

GOLD
COAST

OPEN HOUSE

27-28
SEPTEMBER
2025

PROGRAM

EXPLORE THE BUILDINGS, SPACES
& PLACES OF THE GOLD COAST

goldcoastopenhouse.com.au



Pink Hotel
Image: yonda.com.au

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Gold Coast Open House proudly acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our events are held, the Kombumerri and Yugambeh Language Group families of the Gold Coast. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise their continuing connections to the lands, waters, wildlife and extended communities throughout South East Queensland.

COVER IMAGE: Abedian School of Architecture, Bond University.
Photographer, Peter Bennetts.



Tugun Hill House
Photo by Frances Wu

GOLD COAST OPEN HOUSE 27-28 SEPTEMBER 2025

CONTENTS

P3	Messages
P6	The Power of Place: Where Art, Architecture & Design Meet, SWELL Festival fundraiser
P9	EmAGN panel discussion @ Bond University
P10	2025 program
P11	Building list
P12	Map
P14	Buildings
P22	Transport options
P24	Griffith University Precinct
P25	Panel Discussions
P28	Walks
P30	Partners
P32	2024 Photography Competition - Exhibition
P33	2025 Photography Competition - get camera ready!
P34	Support Us



Her Excellency The Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM Governor Of Queensland

As Governor of Queensland and Patron of Gold Coast Open House, I am pleased to support this wonderful organisation, which celebrates the city's rich built environment and heritage.

In an ever-changing coastal setting shaped by both natural forces and the needs of a diverse, engaged community, this year's theme of 'Resilience' is most fitting. The Gold Coast continues to evolve, creating places of architectural significance and public interest that make it a destination of choice for many.

The city's urban landscape is central to its vibrancy, and this energy is at the heart of Gold Coast Open House. Congratulations on presenting a program of insightful tours and inspiring discussions that capture the unique spirit of the Gold Coast.

**Her Excellency the Honourable
Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM
Governor of Queensland**



Mayor Tom Tate City of Gold Coast

The City of Gold Coast is proud to support Gold Coast Open House 2025.

This event provides a unique window into the amazing architecture of some of the city's most recognisable buildings including hidden gems tucked away in our suburbs.

As our city grows, Open House helps tell the story of spaces and places that define who we are and where we have come from.

Importantly, Open House allows the community to become more knowledgeable about our built-form history, how the environment impacts decision-making and what drove the thinking behind some of the architectural treasures dotted throughout the coast.

I encourage everyone with an interest in design and urban landscape to engage in the Open House program in 2025.

You will be captured by architect-led tours as well as panel discussions on what makes our city the place we all call home. It's time to unlock those secret doors.

**Mayor Tom Tate
City of Gold Coast**



Leah Lang **Queensland Government Architect**

The Gold Coast Open House program is a remarkable celebration of our city's architectural heritage and innovative design. As the Queensland Government Architect, I was born here and am currently raising my family in this special place, which makes supporting this event even more personal to me.

This program highlights extraordinary public spaces like the HOTA cultural precinct, showcasing how vibrant design enriches community life. It also emphasizes sustainable and resilient housing initiatives that are essential for our city's future, demonstrating how thoughtful design promotes environmental responsibility and liveability.

By opening doors to iconic buildings and spaces, this free event offers a unique chance for our community to connect with the stories of our city and be part of shaping a Gold Coast that is inclusive, sustainable, and inspiring for generations to come.

Leah Lang
Queensland Government Architect
Office of the Queensland Government
Architect



Chris Cummings **Chair, Gold Coast Open House**

The Gold Coast is a city that continually reinvents itself. Shaped by water, weather, and waves, its story is written into our buildings, streets, and public spaces, some bold, others quietly significant, all contributing to our city's unique rhythm.

Gold Coast Open House 2025, under the theme of resilience, invites us to take a closer look at how our built environment is responding to the challenges of our time, from climate adaptation and sustainable design to preserving cultural heritage and creating inclusive communities. This year's program offers rare access to diverse sites across the city, alongside tours, talks, and workshops. A highlight is the Speaker Series at Griffith University, where architects, researchers, and community leaders will explore everything from renewable energy retrofits to multi-generational housing.

This free festival is made possible by our partners, volunteers, and the City of Gold Coast, with special thanks to our Patron, Ambassadors, and Mayor.

Christopher Cumming
Chair, Gold Coast Open House

THE POWER OF PLACE: WHERE ART, ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN MEET

2025 FUNDRAISING EVENT



GOLD
COAST **OPEN**
HOUSE

Arabesque
Photo by Andy Scott

WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 4 - 8PM

\$120 + BOOKING FEE (UNTIL SOLD OUT)

Join **Gold Coast Open House** for an in-depth discussion with a dynamic panel, including: **Joe Snell, Shannon Best, Natasha Edwards & Gerard McCormick.**

- GUIDED SCULPTURE EXPERIENCE WITH SWELL CURATORS
- FOOD & WELCOME BEVERAGE
- EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION

BOOK HERE



The Power of Place: Where Art, Architecture & Design Meet

Join Gold Coast Open House for a lively discussion with a dynamic panel of artists, architects and designers as they explore how creative disciplines shape the way we live, work and connect. From coastal pavilions to large-scale installations, the conversation will explore how the built environment, and the stories it holds, shape our understanding of place.

Event Details:

When Wednesday 17th September

Time 4:00pm – 8:00pm

Where Fringe Pavilion, Wallace Nicoll Park, Currumbin Beach

What's included:

A guided twilight walk through the iconic SWELL Sculpture Festival, where over 80 large-scale sculptures transform the coastline into a captivating outdoor gallery.

You'll then be welcomed with an arrival drink, and invited into the exclusive SWELL Art Party marquee, where you'll enjoy grazing boards and great company.

As the sun sets, settle in for a delicious beachside paella dinner in a relaxed, creative atmosphere.

The evening culminates in a thought-provoking panel discussion – The Power of Place: Where Art, Architecture & Design Meet – moderated by Joe Snell of Studio Snell. This engaging conversation will feature Indigenous culture specialist Shannon Best, SWELL co-founder Natasha Edwards and artist/landscape architect Gerard McCormick. Together, they will explore the connections between their creative practices and the environments we inhabit.

All proceeds support the Gold Coast Open House program, helping to keep design, architecture, and urban storytelling open and accessible to all.

Meet the Panellists

Shannon Best

A cultural consultant with the Yugambah Museum and Research Centre, Shannon brings a deep understanding of Indigenous knowledge systems and cultural heritage.

Gerard McCormick

Gerard McCormick is a Director at 8LA Landscape Architects and a community builder with a strong focus on active transport, sustainability, and creative wellbeing.

Natasha Edwards

Co-Founder and Artistic Director of the SWELL Sculpture Festival, Natasha has shaped the Gold Coast's public art landscape for over two decades.

Moderator: Joe Snell

Joe Snell is a Registered Architect with extensive experience across architecture, interior design, urban installations, and lighting. The Director of Studio Snell, Joe approaches each project as a unique creative opportunity, blending typologies to deliver award-winning outcomes in retail, commercial, and event design.

About SWELL

Each year, SWELL transforms coastal landscapes into expansive outdoor galleries, offering large-scale public art experiences that connect people, art and place. Through its major annual festival and a growing suite of year-round programming, SWELL invites audiences from all walks of life to experience art in engaging and accessible ways – across beaches, parks, galleries and public spaces.

Now in its 23rd year (2025), SWELL continues to provide a world-class platform for artists—from emerging to established—supporting sustainable creative careers and encouraging bold artistic expression.

www.swellsculpture.com.au



CITY OF
GOLD COAST.

BROADBEACH
CULTURAL CENTRE

CITY OF
GOLD COAST.

CITY OF
GOLD COA

CITY OF
GOLD COAST.

BROADBEACH
CULTURAL CENTRE

CITY OF
GOLD COAST.

CITY OF
GOLD COAST.

BROADBEACH
CULTURAL

BROADBEACH
CULTURAL CENTRE

GOLD COAST.

CITY OF
GOLD CO

BROADBEACH
CULTURAL CENTRE

L CE

GOLD COAST OPEN HOUSE

Architect for a Day

Date: 10:00am, Saturday 27 September

Venue: DBI Architects, Level 1 9 Trickett Street, Surfers Paradise

Calling all Year 10, 11 and 12 students curious about a career in architecture!

Architecture shapes the way we live – from the buildings we design to the environments we create. It blends creativity, environmental awareness, science and technology, offering a unique career that impacts communities locally and globally.

This workshop gives you the chance to:

- Work in groups on a real design brief, tackling ideas and constraints.
- Learn from architects and university representatives about study pathways and career opportunities.
- Ask questions and gain insights into what it's really like to be an architect.

If you're passionate about design, sustainability, and making a difference, this workshop is for you.

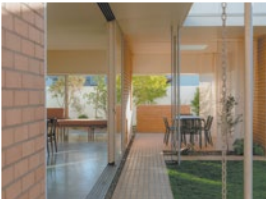


Scan the QR
code to book

Living Legacies – Gold Coast Modernism Revisited

Date: 6:00pm, Saturday 27 September

Venue: The Abedian School of Architecture, Bond University

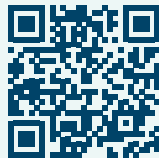


The Gold Coast is expanding rapidly, driven by housing demand, post-Covid migration, and tourism. Beachside suburbs are densifying while inland areas push outward.

As we confront urban resilience, climate adaptation, and liveability, the city's mid-century heritage offers enduring lessons in scale, density, and shared amenity. How can we densify without erasing? Preserve character without imitation? Balance preservation and transformation?



Join us as we reflect on the Gold Coast's built history and discuss how it can evolve while maintaining identity. EmAGN brings together architects and researchers to examine mid-century development and contemporary projects, followed by a panel exploring adaptation, authorship, and heritage in shaping the city's architectural future.



Scan the QR
code to book






Cheshire Cat Motel
Photo by Andy Macpherson



GOLD COAST **OPEN**
HOUSE 2025 PROGRAM

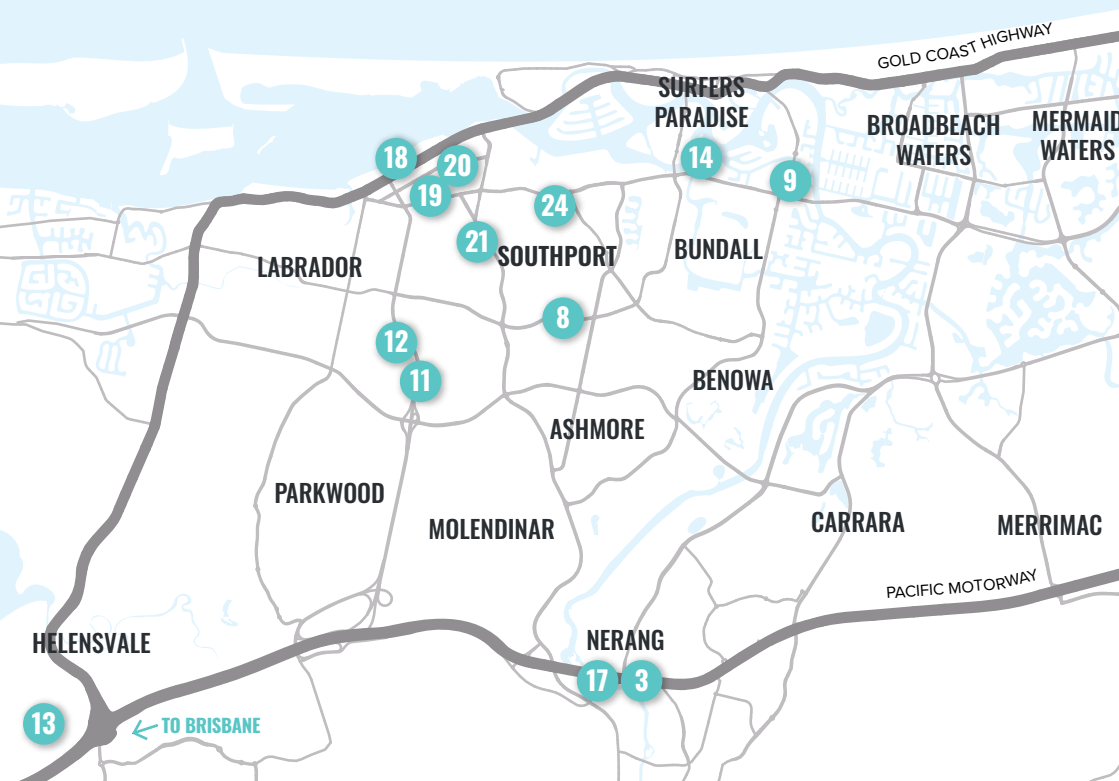
- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|---|
| 1 | Abedian School of Architecture
14 University Dr, Robina | 17 | Preece House
48-52 Nerang St, Nerang |
| 2 | Captain Cook Memorial Lighthouse
Tweed Terrace & Boundary Street,
Coolangatta | 18 | Rotary Broadwater Chapel
Broadwater Parklands, 95 Marine Parade,
Southport |
| 3 | Ceramic House
48-52 Nerang St, Nerang | 19 | Sata Nita
65 Nind Street, Southport |
| 4 | Cheshire Cat Motel
1005 Gold Coast Hwy, Palm Beach | 20 | Southport Former Town Hall
Cnr Nerang and Davenport Streets,
Southport |
| 5 | Flor Wine & Grocer
Shop 5/3 Park Ave, Burleigh Heads | 21 | Southport Military Museum
14 Mick Vievers Way, Owen Park |
| 6 | Gold Coast Airport
(International Terminal)
Terminal Drive, Billinga | 22 | The Oxley
17 Lavarack Rd, Mermaid Beach |
| 7 | Gold Coast Desalination Plant
Boyd Street, Tugun | 23 | The Pink Hotel
171 Griffith St, Coolangatta |
| 8 | Gold Coast Disaster & Emergency
Management Centre
2 Middleton Street | 24 | UTE House
Southport |
| 9 | Gold Coast Historical Museum
8 Elliott Street, Surfers Paradise | | |
| 10 | Gold Coast Lighthouse Museum
(Schmidt Farm House)
8 Worongary Rd, Mudgeeraba | | |
| 11 | Griffith University Precinct
1 Parklands Drive, Southport | | |
| 12 | Health and Knowledge Precinct
9 Nexus Way, Southport | | |
| 13 | Helensvale State School - Place of Wonder
8 Lindfield Rd, Helensvale | | |
| 14 | Home of the Arts (HOTA)
135 Bundall Rd, Surfers Paradise | | |
| 15 | Kanooka House
Bogangar, NSW | | |
| 16 | Old Dog New Tricks House
Currumbin Waters | | |

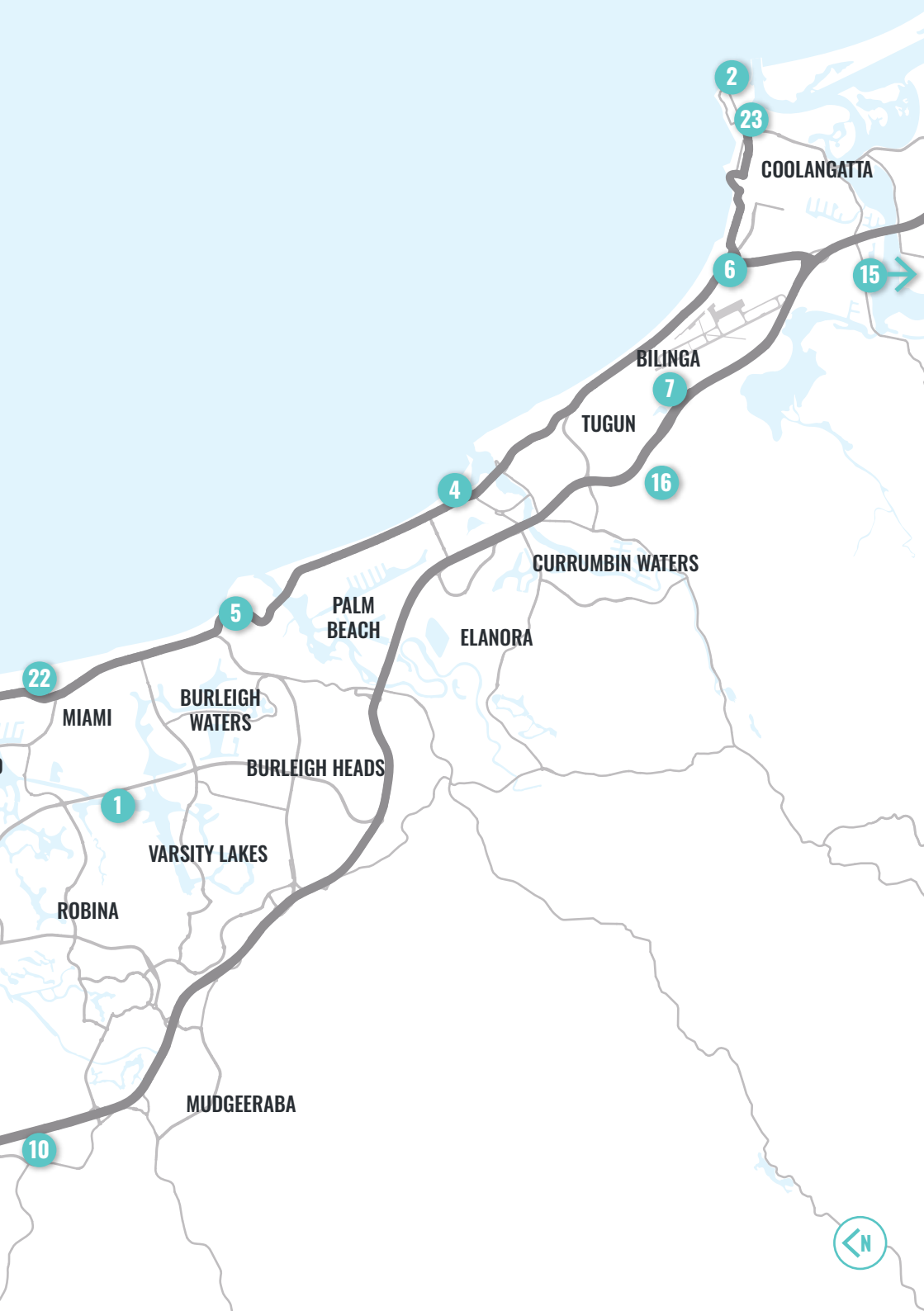
Building Legend

-  Guided tours
-  Guided tours - booking required
-  Food and beverages available
-  Wheelchair accessible
-  Toilets available

MAP

- 1 Abedian School of Architecture
- 2 Captain Cook Memorial Lighthouse
- 3 Ceramic House
- 4 Cheshire Cat Motel
- 5 Flor Wine & Grocer
- 6 Gold Coast Airport (International Terminal)
- 7 Gold Coast Desalination Plant
- 8 Gold Coast Disaster & Emergency Management Centre
- 9 Gold Coast Historical Museum
- 10 Gold Coast Lighthouse Museum (Schmidt Farm House)
- 11 Griffith University
- 12 Health and Knowledge Precinct
- 13 Helensvale State School - Place of Wonder
- 14 Home of the Arts (HOTA)
- 15 Kanooka House
- 16 Old Dog New Tricks House
- 17 Preece House
- 18 Rotary Broadwater Chapel
- 19 Sata Nita
- 20 Southport Former Town Hall
- 21 Southport Military Museum
- 22 The Oxley
- 23 The Pink Hotel
- 24 UTE House





22

MIAMI

BURLEIGH
WATERS

1

BURLEIGH HEADS

VARSITY LAKES

ROBINA

5

PALM
BEACH

4

ELANORA

CURRUMBIN WATERS

16

TUGUN

7

BILINGA

6

15

COOLANGATTA

2

23

10

MUDGEERABA



BOOKING REQUIRED



1 ABEDIAN SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

14 University Dr, Robina

Saturday: 10:00AM – 2:00PM



The award-winning Abedian School of Architecture at Bond University, designed by Sir Peter Cook and Gavin Robotham, is Australia's only studio-based architecture school. Open House tours with Professor Paul Loh also explore Bond's campus, featuring Australia's only Arata Isozaki building.

There will be a performance by a quartet at 11:00am by the Gold Coast Chamber Orchestra.



2 CAPTAIN COOK MEMORIAL LIGHTHOUSE

Tweed Terrace & Boundary Street, Coolangatta

Saturday: 10:00AM – 3:00PM



The historic Captain Cook Memorial and Lighthouse at Point Danger reopened in July 2024 after a \$6.5m revitalisation. A joint Gold Coast-Tweed project, it blends heritage and modern use with a Marine Rescue base, café, gallery, and accessible viewing deck, while honouring Bundjalung and Yugambah cultural significance.

See the guided walk (p28-29) for the Coollongatta walk that includes the Captain Cook Memorial Lighthouse.



3 CERAMIC HOUSE

48-52 Nerang St, Nerang

Saturday: 10:00AM – 3:00PM

Sunday: 10:00AM – 3:00PM



The historic Ceramic House, an early Queenslander, was relocated from the M1 site to Bischof Pioneer Park and restored by the Nerang Community Association. Now a museum and visitor centre, it preserves local heritage and remains a treasured community landmark.



4 CHESHIRE CAT MOTEL

1005 Gold Coast Hwy, Palm Beach

Saturday: 9:00AM – 2:00PM

Sunday: 3:00PM – 6:00PM



The Cheshire Cat Motel, a retro landmark in Palm Beach, has been lovingly restored to celebrate the Gold Coast's mid-century beach culture. Once a classic roadside stop, it now blends nostalgic charm with contemporary design, offering visitors a playful nod to 1960s holiday style.

BOOKING REQUIRED



5 FLOR WINE & GROCER

Shop 5/3 Park Ave, Burleigh Heads

Sunday: 12:00PM – 3:00PM



Flor Wine & Grocer in Burleigh Heads, designed by AJAR Studio, blends community spirit with playful design details. Join architect Ben Cutajar for a talk on the store's conception and design, with insights from Flor and an informal wine tasting.

Tours: 12pm, 1pm, 2pm

BOOKING REQUIRED



6 GOLD COAST AIRPORT (INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL)

Terminal Drive, Billinga

Saturday: See website for more details



Gold Coast Airport's \$260m southern terminal expansion opened in 2022, adding 30,000m² over three levels with six new gates, shops, cafes, aerobridges, lounges, and border facilities. The project created 2,000 local jobs and strengthens the airport as a premier gateway.

BOOKING REQUIRED



7 GOLD COAST DESALINATION PLANT

Boyd Street, Tugun

Saturday: 9:30am, 11am, 1pm

Sunday: 9:30am, 11am, 1pm



Gold Coast Airport's \$260m southern terminal expansion, opened in 2022, delivers a modern three-level facility with new gates, aerobridges, shops, and lounges. This behind-the-scenes tour explores the design and operations of a project that created 2,000 local jobs and enhanced international connectivity.

Minimum age and fitness requirements

Please wear long trousers, long sleeve shirts, and enclosed shoes.

BOOKING REQUIRED



8 GOLD COAST DISASTER & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CENTRE

2 Middleton Street

Saturday: 8:30AM - 12:30PM



The Gold Coast Disaster & Emergency Management Centre is a state-of-the-art hub built to withstand category 5 cyclones and operate independently for 10 days. Housing 100+ personnel, it enables coordinated disaster response, safeguarding the community with resilience, innovation, and cutting-edge technology.

Tours: 8:30am, 9:30am, 10:30am, 11:30am

9 GOLD COAST HISTORICAL MUSEUM

8 Elliott Street, Surfers Paradise

Sunday: 10:00AM - 3:00PM



The Gold Coast Historical Museum, established in 1972, showcases the city's past through pioneer buildings, industry tools, fashions, and photographs. Set on heritage-listed grounds with remnant rainforest, it also preserves Aboriginal heritage, Cable Station equipment, and the historic Vincent Sheldon artist studio.



10 GOLD COAST LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM (SCHMIDT FARM HOUSE)

8 Worongary Rd, Mudgeeraba

Saturday: 9:00AM - 1:00PM

Sunday: 9:00AM - 1:00PM



The Gold Coast Light Horse Education Museum, housed in the heritage-listed Schmidt Farmhouse (c.1880s-1910), preserves memorabilia of the Australian Light Horse. Run by ex-servicemen and volunteers, it honours the ANZAC spirit while showcasing rare examples of the region's early farming history and buildings.



9:00am - 3:00pm

See details on pages 25 - 27

11 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY PRECINCT

1 Parklands Drive, Southport

Join a full-day program of speakers exploring sustainable living on the Gold Coast. Discussions include renewable energy retrofits, circular design, waste innovation, and multi-generational housing, celebrating design, sustainability, and creative thinking in shaping the city's future.



12 HEALTH AND KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT

9 Nexus Way, Southport

Discover the Health & Knowledge Precinct on a guided tour showcasing innovative urban design and community focus. Enjoy Urban Sketchers at work, capturing the precinct's architecture and vibrancy live on the page.



13 HELENSVALE STATE SCHOOL - PLACE OF WONDER

8 Lindfield Rd, Helensvale

Sunday: 9:00AM - 1:00PM



This library refurbishment, co-designed with architects, staff and Year 3 students, reimagines the traditional library. The playful fitout offers flexible spaces for classes, collaboration, or quiet retreat, creating a vibrant place of wonder that challenges expectations of learning environments.

BOOKING REQUIRED



14 HOME OF THE ARTS (HOTA)

135 Bundall Rd, Surfers Paradise

Thursday: 6:00pm - Lego Battle

Saturday: 10:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm



HOTA, Home of the Arts, is the Gold Coast's cultural precinct, featuring theatres, outdoor amphitheatre, parklands, and the six-level HOTA Gallery—the largest public gallery outside a capital city. Designed by ARM, it hosts international exhibitions, performances, film, and community events.

HOTA PRESENTS THU 25 SEP

LEGO BATTLE
OUT OF THIS WORLD

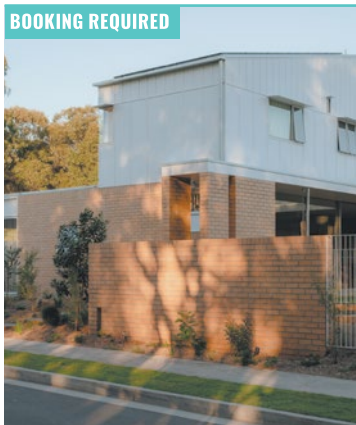
Prepare for lift-off into a galaxy of imagination and excitement!

Join Andrew and Damien from Clicking Bricks for the most epic LEGO showdown ever staged. This isn't just a battle, it's a cosmic clash of creativity, where bold builders rise and bricks fly!

Contact HOTA to book your tickets



BOOKING REQUIRED



15 KANOOKA HOUSE

Bogangar, NSW

Friday: 3:30pm, 4:15pm, 5:00pm



Kanooka House in Bogangar is a light-filled family home referencing neighbourhood forms with brick, fibro, and a shallow roof. Oriented to a north-facing courtyard, it balances privacy and street connection while employing passive solar design, cross-ventilation, and native landscaping for sustainable, flexible living.

Architect: Knight Office and Dan Wilson

BOOKING REQUIRED



16 OLD DOG NEW TRICKS HOUSE

Currumbin Waters

Saturday: 10:00AM – 2:00PM

This renovation transformed a 1980s brick veneer “old dog” into a flexible family home. Converting the garage, adding decks and stairs, and improving insulation, ventilation, and landscaping, the design enhances liveability, comfort, and street appeal—showcasing creative adaptability for modern family living.

Tour times: 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm
No booking required.

Architect: Hayman + Charlton Architects



17 PREECE HOUSE

48-52 Nerang St, Nerang

Saturday: 10:00AM – 3:00PM

Sunday: 10:00AM – 3:00PM



Built in 1948, Preece House was home to the Preece family for over 50 years, who ran a telegraph pole supply business. This restored timber Queenslander, near Ceramic House and the Maid of Sker, preserves original features and showcases local heritage.



18 ROTARY BROADWATER CHAPEL

Broadwater Parklands, 95 Marine Parade, Southport

Saturday: 10:00AM – 3:30PM



Originally the chapel of the former Gold Coast Hospital, the Rotary Broadwater Chapel By The Sea was saved from demolition in 2013. Relocated to Broadwater Parklands, it has been renovated and extended by the Rotary Club of Broadwater Southport.



19 SATA NITA

65 Nind Street, Southport

Saturday: 9:30AM - 4:00PM



Built in 1936 as a bridal suite for Ralf 'Sonny' Johnston and wife Lila, Sata Nita showcases Spanish Mission style, fine local timbers, Italian plasterwork and leadlight glass. Once a family home, it later became an antiques store and funeral home.



20 FORMER SOUTHPORT TOWN HALL

Cnr Nerang and Davenport Streets, Southport

Saturday: 10:00AM - 2:00PM



The former Southport Town Hall (1935) is a rare example of inter-war civic architecture with Art Deco detailing. Now a Council service centre, the heritage-listed building remains highly intact, its striking façade and historic chambers contributing significantly to Southport's streetscape and civic identity. Tours every 30 minutes. No booking required.



21 SOUTHPORT MILITARY MUSEUM

14 Mick Viewers Way, Owen Park

Saturday: 10:00AM - 2:00PM

The Southport Military Heritage Museum, now in Owen Park, preserves a hall first used for military purposes in WWI. Relocated in 1995, it showcases artifacts, photographs and stories, honouring service while tracing the building's rich military and community history on the Gold Coast.



22 THE OXLEY

17 Lavarack Rd, Mermaid Beach

Saturday: See website for more details



The Oxley Nobby Beach Village is a new boutique retail hub with supermarket, dining and eclectic shops. Designed to reflect the coastal vernacular, it features lush landscaping, adaptable shopfronts and a welcoming streetscape, enhancing neighbourhood identity and community life at Nobby Beach.



23 THE PINK HOTEL

171 Griffith St, Coolangatta

Sunday: 1:00PM – 4:00PM



Originally the 1950s Ocean View Motel by architect George Rae, The Pink Hotel Coolangatta has been reimagined into a vibrant cultural icon. Its playful restoration preserves mid-century design while layering bold contemporary style, offering visitors a rare behind-the-scenes tour experience. Visit the hotel and then join a live jam session at Eddy's Grubhouse from 3pm-6pm.

BOOKING REQUIRED



24 UTE HOUSE

Southport

Saturday: See website for more details

Sunday: See website for more details



The UTE House in Southport, designed by architect Joe Snell as his family home and studio, blends living and working under one roof. Inspired by the dual-purpose Aussie ute, it offers a flexible, modern model for families increasingly working from home.

Architect: Studio Snell

Exploring the Gold Coast during Gold Coast Open House is easy and accessible thanks to the city's well-connected transport options. Whether you're a local or visiting for the weekend, there are plenty of ways to move between Open House locations.

Public Transport

The Gold Coast has a reliable and affordable public transport network that includes buses, light rail, and train services.

- **Light Rail:** Running from Broadbeach to Helensvale, the Light Rail connects many key areas, including Southport, Surfers Paradise and Main Beach.
- **Buses:** Regular buses service the entire Gold Coast region.
- **Queensland Rail:** For visitors coming from Brisbane or beyond, trains connect to Helensvale Station, where you can transfer directly to the light rail.

Use the Translink Journey Planner or the MyTranslink app to plan your route.

Translink Journey Planner <https://translink.com.au/> for QR code

MyTranslink app

Scan the QR code to download the app:



Apple



Google Play

Cycling and Walking

The Gold Coast is made for active travel, with extensive bikeways, shared paths and scenic routes. Many Open House venues are located within walking or riding distance of one another—especially in central hubs like Southport, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach.

Driving and Parking

If you're driving between venues, limited street parking is available near most locations, though it may be busy during peak times. Some sites offer designated parking or nearby public car parks. Carpooling over the weekend is a great option if visiting Gold Coast Open House in a group.

Accessibility

Gold Coast Open House aims to be inclusive and accessible. Many venues are wheelchair-friendly or offer assistance for those with mobility needs. Public transport services also cater for accessibility, and light rail stations are fully accessible.

Look for accessibility icons on the program and website, and please contact us if you need help planning your visit.

Tips for Easy Travel

- Plan ahead with the Gold Coast Open House online map and event schedule.
- Group nearby sites together to make the most of your day.
- Pack a refillable water bottle, wear comfortable shoes, and bring sun protection.



Visit Griffith University's largest campus - an integral part of the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct (GCH&KP) - for a variety of entertaining and informative events.

Griffith's Gold Coast campus is well-served by two Light Rail stations - Griffith University and Gold Coast University Hospital - and you'll have the opportunity to join a group of Urban Sketchers, led by renowned architect Peter Richards and have a guided tour of some of the key landmarks in the GCH&KP, including the soon to be completed RDX Lumina building.

Pop into the ARRC sustainability zone and learn all about creating a cleaner, greener Gold Coast. Meet the stars of ABC's **dirtgirlworld** and **Get Grubby TV**, and enjoy free nature based activities. To see how even a university campus in the heart of a major city can become a haven for native flora and fauna, be sure join Professor Catherine Pickering for a guided tour of what's growing at Griffith.

If you fancy exploring some of today's most pressing issues of urban living, come along to our panel discussions. These three events will explore the challenges of multi-generational living, how to reduce and better manage waste through circular design principles, and how to electrify complex buildings like strata-titled apartment blocks.

ARRC sustainability zone

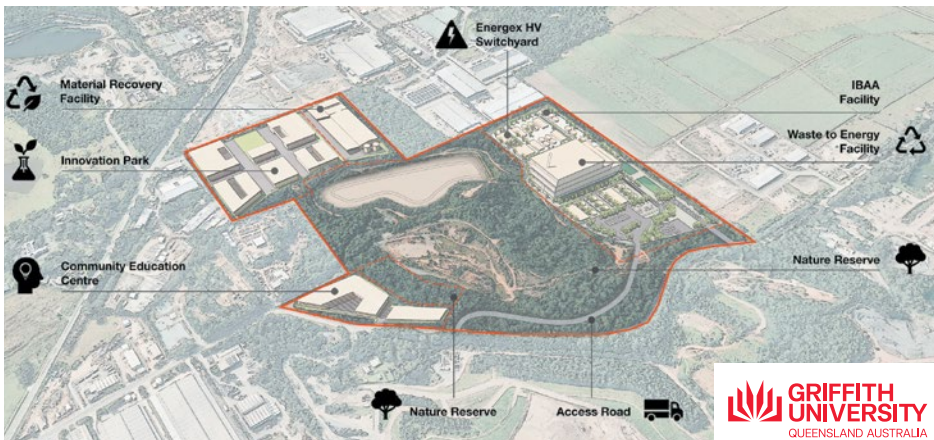
Come and learn all about the Advanced Resource Recovery Centre (the ARRC) and how they're working on a plan to end our reliance on landfill and create a sustainable future for the Gold Coast. Good friends of the ARRC, scrapboy and dirtgirl of ABC's **dirtgirlworld** and **Get Grubby TV**, will also drop by from 9:30 am. Bring the kids for a meet and greet and enjoy:

- Free nature craft activities with scrapboy and dirtgirl
- Discovering how a \$1.6 billion state-of-the-art integrated circular economy precinct will divert up to 97% of waste from landfill
- Discounts on home composting equipment for eligible residents through the ARRC Compost Revolution program and being a part of Australia's largest community of composters.

The event is proudly sponsored by the ARRC, planning for the journey towards a zero-landfill future.



Event Date: 28th September 2025
Event Location: Griffith University Gold Coast Campus
Event Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm



9:00am – 10:00am

Urban Sketchers Talks

Discover the art and joy of Urban Sketching – a global movement that celebrates drawing on location and capturing the spirit of place. Hear from:

- **Peter Richards** – Architect, urban designer, and admin of Urban Sketchers Brisbane, on Why Urban Sketching: Observing the world and building community.
- **Mark Elms** – Founder of Urban Sketchers Gold Coast, sharing the story behind its rapid growth to 1,500 members.
- **Natalia Norton** – Architect and passionate sketcher, turning moments from Gold Coast beaches to Japan’s countryside into vivid travel diaries.

Find the Urban Sketchers in the Central Plaza, Health & Knowledge Precinct, 10am–12pm. Observe or bring your sketchbook and join in!



Urban Sketchers

10:30am – 11:45am

Renewable Energy Retrofits – Savvy Solutions for Strata Living

Moderator: Dr Rosemary Kennedy

Speakers: **Brent Clark** - CEO and founder of *Wattblock*, strata energy consultancy, **Ben Humphreys** - Managing Director, HumEnergy and **Andrew Latimer** - Business Development Manager - Commercial, NECTr Solar & Battery.

Apartment residents want in on the clean energy wave. This panel explores how strata properties can adopt rooftop solar, EV charging, backup power, and cost-saving electrification. Discover how current and emerging retrofit solutions are making clean energy accessible for apartment buildings.

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Reimagining Waste – Circular Design for a Sustainable Society

Moderator: Jim Gall

Speakers: **Grant Gabriel** - Program Director, ARRC, City of Gold Coast, **Dr Ruby Michaels** - Founding Director, Green Infrastructure Research Labs (GIRLS), Griffith University, **Pawan Govind** - National Resource Recovery Manager, Endeavour Foundation and **Andrew Noonan**- Andrew Noonan Architect, Co-Chair AIA Queensland Chapter Climate Action and Sustainability Committee

As climate change and resource scarcity grow, circular design is crucial. This panel—featuring experts from architecture, government, academia, and social sectors—will unpack how reusing materials and designing for longevity can turn waste into a resource. Discover innovative ways to create sustainable buildings, green spaces, and employment opportunities for an inclusive, low-carbon future.

1:30pm - 2:45pm

Designing for Multi-Generational Living

Moderator: Paul Burton

Speakers: **Amy Degenhart; Kerry and Lindsay Clare; Heather Shearer**

This panel discusses designing homes that support multiple generations under one roof—balancing privacy, connection, and adaptability. Amy Degenhart will highlight the ENVI Microvillage’s flexible, community-focused design. Architects Kerry and Lindsay Clare will share insights from their family-oriented projects, including personal perspectives from their son. Heather Shearer will focus on creating inclusive, accessible spaces that evolve with family needs. Together, they explore how thoughtful design can foster resilient, connected multigenerational living.

Saturday 27 September

8:00am	Arcades and Apartments of Central Surfers Paradise
10:00am	Greenheart Robina Parklands Walking Tour
10:30am, 12:00pm	Nerang Tidal Gates Guided Tour
2:00pm	Envi - Amy Degenhart
10:00am	Coolangatta Heritage Walk + Lighthouse

Sunday 28 September

9:30am	Health & Knowledge Precinct Walk
9:30am, 12:30pm	Guided Tour of the Gardens - Griffith University
3:00pm	The Spit Redevelopment Walking Tour

All walks require pre-bookings.
Please see website for details.

SATURDAY

Arcades and Apartments of Central Surfers Paradise



8:00am Saturday 27 September

Meeting place: Surfers Paradise Beachfront opposite Hanlan Street

Guide: Dr Rosemary Kennedy LFAIA

Weaving through green avenues and gritty arcades, this walk takes in landmark buildings from heritage-listed Kinkabool to the famous skyscrapers in the heart of Surfers Paradise. Please note that unless publicly-accessible, all the buildings on this tour are on private property and may be viewed externally only.

Greenheart Robina Parklands Walking Tour



10:00am Saturday 27 September

Meeting place: Yoga Lawn, Greenheart Robina Parklands, Stadium Dr, Robina

Guides: Cassandra Denney and Clint Wood

A guided tour of the first stage of the Greenheart Robina Parklands project – a major new urban parkland for the Gold Coast. Learn from the designers and Council about the innovative design and environmental stewardship shaping this inclusive, multi-functional green space.



Varsity Lakes Gallery Collection Walking Tour



10:00am Saturday 27 September

Meeting place: 2 Wingate Ct, Varsity Lakes

Guide: Amy Degenhart

Join architect Amy Degenhart for a Walking Tour of The Hinterland at Varsity Lakes, exploring “Housing 1 TO 3” and early Gallery Collection homes—innovative, affordable designs that cleverly fit multiple dwellings on single lots while preserving neighbourhood character.

Nerang Tidal Gates Guided Tour



**10:30am, 12:00pm, 1:30pm
Saturday 27 September**

Location: Bond University weir

Guide: Brian Peters

Join Brian Peters, Senior Flood Mitigation Officer to explore the Nerang River Tidal Gates system, which manages water flow into Burleigh Lakes. Gain insight from a senior flood mitigation expert on how this infrastructure protects local communities and manages the Gold Coast’s dynamic waterways.

Coolangatta Heritage Walk



10:00am Saturday 27 September

Location: Captain Cook Memorial and Lighthouse

Guides: Amanda Pontifex and Anya Tran

Join Amanda Pontifex and Anya Tran for a scenic walk exploring the Point Danger and Greenmount areas of Coolangatta. Highlights include natural coastal beauty and a visit to the Captain Cook Memorial Lighthouse. If you're interested in coastal history and urban/natural interface, this is the perfect guided walk for you.

Envi Micro Urban Village and Garden Terraces, Southport Streetscape Tour

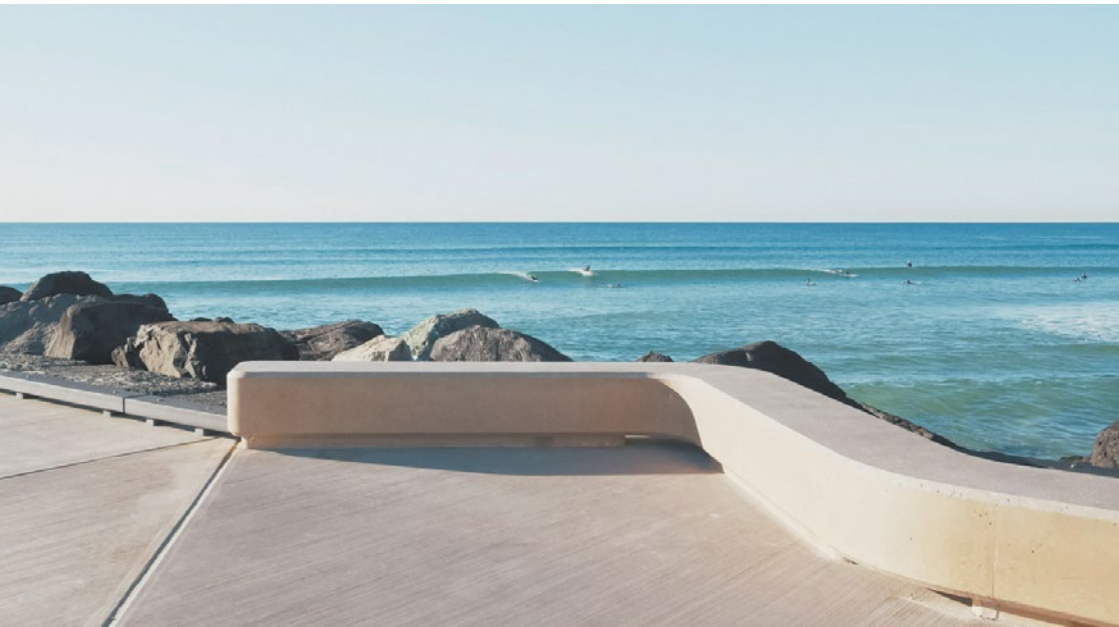


2:00pm, Saturday 27 September

Meeting point: 20A Lennenberg street, Southport

Guide: Amy Degenhart

Join architect-developer Amy Degenhart on a footpath tour of Envi Micro Urban Village and the neighbouring Garden Terraces—award-winning, high-density infill projects redefining housing on the Gold Coast—and explore how such innovative models can deliver diverse, attainable housing.



SUNDAY

Health & Knowledge Precinct Walk

9:00am Sunday 28 September

Guide: Craig Rowsell, Director GCH&KP

Meeting point: 9 Nexus Way, Southport

Join a guided walk through the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct—home to hospitals, Griffith University, and 16,000 workers. Explore its evolution from Commonwealth Games Village to thriving hub of health, research, and innovation, including the new Lumina RDX building.



Guided Tour of the Gardens – Griffith University (Gold Coast Campus)



9:30am, 12:30pm Sunday 28 September

Location: Griffith University, Gold Coast Campus

Guide: Professor Catherine Pickering

Discover one of the Gold Coast's hidden biodiversity gems on a guided tour with Professor Catherine Pickering. Home to over 230 native plant species – including more than 20 of conservation significance – the Griffith University campus features everything from cool food forests and Indigenous gardens to bee-friendly green spaces. This walk highlights how native plants can transform homes, schools, and public parks across the city. Each participant will receive a complimentary copy of Native Plants for School Gardens in South East Queensland.

The Spit Redevelopment Walking Tour



3:00pm Sunday 28 September

Location: Main Beach, Gold Coast

Place Design Group will reveal how The Spit was transformed into a revitalised inclusive public space.

As one of the most active recreational assets in the area, hear how the design retained beloved community features while introducing new structures that enhance accessibility, sustainability, and connection to the coastal environment. The built form, including pavilions, outlook structures and landscape forms, gained inspiration from both the surrounding natural and built environment. The incorporation of platforms for rest and gazing for those who may not be able to step out on the sand were also key elements to allow inclusivity on all levels.

Commissioned: Queensland Government's Spit Master Plan implementation

Client: Gold Coast Waterways Authority

2024 winners

The Annual Gold Coast Open House Photography Competition invited participants to capture the buildings, places, and spaces featured in our 2024 program.

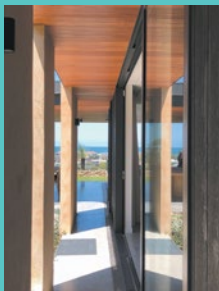
The winning and commended entries are now on display in a special exhibition at Griffith University, from Wednesday 4 September to Sunday 28 September.

View the exhibition any time, day or night, in the windows of Building G.39, 1 Parklands Drive, Southport - directly opposite the Griffith University G:link station.



OPEN WINNER

Carla D Magnussen



OPEN RUNNER UP

Frances Wu



STUDENT WINNER

Claire Orr



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Jesse McKee

2025 Photography Competition

Calling photographers of all ages! Grab your camera and explore the incredible buildings, places, and spaces featured in this year's program for your chance to share in **\$1,000 worth of prizes.**

This year photographers can enter the competition across **five** categories and an **Overall Winner:**

OVERALL WINNER



Selected from all entries.

PRIZE: \$500

RESILIENCE — 2025 PROGRAM THEME

Show how architecture and design respond to challenges, whether through sustainable materials, adaptive reuse, flood or weather resilience, or enduring community value.



PRIZE: \$100

PEOPLE

Capture the relationship between people and place – architecture in use, movement, or appreciation.



PRIZE: \$100

BUILDING — EXTERIOR

Celebrate architectural form through striking images of a building's façade, shape, and scale.



PRIZE: \$100

BUILDING — INTERIOR

Focus on light, materials, design, and atmosphere inside a space.



PRIZE: \$100

BUILDING — DETAIL

Highlight craftsmanship, ornamentation, or clever architectural elements.



PRIZE: \$100

All entries must be taken during the event on **Saturday 27 September and Sunday 28 September 2025** at locations included in the Gold Coast Open House program (buildings, talks and walking tours).

Photos can be taken indoors or outdoors. A panel of judges – including members of the Gold Coast Open House committee – will evaluate the entries and the winners will be announced by the end of 2025.

SUPPORTED BY



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING PATRON & PARTNERS

PATRON

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM,
Governor of Queensland

MAJOR SPONSOR

CITY OF
GOLDCOAST.TM

FESTIVAL PARTNER



**Queensland
Government**

SUPPORT PARTNERS



STONE STYLE

FRIENDS OF GOLD COAST OPEN HOUSE



ARCHITECTUREAU

HOTA HOME OF THE ARTS



Donate to Gold Coast Open House

Help us open more doors!

Gold Coast Open House celebrates the unique character of our built environment—highlighting exceptional local design, architecture, heritage places, sustainable developments and community art projects.

Each year, our free program invites the public to step inside some of the region’s most significant spaces. We create opportunities for connection, learning, and meaningful dialogue about the future of our city.

But we can’t do it without your support.

Your donation will help us:

- Keep our weekends free and accessible for everyone
- Deliver engaging events, talks and workshops
- Showcase high-quality, thought-provoking programming
- Strengthen community connections across the Gold Coast

As a not-for-profit organisation, we rely on the generosity of our community. Every contribution—big or small—makes a real difference. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation today via the Australian Cultural Fund and be part of shaping a vibrant, inclusive and creative future for the Gold Coast.

Let’s open more doors together!



Scan the QR Code
to contribute



Abedian School of Architecture
Photo by Amber van Sloten

GOLD
COAST **OPEN**
HOUSE