

# Michael Rayner AM

BArch(Hons1) (UNSW), LFRAIA, FTSE, RIBA, BOAQ, NSWARB  
Director

BlightRayner



## Contact

[michael.rayner@blightrayner.com.au](mailto: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)  
Australian Academy of Technological  
Sciences + Engineering Fellow  
Australian Institute of  
Architects Life Fellow  
Royal Institute of British  
Architects Associate

## Registration

Board of Architects of QLD,  
Registration No. 2495  
NSW Architects Registration  
Board, No. 4348

## Current Positions

Adjunct Professor in Architecture,  
University of Queensland  
Adjunct Professor in Architecture,  
Griffith University  
Brisbane City Council Urban  
Futures Board Member  
Queensland Urban Design  
+ Places Panel Member  
Property Industry Foundation  
QLD Board Member

## 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 and a Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. 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, and has thrice won the Australia Award for Urban Design. 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 2015, his Mary's Place project in Dalby won the Australian Urban Design Award, adding to the same award he 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.

## 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.

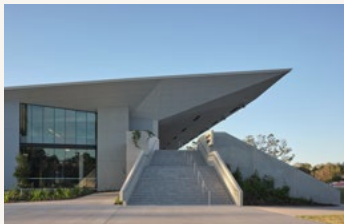
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The Glasshouse Theatre, South Bank



National Rugby Centre, Ballymore



South Bank South Master Plan



The Marian Centre, Brigidine College



Mary's Place, Dalby



340 Queen Street, Brisbane

## 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 CBD.

## Urban Design

Michael has equally contributed through master planning and urban design to Queensland urban environments. They include, while at Cox Rayner, Griffith University's Nathan and Gold Coast Campuses, the Newstead-Teneriffe Urban Waterfront in Brisbane, the Queensland Cultural Centre Millennium Arts Precinct, and Cairns Cityport. Internationally his master plans have won several international competitions - including Singapore's Marina Bay, the Singapore Management University and Yichang and Ningbo City Centres in China.

Michael was the master planner for the Ballymore multi-sports precinct in Brisbane and for South Bank's Maritime Museum Precinct.

Michael has been a major 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.

## 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. In 2023, Michael presented a strategy for revitalising the Brisbane City Centre to the Property Council of Australia's Be Bold conference and the UDIA's Queensland Developers Conference leading up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

## 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 Haven House for victims of domestic violence (Lady Musgrave Trust) at Logan. 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 and the Many Shades Orphanage in Tanzania.

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

Michael sponsors a range of prizes to universities and has sponsored the Order of Australia's Senior Volunteers Awards for the past 14 years.

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## 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

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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" Qld  
Government Smart State Council,  
2008 "Queensland Design Industries Strategy",  
Qld Government Smart State Council  
2007 "Smart Cities: Rethinking the City Centre",  
Qld Government Smart State Council

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## 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

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Queensland Government Urban  
Design + Places Panel Member  
Property Industry Foundation  
QLD Board Member  
Member, Ipswich Public Art Advisory Group  
Juror, World Architecture Festival Awards

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## 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

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\* Undertaken when working at Cox Architecture t/a Cox Rayner.

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## Selected Projects - Blight Rayner

### Cultural & Community

The Glasshouse Theatre (with Jayson Blight), QPAC, South Bank, Brisbane, 2025  
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  
Cavill Avenue and Esplanade Revitalisation Plan, Surfers Paradise, 2022  
Bundaberg Regional Cultural Precinct Master Plan, 2021  
South Bank Southern Gateway Precinct Master Plan, South Bank, Brisbane, 2020  
Ipswich Convention and Entertainment Centre (ICEC) Business Case Design, Ipswich Showgrounds, 2020

### Education

Griffith University Nathan Campus Spatial Plan, 2023  
The Marian Centre, Brigidine College, Indooroopilly, Brisbane, 2020  
Griffith University Logan Campus Master Plan, Meadowbrook, Logan, 2020

### Sport

University of Queensland Rugby Club, 2025  
North Ipswich Stadium Design, 2024  
Griffith University Nathan Campus Health and Wellbeing Centre, Brisbane 2023  
Logan Indoor Sports Centre Reference Design, Brisbane, 2023  
Queensland Harness Centre Norwell, Queensland, 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  
New Eastern Stand, Ballymore, 2023

Ballymore Redevelopment Master Plan, Ballymore, 2022

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

### Residential and Hotel

Lady Musgrave Trust Housing for single mothers and children, 2023  
Morrison Hotel Precinct Redevelopment, Woolloongabba, 2024  
309 North Quay Residential and Hotel Tower Development, Brisbane CBD, 2024

### Commercial and Workplace

Stadiums Queensland New Headquarters, Suncorp Stadium, Milton 2025  
St Patrick's Church Office Development, Morgan Street, Fortitude Valley, 2023  
St Stephen's Cathedral Precinct Office Tower, Brisbane, 2023  
Piccadilly, 340 Queen Street, Brisbane, 2023  
60 Queen Street Office Redevelopment, 2023  
385-419 Macarthur Avenue, Northshore Hamilton, Brisbane, 2022

## 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 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