

AFFORDABLE LIVING



Affordable housing community project for seniors, Bothwell Street, has earned an architect design award for Arkhefield.

WINNING SOCIAL DESIGN

RESHNI RATHNAM

The architectural design of a 57-single bedroom unit complex at Mt Gravatt for senior residents of social housing has been recognised by the region's top architects.

The Bothwell Street project was designed for Brisbane Housing Company helping to balance affordability and built quality on a site with mostly residential neighbours, and providing residents with a home that was downsized and easier to manage.

The two buildings within the complex are naturally ventilated and offer green space and communal areas for residents to remain connected within their community.

Bothwell Street, by Arkhefield, won an

award at the Australian Institute of Architects State Architecture Awards (Residential Architecture - Multiple Housing).

Arkhefield associate David Langley said the design outcome was a reflection of a great collaboration between the design team, the client and the stakeholders.

"On Bothwell Street in particular, the residents take as much excitement in the awards as we do, which is really rewarding," Mr Langley said.

"This project is quite unique in what it achieves both architecturally and socially."

Mr Langley said working in conjunction with Brisbane Housing Company and the State



Government on a site that was unattractive to conventional developers was a viable prospect.

"The business model also addressed under occupancy, a contributing factor to current social housing demands," he said.

"Residents moving to Bothwell Street free up under-occupied Department of Housing stock, allowing it to be better used by tenants requiring more appropriately sized properties for their needs."

Giggara House tenant Patsie Cuning, pictured above, said she felt like she was on holidays during the first few months of her tenancy.

"I moved in March 2015 after living in the local area for 35 years in housing commission," said the 69-year-old.

"I had four children but they grew up and moved away. I was on my own, and as you get older the arthritic kicks in. The gardens were huge in the old houses, I couldn't do it anymore. When this opportunity came along to move into a new home with a balcony, which was on my wish list forever, I had to take it."

Ms Cuning said she loved socialising with other tenants and enjoyed the quiet lifestyle.

Mr Langley said many people had low expectations of architectural quality associated with affordable housing communities.