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# INDESIGN

INDE.Awards Shortlist 2022

INDESIGN Luminary Simone LeAmon & Ewan McEoin

Ballarat Government Hub, John Wardle Architects

Hafary Gallery, Park + Associates

AIM Architecture

Indesign's 'State of Wellbeing' Issue



An aerial photograph of a modern, multi-story residential building with a curved facade and glass balconies. The building is surrounded by a large, circular green lawn. In the foreground, there is a playground with a wooden structure and a sandpit. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. A yellow text box is located in the upper right corner of the image.

### **The Village Green**

The “green heart” of Bowden Brae by PTW makes space for inter-generational and incidental interactions.





The more you dive into Bowden Brae, the more it becomes a small city in itself that encourages interaction and social connection. Jones notes that, “There’s no difference really between this and a good neighbourhood. They shouldn’t look any different. There’s connection and resilience in that connection. One resident in his 60s had a neighbour that was 90. She made him cake because he took the garbage out. The neighbours look after each other. Our jobs as architects is the translation of social models.”

Jones describes the approach as “people-centric, community-centric, all-of-the-above-centric. The inter-generational aspect is also essential. The playground and café open on a green heart that’s home to endless incidental interactions.”

There’s a unique sense of place as well. Jones notes that many concepts of vertical living and aging in place are centred on an atrium. “But that’s not desirable in Australia. We replaced

it with big open space that connects to nature.” The place is undeniably Australian.

So, where to from here: How do we develop better places and spaces that continue to push the envelope? Webb notes that, “Twenty years ago benchmarking became essential and lots of green standards took shape. The last 10 years has been a welcome focus on health and wellness. The next should be building as part of nature, not just integrating nature. Hopefully in 10 years’ time aspects of health and wellness are givens and we’re on to a new paradigm of interrelated systems.”

Maybe a better fundamental and expanding definition of health and wellbeing will help us ensure that our healthy places are built for life in its truest sense.

[designinc.com.au](http://designinc.com.au), [ptw.com.au](http://ptw.com.au)

Page 140-145: DesignInc’s Glenroy Community Hub is an inspired convergence of nature, health and wellness and community with a grounded sense of place, photos: Dianna Snape. Opposite and above: Bowden Brae, by PTW, is fashioned like a small city that encourages interaction and social connection, photos: Pablo Veiga.