

Michael Rayner AM

B.Arch (Hons 1) (UNSW), LFRAIA, FTSE, FQA, RIBA, BOAQ, NSWARB
Director

BlightRayner



Contact

michael.rayner@blightrayner.com.au

Education

Bachelor of Architecture (Honours 1),
University of New South Wales, 1980

Memberships & Affiliations

Member of the Order
of Australia (AM)

Life Fellow, Australian
Institute of Architect

Fellow, Australian Academy
of Technological Sciences
and Engineering

Fellow, Queensland Academy
of Arts and Sciences

Associate, Royal Institute
of British Architects

Registration

Board of Architects of QLD,
Registration No. 2495

NSW Architects Registration
Board, No. 4348

Personal Awards

Urban Design Champion, Australian
Urban Design Awards 2026

Lifetime Achievement Award,
Brisbane Lord Mayor's
Business Awards 2025

Australian Architecture and Design
Award, Urban Developer 2025

Industry Impact Award,
Property Council of Australia
(Queensland) 2024

Outstanding Achievement Award,
Property Industry Foundation
for Homeless Youth 2024

London International
Creative Award 2010

Background

Michael Rayner is a Director of Blight Rayner Architecture formed in 2016. He was previously Principal Director of Cox Rayner Architects which he established in Brisbane in 1990. In both capacities, Michael has contributed widely to the urban design quality of Queensland, and he has been integral in the creation of major international public buildings such as the National Maritime Museum of China in Tianjin and the Helix Pedestrian Bridge in Singapore.

Michael is a Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects, a Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and a Fellow of the Queensland Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In 2011, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for services to architecture and urban design in Australia, and to the Queensland community. He has been an Adjunct Professor in Architecture at the University of Queensland since 2009, and an Adjunct Professor in Architecture at Griffith University since 2014.

Education

Michael graduated with First Class Honours from the University of NSW in 1980, his final year thesis winning the Building Science Forum of Australia National Architecture Thesis Medal. While at Philip Cox and Partners in Sydney, he was awarded the Australian Institute of Architects Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarship and the Australian Institute of Architects ACI Travelling Scholarship.

Architecture Awards

Michael led his previous firm to 7 World Architecture Festival Awards. In 2010, he won First Prize in the Architecture category of the London International Creative Competition. He has led or was integral to projects that have been awarded 5 National Australian Institute of Architects Awards and more than 30 Australian Institute of Architects named Queensland Awards. In 2025, his Mary's Place project in Dalby won the Australian Urban Design Award, adding to the same awards won in 2003 and 2011.

Professional

Michael is a Past President of the Australian Institute of Architects Queensland Chapter (2000-02). He has served on several Queensland Government Boards and Councils, including the Premier's Smart State Council (2006-12), Queensland Design Council (2009-12) and Queensland Creative Industries Leadership Group (2004-12). He was a representative of the Health sector at the Australian Government's Ideas Summit in Canberra in 2008, and a Councillor of the Australian Business Arts Foundation (1997-2011). He is currently a member of the Brisbane Lord Mayor's Urban Futures Board and the Queensland Government's Urban Design Advisory Panel, and is the Specialist Advisor City Centre to Brisbane City Council.

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Current Positions

Adjunct Professor in Architecture,
University of Queensland
Adjunct Professor in Architecture,
Griffith University
City Centre Advisor, Brisbane City Council
Member, Queensland Urban
Design + Places Panel
Board Member, Property Industry
Foundation QLD Board
Member, Macquarie Point Stadium Hobart
Design Quality and Integrity Review Panel
Member, Ipswich City Council
Public Art Advisory Panel

Past Positions

World Architecture Festival Awards Member
of the Super Jury, Singapore, 2014
Creative Director, Australian Institute of
Architects National Convention, Brisbane, 2012
Queensland Architecture State
Awards Director, 2012
University of Queensland Engineering
Architecture and IT Board, 2010-13
Queensland Government Board
of Urban Places, 2009-13
Queensland Design Council, 2010-13
Brisbane City Council Urban
Futures Board, 2008-12
Brisbane City Council Independent
Design and Advisory Panel, 2008-12
Australian Business Arts
Foundation Council, 2007-12
Queensland Premier's Smart
State Council, 2006-11
Queensland Premier's Business
Roundtable, 2009-11
Queensland Government Population Growth
Summit Organising Committee, 2010
Creative Industries Leadership Group,
Queensland Government, 2004-2010
Australian Government 2020 Ideas
Summit, Canberra, 2008
President Australian Institute of
Architects Queensland, 2000-2002

Projects Won in International Competition

The Glasshouse Theatre, QPAC,
South Bank Brisbane, 2018
National Maritime Museum
of China*, Tianjin, 2013
Helix Pedestrian Bridge*, Singapore, 2010
Singapore Management University
Headquarters*, Singapore, 2006
Marina Bay Master Plan*, Singapore, 2000
Yichang City Centre Master Plan*, China, 2000
Singapore EXPO*, Singapore, 1999

* Undertaken at Cox Architecture t/a Cox Rayner.

Industry Leadership

Michael was one of three Creative
Directors of the Australian Institute
of Architects National Conference
in Brisbane in 2012. He was the
Awards Director for the Queensland
Architecture Awards in the same year.

He has been a National Councillor
of the Australian Institute of
Architects, and has participated in
numerous panels fostering improved
design delivery processes.

Michael is a long term Board
member of the Property Industry
Foundation which provides housing
for Queensland's homeless youth
and victims of domestic violence

In 2024, Michael was awarded the
Property Council of Australia's
inaugural Queensland Impact
Industry Award, and the Property
Industry Foundation's inaugural
High Achievement Award.

In 2025, Michael was awarded
the Brisbane City Council Lord
Mayor's Business Leaders Lifetime
Achievement Award. In 2026, he was
awarded Urban Design Champion at
the Australian Urban Design Awards.

Architecture

While Principal Director of Cox
Rayner Architects, Michael played a
significant design role in the design
of many of Queensland's public,
arts, educational, commercial and
infrastructure projects. They include
the Kurilpa and Goodwill Pedestrian
Bridges, Brisbane Convention
and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane
Magistrates Court, One One One
Eagle Street, Griffith University's
Sir Samuel Griffith Centre and its
campus revitalisation, and the flood-
resilient Brisbane Ferry Terminals.

In regional Queensland, his projects
include Thuringowa Riverway and
the Flinders Street Revitalisation
in Townsville, Cairns Convention

Centre, Artspace Mackay and
Griffith University Health Centre
on the Gold Coast. Michael's latest
projects include The Glasshouse
Theatre at QPAC in South Bank,
the National Rugby Training Centre
at Ballymore in Brisbane, Mary's
Place in Dalby and Piccadilly on
Queen Street in the Brisbane CBD.

Urban Design

Michael has contributed consistently
through master planning and
urban design to Queensland's and
Brisbane's urban environments. He
is well known for his 'Smart Cities:
Rethinking the City Centre' (2006)
strategy for the Queensland Premier's
Smart State Council which proposed
the series of pedestrian bridges
across the Brisbane River, the Brisbane
Knowledge Corridor endorsed by
Government and Council, and the
envisioning of the Brisbane City
Centre as a network of urban villages.

While at Cox Rayner Architects,
Michael was the master planner
for the Newstead-Teneriffe
Urban Waterfront in Brisbane,
the Queensland Cultural Centre
Millennium Arts Redevelopment,
Griffith University's Nathan and
Gold Coast campuses, and Cairns
Cityport. His master plans have won
several international competitions
including for Singapore Marina
Bay, Singapore Management
University, and for Yichang and
Ningbo city centres in China.

Michael's more recent master
plans include for the South Bank
Maritime Precinct and the Ballymore
multi-sports precinct in Brisbane
and the Sunshine Coast Sports
Precinct Kawana. He is currently
undertaking a number of studies
for Brisbane City Council for urban
enhancements to the Brisbane city
centre in the lead-up to the 2032
Olympic and Paralympic Games.

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Major Publications & Papers

2024 'Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Stadium Reference Design Peer Review' for Queensland Government
2024 'Brisbane Arena Reference Design Peer Review' for Queensland Government
2023 'Brisbane Olympic Park' Strategy to Queensland State Government Olympic Review Panel
2023 'Brisbane Green Corridors' Strategy to Brisbane City Council and Queensland State Government
2019 Keeble Lecture, Planning Institute
2014 "From the Ground Up: 20 Stories of a Life in Architecture", Uro Media
2011 "Creating Healthy Communities" Queensland Government Smart State Council,
2008 "Queensland Design Industries Strategy", Queensland Government Smart State Council
2007 "Smart Cities: Rethinking the City Centre", Queensland Government Smart State Council

Major Speaking Subjects

Australia: Living on the Edge
Influences of Modern Art on Modern Architecture 1915-2015
Creative and Knowledge Cities
Structure, Craft, Art and Nature in Architecture
Integration of engineering and architecture
Duality in architecture

Public Engagement

Michael has delivered several significant public speeches over thirty years, including at the FIDIC International Engineering Convention in Switzerland in 2001, at the Mikhail Gorbachev-led Earth Dialogues Forum in Brisbane in 2011, and for the Australian Embassy in Beijing under the title 'Australia-Living on the Edge' in 2018.

He has spoken at the Victorian Art Gallery, the Gallery of Modern Art Brisbane, the State Library of Queensland, and the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, and given many television and radio interviews. He delivered the Planning Institute of Australia's Keeble Lecture in 2019.

Michael has been a strong urban design advocate for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Stadium to be sited in Brisbane's Victoria Park, presenting to official Government panels and multiple industry organisations. In 2026, Michael delivered the keynote address at the Order of Australia National Conference in Brisbane.

Philanthropy and Pro Bono

Apart from many pro bono Board and Committee roles Michael performs, he has a long history of philanthropic contributions and pro bono architecture.

In 2023-25, he led his practice's design of the Jinndii Waijung Housing for victims of domestic violence (Lady

Musgrave Trust) at Yarrabilba. Prior to this project, he led his practice's pro bono designs of the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum in Winton, North Queensland, the Youngcare Foundation housing for young people with high support needs in Sinnamon Park, and the Many Shades Orphanage in Tanzania.

In 2019, Michael donated 97 artworks to The University of Queensland Art Museum.

Michael has sponsored a range of prizes to universities and has sponsored the Order of Australia's Senior Volunteers Awards for the past 15 years.

Personal Interests

Michael's personal interests include kayaking in Moreton Bay and on the Brisbane River, and collecting art. He has developed relationships with several Queensland artists as a basis for his collection which includes works by Gordon Bennett, Arthur Koo'ekka Pambegan Jnr, Michael Cook, Madonna Staunton, Gwyn Hanssen Pigott, Leonard Brown, Lincoln Austin, Bruce Reynolds, Eugene Carchesio, Marian Drew, Jo Furlonger, Sandra Selig, Aaron Snowball, Kenji Uranishi, Ken Thaiday, Thancoupie and Michael Zavros. Michael is married to Kylie, a social worker, and they have two sons - Hugh, a software designer/developer, and Lachlan, a biomechanical and fluid dynamics engineer.

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The Glasshouse Theatre, South Bank



National Rugby Centre, Ballymore



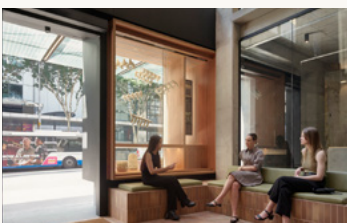
South Bank South Master Plan



The Marian Centre, Brigidine College



Mary's Place, Dalby



Piccadilly, 340 Queen Street, Brisbane

Selected Projects - Blight Rayner

Cultural & Community

Queensland Performing Arts Centre
Master Plan Amenities Upgrade 2026

The Glasshouse Theatre (with Jayson
Blight), QPAC, South Bank, Brisbane, 2026

North Australian Arts Precinct
Master Plan, Townsville, 2024

Mary's Place, (Dalby Town Square),
Dalby, Western Downs, 2023

Townsville Concert Hall Business
Case & Reference Design, 2022

Old Queensland Museum Revitalisation
Strategy, Bowen Hills, Brisbane, 2019, 2022

Bundaberg Regional Cultural
Precinct Master Plan, 2021

South Bank Maritime Precinct Master
Plan, South Bank, Brisbane, 2020

Ipswich Convention and Entertainment
Centre (ICEC) Business Case Design,
Ipswich Showgrounds, 2020

Education

Griffith University Nathan
Campus Master Plan, 2023

The Marian Centre, Brigidine College,
Indooroopilly, Brisbane, 2020

Griffith University Logan Campus Master
Plan, Meadowbrook, Logan, 2020

Residential and Hotel

Lady Musgrave Trust - Jinndii Waijung
Housing for Victims of Domestic
Violence Yarrabilba, 2023

Morrison Hotel Precinct Redevelopment,
Woolloongabba, 2024

309 North Quay Residential and Hotel
Tower Development, Brisbane CBD, 2024

Sport

University of Queensland
Rugby Club, 2026

North Ipswich Stadium, 2026

Queensland Tennis Centre
Master Plan 2024

Griffith University Nathan Campus Health
and Wellbeing Centre, Brisbane 2023

Logan Indoor Sports Centre
Reference Design, Brisbane, 2023

Sunshine Coast Sports Centre
Master Plan, 2023

Sunshine Coast Indoor Sports
Centre Reference Design, 2023

Ballymore Sports Precinct
Master Plan, 2023

National Rugby Training Centre (NRTC),
Ballymore, Herston, Brisbane, 2023

Ballymore Redevelopment
Master Plan, Ballymore, 2022

Queensland Tennis Centre Master Plan,
Stage 2, Tennyson, Brisbane, 2020

Commercial and Workplace

240 Queen Street Upgrade, Brisbane 2026

58 Morgan Street (St Patrick's Cathedral
site) Office Buildings 2026

Central Plaza 1 Entrance and
Foyer Upgrade 2026

60 Queen Street Office
Tower, Brisbane, 2026

Stadiums Queensland Headquarters,
Suncorp Stadium, Milton 2025

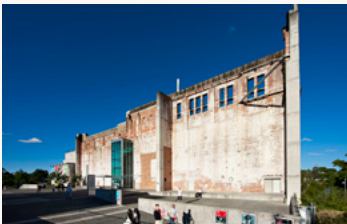
St Patrick's Church Office Development,
Morgan Street, Fortitude Valley, 2023

Piccadilly, 340 Queen
Street, Brisbane, 2023

385-419 Macarthur Avenue, Northshore
Hamilton, Brisbane, 2022



Australian Age Of Dinosaurs Museum,
Winton



Brisbane Powerhouse Centre for the
Live Arts, New Farm*



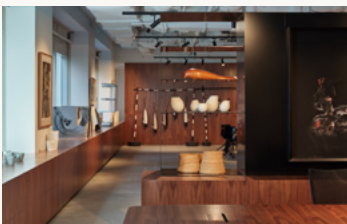
National Maritime Museum of China*



Helix Pedestrian Bridge*



Brisbane CityCat Ferry Terminals
Renewal*



Blight Rayner Studio

Selected Past Projects - Cox Rayner Architects

Cultural & Community

National Maritime Museum of China
(with Jayson Blight), Tianjin, 2013–2016

Waltzing Matilda Museum (with Casey
Vallance), Winton, 2008–2012

Australian Age Of Dinosaurs Museum (with
Casey Vallance), Winton, 2008–2012

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition
Centre, Stage 2 (BCEC on Grey),
South Brisbane, 2007–2012

Cairns Cultural (Entertainment)
Precinct, 2011

Flinders Street Revitalisation,
Townsville, 2011

Ipswich Justice Precinct, Ipswich, 2009

Thuringowa Riverway, Townsville, 2008

Cairns Esplanade Lagoons, 2004

Brisbane Magistrates Court,
Brisbane CBD, 2004

Artspace Mackay, Mackay, 2001–2002

Museum Of Tropical Queensland,
Townsville, 2001

Judith Wright Centre For The
Contemporary Arts, Fortitude
Valley, Brisbane, 2001

Brisbane Powerhouse Centre For The Live
Arts (with City Design), New Farm, 2000

North Lakes Community
Centre, Brisbane, 2000

Cairns Convention Centre,
Cairns, 1996–2000

Singapore Expo, Singapore, 1999

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition
Centre, South Brisbane, 1995

Education & Health

Griffith University Red Zones, Nathan
& Gold Coast Campuses, 2015

Ian O'Connor Building (Formerly G40
Health Centre), Griffith University
Gold Coast Campus, 2013

UQ Oral Health Centre,
Herston, Brisbane, 2014

Sir Samuel Griffith Centre, Griffith
University, Nathan Campus, Brisbane, 2012

Singapore Management University
Headquarters, Singapore, 2006

All Hallows' School, Brisbane, 2003–2006

Princess Alexandra Auditorium and Water
Polo Complex Hospital Redevelopment,
Woolloongabba, Brisbane, 2001

Commercial

One One One Eagle Street (with
Jayson Blight), Brisbane CBD, 2012

400 George Street, Brisbane CBD, 2009

SW1, South Bank, Brisbane, 2005–2009

Y&R Group House (Formerly Abigroup
House), South Bank, Brisbane, 2006–2008

Singapore Management
University HQ, 2006

Connections

Brisbane Post-Flood Ferry
Terminals, 2011–2015

New Farm Riverwalk, Brisbane, 2011–2014

West End Ferry Terminal,
Brisbane, 2008–2012

Helix Pedestrian Bridge, Singapore, 2010

Kurilpa Pedestrian Bridge,
Brisbane CBD, 2009

Macintosh Island Pedestrian Bridge,
Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast, 2007

Goodwill Pedestrian Bridge,
Brisbane CBD, 2001

Masterplanning

Cairns Cityport Master Plan, Cairns, 2014

Griffith University Nathan Campus
Master Plan & Revitalisation, 2013

Griffith University Gold Coast
Campus Revitalisation, 2012

Thuringowa Riverway Master
Plan, Townsville, 2008

River City Arena Master
Plan, Brisbane, 2008

SW1 Mixed-Use Precinct Master
Plan, South Bank, Brisbane, 2008

South Bank Institute of Technology
Master Plan, South Bank, Brisbane, 2008

Smart Cities: Rethinking The City
Centre Strategy, Brisbane, 2007

Millennium Arts Master Plan, Queensland
Cultural Centre, Brisbane, 2002

Marina Bay Master Plan, Singapore, 2000

Yichang City Centre Master
Plan, China, 2000

Newstead–Teneriffe Urban Renewal
Master Plan, Brisbane, 2000

Newstead River Park Master
Plan, Brisbane, 2000

Residential

Hill End House, Ryan Street, Hill End 2011