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Controversial Hobart building now people's darling

A landmark Hobart building, which encountered significant opposition during the Development Application stage, has won the People's Choice Prize at this year's Australian Institute of Architect's Tasmanian Chapter Awards.

The Medical Science 1 building at the University of Tasmania's Medical Science Precinct, on the corner of Liverpool and Campbell Streets, features architectural references to the surrounding landscape of Hobart and the scientific research that is undertaken within the building.

Lyons Architects director, Adrian Stanic, said the unique design elements of the building and internal functionality have helped make it a favourite now with the public, as well as those who work and study in it.

"The building brings together the School of Medicine and the Menzies Research Institute in a co-location which is reflected in its social and functional planning, particularly highlighted in the central feature stair connecting all levels.

"The organic nature, cellular window arrangement and curvilinear form of MS1 references the building's medical research and training function, as well as reflecting the surrounding mountains and Derwent River.

"Although the building design created some public controversy during the planning stage, it has been very pleasing to see it accepted, initially once it was constructed and now with this award."

"The prominent corner site and scale of the building meant it was important to achieve an architectural solution that contributes positively to the diversity of Hobart city", Mr Stanic said.

Lyons is now working on the design for MS2, a second stage building adjoining MS1 which will incorporate clinical teaching facilities, specialist laboratories and offices.

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