

19 July 2021

Sub Base Platypus garners further industry acclaim at NSW Architecture Awards

Harbour Trust site, Sub Base Platypus has been recognised at the NSW Architecture Awards for renewal works undertaken to transform the former Submarine Base and Gasworks site into a public domain, receiving two awards; the Heritage Award NSW and the highest honour in the Urban Design Category (NSW) – the Lloyd Rees Award.

This marks the second time this year, that Sub Base Platypus has received significant industry recognition after the National Trust named the emerging waterfront destination the winner of the Adaptive Re-use category at the 2021 National Heritage Awards.

Libby Bennett, Director of Projects at the Harbour Trust, said the award recognised the meticulous work undertaken to transform the site and open it to the public.

“The ethos behind the Harbour Trust’s transformation of Sub Base Platypus has been to reveal, reimagine and activate this important historic site, preserving an important part of the heritage of Sydney Harbour,” said Ms Bennett.

“The latest awards are also a testament to lahznimmo architects and landscape architects ASPECT Studios, two of our collaborators on the Sub Base Platypus Renewal Project,” she said.

Trent Zimmerman, Member for the North Sydney, echoed these sentiments.

“I am delighted that the Sub Base Platypus site has been recognised at the NSW Architecture Awards,” said Mr Zimmerman.

“I am proud to have secured funding from the federal government to develop this historic and beautiful site into a haven for our local community to enjoy for years to come. It will be a lasting legacy for future generations and is one of the projects I have been most excited to champion for our area. The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has been one of the most innovative federal agencies and it is wonderful to see their incredible work awarded in this way,” he said.

The NSW Architecture Awards Jury commended lahznimmo architects for their generous approach to opening up much of Sub Base Platypus to the public for safe access and recreation, maximising opportunities for public access and conserving the site’s rich history. Lahznimmo architects and ASPECT Studios were also applauded for thoughtfully referencing the site’s naval history in their design work and complementing its unique character with contemporary forms of materials that support wayfinding across the site.

When Sub Base Platypus was opened by the Harbour Trust in May 2018, it marked the first time the site – formerly a gasworks, torpedo factory and submarine base – had been accessible to the public in 150 years. The Harbour Trust’s work to renew and improve access to the site continues.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES: Please contact Rebecca Hill at the Harbour Trust on 0409 266 248 or Rebecca.Hill@harbourtrust.gov.au.

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