

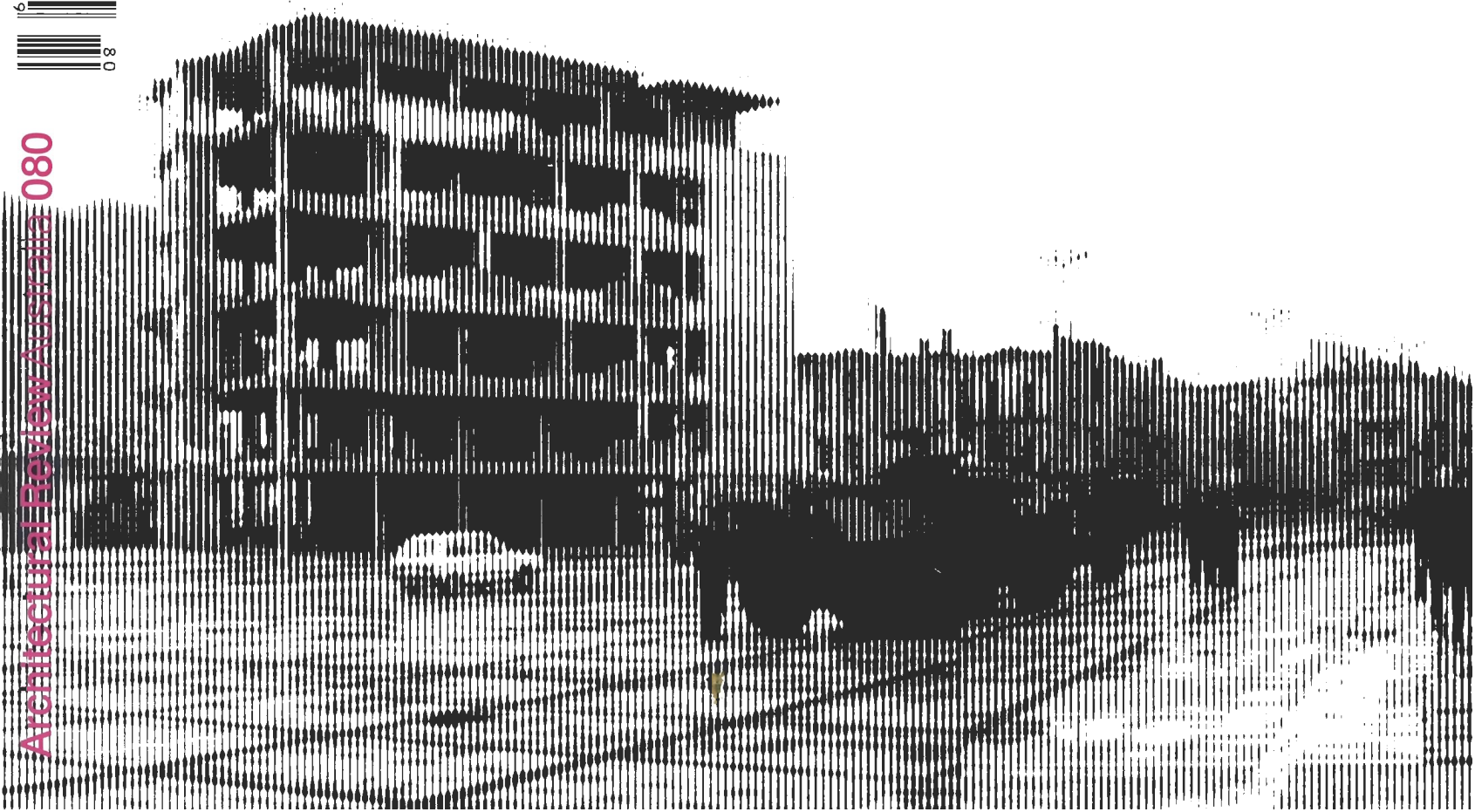
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## Architects Without Frontiers

From lines of contention to zones of connection – Australian architects on the frontline of international rebuilding



Architectural Review Australia 080



## Book Review

### 014 Women in Architecture

Review by Richard Blythe

Celebrating the contribution Australian women made to the architectural profession between 1900 and 1950.

## Competition Review

### 016 GeoCenter Møns Klint

A young Australian duo is commended for its poetic design for one of Denmark's most spectacular natural sites.

## Industry Review

### 021 Casualties at Casuarina?

Comment by Davina Jackson

Can the new coastal suburb fulfil its ambitious brief and reach the environmental, urban and architectural heights it aspires to?

### 024 Southern Cross

Daryl Jackson and Sir Nicholas Grimshaw have won the commission to transform Melbourne's Spencer Street Station into a high-tech interchange facility.

### 028 AWF Australia

Report by Esther Charlesworth

Australian architects take their expertise to former frontlines to rebuild devastated cities around the world, as part of the newly formed Architects Without Frontiers (Australia).

## Interview

### 032 Ajmal Maiwandi Redoing Kabul

Interview by Esther Charlesworth

Ajmal Maiwandi's personal proximity to Kabul's destruction gives him unique insight into a way forward for its reconstruction.

He will be speaking at the Cities on the Edge conference in Melbourne in October.

## Exhibition Review

### 036 Critical mass

Review by Leon van Schaik

International architectural critics critique architectural criticism in a dedicated symposium at Archilab 2002.

## Project Reviews

### 042 Artistic license

Review by Louise Noble

The new Queensland College of Art by Bligh Voller Nield with Donovan Hill fulfilled high expectations within limited budgets, despite the disparate demands of client groups.

### 052 Advertecture

Overview by Koichi Takada

The increasingly close relationship between advertising and architecture is blurring the bounds between public and private space.

### 068 Denied corners

Review by Simon Drysdale

Grattan Gardens Community Centre announces its presence in a sequence of exaggerated cantilevers and dramatic angles, denying references to local context.

## Project Reviews

### 084 Coastal kink

Review by Anna Stephens

Battering down the hatches – a beach house is given its views but denied exposure to the elements in a sheltered getaway for land-lubbers.

## Environmental Review

### 058 Mathematical formula

Review by Lindsay Johnston

User satisfaction and sound ESD performance are only two of the bi-products of the stunning Architectus-designed MSCS Building at Christchurch University.

## Then & Now

### 074 Heide revisited

One of Melbourne's treasured landmarks, the Museum of Modern Art at Heide, is undergoing a transformation. We remember her heyday and record some of the key moments in her life.

## Portfolio

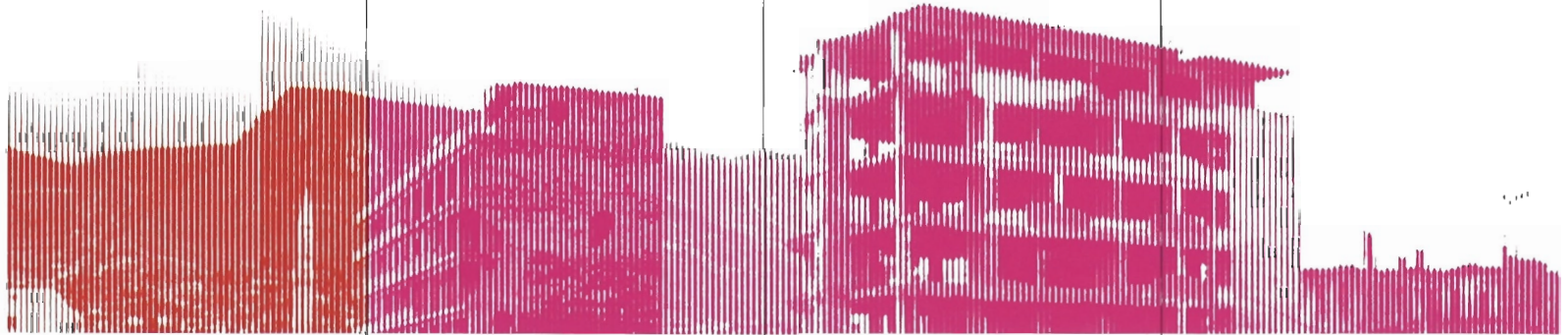
### 091 New products

A selection of new architectural products and services on the Australian market.

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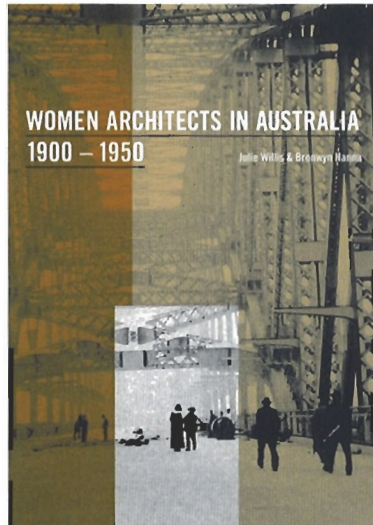
# Contents





# Celebrating women in architecture

A comprehensive new reference charts and celebrates the contribution women made to the architectural profession in Australia between 1900 and 1950.



**Max Feeland's *Architecture in Australia***, the only published attempt at a general history of Australian architecture, includes not one mention of an Australian woman architect. This startling omission is substantially redressed in this detailed and well-researched book that demonstrates what many have suspected: not only have there been outstanding individual contributions to that history by Australian women architects, such as Cynthea Teague and Ellison Harvie, but in the first half of the twentieth century some one hundred women took up the profession. Their careers ranged from those who achieved high-level public positions and those that became influential partners in Australia's largest and most successful commercial practices, to those who simply enjoyed the work and were happy for the opportunity it gave to earn money to travel. There were also those, such as Doris Lewis, who graduated yet took their careers no further despite achieving the highest accolades (Lewis went to London where she graduated with the AA Diploma, won a travelling scholarship and was awarded an RIBA silver medal). This book records the careers of these women, their progress through the profession and the social and economic influences, prejudices and opportunities that they encountered. Social expectations in the early years meant that women were discouraged from entering the profession because of their perceived domestic responsibility. In some instances they battled against extreme misogynist attitudes, demonstrated by one public commentator who in 1907 described the craft work of women students at the Sydney Technical College as 'wasted hours'; misapplied energy; unprofitable labour; hopeless, worthless results; and, described women generally as being in possession of "that defiant self-satisfaction, that ignorant egotism, which forever bars the door to knowledge". The writer lamented that each of these women studying for higher qualifications represented the loss to society of, perhaps, a passable cook or decent dress maker. Thankfully enough women either ignored such prejudice or chose to take it on board as a challenge that inspired even greater resolve.

It was, however, not all bad and this book gives a very balanced view. A number of male architects, such as Clement Glancey, gave significant numbers of young women a start in their careers by offering them articulated employment and good professional training. WWII gave women greater opportunity to step into the senior roles vacated by enlisting men and, during the war, women's salaries were increased to parity with male salaries, which were substantially higher (as much as one-and-a-half times). The end of hostilities however, resulted in a periodic backlash and the reclassification downwards of position and salary. It would be a further 20 odd years before equal pay would become accepted as the norm. The text is structured around four chronological chapters by Willis supported at either end by introductory and concluding essays by Willis and Hanna. These chapters are interspersed with one to three page biographical inserts that provide an account of individual careers. The structure allows both a broad view of the fifty-year history and, at the same time, detailed insights. While the book does provide good reading cover to cover, its structure will also allow convenient 'dipping' for relevant information. The weakness of this structure, however, is that the text is repetitive from time to time. Although the text is generally of a high standard there are minor grammatical errors. The text is well illustrated with black and white images and drawings. *Women Architects in Australia 1900-1950* is an important reference text. It will be an essential one for schools of architecture and those with any interest in Australian or women's history.

**Julie Willis and Bronwyn Hanna received the 2002 RAIA (Vic) prize for architectural journalism in acknowledgement of the contribution this book has made to the profession.**

**Richard Blythe is Deputy Head of the Architecture School, University of Tasmania**