

Graduate wins Sustainability Award



Van Anh Hoang, a recent Master of Architecture graduate, was awarded first prize at the *International Tropical Architecture Design Competition*, an annual initiative of the Building and Construction Authority of Singapore, the Singapore Institute of Architects and the Singapore Green Building Council.

Van Anh joined the Melbourne School of Design as an AusAid Scholar, having completed a Bachelor of Architecture Degree at Ho Chi Minh City University of Architecture.

It was the sustainability component that enticed Van Anh to partake in the competition.

“I am particularly passionate about sustainable design with the support of simulation software to make data-informed decisions and achieve design optimization. I saw this competition as a great opportunity for me.”

This year’s competition theme was *Our Urban Green Home* and Van Anh chose a Melbourne site. The Montague Precinct has been highlighted for potential development as a new high density residential area. Van Anh’s proposition creates a live-connect-work urban community that addresses the challenges of creating a higher and denser living community while providing more desirable housing typologies that accommodate more outdoor settings and open green spaces. With an integrated public transport system, the development permits higher use of existing infrastructure. The proposition demonstrates a keen consideration for energy efficiency, rain water harvesting, solar energy and wind power.

“We wanted to create a solution to reverse the negative effects of the urbanisation process,” Van Anh explains. “We describe each building as a smart tree and aim to bring Melbourne towards a *resilient forest* which directly addresses water scarcity through efficient water conservation strategies.”

Van Anh cites her time in Melbourne as integral to her passion for climate-responsive design that promotes liveability.

“Thanks to the diverse studio and subject options at MSD, I was able to design a program of study based around sustainability,” Van Anh said. “I learned design approach methods and the implementation of analysis tools to support design decisions. I learned the importance of context-related design and how to use the most up-to-date technologies in innovative design.”

“Melbourne is the home of many high-profile green buildings, such as the CH2 and the 60L, offering unique opportunities to learn innovative technologies and ideas in a more interactive and efficient way.”

Van Anh is currently working at Ho Chi Minh City University of Architecture in Vietnam as a studio tutor, engaging with students on topics such as environmental awareness, modular design, vernacular architecture, recycled materials, local craftsmanship, and efficient solar control.

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