



Celebrating the Project of the Year Award and the Gold Award of Special Merit in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Projects category at last year's ACEA Awards were ACEA president Dennis Sheehan, the director of facilities at Sydney Opera House Paul

Akhurst, CRC for Construction Innovation Sydney Opera House FM Exemplar Project leader Stephen Ballesty, Arup Sydney CAD manager (Building Structures) Jason Nell and Colin Biggers & Paisley partner Anthony Perkins.

Interactive model of Opera House is ACEA's Project of the Year

A DIGITAL 3D INTERACTIVE model of Sydney's Opera House, which acts as an integrated management tool for the facility, was declared Project of the Year at the 2007 Association of Consulting Engineers Australia (ACEA) Awards for Excellence event in Melbourne on 30 November.

Consultant Arup and its project partner CRC for Construction Innovation were presented with the Project of the Year Award and the Gold Award of Special Merit in the Information and

Communication Technology (ICT) Projects category.

Chief executive of the ACEA Megan Motto said computer-based technology has become an integral part of today's engineering service delivery.

"The use of building information model (BIM) technology sets a new benchmark in the integration of many diverse elements such as structural, architectural, services, plant, facilities, furnishings and equipment information into a



comprehensive 3D digital model," she said.

The BIM technology can be developed to provide a complete visual representation of the building and all its elements including seven theatres, 37 plant rooms, 12 lifts and more than 1000 individual rooms. The model is linked internally to a broad range of databases and reference information and integrates data from diverse sources including disparate software systems, hard copy and site investigation records.

In awarding the Project of the Year, the ACEA judging panel said the BIM was an exemplary project which had involved a leading national collaboration of researchers to develop a world class management tool for the landmark Sydney Opera House facility.

The Project of the Year was selected from the winners of awards in a number of categories, namely Gold Awards, Silver Awards (high commendations) and Certificates of Recognition.

Nine other Gold Awards of Merit were made. These were:

- *Buildings* – to Arup for the Aurora Tower in Brisbane
- *Transport and Civil Infrastructure* – to GHD for the Green Bridge Project in Brisbane
- *Industrial* – to Connell Wagner for ANSTO's new OPAL Reactor in Sydney
- *Water* – to URS Australia and Murrumbidgee Irrigation for the Barren Box Swamp Water Saving Initiative in Southern NSW
- *Community and Urban Development* – to KBR for the Natural Disaster Mitigation for Floodplain Communities of Vietnam
- *Building Services* – to Norman Disney Young for the Brisbane Square development
- *Specialist Services* – to Hyder for the North-South Rail Corridor Study on Australia's east coast
- *Project Management* – to KBR for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games
- *Small Firm Award* – to Building Services Engineers for the IKEA Logan Store Low Energy Airconditioning Project in Brisbane.

Some special awards were also presented. The Education and Training Committee of ACEA's NSW Division was awarded the 2007 President's Award for its DVD *Engineering: design*

your world. The aim of the DVD was to demystify the role of engineers and to highlight the huge diversity and nuances of the profession.

An Education and Training Award went to Sinclair Knight Merz for its Livelt Health and Safety Practices Culture Program.

A Future Leaders Award was conferred on Natalie Nottage of URS Australia for her management of URS' risk assessment for the Port of Melbourne's Channel Deepening Project and URS' risk analysis for the Coca Cola Company project. The judges said that Nottage has already gained valuable international expertise, is highly focused on continuing professional development and is showing the way for a new wave of global engineers.

Denise Lam of Melbourne University won the Student Project Award for her Clamp Force Sensing and Estimation in an E-brake (for electromechanical brakes in the automotive industry). The judges saw this project as an "impressive innovation and relevant in shifting the industry to a new era of safety. Even though small in scope, the project holds the potential for a major impact on the automotive industry," the judges said. ■



Building information technology was used to produce a digital 3D interactive model of Sydney's Opera House.