

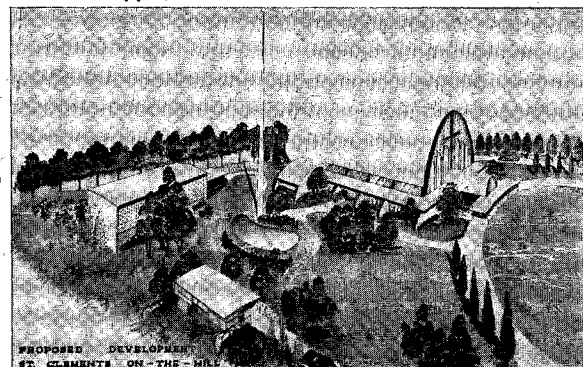
Even more important to Sydney than the Chevron may be the future development of the 28-acre area of St. James' Glebe, at Edgecliff. Speculative rumours so disturbed the owners of this area, the Church of England, that an explanatory press release was issued at the end of September. The Church "wishes to gradually transform this decayed sector into a socially diverse precinct, predominantly residential in character. In January this year, the Church engaged the professional firm of Messrs. Clarke, Gizzard and Partners, town planners and architects, as its development consultants for this Glebe. This firm has since been carrying out an intensive series of feasibility studies of the social, economic, physical and aesthetic problems which require solution during the period of renewal. These studies, including a home-interview survey of many households, are still in progress. No decisions will be made by the Church until these studies are complete. There can be no complete decision regarding the whole area until the two important matters of the New South Head Road widening and the Eastern Suburbs Railway are determined by the Government. Both of these projects vitally affect the future of Glebe".

The S.A. Chapter of the R.A.I.A. will make an annual Award of Merit to a selected building erected within the previous three years by a member of the R.A.I.A. Awards will be made in alternate years in two categories: (a) Single houses, (b) General buildings excluding single houses. The architect of the winning building will receive a diploma and a bronze plaque which may be affixed to the chosen building.



Photos: Advertiser Newspapers Ltd.

This charming and wistful pair of buildings in Waterfall Gully Road, Beaumont, S.A., house a solicitor's office and "tea-house" in a lushly seductive environment that would surely soothe the nerves of any client seeking legal advice. John S. Chappel, archt.



This sketch shows the development scheme being undertaken by Stafford Anglicans in the parish of St. Clement's-on-the-Hill, Brisbane, including the recently completed parish hall (at left), a future rectory (lower left), kidney-shaped "ornamental" pool, "towering" spire and the future parabolic arched church. N. K. Willis, archt. Religion has often inspired architects to their finest work. Sometimes it hasn't.

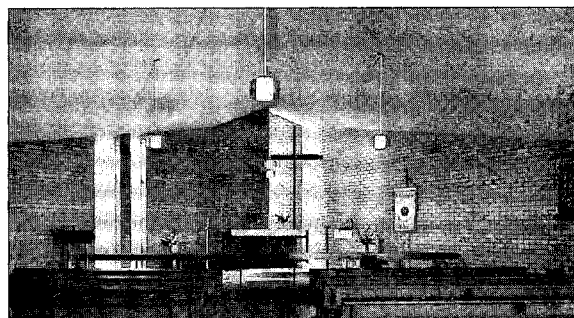
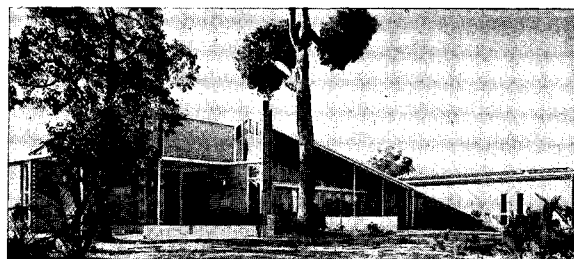


Photo: Ronald Armstrong

This Anglican Church at Bicton, W.A. (Oldham Boas Ednie-Brown & Partners, archts; Jasas & Hastings Pty. Ltd, bldrs), limited by a budget of £11,700 for 33 squares (exclusive of furniture) has few expensive touches but it seems pertinent to enquire whether slight tricks of fenestration e.g. to illuminate the altar, are sufficient in themselves to make up for the exclusion of the artist-craftsman in this particular building type. A local craftsman in sgraffito complains that "the architect is strangling the artist" particularly where internal plastering is eliminated. In this church the awkward plan shape and the old appendage of a vertical feature which is neither belfry nor chimney flue could have perhaps been exorcized in the name of building economy and the artist been given a chance. This seems to be the constant grumble from Australian artists—that architects in their conceit that "space" is sufficient, consider art works to be superfluous. In the rare instances when an artist is commissioned, it is usually so late in the building programme that almost inevitably his creation looks simply stuck on. Other architects point out such results as indications of the inability of artists to integrate their work with the building. And so the argument goes round and round. Of course the only satisfactory procedure is to have a good architect and a good artist, appointed simultaneously.



Not to be left behind by the other States, South Australian architects are organising their own "Outrage" exhibition of horrors. This is one of the first pictures to be taken—it depicts part of the Adelaide City Council's "beautification" scheme for the South Parklands and the view is further enlivened by the "Alpine" restaurant in the background. This "reclaimed" area is portion of the well-known Rose Garden—a famous tourist attraction.

Rumpurs had swept "informed" Sydney architectural and academic circles that the projected Macquarie University Pilot Committee proposed building a carbon copy of Sydney University's uninspired Carslaw building as a nucleus for its, as yet unplanned, campus at Ryde. "Yech!" said the Sydney Architecture Society and promptly asked Mr. Maze, Sydney Uni. Assistant Principal to dinner at the Wentworth to explain himself.

Briefly, the facts as he outlined them are these. Macquarie was formally proposed by the Government in 1960, the Pilot Committee setting an opening date of 1967; a minimum target of 10,000 students in 10 years (and a maximum of 20,000); a £1 million building budget for 1964-66 and a £1½ million budget covering administration and the employment of 200 teaching staff in 1966.

After four years (and three to go) a 322-acre site at Ryde has been selected (most of it still has to be acquired), entry and exit points to main roads have been decided and Mr. Maze and Wally Abrahams, Sydney Uni. Architect-Planner, have indicated a site for the nucleus building. Other decisions include a ban on "temporary" buildings; an emphasis on landscaping, open valley, artificial lakes, planted courts and the like; the use of high-rise buildings and large car parks; and the placing of an ad. for an Architect-Planner having the same status as Registrar.

And the dreaded Carslaw building? "Ah", smiles Mr. Maze, "our assessment of physical requirements over the first few years indicate that a building the same size and with the same flexibility as the Carslaw would probably fit the bill, but we do not propose to take it holus-bolus and drop it among the chicken-farms at Ryde". PHEW! (One got the impression that the fact that the Carslaw building actually worked stunned half the assembly).

Out of discussion arose a few anomalies:

1. The Pilot Committee had apparently discussed only three possibilities in seeking architectural advice—

(a) Employ a firm of consultant planners and/or architects.

(b) Call in the Government Architect's Dept.

(c) Engage an Architect-Planner.

No thought was given to other courses, e.g. open competition and no advice was sought from local architects familiar with overseas methods when faced with a similar situation.

2. Mr. Maze's personal concept of a University is a vast underground library above which the various schools will rise. Sydney Uni's recently completed Fisher Library (Cross Section No. 133) he claims is already out of date. Mr. Maze may be out of date before he starts, in disregarding the future probability of micro-filming all books and the consequent abandonment of large library buildings.

3. Detailed planning of a new University campus is impossible, for the Committee cannot establish future requirements. But this is no excuse for the expensive chaos that generally follows blow-with-the-wind planning. M.I.T. and others proved that an all-embracing architectural order is possible and that a consistent master plan is essential. Open discussion produced no real conclusions—did Mr. Maze leave the Hotel any wiser? Were the members of the Architecture Society really relieved? Certainly the matter cannot be left there—too many new questions have arisen. The slow grinding of academic deliberations have occupied more than 50 per cent. of the available planning time and the heat is now on—ideal conditions for hastily appointed experts to be forced into ill-considered, semi-researched solutions.

If 1967 is really to be the opening date and there is not yet either a planner nor a plan, then there could hardly be a more valid reason for erecting a temporary building as an inexpensive, re-saleable, or re-usable jack-of-all trades centre. We have a local agency for Bucky's domes in Sydney and could probably arrange to charter one for a few years pending preparation (and approval) of a thoroughly conceived master plan either by National or International competition or by a nominated Architect-Planner.

Which brings us to the man himself. This is no ordinary man to be kicked around by the sort of piratical Heads of Departments whose spatial demands far exceed their actual requirements and whose bargaining powers are formidable. High official status is not enough—this administrator must have a far-reaching vision coupled with a single-minded toughness capable of day-to-day dealing with some of the

hardest clients in the country. He must also be a top-class, sensitive designer capable of co-ordinating the work of private firms into a unified whole. This man should have been appointed last month according to schedule. But his calibre should be such that one thinks of men like Smithson, Kahn or Utzon and the right man could take months or years to find.

It is not enough to provide adequate enclosures for baldly stated physical requirements loosely connected (and propped up) by meaningful landscaping. Mr Maze's baby will in the long run probably cost the taxpayers more than the Opera House and for this they have a right to expect Architecture. Sydney already supports two chaotic campuses (or is it campii), one of which was built roughly along the lines which he proposes. The Architecture Society has made a tentative start—there may still be time to stop another piece-meal juggernaut sprawling over Ryde's chook-farms.

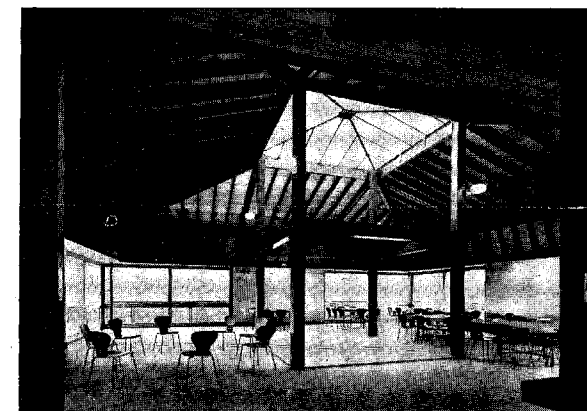
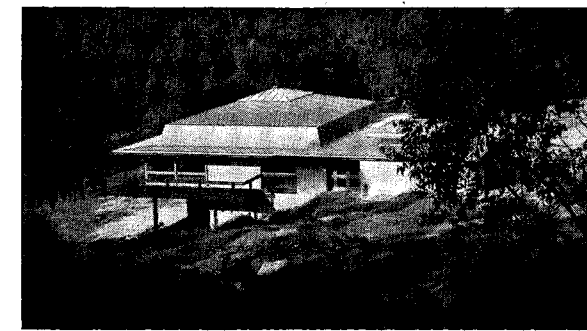
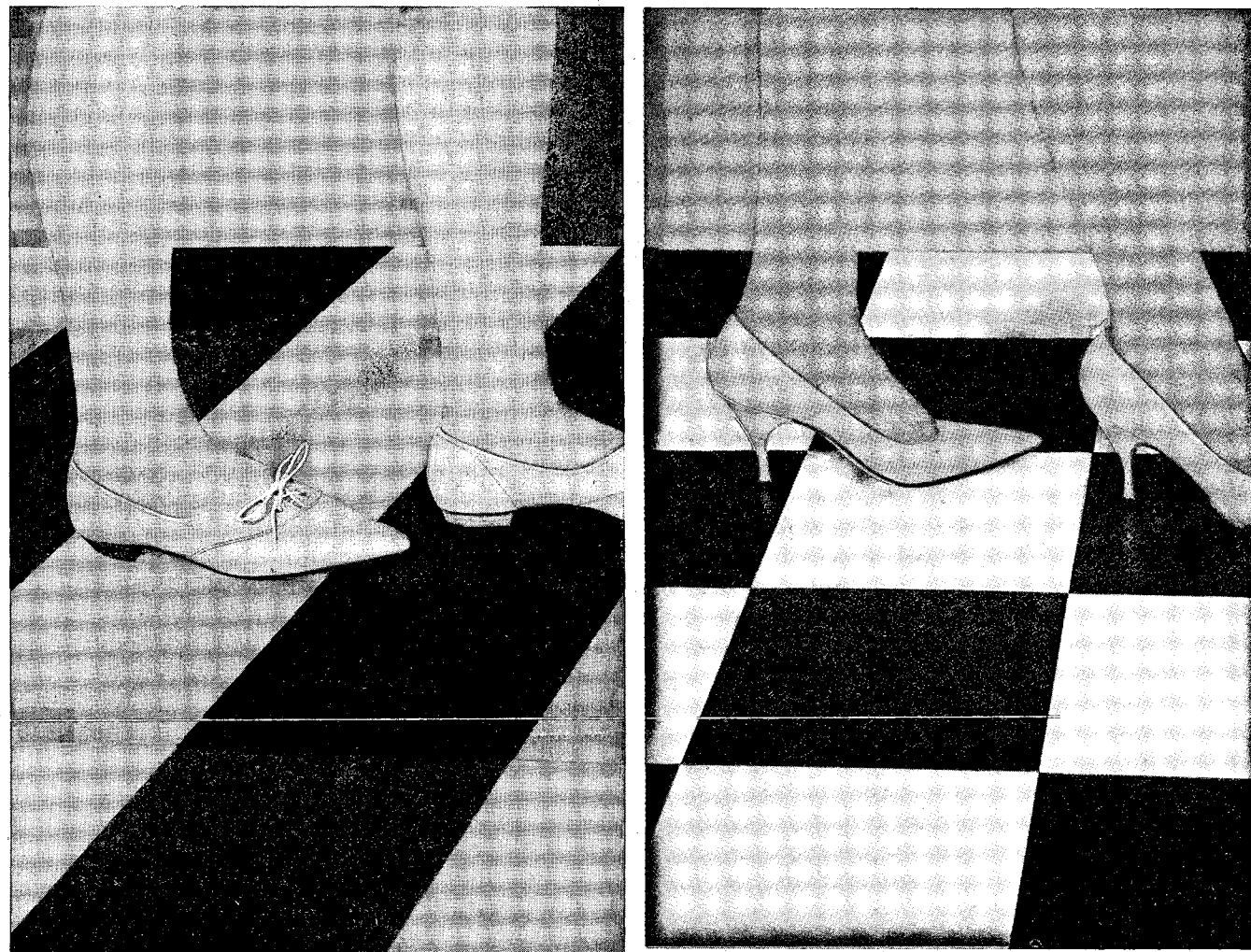


Photo: Diane Graham

This is the new Conference Hall at "Naamaroo", the Congregational Union of N.S.W. Conference Centre near Lane Cove National Park. Loder & Dunphy, archts. Bruce Loder has given nearly every Saturday over the last ten years to the design, supervision and organisation of voluntary labour to construct six dormitory cabins, a caretaker's cottage and shower blocks, etc., deep in the bush at the Park. Cunningly sited and sympathetically treated in asbestos cement and oiled timbers to prove Loder's contention that you can build in the bush without destroying it, the centre houses visiting Church Groups for up to two weeks at a time. The new Conference Hall — (built professionally on a Cost-Plus basis as it was too big to tackle as a volunteer project), houses 150 diners and more for theatre in the round production, folk singing, etc., which takes place on a central hearth slab designed to take a future open fireplace. The shows are so successful in this space that the fireplace may never eventuate. The Hall is 44' square with a central roof light of amber glass over a roof space free of trusses — 4 large baulks of timber hold the roof up over the central fireplace area, and a wide verandah opens on to a small valley on three sides. The building is so well organised and right for the Park that it is surprising to find the curious discord set up by the two raised portions of the roof. Steel frame, sawn timber rafters and ceiling, metal roof deck and bagged brickwork. Built by W. J. O'Grady & Son for £21,350. Longworth & McKenzie, engrs. The whole complex is a continuous process of development—future projects include a swimming pool and another Assembly Hall.

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UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

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CROSS-SECTION

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In view of the erratic career of the Chevron Hotel, Sydney, and of the controversy that exploded when the latest proposals for a sixty-storey building hit the Press, C-S is pleased to publish a letter from Neville Gruzman, architect for the new scheme: "Briefly the project is not an hotel only but a comprehensive tourist centre consisting of several types of hotel accommodation to cater for various income brackets and a variety of amenities ranging from conventional hotel facilities such as a ballroom to seat 2,000 persons and other convention rooms of various size, a sports club with sauna baths, squash courts and as well two swimming pools and a bowling alley. In addition there will be exhibition space, a free meeting room for Kings Cross residents and as well again an arcade of shops on several levels, a small high quality department store and a food centre directed at Kings Cross residents. The facts about the Chevron proposals have been known in detail for about a month. They went before the City Council Works Committee on Monday, 28th September, who announced agreement in principle, with the support of the Civic Reform Aldermen, as well as the A.L.P. men (who represent a majority of the council). On the Friday following, some four days later, there commenced a campaign headed by the Herald which maintained it on its own for two or three days and supported ultimately by the other newspapers. On the following Monday night the Council meeting was held and the Civic Reform Aldermen spent an hour and a half against the scheme although they had supported it at the Works Committee meeting. The campaign against the Chevron has continued almost unabated ever since. It is hard to hazard guesses as to who would wish to see this scheme not proceed. Some have suggested the city retailers, others, other hotels, although the latter is unlikely. Whatever vested interests are against the scheme it is not on the basis of the benefit to the city but for other limited reasons. As a town planner, in the ideal academic sense, if I was asked whether such a scheme should be constructed my answer, after due consideration, might well be no. This would be because in the ultimate I came to the conclusion that densities should be not greater than two or three or six or seven or some other figure and that parking should be provided on the outskirts of the city areas away from pedestrians, etc. On the other hand, if the alternatives are to leave the Chevron hole as is with the building deteriorating rapidly or to subdivide the site into eight or ten sites for private hotels and blocks of flats each with their own parking areas, each crossing the footpath at eight or ten different places with the traffic congestion this would make, and each site taking a building quite unrelated to its neighbour then I would come to the conclusion as I have, that this project did the lesser harm. The only proviso one would make in this is what the density needs to be of the degree requested. One can only have faith in the management consultants in this case, Jones, Lang, Wootton and Sons, when they think that the twelve to one index is essential. One thing of course to make clear is that the scheme shown is not designed, it is a diagram of a sixty-storey building having the accommodation required but represents in no way what the final building might be".

August 1964 issue of the English journal "Architectural Design" includes an article by Richard Fitzhardinge and Andrew Young "Current domestic architecture in Sydney" illustrated by houses by W. E. Lucas & Ruth Lucas, Ken Woolley, Peter Johnston, Tony Moore and Don Gazzard—all except the last being the architects' own homes. Though disclaiming any notion of a "school", by individual statement of belief and in the completed buildings there is a strong family resemblance. Seen published together in a pack, the houses look fine, lovely places to live in. But where do you go from here, boys? The Lucas house is the only example that explores a manufactured product-assembly technique, that depends on a technological society. The others, in rough brick, timber, are more directly sensual than intellectual and the philosophy seems to be one of expediency rather than idealism.

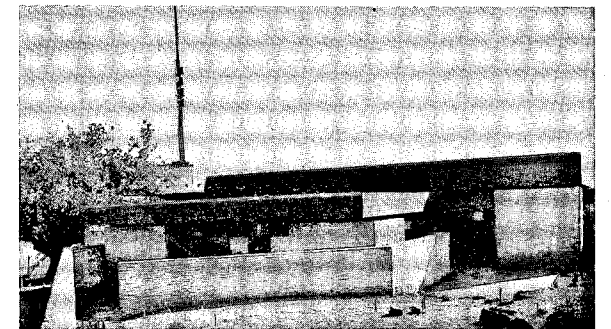
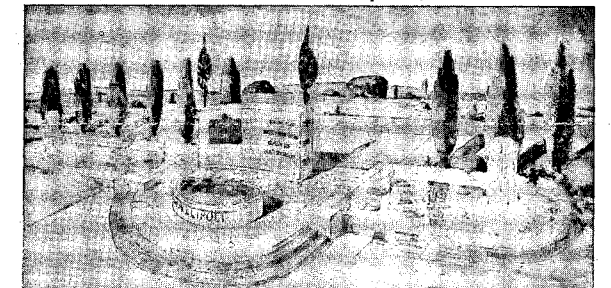
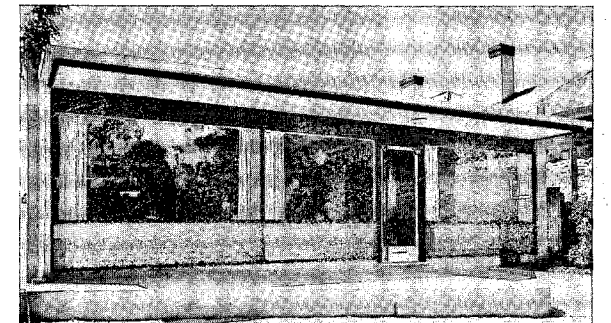


Photo: Advertiser Newspapers Ltd.

For the Interstate Parcel Express Co. (Aust.) Ltd. this highly romantic building in Glen Osmond Road, Frewville, S.A., becomes their new head offices and freight terminal. Designed by Sydney architect Peter Muller in stone and Californian Redwood, the building sports what looks like the ultimate in "vertical feature gimmickry" but is actually 80 ft. high steel radio mast. In places the complex arrangement of masses seem to be stumbling over one another rather than promoting the architect's intended "calmness through unity and inter-relationship rather than agitation and excitement". E. F. Marshall & Sons Pty Ltd, bldrs.



On a site in Brisbane's Botanical Gardens, construction has begun on this memorial fountain, sponsored by the Gallipoli Legion of Anzacs and designed by Raymond Nowland, F.R.A.I.A., A.R.I.B.A. Respect for the dead abjures C-S from a critical assessment, but surely the old veteran of two World Wars who said "It's about time that something like this was done in memory of the Gallipoli men" did not realise the horrible irreverence of his sentiments.



Doctor's consulting rooms, South Terrace, Adelaide. John S. Chappel, architect. On a long narrow site, the building is planned like beads on a string—three virtually independent buildings placed one behind the other, separated by courtyards and linked by a central corridor. Construction: conc. block, walls, exposed timber beams. A. V. Jennings, bldr. The new 14-storey ANZ Bank HQ now under construction in Perth bears the following unconsciously self-evident and naive label "Tenancy accommodation available in this high prestige air-conditioned building". (Editor's emphasis). Forbes & Fitzhardinge, archts; H. A. Doust Pty Ltd, bldr.