

Expanded Architects Board Award (2020) Acceptance

June 2020

My profound thanks go to the Architects Board for granting me this 2020 Board Award. As a migrant to Western Australia it means a great deal to have my contributions to the profession acknowledged in such a prestigious manner. In accepting this award I acknowledge the previous recipients of the award and I thank the many architects who have encouraged my participation in our professional bodies. I would encourage my peers of all ages, to seek opportunities to contribute to their community and to our profession.

I feel very fortunate that I found my vocation in architecture early in life and then had engaging teachers, wonderful mentors and supportive colleagues all the way. Being an architect has been and I hope will continue to be much more than a means to earn an income. The income is critical, it must be said and it needs to be a fair income, but the satisfaction gained from working in our profession and particularly in community projects and public projects, gave me the desire to share my enthusiasm with others.

My tertiary education was something of a patchwork quilt of architectural studies – first and second years at the University of Cape Town, third year at UWA after migrating from Zimbabwe and the final two years at the Polytechnic of Central London. My mother's nervousness at the lack of a conventional academic pathway was only assuaged when I registered as an architect in England in 1985. I had enrolled in the Part 3 course at PCL and passed the registration exams thanks to the generous mentoring of my then employers and the enlightened tutelage of Granville Pine; architect, solicitor, raconteur.

Everyone's career is unique. My first full-time post graduate architectural job was my dream job - with Peter Inskip and Peter Jenkins Architects in England – a boutique practice working on a mix of heritage projects and modernist architecture. The two Peters involved me in almost every aspect of their practice, providing wonderful experience to a keen young graduate intent on registration. My lasting friendship with Peter Jenkins is particularly treasured.

Our architectural education system relies heavily on employers, on the profession providing practical training and education to graduates after completion of their tertiary degrees. It is not possible for universities to deliver graduates who are work-ready. I know how little use I was on graduating. I benefitted enormously though, from the generosity of the architects I worked with during my student years and afterwards and it seems to me only right, to do the same for the generations which follow. I would dearly love to see the Australian Institute of Architects' new mentoring system succeed and deliver a more genuine and generous sense of collegiate mentoring in our profession. The professional-ism of each of us is a product of our whole education and contributes to the community's perception of us as a profession.

As Isla said in her speech one of the central roles of the Architects' Board is as the professional accrediting body for the architectural programs offered in Western Australia. Originally through membership of the Education sub-committee of the Institute I became interested in and involved in the accreditation procedures for our architectural schools. In recent years, there have been significant changes in the sector and the landscape continues to change as new programs are set up around the country and education and the accreditation procedure continue to evolve. I have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the world of accreditation and encourage everyone with an interest to contribute. It is an area where the skills and experience of practitioners and academics alike are relied upon to ensure a robust system.

I have been privileged also to spend a short time in academia in a teaching role. The experience was challenging but extremely rewarding. It is heartening to see students hugely enthusiastic to enter the profession and do good work. It is incumbent upon those of us already in practice to assist with their passage to registration and in turn, senior roles in the profession.

This occasion provides me with an opportunity to publicly thank everyone who has assisted with my progress in the profession. In addition to those already mentioned I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank Keith Makinson at Chapman Taylor

Partners in London and Ian Oldfield and Hugh Gill at Oldfield Knott Architects here in Perth.

My thanks also go to those who nominated me for this award. Thank you Sid, Abby and Ian. You are kind, generous and persuasive.

Importantly, I thank my wife Susana, whom I met at PCL. We studied together, started a life together, brought up three children together and have often worked together, always accompanied by architecture. Thank you. Your support over the last 40 years has been unflinching and has enabled me to pursue the activities leading to this award.

Finally, thank you again to the Board and my peers for this Award

Dean Wood