

RAIA News



Presidential visit

The President, Mr Gavin Walkley, visited Sydney on Wednesday, April 13, and attended the prescribed General Meeting of the NSW Chapter in St James' Hall.

Addressing the meeting, he said that he was impressed by the loyalty shown by members of the Chapter to a fellow member in difficult circumstances during the Opera House dispute and hoped that some success would attend the efforts of the Chapter Council to find a solution.

With the Chapter President, Mr R. A. Gilling, the President called on His Excellency the Governor of NSW during a previous visit on February 3, 1966.

Election of RAIA Councillors 1966

In three States an election is being held to appoint a Federal Councillor for a term of two years. All those who are eligible are invited to take part in the ballot and to return the ballot papers by the dates stated in the special notice to those members directly affected.

Appropriate notice has been given to members in the States of Queensland, NSW and South Australia where elections are being held.

Members are reminded that Article 23 states inter alia ". . . after the last day of March in any year a member whose membership subscription shall be unpaid at the time of any General Meeting or ballot of the Institute or Chapter thereof shall be disqualified from taking part in such meeting or ballot . . ."

Sydney Opera House

The NSW Minister for Works, Mr Davis Hughes, announced on April 19 the appointment of a panel of three architects to complete the Sydney Opera House under the administration of the NSW Government Architect, Mr E. H. Farmer. Mr Hughes said that in all matters of design, supervision and administration Mr Farmer would be the senior partner, and he would be represented on the site by the Assistant Government Architect, Mr C. Weatherburn. Former Design Architect with the NSW Government Architect, Mr Peter Hall, who resigned from that position on May 27 to take up private practice, has been appointed design architect of the panel. Mr Lionel Todd (of Hanson Todd and Partners) has been appointed to handle contract documents and Mr David Littlemore

(of Rudder Littlemore and Rudder) has been appointed to handle supervision.

Prior to this announcement by the NSW Minister for Works, the President, Mr Gavin Walkley, issued the following statement to all Chapter Presidents:

"With hundreds of other members I deeply regret Mr Utzon's resignation as Architect of the Sydney Opera House. This unhappy situation, and the subsequent efforts of the NSW Chapter to assist in a reconciliation between Mr Utzon and his client, have given rise to some misapprehensions on the part of members of the RAIA. In particular I must mention the frequent references to some form of 'boycott' by the profession of the Opera House work.

"No matter how much one may regret the termination of Mr Utzon's services, I am informed that he has resigned, and the Minister for Public Works of NSW has advised that the resignation remains in force. Assuming that the formalities associated with the termination of his services are in due course properly carried out, it would be improper for any member of the Institute to endeavour to prevent other architectural services being engaged."

The NSW Chapter President, Mr R. A. Gilling, has asked for a public explanation of the Government's non-acceptance of Mr Utzon as sole Opera House architect. "Unless good and proper reasons are made public, the members of the profession will be reluctant to support the methods the Minister is using to provide architectural services," he said.

NSW Chapter of the RAIA held another Special General Meeting on Wednesday, April 27, to discuss the Sydney Opera House, which was attended by 202 members who were eligible to vote and about 80 others.

The meeting passed the following motions:

1. That it is the considered opinion of this Chapter that the Sydney Opera House can be built generally in accordance with the prize winning design and can be a major contribution to the advancement of architecture only if completed with Joern Utzon as the architect.
2. Every effort should be made to have negotiations reopened between Mr Utzon and the Government in order to find mutually acceptable terms for the continuation of the traditional architect client relationship.
3. That the resolutions passed by this meeting be formally communicated to the Minister for Public Works forthwith.

Symposium—Constructive Communication

More than 100 architects and representatives of building industry manufacturers attended the symposium on "Constructive Communication between Architects and Manufacturers" organised by the Tasmanian Chapter of the RAIA in Hobart on April 15 and 16.

Both architects and manufacturers were concerned at the high wastage rate of present trade literature. It was pointed out that "Recommendations for the preparation of Trade and Technical Literature for the building industry" was prepared specially to assist manufacturers and agents preparing material on their behalf. It was agreed that it was desirable to standardise on paper size for trade literature, and those present agreed that this should be confined to 11in x 8½in or the International A4 size of 11¼in x 8¼in, ultimately changing to the latter as suitable paper stock became available.

It was felt that a change of attitude was needed in regard to trade representatives, and they should not be sent around to all offices "just to tick the names off a list". Architects said that what was required was a technical representative rather than a sales representative. This technical representative would need to be more highly trained and be able to answer most technical enquiries about his product, give details of delivery dates and be available either to answer telephone enquiries or to call to discuss aspects of the product at the invitation of the architect. It was also pointed out that many present representatives were poorly trained and had less knowledge of their product than the architect they were visiting, which resulted in time wastage for both architect and representative. This was also the reason for the difficulty which some representatives now had when trying to see architects.

Architects present felt that most of the communications problems would be overcome if manufacturers produced more useful trade literature by following the RAIA "Recommendations for the preparation of trade and Technical Literature for the building industry", which has also been endorsed by the Master Builders' Federation of Australia in addition to the original endorsement of the Building Science Forum of Australia, the Sydney Building Information Centre and the Building Research Liaison Service. Such trade literature could be incorporated in office filing systems and would contain most of the information required by architects, and properly trained technical representatives would be able to answer further enquiries. It was also suggested that manufacturers give further consideration to distribution of this material through existing architectural filing services, as this would cut down the great wastage involved in direct mail distribution.

In the final session of the symposium, it was recommended that the RAIA be asked to initiate further meetings between architects and manufacturers in each State to examine the requirements for the selection of technical representatives, and to attempt to lay down education requirements and such aspects as the call rate for these more highly trained representatives.

1966 RAIA Convention, Perth

Final preparations are now being made for the 15th Australian Architectural Convention, which will be held in Perth from May 22-27. The theme of the convention is "Planning for Millions: the Challenge to Architects".

The principal guest speaker for the convention is the City Architect of Sheffield, Mr J. Lewis Womersley, who will deliver papers on "Public participation" and "Prefabrication" and take part in a symposium on "Housing for the Millions". Full details of the programme were published in the February issue of "RAIA News".

Details of registration and reservations can be obtained from the Convention Secretary, WA Chapter of the RAIA, 47 St George's Terrace, Perth.

Book award

The Australian Book Publishers' Association announced that "The Puzzle of Architecture" by Robin Boyd has won a design award as one of the best Australian publications of 1965. This book, published by Melbourne University Press, won an award in the Art Books section.

The Judges for the 1965 awards were typographers Muriel Eyre and Arthur Stokes, and Mr B. W. Hone (Headmaster of Melbourne Grammar School).

Coming Events

May 17, 18: Conference, "Noise in Buildings", Sydney.

Organised by the Building Science Forum of Australia to be held at the Chevron Hilton Hotel, Kings Cross. Details from Mrs Stafford, 1 King Street, Newtown (telephone 51-5631).

May 21-29: AASA Convention "Education in Architecture", Perth.

Organised by the Australian Architectural Students' Association, PO Box 47, Cottesloe, WA (details March "RAIA News").

May 24: Symposium, "Waste in the Building Industry", Canberra.

Organised by the Australian Institute of Builders, to be held in Becker Hall, Australian Academy of Science. Speakers will be: "Waste in Education", Associate Professor E. Balint, University of NSW; "Waste in Research", W. B. Kennedy, CSIRO Division of Building Research;

"Waste in Design", M. E. Collard, FRAIA, of Collard Clarke & Jackson; "Waste in Tender-ign", J. M. Antill, Consulting Construction Engineer; "Waste in Planning", C. V. Holland, of John Holland (Constructions) Pty Ltd; "Waste in Management", Henry Wilckens, of Wilckens and Burnside Ltd.

June 6-21: 10th Congress IFLA, "The Landscape Architect in Town and Landscape Planning", Germany.

Organised by the International Federation of Landscape Architects (details March "RAIA News"), Sekretariat 10, IFLA Congress, 53, Bonn, Germany, Heerstrasse 65.

August 21-26: Congress "The Australian Role in the Development of the South-East Asian Region", Sydney.

Australian Planning Institute (details February "RAIA News").

September 21-23: International Conference on Space Structures, London.

Battersea College of Technology (details see February "RAIA News").

September 18-24: Fifth World Meeting of the International Road Federation, London.

Registration forms and details available from the Organising Secretary, 11 Whitehall Court, London SW1, England.

1967

January 16-20: ANZAAS Congress, Melbourne. Section HA, Architecture and Town Planning, deals with "Suburbia" and "Environmental Design". Honorary Secretary Section H, Mr B. S. Saini, University of Melbourne, Parkville N2, Victoria.

November: International Building Exhibition, Paris.

Details from 1 Avenue Niel, Paris 17, Monsieur le Prince.

SAA Publications

The Standards Association of Australia advises that copies of the following publications are available from its offices in each State:

Revised Standard

CA3 Parts 1, 2 and 10, 1966: Rules for the Design, Installation, Testing and Operation of Lifts, Escalators and Moving Walks (issued together in a 3-ring binder, \$7).

Miscellaneous Publication

MP18—1966: Report on Mechanical Stress Grading of Timber (\$0.50).

Amendments

No. 4 to ASCA2—1963: SAA Code for Concrete in Buildings (amended January, 1966, \$0.10).

Corrigenda

Corrigendum to ASCA22—1965: Code for Pliable Roof Sarking.

Corrigenda to ASCA358—1965: Dust-excluding ignition proof enclosure of Electrical Equipment.

New Draft Standards

The SAA invites comment on the following drafts which are available free of charge from its State offices:

1023 Code of Practice for the Design and Installation of Asbestos Cement Roofing: Does not specify any limitation on roof slope, but includes requirements covering materials, design, application and testing. An appendix gives data for the determination of gutter sizes in various Australian localities.

1024 Rules for the Quality of Concrete (revision of Section 3 of ASCA2—1963 SAA Code for Concrete in Buildings): Revision results from conflicting views on the interpretation of the existing rules with regard to concrete specified by strength and the application of rules to ready-mixed concrete. Rules covering sampling and acceptance criteria have been changed.

New work started

Glazing and Fixing of Glass (revision of CA26): To take into account recent developments and work going on in associated committees dealing with curtain walls and metal windows.

Wood windows of double hung and casement types (revision of SAA Int. 318): To take into account changes which have taken place in joinery practice and building design.

Standards list

Copies of the 1966 SAA Annual List of Publications are available from SAA State offices for \$0.80.

Research and Technical Publications

CSIRO Division of Building Research, Highett, Victoria, now has available the following Ready Research References:

No. 9: Expanded Shale Aggregate Concrete

No. 10: Theory of Rupture of Concrete

The following Division of Building Research Reprint is also available:

No. 344: Roughening of Slippery Concrete Floors by I. Sasnaitis.

CSIRO Division of Forest Products, PO Box 310, South Melbourne SC5, Victoria, has issued the following "Forest Products Newsletters":

No. 325: The Shrinkage of Wood and its Movement in Service

No. 326: Measuring Soft Rot in Cooling Tower Slats, by H. Kloot

No. 327: Heritability of Wood Characteristics

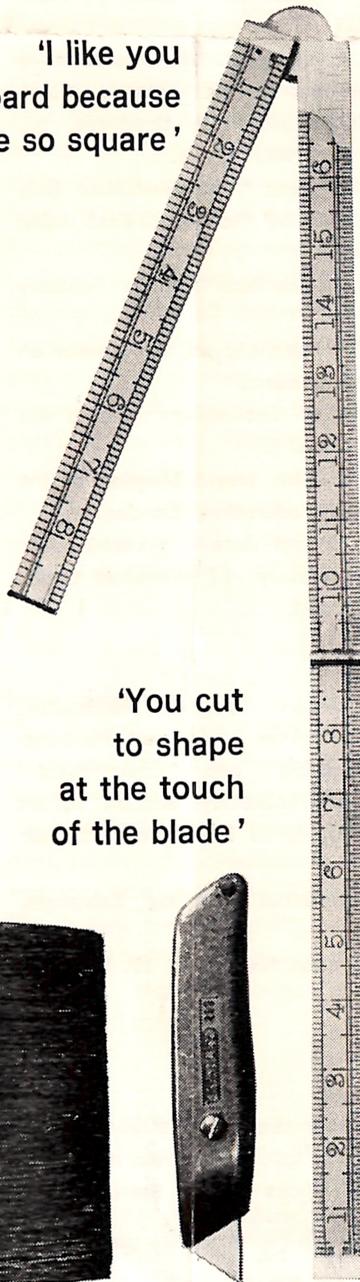
No. 328: Fence Posts and Fire, by F. A. Dale

Australian Stevedoring Industry Authority, 82 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW, has available the following:

Design of a Sheltered Berth: Details of three cantilever type designs for a sheltered shipping berth

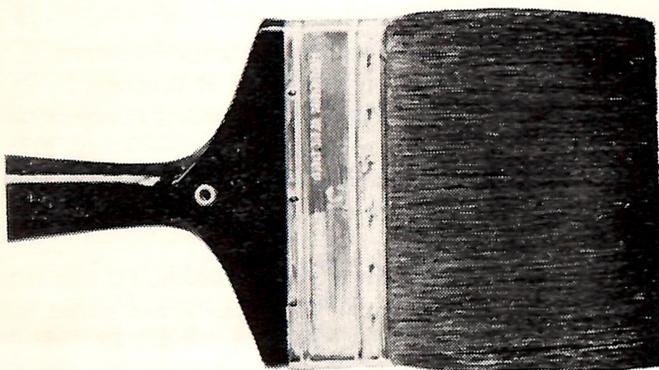
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'I like you
Victor Board because
you're so square'

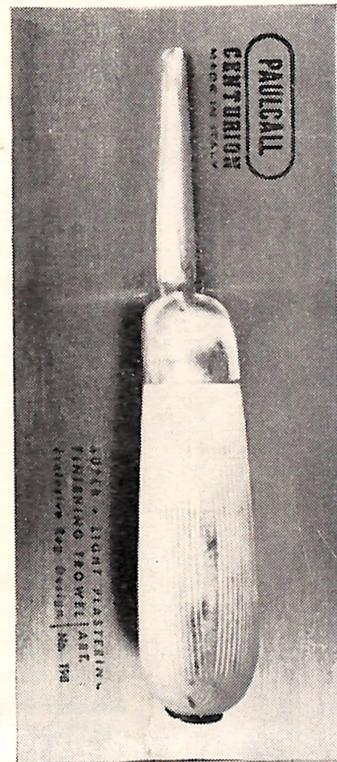


'It's so easy
to make
your joints
invisible'

'You have
a lovely surface Victor Board
You take paint so well'



'You cut
to shape
at the touch
of the blade'



For interior linings
we all agree on

Victor Board

Victor Board is the finest plaster board available. It's made of superior plaster from the largest and most modern plaster mills in Australia. Victor Board is easy to handle. Easy to erect. Easy to decorate. Speeds up the job and eliminates expensive waiting. It's fire-proof. And vermin-proof. Available in 36 convenient sizes.

Insist on Victor Board. And take advantage of the Victor Board free advisory service. Qualified experts backed by the complete resources of this nation-wide company — trained to advise you on every plaster board application. Let's face it! Well-built homes **should** have Victor Board. That's why Australia's best builders specify it **every** time. For further technical information, contact:

