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Burnett Lane, Brisbane CBD

Brecknock Consulting were engaged by City Design, a division of Brisbane City Council, to curate and project manage artwork commissions for Burnett Lane. Burnett Lane, which runs parallel to Queen Street Mall between Albert and George Streets in Brisbane's CBD, is the first laneway to be rejuvenated as part of the Brisbane City Council's Vibrant Laneways initiative.

Key objectives for the Burnett Lane artwork program were to deliver a series of works within the laneway which, encouraged pedestrians into the lane, had a site specific response, reflect existing qualities and history, and contribute to a distinctive identity for the lane. The resulting artworks included a road/bitumen treatment along the length of the lane and a temporary work on one of the building facades. Both of the artworks drew inspiration from the Lane's namesake J C Burnett who was one of Brisbane's earliest

surveyors.

Artist Elizabeth Woods was commissioned to develop a concept for the laneway pavement treatment, which included an applied surface treatment to the asphalt, using a technique called Duratherm which is a thermoplastic stencil-cut material applied to the heated asphalt surface, and an inlaid design for a central granite pavement. Works were installed in June 2010. The work takes the form of a central carpet runner for the Lane, an ornate pattern which adds a domestic quality, enhancing the Lane-way's intimacy and pedestrian amenity. The inlaid pavement design features a compass as a formal centre-piece and tribute to Burnett the surveyor. Woods states, 'The artwork for Burnett Lane is a journey from the organic to the abstract, from an organic forest floor pattern to a more geometric, linear network, from an earthy brown to a more artificial lime green. This work addresses what is essentially a chronology of the landscape and the role of the surveyor.' Photo credit: Elizabeth Woods

The second installed work is a temporary commission on the façade of 86 Burnett Lane by artist Natalie Billing and was installed in July 2010. Billing felt that the weathered façade had the appearance of a newspaper page and so her artwork overlays historical references in text and graphic again in the manner of a chronology and a surveyor's mapping. The upper façade features two major elements: a black 'wire frame' illustration taken from Burnett's trigonometrical survey of the Darling Downs; and a large-scale silhouette in light gray of a 1840s gentleman with the profile of Burnett's nephew, as one of the many interesting facts about Burnett is that there are no pictures of him. The lower façade makes for interesting close-hand viewing with posters and text-works referring to Burnett and other pertinent historical facts about the Lane.

These artworks have cleverly added new layers of pattern, texture and detail to this already gritty and interesting urban lane, demonstrating that contemporary public art is not just all about the new but can complement and celebrate the old, the neglected and the forgotten.

AILA National 2010 Awards

The recently announced Australian Institute of Landscape Architects [AILA] national awards included two projects that Brecknock Consulting is pleased to have had involvement in.

Landscape Architecture Design

AECOM - Southport Broadwater Parklands, Gold Coast, Queensland

"The Awards Jury felt that Southport Broadwater Parklands project represents a 'new look' Gold Coast. Funded through the Q150 Legacy Infrastructure Program, the masterplanning and first stage of construction has delivered a project of big sweep that has the potential to become one of Australia's great foreshore parks."

Brecknock Consulting were the public art curators and project managers for Stage 1 and worked closely with the AECOM design team and Abigroup to deliver a highly innovative and environmentally responsive artwork by Sydney artist John Tonkin. For more information visit www.brecknockconsulting.com.au

Landscape Architecture Urban Design Award

City Design, Brisbane City Council - Brisbane Foreshore Parklands, Brisbane

"The implemented projects have enhanced recreation and residential development

opportunities along Morton Bay generating social, cultural and economic benefits, while protecting and strengthening natural, scenic and cultural values of this stretch."

Brecknock Consulting worked with City Design in the early planning stage of the Brisbane Foreshore Parklands project and prepared an Art Opportunities Report to inform the commissioning of artwork during the implementation phase.

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