

Suggested draft for the address by His Excellency the Governor at the opening of the Architects' Convention in Melbourne, March 29, 1965.

Everyone, no matter how little he may know or think about architecture, must be conscious of great changes underway in Australia's cities. Melbourne's skyline is growing and maturing, altering almost from week to week, while on the outskirts the suburbs continue to expand with great new industrial complexes, and houses measurable in thousands per ^{month} week. This spectacular activity is determining the shape of the Australian environment for generations to come; and thus a heavy responsibility falls upon you, the architects, who are charged by the community with the control of its shape, or the shape of the major part of it. It is clear that you are aware of this responsibility; you have called this convention together to discuss the problems. And yet to some extent your hands are tied, by society and by history. For today, as in the great days of Greece and Rome, as in the Gothic era and the Georgian, new architecture is a direct reflection of its society. New buildings are recording - involuntarily and continuously - certain truths about us, about our aspirations and values and ideals.

We all must look to you, our architects, to make our buildings beautiful, and yet we must realise that not all of our activities are especially beautiful. Some of the buildings which you are invited to design and produce are merely utilitarian and some must be very commercial. And if modern society sometimes complains that architecture has changed and has lost the glory that was in Greece and in the Gothic cathedrals and in the Georgian squares, then it should remember that society itself has changed, and has become more diversified and

more materialistic. In the modern democratic world there is no likelihood and no hope that every building can be as glorious as the Parthenon or other great monuments of the past. A few buildings can be - even today we sometimes build for functions which call for glory, and let us hope that every such opportunity is sensitively exploited - but the greater body of our buildings must by their nature be conceived in a lower key.

But if all buildings cannot be glorious they can at least be appropriate to their environment and honest to their materials and disciplined by their function; and out of these qualities they can achieve a dignity of their own. And thus in the mirror which they involuntarily hold up to our society they will reflect not indiscriminately, but will pick up in highlights some of those qualities which we are prouder to recognise in ourselves and our community: qualities, for instance, of honesty and self-discipline and dignity.

The artistic and imaginative task facing you, our architects, is a great and inspiring and formidable one. It is the task of abstracting the good and enduring human qualities of our society and interpreting them in terms of steel and concrete and form and space.