

Western Desert clinics project wins prestigious World Community Architecture Award

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The [Punmu and Parnngurr](#) Aboriginal Health Clinics in the Western Australian desert have been announced as one of only ten winning projects at the [World Architecture Awards](#), alongside one of the world's most recognised firms, *Zaha Hadid Architects*, and significant cultural projects including, the Royal Academy of Music, Theatre and Recital Hall in London, and Najing International Cultural Youth Centre in China.



The clinics were commissioned by the Punkurunu Aboriginal Medical Service (PAMS) and completed in November 2018. The clinics are 1800kms from Perth and 1,000kms apart by road, which Director and cofounder of Kaunitz Yeung Architecture, **David Kaunitz**, said, called for a “unique approach to materials, equipment and the building process”.

“It was an absolute privilege to work with the Martu communities. Their patience and perspective comes from tens of thousands of years of being ‘on country’ and their involvement in the design process was instrumental to successfully collaborating on the project, Mr Kaunitz said.

“PAMS required two replacement clinics which addressed the programmatic constraints and modest budget of AUD\$2 million per clinic, whilst reinforcing the organisational approach of respect of people, land and culture to create a facility with community ownership.

"There were models and lots of detailed drawings, presentations, visualisations, not only to the board but to members of the communities and to the elders.

“The design process was underpinned by iterative consultation which engaged the communities, the clinicians and the client in an ongoing dialogue through the design and delivery of the buildings. One way in which we did this was through inviting members of the

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community to provide us with their artwork, which was then translated into aluminum screens and bush themes.

“Good buildings are not possible without great clients. Without the dedication of CEO Robby Chibawe, and the Martu communities, this outcome would not have been possible.”

Robby Chibawe, CEO of PAMS, said, “The respectful and collaborative approach by Kaunitz Yeung Architecture with the Martu Elders and communities has created a deep sense of ownership and pride in our new remote clinics. This is no small feat given these are the first new buildings to have been built here in over 30 years.

“Kaunitz Yeung have designed and project managed the clinics in two of the remotest communities in Australia with professionalism and care, and within a tight budget. These were delivered to a high quality with the clinical spaces and health provision equal to that of a major city.”

Kaunitz Yeung Architecture have built a strong reputation in collaborating with communities, stakeholders and end users to produce internationally recognised architecture within modest budgets that places people at the centre of buildings.

ENDS

VIDEO Link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NObH2xVY1PA>

Photography of PAMS by Brett Boardman - download here

PAMS Project <https://bit.ly/2T1U2y1>

Further details about the Winners of the World Community Architecture can be found here via this link <https://worldarchitecture.org/architecture-projects/awards-winners/>

For further information and interviews, please contact The PR Hub:

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Available for Interview:

Robby Chibawe, CEO, Punturkurnu Aboriginal Medical Service

David Kaunitz, CEO and founder Kaunitz Yeung Architecture www.kaunitzyeung.com

David Kaunitz Bio

David Kaunitz is an Australian architect who is also registered in the UK. Following graduation from UNSW David worked in the UK for 7 years where he ran the London office

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of a large multi office practice and was a senior architect on the London Olympic Village. Subsequently David lived in the Solomon Islands leading community development and post disaster responses for various governments, agencies and NGOs across the Pacific and South East Asia.

In starting Kaunitz Yeung Architecture with his wife Ka Wai Yeung he has combined his extensive commercial experience with his knowledge of living in and working with communities. This results in architecture that places people at its centre and where good architecture does not need to necessarily be a luxury item.

Kaunitz Yeung Architecture Bio

Kaunitz Yeung Architecture is a multi-award winning internationally recognised practice founded by the husband and wife team of **David Kaunitz** and **Ka Wai Yeung**. It combines their extensive commercial experience with David's knowledge of living in and working with communities. The result is architecture that places people at its centre and where good architecture does not need to necessarily be a luxury item. Their projects are bespoke solutions that sensitively respond to clients, stakeholders, end user requirements, site context and the budget.