
UNDER THE TREE

FOR JULIETTE ARENT AND SARAH-JANE PYKE of Sydney interior design studio Arent & Pyke, the fiddle leaf fig that rises up the light well of their Under the Tree residence could be seen to represent the organic nature of the project, which grew and branched out over six years, and for which the design duo have been awarded Best Residential Interior. Joining the project towards the end of the boundary-pushing build – boasting a robust palette of sandstone bricks, bagged brickwork and polished concrete – Arent & Pyke layered the home with warmth, personality and intimate spaces. The light well and its fig formed the centrepiece for this open-plan family hub. To the front is the original timber cottage, now stained black, while the rear addition encompasses three brick volumes decreasing in width like a telescope tube towards the galley kitchen and courtyard. The raw palette received a softening layer that allowed the original qualities to show through, with lighting integral in achieving this delicate balance. Colours charged with the same task are earthy and warm – from mustard to forest green – and textures range from abaca rugs, wool and bouclé to Belgian linen and cowhide. Visit homestolove.com.au/belle to view Under the Tree by Arent & Pyke. arentpyke.com

STUDIO PARTNERS AND SISTERS interior architect Yasmine Ghoniem (pictured) and landscape architect Katy Svalbe make up Sydney-based design practice Amber Road. For this year's awards, Amber Road presented a suite of projects that demonstrate bold, confident use of colour spanning the full spectrum, including Sydney's Collectionist hotel. To recognise this superb body of work, Amber Road has been awarded Best Work with Colour, while Yasmine was awarded Best Hospitality Interior for the design of Edition Coffee Roasters in Haymarket, Sydney. At Edition Coffee Roasters, the cafe emanates traditional Japanese rural life, existing in stark contrast to its modern surrounds. This notion was developed by applying materials inspired by centuries-old techniques including *shou sugi ban*, a method of preserving timber by charring it; *sharasu kabe*, a unique raked wall plaster made from volcanic soil; and *zaisu*, Japanese seating typified as a chair with no legs. As a result, the highly textured yet all-black palette is forever in flux, deviating from inky indigo to warm browns depending on available light. Visit homestolove.com.au/belle to view Edition Coffee Roasters and selected works by Amber Road. amberroaddesign.com.au

Yasmine Ghoniem

AMBER ROAD



INTERIOR DESIGN
AWARDS

WINNER

Best Hospitality Interior
EDITION COFFEE
ROASTERS

INTERIOR DESIGN
AWARDS

WINNER

Best Work with Colour

Dylan Farrell

DYLAN FARRELL DESIGN

INTERIOR DESIGN
AWARDS

WINNER

Emerging Design Star

SPARKED BY THE OWNERS' DESIRE for a cosmopolitan, ultra-modern interior within the voluminous spaces of the harbour-facing home they were enamoured with, the Sydney Contemporary Perch project by Dylan Farrell Design is one of the alluring projects presented to the judges which saw Dylan become the deserving winner of Emerging Design Star. Sited atop a dramatic ledge overlooking one of Sydney's magnificent waterways, the interiors of the seven-bedroom home – the living room of which graces the cover of this issue – were inventively stripped back, reconfigured and punctuated by saturated hits of colour. To begin to tame the cavernous spaces and to paint a sense of warmth and architectural rhythm, Dylan opened up a series of four timber-framed passageways leading to the dining/kitchen space and the flanking family and living rooms, and between the kitchen and back hallway. While natural materials and inventive nods to nature abound, vivid colour was used to temper the earthy palette and to enliven the spaces, providing the once rambling architecture with a sense of liveliness, curiosity, comfort and cause. See Sydney Contemporary Perch on page 184. dylanfarrell.com