

Architects spurn award cynics

By JANE SEYMOUR

THE Royal Australian Institute of Architects' annual design awards were often wrongly viewed as a self-congratulatory process that ignored ordinary people, the institute's WA president, Greg Howlett, said last night.

"Unfortunately there is a cynical view both inside and outside the profession that the system is a self-congratulatory process whereby architects pontificate on what is good architecture," he said.

Some people saw the awards as a

conspiracy to glorify the work of a minority that perpetuated fashions within architecture, he said.

The awards should be seen as a quest for excellence reflected in all buildings, regardless of size and purpose.

Mr Howlett was addressing more than 300 people at the architecture design awards presentation at the University of WA, where last night's big honour — the George Temple

Poole Award — was won by architects Forbes and Fitzhardinge for Transperth's new Palmyra bus depot.

It won the public-institutional award and a commendation for energy conservation.

Judges said its steel, glass with earth walls added a new dimension to storage of big vehicles in an environmentally stimulating workplace.

The firm also won a civic design

commendation for the new Kings Park Restaurant.

The commercial design section was won by architects Peter Hunt and Daryl Jackson for Midland's new Department of Land Administration offices.

Judges said the 21,000 sq m building had become a Midland landmark.

Other 1994 winners were:
 ● Conservation or recycled design: Nedlands site redevelopment, University of WA, R.J. Ferguson and Associates.

● Energy conservation design: Solar residence, Cottesloe, Baverstock and Associates.

● Interior commendations: Mintaro Cafe, Northbridge, Odden Rodrigues Architects; and Stump Jump Cafe, Joondalup, Giorgi Architects.

● Residential single: Beach house, City Beach, Ralph Drexel; and beach house, Eagle Bay, Odden Rodrigues Architects.

● Multiple or group residential: Five luxury apartments, Perth, Overman and Zuideveld.