

# News Letter



Issue 16 - May 2005

The Architects Board of South Australia

## REVIEW OF THE ARCHITECTS ACT 1939, AS AMENDED

The review of the Architects Act 1939, as amended is progressing slowly. As a result of Federal Government initiatives to ensure all legislation effecting Australian citizens is not anti competitive the State Government is reviewing all legislation including the Architects Act to ensure it does not contain clauses which may restrict competition.

The Board believes the current Act requires substantial amendment to take account of developments in the profession and to align it with legislation in other States, particularly as it relates to issues such as disciplinary hearings, compulsory professional development, professional indemnity insurance and code of professional conduct.

The Board has been unsuccessful in attempts to have the government address this issue. However the Board will continue to attempt to have the government review the existing legislation to recognise contemporary issues in the public benefit.

The Board will keep registered architects informed as appropriate.

## WELCOME TO NEW ARCHITECTS FUNCTION 24 NOVEMBER 2004

The Board held an evening function at the Botanic Gardens Restaurant where the presentation of certificates to newly registered Architects took place. Other invited guests included the Board's Examiners, those Architects who were transferring to the Retired List and a range of people with whom the Board works.

Due to ill health the Minister for Urban Development and Planning, The Hon Trish White was unable to attend. Mr George Vanco, the Minister's Senior Advisor attended in her absence.

The invited guest speaker was Mr Newell Platten a former member of the Board.

Mr Platten, whilst speaking directly to those at the beginning of their career spoke about matters of great interest to everyone present. He spoke about the trinity of

emotions that underpins the creation of architecture. A copy of his speech is set out as follows:-

*"Might I begin by saying how pleased I am to be here, and witness this welcome of new architects into the profession.*

*I'm even more pleased to see that the Architects Board, and the Architects Act, are still with us; that they have so far survived threats to their existence posed by the Federal Government's Productivity Commission. Long may this happy state of affairs continue.*

*Central to the challenge thrown at the Board is the word architect. The Commission seemed unhappy that a small minority who had bothered to do some serious training had exclusive rights to its use. The Commission seemed to think that it should be available to anyone who could tell the difference between a T-square and four-by-two. This, it said, would aid competition.*

*I do not recall the Commission arguing its case with any analysis of what the word architect has come to mean, imply or convey, but I do remember that the emotional response from architects was very strong. This memory has caused me to reflect a little upon the relationship between architecture and emotion, and to wonder why it is so little discussed. Perhaps times have changed, but I can not recall attending a conference or seminar in which the word emotion was even mentioned.*

*Le Corbusier said this.*

*"The aim of architecture is to generate emotion. Architectonic emotion occurs when the work resounds inside us in harmony with a universe on whose laws we confer obedience, faith, respect."*

*Few would argue against the proposition that architecture arouses emotional responses. I wonder if so many would accept the proposition that creating architecture is an emotional act. It's not an idea that would get much currency in corporate boardrooms. Furthermore, it highlights the right-hand side of the brain wherein lurks creativity, that wayward beast that takes no cognisance of flow charts and performance contracts.*

*It's all rather odd when you think about. Surely, emotions drove the construction of the pyramids, the classical temples, the great cathedrals, the Taj Mahal, the Sydney Opera House. But we don't talk about them.*

*Well, I'm going to. I'm going to spend a few moments*

looking at the trinity of emotions that I think underpins the creation of architecture; namely love, humility and pride. I believe that the architect is as much distinguished by having the sensitivity to tap the power and relevance of these emotions as by having talent and knowledge.

Firstly, love.

Is there another calling that demands as much loving? Must the barrister love the criminal, the dentist the tooth, the undertaker the stiff? We know there are kinky people out there, and my dentist glows at the thought of ceramic implants, but surely all they need is a professional attitude. Not so the architect. Architecture thrives on love.

Uniquely, architecture demands we serve her with mind and heart. As Patrick White suggests, the architect's challenge is to capture the razor edge where reason unites with emotion.

You can always recognise the unloved building. It's been commodified, taken over by marketeers, technocrats, bureaucrats, bottom-liners. It has a bleak and bitter look, stares glumly at you like a wallflower at a country dance. Such a building is sad and saddens all who look at it. Alas, it is one of many.

So, young practitioners, fall in love a lot. Have a passionate affair with every project. True; emotional involvement can be draining, especially when events and personalities and your own limitations hinder consummation. Just remember, when disappointed, that every failure teaches and hope returns with every new adventure.

Secondly, humility.

To be humble is to be open to influence, it is to enquire rather than assert, to be receptive rather than impose. It is to let your problems lead you.

Architecture asks you to be humble in the face of her needs. She asks you to never tell her what you want from her, only to ask what she wants of you. She wants you to ask this of your client, your site, its topography, your climate, your neighbourhood, your structure, your materials.

To be humble is to not act conqueror; to never say I can command this or that irrational bit of insulation or structural nonsense because I have the technical resources. If you want to see an outstanding example of where that gets you, look at the outermost northern tip of Holdfast Shores Marina. Three stories of unshielded west-facing glass; interiors of the most private kind in full public view; lives lived behind blinds, including visits to the loo.

Also, it is to show respect for the work of others; particularly, I do request, the work of other generations. What's passes today might be heritage tomorrow. Old buildings, even those that might seem drab to modern eyes, have their own

integrity and deserve respect. Consider please, the sixties IMFC building on the corner of King William and Hindley streets. Did anyone say to her "Your looking your age dear, would you like a freshening up"? Surely, she would have replied, "Thanks, but I'm happy as I am. I'm weathering nicely, I don't need make-up, my bones are fine and remember, I was built with love and considered rather forward in my day. I'd like to stay as I am".

No. Someone said, "You're looking your age. You're going to have a makeover. We'll make a red and silver clown of you and, sorry, you'll need make-up for the rest of your life".

Thirdly, pride.

Pride, of course, comes in the crafting; pride interacting with humility in a yin/yang cycle of actions and critical reactions. Pride unleavened with humility equates to arrogance, a black hole around which the profession sometimes dances blindfold.

Among the substrata that make up pride are integrity and self belief.

Integrity from the Latin, *integritas*, meaning wholeness, purity. From personal integrity we extrapolate to architectural integrity. To that wholeness where the smallest detail, and the whole, share unity of purpose. To put it simply, where all things fit.

Self belief leads to the desire to discover your personal architectural voice. And to find your personal voice is to make your integrity manifest. Your personal voice is unique, it can not be copied or imitated. Gifted architects seem to find theirs easily think Seidler, Murcutt but for many of us it is a struggle. It is there in your psyche and is found through introspection, analysis of what you're on about and why and wherefore, the society you live with, and the world you live in.

Sometimes your psyche, the nature of your project and your clients and collaborators share unity of purpose. Your project seems to take on its own momentum, like a concert when conductor and orchestra and audience respond to each other and lift each other and the performance transcends. At these times, you are in danger of doing seriously good work.

And finally, because I'm done with preaching, I ask new each new architect to never let a day pass without thanking whatever god, spirit or star you think guides your destiny for having the good fortune to enter one of the most engaging professions. There will be trials and tribulations, you will often fail to meet your aspirations we all do but there will be rewards and friendships made. It's a good life.

Congratulations and good luck.

Thank you.

In closing Mr Platten offered congratulations, words of encouragement and best wishes to the new registrants.

The Board was once again pleased and enthused by the obvious appreciation of the new Architects at the function and looks forward to future successful events.

## BOARD PRIZES

The Prizes presented by the Board on the basis of the 2004 examination results were:-

### University of Adelaide

#### Dean W Berry Prize

Awarded to the student in the Bachelor of Architecture course who has in the year of the award obtained the highest marks in the practice subject Architecture Practice II – value \$250

(joint winners)

#### **Grace Chia-En Lin**

#### **Shani Louey-Gung**

#### Travelling Prize in Architecture

Awarded to the student achieving the best results in all Level I subjects in the Bachelor of Architecture Degree – value \$1500.

### **Rochelle Slater**

### The University of South Australia

#### Dean W Perry Prize

Awarded to the student who has obtained the highest aggregate of marks in level 3 Practice Management Professional – value \$250.

### **Nikki Greatrex**

#### Travelling Prize in Architecture

Awarded to the student achieving the best results in the subjects Architecture Design 9 and Architecture Design 10 – value \$1500.

### **Matthew Guy**

Recipients of these prizes are presented with a Certificate commemorating this award at a formal function conducted by The Royal Australian Institute of Architects, SA Chapter in May each year.

## ARCHITECTS ACCREDITATION COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA (AACA)

The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia's Annual Council meeting was held in Perth in September 2004.

The Architects Accreditation Council of Australia Incorporated is recognised as the national organisation responsible for establishing, coordinating and advocating national standards for the registration of architects in Australia and for the recognition of Australian architects

overseas by the relevant Registration Authorities.

AACA is constituted of and accountable to, all State and Territorial Architects' Registration Boards in Australia. It is not a Registration Authority and can only make recommendations to the various Boards.

Details of the role of AACA are available on its website:-  
[www.aaca.org.au](http://www.aaca.org.au)

Registration of architects in South Australia is solely the responsibility of the Board.

## ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE EXAMINATIONS

The timetable for the 2005 examinations are set out below:-

Applications close to sit the examination  
Friday, 4 March  
Friday, 2 September

Briefing of candidates on examination process  
(Part 1)  
Monday, 21 March at 12.30 pm  
Wednesday, 21 September at 12.30 pm

National Examination Paper (Part 2)  
Wednesday, 6 April at 10.30 am  
Wednesday, 5 October at 10.30 am

Oral Examination (Part 3A)  
Wednesday, 27 April  
Wednesday, 26 October  
(timetable will be advised to successful candidates)

Oral Examination (Part 3B) (if required)

**From 2005 the National Examination Paper will be conducted as a "closed book" examination.**

**The following will not be permitted in the examination room:**

**Reference material, practice notes, building contracts, handwritten notes and any other printed or written material; laptop computers, mobile phones and other electronic equipment.**

The Architects Board of South Australia and the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia have appointed several new examiners for the Architectural Practice Examinations. This has increased the size of the panel of examiners and achieved an appropriate gender balance of the panel.

The Board appreciates the efforts of Professor John Cooper in his role as examination convenor in South Australia and the support and interest of all architectural

practice examiners in being part of this important process.

Information on the examination process is available on the AACA website: [www.aaca.org.au](http://www.aaca.org.au) or the SA Board website: [archboardsa.org.au](http://archboardsa.org.au)

## REGISTRATION

Congratulations to the following architects who have successfully registered in South Australia between February 2004 and April 2005. Some of these registrations are for architects from other States and Territories under mutual recognition arrangements.

Most are new architects registering for the first time having completed the Architectural Practice Examination.

Carol Ann Roediger  
Karl Arthur Fender  
Norair Seropian  
Paul Jeffrey Mutton (re-registration)  
Warren Merton Kerr  
Raymond Peter Smith  
Prudence Michelle Murdoch  
Robert Lindsay Caulfield (re-registration)  
Terry Suey  
Piotr Janusz Stachurski  
Grant Beck  
Jane Elanor Monk  
Scott Alexander Colegate  
David Ross Handsaker  
John Balfour Wardle  
Elizabeth Mary Little  
Michael John Silvy  
Marko Roco Markota Separovic  
Christopher Dean Jeffery  
Suet Mun Wong  
Stewart James Caldwell  
Ben William Zoontjens  
Natale Zappia  
Linda Jane Mounsey  
Simon Benjamin Fleet  
Mark Anthony Nield  
Tania Catrina Albertini  
Spyros Paraskevopoulos  
Peter Stephen Hardy  
Julian Alan Deacon Rutt  
Gregg Ronald Winkel  
John Kingsley Barrington  
Wayne Christopher Jackson  
Gianni Giacomo Zandel  
Vikram Hans Kumar  
Joseph Joongaoo Park  
John Charles Gallagher  
Sonia Mercorella  
Gregory Scott Bond  
Justin Scott Carter  
Andrew Thomas Klenke

Matthew Stuart Parkin  
Jason Hugh Timberlake  
Gerald Gordon Matthews  
Carly Maria Williams  
Epaminonda Katsalidis  
Ian David Sutter  
Leonora Beng Ling Chieng  
David Howard Brenen  
David Malcolm Cooke  
James Alfred Cunnew  
Scott Boyd Turner  
Phillip John Tait  
Jane Wesley Williams  
James Grose  
Andrew John Cortese  
Abbie Galvin  
Sarita Chand  
Mark Kemetz Grimmer  
Christopher John Clarke  
Timothy Andrew Shellshear  
Antanas Kesimas

### Companies

Stevens Architects Pty Ltd  
Birchby Consulting Pty Ltd  
EGO Fender Katsalidis Pty Ltd

As at 1 May 2005 a total of 781 architects and 94 companies were registered in South Australia.

## COMPLAINTS

The Board continues to receive a significant number of complaints from members of the public against the conduct of registered architects particularly as they relate to fees and cost expectations for estimating costs of building projects.

In the current economic climate of increased activity in the building sector it appears as though members of the public and architects have underestimated the cost of building work when considering new projects.

The Board wishes to bring to registered architects attention that they should ensure:-

- client fee agreements are clear unequivocal and agreed at the outset of an assignment;
- the implications of changes in scope or redesign of a project upon fees should be clear;
- the architect does not give cost estimates without proper consideration and advice as appropriate;
- clients are informed as to the process which leads to the determination of cost of a project, and the financial implications.

The Board also draws to the attention of registered architects that it understands some professional indemnity

insurance policies do not provide cover for advice given in relation to opinions of probable cost.

The number of complaints which are dealt with by the Board, both in persons holding themselves out to be registered and from complaints by members of the public against registered architects continues to rise. The Board dealt with 10 complaints and 17 breaches of the Act in the 2004 year.

During the 2004 year the Board dealt with one significant complaint which necessitated the Board holding an inquiry under the terms of the Act.

The inquiry involved significant Board members time input and which significant legal expenses were involved.

The Board delivered a judgement which found the registered architect was guilty of unprofessional conduct and resulted in the registered architect being suspended from registration for a period of eight months from 1 January 2005.

The Board found that the registered architect contravened a provision of the Code of Professional Conduct, being that an architect shall faithfully discharge professional responsibilities, in that the architect:-

1. created a form purporting to be a Decision Notification purporting to grant Provisional Development Planning consent.
2. provided a client a form purporting to be a Decision Notification form knowing it to be false.
3. advised the client that documents had been lodged with a Council when no such document had been lodged. In addition certain documents provided to the client had not been issued by a Council and these documents had been altered in a material particular, being backdated.

The Board found the registered architect did not faithfully discharge professional responsibilities, was not truthful in matters of significance to the inquiry and wilfully acted, transgressing acceptable standards of competence and integrity.

## ROLE OF THE BOARD

**The Architects Board of South Australia** is the statutory authority responsible to the Minister for administering the Architects Act 1939, as amended, 'which provides for the registration of architects, to regulate the practice of architecture, and for purposes incidental thereto'. The purpose of limiting the use of the title architect to those properly qualified to use it is to protect the public from the activities of unqualified persons or registered entities who may present themselves as having professional qualifications in architecture they do not possess.

The relevant Minister is the Minister for Urban Development and Planning and Planning SA is the department responsible for supporting the Minister.

The Board is composed of three persons appointed by the Governor and six architects elected by architects registered in South Australia. All members of the board act in an honorary capacity.

The Board is responsible for maintaining a register of architects and architectural companies and for ensuring that only properly qualified and experienced people are listed on the register of architects, and only companies which satisfy the requirements of the Architects Act are registered as architect companies.

The Board has a statutory role to investigate complaints made against architects and against unregistered persons holding themselves out to be architects and also to discipline those who are found to have contravened the Act.

An important role of the Board is to accredit architectural courses. The Board may promote knowledge of architecture amongst the public.

The Board charges fees to registered architects to cover costs of administering the Board's activities and there is no cost to the government or members of the public.

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

The current membership of the Board is as follows:-

### *Government nominees:*

Judith Carr

Executive Director Building Management - Department for Administrative and Information Services

Susan Phillips

Director - Phillips/Pilkington Architects Pty Ltd

Lolita Mohyla

Managing Partner – Mohyla Architects Interior Designers

### *Elected members:*

Sue Campbell

Partner – Campbell & Campbell Architects

Robert Cheesman AM

Director - Cheesman Architects Pty Ltd

Professor John Cooper

Retired Architect

Andrew Davies (Chairman)

Director - Brown Falconer Group Pty Ltd

David Hassell

Managing Principal - Hassell Pty Ltd

Tom Maxwell,

Project Manager – Adelaide City Council

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## THE ARCHITECTS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Registrar: Mr Richard Krantz  
Secretary: Mrs Marion Rawlings

The offices of the Board are located on Level 1,  
Grant Thornton House, 67 Greenhill Road, Wayville.

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**PLEASE NOTE:**

**It is the responsibility of all architects to advise the Board in writing or by telephone of a change of address.**

**It is the responsibility of all registered architectural practice companies to advise of changes to company details including changes of directors, shareholders and constitution.**