

Karl Fender's citation:

Karl Fender is a founding director of Fender Katsalidis (Aust) Pty Ltd, which has gained a reputation as one of Australia's leading design firms working both throughout Australia and internationally.

In his role as design director, he has been involved in many significant projects, including the 88-storey Eureka Tower on Melbourne's Southbank, one of the world's tallest residential towers, and the New Quay precinct of the Melbourne Docklands. The practice is also currently undertaking major residential projects in Shanghai, Kuala Lumpur, Gibraltar, Jakarta and throughout Australia.

Karl gained his undergraduate degree at RMIT in Melbourne and his Masters Degree at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In subsequent years he lived and practiced architecture in Melbourne, London, Paris, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Boston and Rome. He returned to Australia and Melbourne as his permanent base in 1995.

Among his many career achievements, Karl was involved in the master planning and architectural design of Muang Thong Thani, a new town in Thailand. This particular project provided housing of many differing typologies for 150,000 residents, with attendant infrastructural and recreational facilities, and 500,000 m² of clean use industrial facilities. While designing and overseeing the construction of this project, his practice also master-planned and designed a number of other high-rise, and garden communities throughout Asia.

Karl is committed to life in the city, where he lives and works, and has been very active in programs to further opportunities for the enhancement of life in Melbourne's CBD. His projects with partner Nonda Katsalidis have facilitated the public acceptance of inner city apartment living, and have helped enrich the fabric and vibrancy of Melbourne as it evolves into one of the most livable cities in the world.

Karl has also shown his commitment to the Institute and the profession of architecture. He was previously the Institute's Victorian Chapter President from March 2008 to March 2010. In this period he was also a member of the Victorian Chapter's media sub-committee and finance committee, as well as the Institute's International Speaker Series Committee, the Venice Biennale 2010 Committee and a Special Advisor to the International Area Committee.

Other positions demonstrating his commitment to the profession, and improving the quality of our built environment, in the past two years alone include membership on the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority's Design Review Panel, VicUrban's Design Jury, Landcorp Perth's Design Panel, and the Dulux Colour Awards 2009.

Karl also played a key role following the devastating Victorian bushfires, being a member of the Built Environment Bushfire Support Roundtable (Building Commission); a member of the Institute's Royal Commission Working Party – Victorian Bushfires; a Board Member of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA) Reconstruction Advisory Board; and Chair of the VBRRA Reconstruction Advisory Board 'Vision Group'.