



South Perth's animal icons join the fold

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A giant numbat and frillneck lizard on the South Perth foreshore are big — but so was the brief they were designed to fulfil.

The local council commissioned an icon that would provide protection from the elements, by night and day, while linking to the cultural and historical roots of the area.

It also had to sit on the foreshore and not impede the world-class views.

Architect Iredale Pedersen Hook, in

collaboration with Place Laboratory, found the perfect answer in the giant, origami-style creatures.

The animals are fast becoming mascots for South Perth, with their own Instagram following and cocktails named after them at local bars.

An entrant in the small project category in the WA Architecture Awards, the icons known as the Canopies are part of the Connect South Mends Street Project.

Director Adrian Iredale said the



creatures give a nod to the notion of an animal parade, from the days when zoo exhibits would arrive by barge at the local ferry stop and later be walked along the foreshore by local zookeepers. The endangered numbat also highlights Perth Zoo's focus on conservation.

A coloured light installation by ETC adds to the excitement as it is choreographed to coincide with the arrival and departure of ferries. Visitors can also use them for shelter.

At night, the piazza highlights Indigenous culture, with the projection of an Aboriginal sound and light display called Karl Kep Ngoornd-iny — meaning Fire and Water Dreaming — by artist Yondée Shane Hansen and Art+ (Art Coordination).

With its placement near some existing mature trees, it manages to meet its brief without any obstruction of the view.

"It creates an identity for the area," Mr Iredale said.

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