

Griffith University students receive NAHC Design Competition Award

27 May 2015



Professor George Earl, Chairman NAHC



Alan Tupicoff, Director at Atsolve

Last year, the National Affordable Housing Consortium (NAHC) sponsored a national design competition for architecture students. The competition, entitled 'Whole of Life: Whole of Use' aimed to provide innovative affordable housing solutions for people living with disabilities and which incorporated recent National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) reforms. The competition was open to architecture students with entries received from four universities: Bond University, Griffith University, the University of New South Wales and the University of Melbourne.

The aim of the Whole of Life: Whole of Use was to bring saleable cost-effective design to the market. Entrants were encouraged to be open and creative, but at the same time practical and rational, when designing liveable space suitable for disabled and fully abled people, promoting independent living as well as social inclusion.

NAHC wishes to congratulate Sobi Slingsby and Jacob Hough, Griffith University students who were presented with the Highly Commended (Outstanding Design – Medium Density Housing) award. The award was presented by Professor George Earl, Chairman of the Board of NAHC and former Dean of the Institute of Sustainable Development and Architecture at Bond University. The students also received the GPM Sustainability Award from Alan Tupicoff, Director at Atsolve (a project and contract management consultancy firm). The awards were presented at the State Library of Queensland's Asia Pacific Design Library where an exhibition of the students work was on display during May 2015.

Read more about the ['Whole of Life: Whole of Use' Design Competition.](#)

[\(Insert Rotating Pictures\)](#)



Whole of Life: Whole of Use – Student Design Competition

An exhibition held at the State Library of Queensland’s Asia Pacific Design Library during May 2015, looked at submissions for a student national design competition that aimed to provide new solutions for affordable housing for people living with disabilities, incorporating the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) reforms.

Sponsored by the National Affordable Housing Consortium (NAHC), the competition was open to architecture students with entries received from four universities: Bond University, Griffith University, the University of New South Wales and the University of Melbourne.

Seven competition judges, from diverse disciplines, generously donated their time. Leading the judging panel was Professor George Earl, NAHC Board of Directors Chair. He was joined by Kevin McMahan the Director of Marketing and Regulation of NDIA, Eloise Atkinson Director of Deicke Richards Architects, Craig McHardy Director of WT Partnership, Amelia Starr Executive Director of Livable Housing Australia, Dr Tom Alves Senior Adviser at the Office of the Victorian Government Architect and Alan Tupicoff the Executive Director for GPM: Asia Pacific.

Dr Andrew Martel from the University of Melbourne, says *“The students were presented with a real design issue, one that most of them were largely unaware of, that provided a challenge and an opportunity to think critically about their profession. The extensive industry engagement from government, developers,*

designers and the not-for-profit sector was important in extending but also grounding their design focus. It was great for the students”.

The aim of the *Whole of Life: Whole of Use* was to bring saleable cost-effective design to the market. Entrants were encouraged to be open and creative, but at the same time practical and rational, when designing liveable space suitable for disabled and fully abled people, promoting independent living as well as social inclusion.

The awarded teams followed the brief very carefully and demonstrated sophisticated thinking and clarity behind the design. With functionality as a key to good design, all homes in the winning submissions provide a very high level of accessibility. The concept of sustainable living, rather than sustainable housing is the focus of the winning designs. Thought has been given to replicability, deliverability, flexibility and usability.

One of the participating student groups interpreted the brief as *“not to design housing for the disabled, but to explore how intelligent and thoughtful design can increase the housing choices of people who over the course of their life have, or may acquire, a physical or mental disability”.*

Due to the overwhelming success and quality of the entries, NAHC is considering an annual competition event, to build on the research and findings of *Whole of Life: Whole of Use*.

Winner - Harmonio Us & SuburbaNext (University of New South Wales)

Highly Commended & Sustainability Prize - Propagating Habitats (Griffith University)



























