

STATE LIBRARY QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

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State Library wins national design award

State Library of Queensland's transformed children's space, [The Corner](#), has won a [2026 Australian Good Design Award](#), one of the country's highest design honours.

Announced in Sydney on Friday night, the award was presented in the Built Environment – Architectural Design category, recognising the design excellence of the new purpose-built space following its \$3.6 million redevelopment.

Reopened in April, The Corner was designed by Brisbane firm Architectus to inspire creativity, curiosity and learning through play.

The award-winning space features a dedicated art studio, giant building blocks, cosy reading nooks and a garden courtyard where children and families can explore, create and connect.

The Corner has been a national leader in play-based learning since 2006, reflecting State Library's commitment to supporting children's wellbeing, early development, school readiness and lifelong learning.

Judges' comments: *"The Jury recognises The Corner as a deeply considered civic learning environment that transforms early childhood development into a spatial and cultural experience grounded in play, inclusion and collective care. The project demonstrates exceptional sensitivity to children's scale, sensory engagement and public accessibility while extending the civic role of the library through architecture. The Jury commends this delightful and imaginative learning space as an early childhood development centre of excellence, employing design, detail, material, texture and colour to engage with children aged 0-5 and support their early brain development while generating evidence-based, scalable resources for Queensland's statewide network of public libraries."*

State Library has also won Good Design Awards for the [Corley Explorer](#) in 2020 and [Design Minds](#) in 2018, recognising their excellence in digital design, education and public access to historical collections.

State Library's redeveloped building, designed by Donovan Hill Peddle Thorp, was itself awarded Australia's top prize for public architecture in 2007: the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Architecture.

Quotes from Minister for Education and the Arts John-Paul Langbroek:

“This award recognises the outstanding design of the State Library of Queensland’s purpose-built space for children, their parents and carers, following a \$3.6 million redevelopment.

“The Corner demonstrates how thoughtful design can create welcoming, inclusive places for children and families to explore together, supporting literacy, play-based learning and creativity.

“The Crisafulli Government is proud to support the State Library of Queensland’s delivery of dynamic spaces and programs that ensure arts for all Queenslanders and strengthen the state’s reputation as a vibrant cultural destination ahead of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.”

Quotes from Acting State Librarian and CEO Scott Martin:

“After reopening in its new location only a few months ago, The Corner is already one of State Library’s most popular and active spaces.

“This award not only celebrates thoughtful and purposeful design, but also the value of free, accessible and welcoming places for children and families.

“As we approach the 20th anniversary of the Millennium Library Project, it is wonderful to see State Library continue its tradition of architectural excellence and creating public spaces with purpose.”

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Interviews available on request.