



**2005 HPA MIRVAC AWARD Winner: Joshua Morrin, The University of Sydney ([download Presentation PDF](#) - 2.5m)**

**Title: 'Newtown Cultural Precinct'**

Morrin responded to a class brief for a small public building on a triangular site at the junction of Darlington and King Streets. The site is an extremely difficult one to address given both its geometry and location. Morrin's solution was to consolidate the public program in a three-storey 'glass box' at the rear of the site, leaving the most difficult part of the triangle to be solved via other means. The "box" is solved simply, with a clear circulation pattern and presentation to the court below.

The cleverness in Morrin's solution however is not to consign this exposed corner to a notional "public space", the qualities of which would be unlikely to support meaningful public interaction or any convincing use. Rather, Morrin accepts the difficulty of the pointed end and the reality of that corner (that traffic and external influences may never enable a habitable public space) via its treatment as a sculptural paved element that exists in its own right as a foreground for the 3-storey block (and intertwines with the building façade tying both together as a single gesture) while negotiating elegantly between a sunken softscape garden and the surrounding traffic intersection. This third element - the garden - is sunken below pavement level to create a cool, green oasis that would provide a welcome respite from the Newtown summer heat and the intensity of traffic and movement at street level. The result of Morrin's interventions is a scheme which addresses the urban design issues at this difficult corner in a lateral way, creating in the process a strong building that presents itself directly to the street axis. The gutsy, raw quality of the building as presented further confirms its appropriateness for the "rough and tumble" of its King Street address.

**COMMENDATION Edmund Spencer – The University of Sydney Sir Hermann Black Gallery** Edmond Spencer's project is for the Sir Hermann Black Gallery, City Road Newtown The building form was very much determined by the triangular form of the site.

**Even More Riches from Rags: Uni Helps Smith Family with a Sustainable product, using their excess clothing donations**

Jingfeng Xu, a research student in the School of Architecture, Design Science and Planning has been developing a new method of optimising the acoustic performance of absorbent materials, as part of his PhD research. He is currently helping The Smith Family improve the performance of the felts they produce from recycled fabrics. These felts can then be used in car bonnets etc to reduce engine noise. This would revolutionise the industry - introducing a recycled product which is more successful in reducing engine noise than current products. Just think what wonderful things the Smith Family could do with the profits. Together with Rick Moss and Phil Granger, from the Technical Services Centre in the Faculty, Jingfeng has recently completed the successful design, construction and evaluation of an air flow resistance measurement apparatus. The apparatus complies with the requirement of American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) C522-03. More information: Fergus Fricke: [ferg@arch.usyd.edu.au](mailto:ferg@arch.usyd.edu.au)

**July Events**

Please join us

Sat 25 June – Sat 16 July, Tues – Sat 11am – 5pm Tin Sheds Gallery  
**such an ordinary thing:** Izabela Pluta, Niomi Sands, Neal Smith, Martin Wilson  
curated by Diana Robson

Wed 6 July 6pm Faculty Hearth  
**Alumni Wednesday Drinks**  
All alumni, friends of the Faculty and staff are invited

Tuesday 19 July 6pm Stephen Roberts Lecture Theatre  
Public Lecture given by **Glenn Murcutt, Rick Leplastrier and Peter Stutchbury**

Sat 22 July – Sat 13 August Tues – Sat 11am – 5pm Tin Sheds Gallery  
**The Grey Voice: Contemporary Australian Drawing**  
curated by Jacqueline Rose and Jasmin Stephens

For more news on upcoming events, see  
<http://www.arch.usyd.edu.au/web/general/whatson.html>

**Alumni Association News**

**Wednesday Drinks** is happening again – the first Wednesday in the month – on 6 July 6pm – 8pm in the Faculty Hearth, level2, Wilkinson Building. Catch up with old friends and meet new alumni.

**Careers Market Day** will be held again on 17 August. If your company would like to have a stand at this event, contact Varoujan Bedrossian on [varoujan@shavar.com.au](mailto:varoujan@shavar.com.au).

**Showcase 05** – an exhibition of recent alumni work - is open to all graduates of the Faculty of both undergraduate and postgraduate courses, in all disciplines. More information is available at <http://www.arch.usyd.edu.au/web/alumni/index.html#showcase>

**Members of Juries** - Alumni are asked to assist as visiting jurors for assessment of BDes(Arch) projects. Please contact [alumni@arch.usyd.edu](mailto:alumni@arch.usyd.edu)

Update your contact details at <http://www.usyd.edu.au/alumni>.  
Enquiries: Sue Lord, Development Officer at [alumni@arch.usyd.edu.au](mailto:alumni@arch.usyd.edu.au) or phone +61 2 9351 5906  
Please pass **etype** on to all who are interested in our Faculty.