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WINNER BEST CAFE DESIGN

A. BAKER

DESIGNER DESIGNOFFICE **LOCATION CANBERRA, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

Jury comment

Part of a series of well-integrated, beautifully realized “culinary destinations” occupying the ground floor and basement of Canberra’s heritage-listed New Acton Pavilion, the cafe at A. Baker is a refreshingly brutal space with the building’s dramatic recent history etched into the walls. The 1920s building was ravaged by fire in 2011 and the design incorporates the charred walls as part of a palette that also includes concrete, bluestone, galvanized steel and leather – an elegantly elemental mix. The cafe shares the ground floor space with the A. Baker restaurant, the two areas

separated – and connected – by a central open kitchen. There’s a wonderfully organic feel to the layout, with a sense of space and flow that invites you to explore the spaces, both those on the cafe level and the basement-level bakery and bar, connected by a newly installed stair. The solidity of concrete – including cast concrete seats with leather upholstery – mixes with an abundance of natural light during the day, making what could have been a stark and slightly forbidding space warm, sculptural and subtly inviting.





WINNER BEST CAFE DESIGN



project
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