

CONFIRMED

**Canberra Architecture: Glenn Murcutt
December 14 (Tue.) 17: 30 – 18: 00
The Residence of Japanese Ambassador to Australia**

The presentation ceremony for Mr. Glenn Murcutt, laureate for Architecture, was presided over by Japan's Ambassador to Australia HE Mr. Shingo Yamagami at the official residence of the Japanese Ambassador in Canberra on December 14th.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Ambassador Yamagami conveyed the following message of HH Prince Hitachi, Honorary Patron of the Japan Art Association.

“Originally, I would have liked to see you in Tokyo and present you with the medal. But due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Awards Ceremony was canceled, which is a great regret. I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on your receiving this award.”

Then, Ambassador Yamagami handed Mr. Murcutt his medal and testimonial letter. Mr. Murcutt remarked, “As a 2021 recipient, it took me completely by surprise. This award is wonderful for architecture in Australia and of course, for me, personally.”

His wife, Ms. Wendy Lewin, also a well-known architect, and a select group of friends including architects were present. The event was recorded by a commemorative photo with all the attendees taken after the ceremony. This was followed by a dinner hosted by Ambassador Yamagami.

Message from Mr. Murcutt

As a 2021 recipient, it took me completely by surprise. This award is wonderful for architecture in Australia and of course, for me, personally. I've never sought such recognition but when it has come, it's always been wonderful. I'm deeply appreciative and honoured in having been given this award - but even more so by joining the other recipients for whom I've the greatest admiration and respect.

I've practiced architecture quietly for just on 52 years, mostly alone and intentionally, in one country only, Australia. At times, I've worked in collaboration with Wendy Lewin, Reginald Lark, Hakan Elevli and Angelo Candalepas, those architects for whom I have the deepest respect.

Through childhood, our father instilled in us much of the philosophy of Henry David Thoreau and particularly (Quote) “since most of us spend our lives doing ordinary things, the most important thing is to carry them out extraordinarily well” and my father added ... “and to be able to go to the beach where no one knows who you are.”

I'm sure that this way of family living, education and working, has informed me in my professional life, especially avoiding self-promotion and notoriety. This form of sole-person practice has placed huge demands on my family - and me-, and I'm deeply grateful to each family member, especially my wife Wendy Lewin.

Of course, architecture is never done alone. There are my many wonderful clients, all of whom have trusted and given me great support. Also, my engineers Dick Taylor, followed by his son James Taylor, they have been with me since 1979, and of course there are the many excellent builders who have brought ideas to fruition.

The practice of architecture requires real dedication that attracts huge responsibility. For me, Architecture demands appropriate responses to issues and not the imposition of irrelevancies - and finally, working towards the clarification of the essential.