

## Finalists in the 2022 SALIFE Absolute Best Awards:

### Absolute Best Home

Glasshouse Projects: Adelaide Foothills Home

**Studio Gram Architects: Rose Park Home** 🏆winner

Williams Burton Leopardi: Brougham Place

### Absolute Best Artist

Daryl Austin

Margaret Ambridge

**Julia Robinson** 🏆winner

### Absolute Best Designer

Khai Liew

Georgie Shepherd Interior Design

**Paolo Sebastian** 🏆winner

### Absolute Best Luxury Experience

Grace Villa at EOS

Kingsford at the Barossa

**Sequoia Lodge** 🏆winner

### Absolute Best Garden Design

Anlaby Garden

**Bliss Outdoor Living** 🏆**Medindie Garden** 🏆winner

Hills Classic Garden 🏆Wellswood Cottage

### Absolute Best New Product Innovation

Haigh 🏆Chocolates 🏆Haigh 🏆x Warndu artisan chocolate collection

Jurlique 🏆Rare Rose Face Oil

**Never Never Distilling Co.** 🏆**Ginache** 🏆winner

### Absolute Best Regional Experience

**d'Arenberg Cube** 🏆winner

Hutton Vale Farm

The Bend Motorsport

### Absolute Best Food and Beverage Experience

Arkh 🏆Restaurant

Fugazzi Bar & Dining Room

**Restaurant Botanic** 🏆winner

### Absolute Best Community Individual/s

**Marjorie FitzGerald** 🏆winner

Robyn Verrall

Stephanie Malan

### Absolute Best Family Day Out

Kimbolton Wines

**Monarto Safari Park** 🏆winner

Tree Climb Adelaide

### Absolute Best Sustainability Initiative

Dulcie 🏆

Ecolateral

**Something Wild Australia** 🏆winner



## ABSOLUTE BEST NEW STATE OF MIND

### Winner 🏆Stephanie Malan

As a midwife Stephanie Malan saw first-hand the struggles of many mothers who were not able to provide properly for their newborn babies.

Many of these women were in domestic violence situations, suffering mental health issues or even dealing with homelessness.

Most of these women do not have the necessary community or village around them to hold them up, Stephanie told SALIFE.

So, in 2018, Stephanie decided to do something about the hardships she saw and, together with friend Nicole Doak, established The Village Co.

This is a volunteer-based organisation that gathers, packs and delivers bags of goods to new mothers, ensuring they have all they need to look after themselves and their babies with dignity and care. Items such as hygiene products, nappies, wipes and wraps are included in the bags.

What we wanted to achieve was giving these women a beautiful gift that contained all they needed for their hospital stay and when going home from hospital, but also helped them feel so special and loved, Stephanie says.

The Village Co. has designed different bags including The

Welcoming Babe Bag, and the Mumma Milk Kits. Self Love Bags are also available, designed for mothers who won't be taking their baby home due to miscarriage, stillbirth or the removal of a child. Stephanie and her team of volunteers deliver these bags to public hospitals as well as to community groups and organisations.

All their efforts have seen them win the SALIFE Absolute Best State of Mind award, a recognition not just for the Village Co. team, but for all the women they have helped along the way.

When the women receive these bags, they are not just receiving the essentials they and their babies need during this time, they are being reminded that they are not alone; that people out there love them, support them and are cheering them on, Stephanie says. The New State of Mind award was selected by a panel representing the State Government, who chose the winner from all the 33 finalists across the 11 categories.

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## ABSOLUTE BEST HOME

### Winner Studio Gram

Architectural and interior design company, Studio Gram, was founded by Dave Bickmore and Graham Charbonneau in 2014. The company has taken out the prestigious SALIFE Absolute Best South Australian Home award for its unique and visionary renovation project, The Rose Park Home—a reinvention of a villa in Adelaide’s east.

While this home looks like any other from the street, it is far from ordinary in its architectural originality and beauty. The house gradually reveals itself, unfolding in what the Studio Gram team describes as a series of discoveries from commencement to completion.

Beautiful curves and concrete meld with dark limestone and timbers, contrasting with the natural light that floods into the new extension.

The traditional part of the home has also been renovated and demonstrates a seamless and sympathetic meeting of the old and new.

“The Rose Park House is a very special project for our studio, our clients and the people who constructed it,” says Dave Bickmore.

“We are firm believers in function before form, meaning that first and foremost a project needs to work before it is beautiful.”

The renovation, which was one year in the designing and one year in construction, added 162 square metres of living to the original Queen Anne, which included a new open plan kitchen, dining and living area, as well as laundry.

But this addition was actually quite modest in scale for the entire project, which included a full restoration of the existing home (of some 380 square metres), carport, garage and landscaping.

The home now comprises three bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, a library, wine room and two separate living areas.

Among the unique touches is the fact that the existing pool—with

These and following pages Studio Gram added an additional 162 square metres of open plan living and dining in its extensive renovation of this Queen Anne villa. Photographs Timothy Kaye

Following page, bottom left Studio Gram architects Dave Bickmore and Graham Charbonneau.

Photograph Jonathan VDK







its gentle curves was a key inspiration for the sculptured forms found throughout each of the new spaces and a small motif of the pool is inscribed into the pelmet in the den as homage to the role the pool played in the design of the home.

The key materials in the house were also influenced by the original villa: Studio Gram discovered that it was constructed using off-form concrete, making it a very unique house for its age and location and this discovery served as a driver for the selections to come: Materials like limestone, American black walnut and off-form concrete were all selected for their ability to improve with time and change organically, further enhancing the long-lasting and legacy approach to this project.

The home also integrates accessible design principles including flush thresholds, compliant ramps and wide apertures to create a fully accessible home.

It demonstrates that form and function do not need to be competing forces, Dave says.

From the street this early 1900s Queen Anne villa appears like any other, however beneath the surface lies a series of spaces designed to be unique in their function and expression, yet consistent in their approach, resulting in an architecture that is completely unexpected.

We are most proud of the legacy that this project leaves for our client, their family and the generations to come.

