

# AUSTRALIAN PLANNER

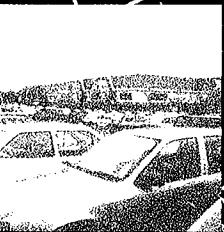
## ENVIRONMENTAL

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# THE CIVIC TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## *The community playing urban design watchdog*

In reviewing the status and potential direction of the enhancement of quality urban design in Australia the *Report of the Prime Minister's Task Force on Urban Design* (Commonwealth Dept H & RD 1994 pp48-49, p62) recommended that "many tools could be better used" and support be given to community-based action groups. The potential for urban design awards was one tool identified, as was also a need for the Commonwealth to financially support community-based bodies concerned with the quality of urban design as it does with environmental groups.

Established in 1969, the Civic Trust of South Australia Inc has successfully fulfilled a crucial role as a community-based urban design watchdog in South Australia (SA). It provides an important model for the role that a community watchdog can fulfil in articulating a public and non-institutional concern for built environments. More importantly, it has been operating a highly influential urban design Awards and Brickbats scheme in SA since 1971. This paper reviews the history and functions of the Trust, and elaborates upon its Awards and Brickbats system.

### **Australian outrage**

The 1960s was a period of prosperity and development in Australia. But it was equally matched by community concern at the rapid loss of their sense of place and urban fabric in favour of projects, urban renewal plans, freeway develop-

ments, and insensitive planning by both public and private sectors.

Robin Boyd (1963) expressed most voraciously in *The Australian ugliness* his contempt for what was occurring. Coming fast on the heels of Ian Nairn's critique, *Outrage* (1955), about the deterioration of the English urban landscape, Boyd deplored the comparable deterioration of the Australian built environment. Boyd levelled particular damnation against the riot of overhead power wires, the uncontrolled chaos of advertising signs and hoardings, and the still possessed delight in cutting down every tree in sight because they "are too slovenly and slummy" (Boyd 1963 p26).

This concern was taken up by Sydney architect Don Gazzard with the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) commissioned *Australian Outrage* (1966). The publication and a keynote speech by Gazzard set the theme for a symposium in July 1967 in Adelaide, together with a photographic exhibition organised by the SA Chapter of the RAIA. Attended by over 300 representatives of local councils, government departments, professional and community organisations, the Outrage Symposium initiated two actions in SA that continue today.

The first was the maturation of a concern for and about urban design in the South Australian architectural profession. This concern continues to determine RAIA directions in SA today, and has been a strong criterion in the professional accreditation of SA architecture and planning courses at the Universities of

Adelaide & SA, and more recently in the new landscape architecture course at the former.

The second arises from a unanimous recommendation from the Symposium for the RAIA (SA) to set up a steering committee to address the Outrage. The Civic Trust of South Australia Inc was borne out of the Symposium and the steering committee.

The steering committee, comprising architects PG Brian Claridge, Newell J Platten, Brian N Snowden, A Coppin from the Outdoor Advertising Association, and Jim W Warburton, Director of Adult Education at the University of Adelaide, first met on October 6, 1967. The committee concluded that a Civic Trust, based on the UK model founded in 1957 by the Hon Duncan Sandys, would best serve and achieve the interests and desires of the Symposium audience.

Sandys, as UK Minister of Housing & Local Government, had been appalled when a proposal for a 28 storey office building and plaza redevelopment of the St Paul's Cathedral precinct, designed by the eminent Sir William Holford (later Lord Holford), was proposed. Struck by the insensitivity of the proposal, and in reflection the development changes wrought and being proposed in London, he instigated the establishment of the UK Civic Trust as a permanent environmental and civic design watchdog.

In Adelaide the voluntary committee was expanded to reflect a range of designers, planners, administrators.

Invited was the Deputy Director of State Planning, Doug A Speechley, SA Highways Superintending Engineer, A G Flint, solicitor Lance Lee, consulting engineer Philip Fargher, the Mayor of St Peters Town Corporation, K J Tomkinson, Director of the National Fitness Council in SA, Albert Simpson, and senior lecturer in law at the University of Adelaide, Ivan Shearer. Warburton was elected chair. The committee considered throughout 1968 a set of objectives, membership categories, a governing structure and a constitution.

## The Civic Trust

The Trust was launched at a public meeting on March 12, 1969, in Adelaide, attended by some 300 people. Architect Jack McConnell was elected President, educator Jim Warburton Vice President, and architect Brian Snowden Secretary. The adopted aims of the Trust were:

- *To promote public awareness of the factors affecting our environment and to inspire greater discrimination in making visual judgements,*
- *To encourage quality in architecture and civic design,*
- *To eliminate and prevent ugliness, whether from inappropriate design, neglect or other causes,*
- *To preserve and enhance the natural qualities of the regional landscape, and*
- *To help preserve structures of architectural distinction or historic interest* (Warburton 1986 p1).

The Trust operated in the early 70s with a government structure consisting of a council, a small executive and a number of active sub-committees. The present structure consists of a President, a Chair supported by a Vice Chair(s), a Secretary and Treasurer, and between 10-15 councillors.

Councillors are elected at the annual general meetings, or co-opted onto the Trust if vacancies exist. Councillor backgrounds are as diverse as the community members they represent. For example in 1984 the Trust executive and council included 1 professor of architecture, 1 librarian, 1 design lecturer, 2 planners, 1 scientist, 1 architect/planner, 1 municipal councillor, 1 city engineer, 2 master builders, 2 architects, 1 conservationist, 1 reader in law, 1 artist and 1 educator. The Presidents of the Trust have been McConnell (1969-72, 75-76), architect Robert Dickson (1973-74, 79-80),

Professor of Architecture David Saunders (1981-94), architect Newell Platten (1985-86), and the former State Premier the Hon Don Dunstan (1987 to the present). Chairs have included architects, academics, master builders, educationists, lawyers, planners and scientists.

In the initial years Warburton took charge of the Lectures/Seminars Sub-Committee, Dickson the Vigilance Sub-Committee, and Ian MacDonald progressively assumed the lead in the awards component under the Civic Improvement Sub-Committee.

A constitutional amendment in October 1974, further amended in October 1978, merged the council and executive, and individual council members assumed responsibilities for awards, essay competitions, seminars, the newsletter, vigilance, etc. The chair was to lead the day-to-day operations of the Trust.

In amending the constitution, the objectives of the Trust were modified:

- *To promote public awareness of the factors affecting our environment, and to inspire generally a sense of civic provide,*
- *To encourage quality in architecture and civic design,*
- *To eliminate and prevent ugliness, whether from bad design, neglect or other causes,*
- *To preserve and enhance the natural qualities of the countryside,*
- *To preserve structures of artistic distinction or historic interest, and*
- *To co-operate with other organisations having like aims and objectives* (Civic Trust 1978 p1).

The constitutional re-structuring reflects a maturing of the Trust in sorting through how it could effectively and better operate in SA. In particular, the seminars, vigilance, school essay competitions and award activities of the Trust had by 1978 already received considerable public attention and support.

Seminar topics and forums often were pivotal in confronting the state government with public outcries against trends or proposals or were used to ignite a debate. Well-attended and represented forums on the Adelaide Hills' Face Zone, outdoor advertising, the use of the River Torrens floodplain as a transport corridor, public transport in north-east Adelaide, shopping centres for the 90s, design standards for the R2 zone, how to plan tourist resorts, and possible housing options in SA, resulted in if not influ-

enced a re-thinking in both Liberal and Labor state government policies and decisions. Of these, the River Torrens forum was most instrumental in spurring the shelving of the Metropolitan Adelaide Transport Study (MATS) freeways plans, triggering the development of the O'Bahn, and endorsing a massive rehabilitation and open space project in the middle Torrens now called the River Torrens Linear Park.

In addition to the public seminars and forums, the Trust in the 1970s entered into an extensive public education and awareness programme by lecturing to service clubs, secondary schools and local councils involving a pool of over 20 regular speakers. Speakers included architects Peter Corkery, Newell Platten, Robert Dickson, John Chappel, Doug Michelmores, Albert Gillissen, Keith Neighbour, engineer Phil Fargher, planner Doug Speechley, lawyer Ivan Shearer, and educator Jim Warburton (Warburton 1982 p3).

The sub-committee was also successful in gaining Australian Heritage Commission funding to compile a major environmental and historical study of eastern metropolitan Adelaide, *Five creeks of the River Torrens* (Warburton 1977), and the later profile of the Trust's activities and awards, *Sustaining our heritage* (Warburton 1986).

As a corollary to the seminars, the Vigilance Sub-Committee expressed the Trust's concern in deputations and submissions. The sub-committee in the 70s and 80s, and to a lesser extent in the 90s, was an active pressure group in deploring the lack of controls over littering and outdoor advertising, the necessity to protect the Adelaide Hills' Face Zone and coastlines (especially the Normanville sand dunes), to stop the Adelaide Station Environs Redevelopment (ASER) and Southern Expressway developments, and the need for a heritage listing for the River Torrens valley.

A school essay competition was introduced in 1977 for year 10 and 11 students to examine and critique civic design in individual or group projects. The essay theme was 'Good and bad features of the built environment'.

## An urban design awards system

The concept of an awards system was adopted from the UK Civic Trust awards scheme. First launched in SA in 1971,

the awards system came to public prominence with the introduction of 'brickbats' in 1977. The nature of award categories and the assessment criteria were progressively modified and altered up until the 1980s when the existing awards framework was adopted. Interestingly, the *Report of the Prime Minister's Urban Design Task Force* (Commonwealth Dept H & R D 1994) has proposed the establishment of an Australian award in urban design, perhaps drawing upon the Civic Trust example.

Awards for civic design were new in SA (if not also in Australia), and the Trust could only be guided by the UK example. However, Awards Sub-Committee members Jim Warburton and Ian MacDonald progressively refashioned them.

The concept of the awards was predicated on community and not professional accolades. Each year the community, including designers, owners, and the public, are invited to submit entries for consideration. Submissions need to include a clear and concise description of the project and any supporting material such as photographs and plans.

It could be surmised that a designer could submit an entry for their own recently completed project, but this does not appear to be the case. One colleague has remarked that although he has been the recipient of 6 awards and commendations he has never submitted a nomination. Rather his clients submitted the nominations. The panels appear to be successfully moderating any professional pecuniary interests in a fair and even handed manner.

Membership of the awards panels traditionally draws scrutiny from professional sectors. In the UK the design assessors for the UK Civic Trust Awards panels were appointed on the advice of the President of the Royal Institute of Architects.

The Trust in SA however decided to devise a different procedure. A policy of appointing to the panels 5 to 6 members with a broad spectrum of interests was adopted. Each panel reviews the award entries, visits each site, and considers each entry having regard to the assessment criteria. The panel also determines the brickbats. Membership on the panels rotates so that not more than 2 of the 5 or 6 members have been on a previous panel. This has resulted in over 90 architects, landscape architects, planners, lawyers, urban service administrators,

journalists, historians and artists in Adelaide being involved as jurors since the awards' inception. The two repeating members provide continuity together with the responsibility of chairing the panels. Votes are of equal value. The regular involvement of Warburton and MacDonald on the panels permitted them to ensure the Trust's objectives were being achieved and allowed them to better review and modify the award categories and their assessment criteria.

Awards were for projects in the civic or community realm as distinct from RAlA, RAPI and AILA awards for public or private projects. The public realm qualification was expressed by the 1988 Award Panel:

*In particular the original purpose of the awards, which is to recognise developments which make a significant contribution to the public environment, was regarded as of major importance. Consequently, a number of delightful buildings which had restricted access and seemed more a part of the private realm such as the impressive arts centre at Westminster School, failed to receive recognition (Civic Trust 1988 p1).*

Up until the introduction of the brickbats in 1977 award panel members were under-impressed by the nature and quality of entries submitted from the public. One panel member remarked "no entry was first rate, and it would be surprising if nothing better is going on in South Australia" (Warburton 1986 p8).

The concept and introduction of the brickbats, proposed by the 1976 Award Panel members, caused considerable debate amongst the Trust Council members. Recognizing negatively in urban design was viewed as an extension of Australian values: "Australia is often described as a nation of knockers, should we reinforce that image?" (Warburton 1986 p9). But approval of the concept rested on three main points. First, the Trust and the community 'outrage' at urban fabric impacts in SA were predicated upon past public outcries and contempt; echoing the words of Nairn, Gazzard and Boyd. It was upon such a community outcry that the Trust was established. Second, the act of critical comment is common in the arts and is essential for its self-examination, debate and furtherance. Third, the entries would give South Australian's an avenue to better express their concern and contempt of insensitive public realm projects and

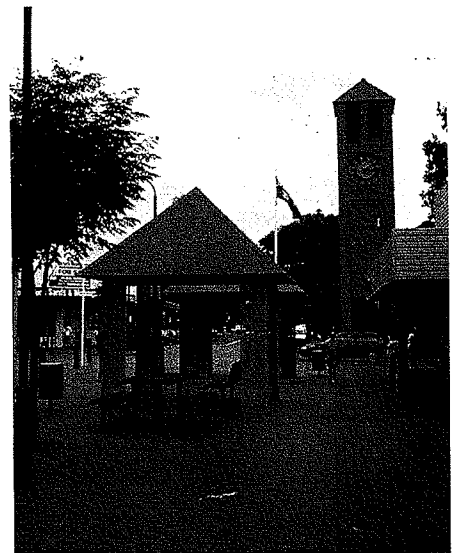


FIGURE 1: JOHN STREET CLOCKTOWER, SALISBURY (BUILDINGS IN THEIR SETTINGS: COMMENDATION 1989; ROBERT DICKSON AND ASSOCIATES). PHOTOS © DAVID JONES

developments, thereby provoking media interest and heightening community awareness.

Award entries were initially invited in the three classes, drawing precedent from the UK system:

- Buildings in their Settings,
- Streetscape and Objects, and
- Landscape and Streetscape.

A Town Planning category was introduced in 1977 with the brickbats. In 1978 the Restored and Recycled Buildings category was added. In 1986 and 1987 the Landscape and Streetscape Object' categories were re-configured to delete category 2 and widen category 3. The Ian MacDonald Award for the Most Outstanding Nomination was introduced in 1986, in recognition of MacDonald's tireless contribution to the Trust and its awards system, following his death. In 1988 a fifth category, Contribution to Civic Awareness; was introduced.

The present award categories are:

- Buildings in their Settings,
- Restored or Recycled Buildings,
- Landscape and Streetscape,
- Town Planning, and
- Contribution to Civic Awareness.

The Restored or Recycled Buildings

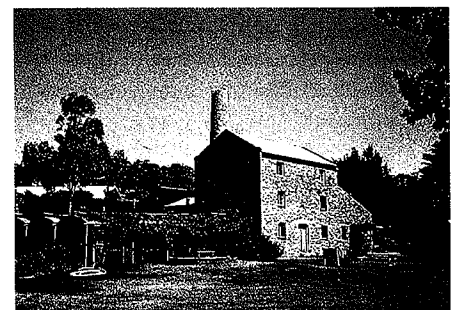


FIGURE 2: LEONARDS MILL, SECOND VALLEY (RESTORED OR RECYCLED BUILDINGS AWARD 1985; DAVID GRIEVE)



FIGURE 3: 'THE PADDOCKS', SALISBURY (LANDSCAPE AND STREETSCAPE AWARD 1984; CITY OF SALISBURY, BARRIE ORMSBY)



FIGURE 4: RAMSAY PLACE, NOARLUNGA CENTRE (LANDSCAPE AND STREETSCAPE COMMENDATION 1995; CIELENS & ASSOCIATES)

category reflects a concern and interest by both the architectural profession in SA and the SA community to its built heritage. The Landscape category is perhaps unique as it precedes the emergence of the Australian landscape architecture profession in the mid 1980s together with the AILA's own award system. The 'Civic Awareness' category is also significant as it precedes any comparable environmentalist of the year, or similar award, in Australia.

Table 1 summarises awards, commendations and brickbats issues since 1971. The number of awards per year reflects the quality of entries and projects submitted that the Panel decided to acknowledge. It does not reflect the number of entries or an obligation upon the Panel to determine a consistent number of awards and commendations.

## An urban design criteria

In devising criteria upon which to evaluate entries Warburton and MacDonald asked of every award and commendation entry:

First a general question – does the entry increase public amenity? Amenity like beauty is often in the eye of the beholder, but here are some guiding characteristics e.g. buildings should have a comfortable feel, not be cold and forbidding. They should take account of climate and show sympathy for neighbours. Here form and scale as well as adequacy and treatment of adjacent open space should be considered. Form and scale besides texture and colour are [e]specially important in the case of restorations and additions. Superficial imitations should be eschewed. And the jury should leave buildings and their surroundings by giving affirmative answers to the questions – do they meet an important need? Will they age gracefully? Finally does the entry fill the jury with pleasure or are

there doubts and hesitations. If the latter persist, it's probably not an award winner (Unpublished paper, MacDonald & Warburton 1982 p1).

This opening statement summarises the over-arching philosophy behind the awards criteria. It was revised in 1989, and amended in 1991, with the addition of a few short questions or considerations:

- Does the entry increase public amenity, e.g. does it give people pleasure – stimulating but not shocking? Does it add comfort – sheltering, shading, giving security, convenience, (e.g. seats, toilets, parking, handicapped access)? Will it do these things appropriately for the climate?
- Will the entry (building, landscape, streetscape) age gracefully, or will it

TABLE 1: SUMMATION OF CIVIC TRUST AWARDS, COMMENDATIONS AND BRICKBATS, 1971-1995

| Year | 1. Buildings in their Settings |      | 2. Renovated and Recycled Buildings |      | 3. Landscape & Streetscape |      | 4. Town Planning |      | 5. Contribution to Civic Awareness |      | Total  |      | Brick-bats |
|------|--------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|------------------|------|------------------------------------|------|--------|------|------------|
|      | Awards                         | Comm | Awards                              | Comm | Awards                     | Comm | Awards           | Comm | Awards                             | Comm | Awards | Comm |            |
| 1971 | 2                              |      |                                     |      |                            |      |                  |      |                                    |      | 2      |      |            |
| 1972 | 1                              |      |                                     |      | 2                          |      |                  |      |                                    |      | 3      |      |            |
| 1973 | 1                              | 1    |                                     |      | 2                          |      |                  |      |                                    |      | 3      | 1    |            |
| 1974 | 1*                             |      |                                     |      | 2                          |      |                  |      |                                    |      | 3      | 0    |            |
| 1975 |                                | 2    |                                     |      |                            | 2    |                  |      |                                    |      | 0      | 4    |            |
| 1976 | 2                              |      |                                     |      |                            | 1    |                  |      |                                    |      | 2      | 1    |            |
| 1977 | 3                              | 3    |                                     |      |                            | 4    |                  | 1    |                                    |      | 3      | 8    | 7          |
| 1978 | 3                              |      |                                     | 3    | 1                          | 1    |                  | 2    |                                    |      | 4      | 6    | 7          |
| 1979 | 1                              | 2    |                                     | 2    | 1                          | 1    |                  |      |                                    |      | 2      | 5    | 6          |
| 1980 | 1                              | 3    |                                     | 2    | 2                          | 2    | 1                | 3    |                                    |      | 4      | 10   | 4          |
| 1981 |                                | 5    | 2                                   |      | 1                          | 5    | 2                | 1    |                                    |      | 5      | 11   | 3          |
| 1982 | 3                              | 1    |                                     |      | 4                          | 7    | 1                | 1    |                                    |      | 8      | 9    | 4          |
| 1983 | 1                              | 2    | 1                                   | 3    | 1                          | 4    | 1                |      |                                    |      | 4      | 9    | 4          |
| 1984 | 1                              | 3    | 2                                   | 3    | 1                          | 2    |                  |      |                                    |      | 4      | 8    | 4          |
| 1985 | 1                              | 3    | 2                                   | 6    | 3                          | 4    | 1                | 3    |                                    |      | 7      | 16   | 2          |
| 1986 | 2                              | 6    | 2                                   | 10   | 2                          | 7    | 1                | 2    |                                    |      | 7      | 25   | 3          |
| 1987 | 2                              | 2    | 3                                   | 1    | 1                          | 3    | 1                | 1    |                                    |      | 7      | 7    | 1          |
| 1988 | 1                              | 7    | 2                                   | 4    | 1                          | 3    | 1                | 1    |                                    | 3    | 5      | 18   | 7          |
| 1989 | 1                              | 6    | 2                                   | 2    | 1                          | 2    |                  | 2    | 1                                  |      | 5      | 12   | 2          |
| 1990 | 2                              | 1    | 5                                   | 3    | 2                          | 1    | 1                |      |                                    |      | 10     | 5    | 7          |
| 1991 | 1                              | 3    | 1                                   | 3    | 2                          |      | 1                |      | 1                                  | 4    | 6      | 10   | 3          |
| 1992 | 1                              | 2    | 2                                   | 1    | 1                          | 2    | 1                | 1    | 1                                  | 2    | 6      | 8    | 1          |
| 1993 | 2                              | 1    | 1†                                  | 1    |                            |      |                  | 1    |                                    | 1    | 3      | 4    | 3          |
| 1994 | 1†                             | 3    | 2                                   | 3    | 2                          |      |                  |      |                                    | 2    | 5      | 8    | 5          |
| 1995 | 1†                             | 2    | 2                                   | 2    | 1                          | 2    |                  |      | 1                                  | 1    | 4      | 7    | 6          |

Source: Civic Trust Awards and Commendations; Civic Trust Newsletters.

† Ian MacDonald Award for the Most Outstanding Nomination

\* Special Mention

§ This category includes both awards and commendations in the original 'Streetscape & Objects' and 'Landscape & Streetscape' categories.

*become shabby, defaced, dingy?*

- *Does the entry fill the jury with pleasure, or is it only so-so in this respect. If only so-so, it is probably not a true award winner* (Unpublished paper, draft MacDonald 1989, rev Warburton 1991 p1).

The first draft criteria prepared by MacDonald and Warburton in 1982 contained the general questions together with additional points, or questions, for the Buildings and Structures, Landscape and Streetscape, and Planning categories. Each had four distinct but elaborate sets of questions. Each was expanded and made more succinct in the 1989 and 1991 drafts; the latter is applied today. The three revised categories and criteria were preceded by the above three questions. Table 2 details the 1991 revised questions.

It is interesting that the authors, a retired architect and an educator, sought to devise an award evaluation criteria. Clearly it was needed to ensure the intellectual validity and credibility of the awards, commendations and brickbats. More importantly they sought not to propose performance standards or goals but posed questions analogous to quality indicators to assess the qualities and contributions of the nominated project. The premise appears to not simply let a designer or owner achieve a performance goal, but rather to advance and further the design inquiry and design relevance together with the commitment to the implementation and maintenance of the project by the owner and designer.

The types of questions also reflect a keen sensitivity to design quality, recognize that each project needs an adequate maintenance regime, that each project needs to be friendly and provide a safe and humane environment, provide an aspect of fun, respect the Mediterranean climate of Adelaide especially in terms of water and shade, consider landscape sustainability questions, and finally engender a sense of pride and pleasure in both users and panel juries.

## Brickbats

So how do we make awards for insults to the public amenity? Such were not awarded at the time by the UK Civic Trust when the Trust first posed the question. They found this an intriguing question but recognised that they had a responsibility to propose criteria to vali-

TABLE 2: DETAILED AWARD & COMMENDATION CRITERIA QUESTIONS

### Buildings in their Settings:

1. Are the building elements brutal, or dominating, or blank, or dreary, making ordinary people feel depressed or uncomfortable or repelled?
2. If a formal or public building, is its purpose evident? Is it suitably impressive or, alternatively, inviting? Can people find their way to various departments easily and without confusion?
3. Does the project provide fully for disabled persons' access and facilities?
4. Does the project conform to the Government's and Local Government's plans for the area?
5. Do the buildings enhance the setting, and vice versa? Does the setting add shelter, shade, convenience, etc.?
6. Does it show good manners to its neighbours? If it is additions or extensions, are these in sympathy with the original building, without being a slick imitation? Do the scale and colours suit the original building?
7. Does the building meet a strong need, or provide an important service which was unsatisfied? Or is it perhaps almost superfluous?
8. Do people, in answer to questions, say they like using it, or occupying it, or even just looking at it?
9. Does the planting form a variety of species and spatial experiences of sizes suited to the size of the project?
10. Is the paving of good quality, pleasant to walk on, with good walling, planters, lighting and accessories?
11. Are the services and service-access adequate but unobtrusive?
12. Is maintenance good?
13. Are the plantings sparse, separate, ineffective in modelling the environment?
14. Are they doomed to die from lack of mutual support or form being the wrong species/varieties?
15. Will the trees grow too big?
16. Are there tracks across lawns and beds showing where the paths should have been?
17. Is the landscaping for misplaced display, perhaps reducing public recreation space?
18. Does it seem to be used with pleasure by people generally?
19. Does the entry fill the Jury with pleasure? (see General Criteria no.3)

### Landscape and Streetscape -

1. Does the landscape design visually enhance its building, its roadways, street or spaces?
2. Does it bring shade or shelter suitable for the climate?
3. Does it increase public usable space, e.g. for sitting, strolling, playing, lying on the grass?
4. Does it screen from noise and traffic, visual pollution, dust, winds?
5. Does it mask or redeem brutal or unsympathetic buildings?
6. Are the plants suited to the climate and exposure, and sympathetic to adjacent landscapes?
7. Are they effectively grouped and massed as to shape and colour?
8. Does the design conserve water and reduce maintenance needs, i.e. are they more likely to appear well-maintained?
9. Does the planting form a variety of spaces and spatial experiences of sizes suited to the size of the project?
10. Is the paving of good quality, pleasant to walk on, with good walling, planters, lighting and accessories?
11. Are the services and service-access adequate but unobtrusive?
12. Is maintenance good?
13. Are the plantings sparse, separate, ineffective in modelling the environment?
14. Are they doomed to die from lack of mutual support or from being the wrong species/varieties?
15. Will the trees grow too big?
16. Are there tracks across lawns and beds showing where the paths should have been?
17. Is the landscaping for misplaced display, perhaps reducing public recreation space?
18. Does it seem to be used with pleasure by people generally?
19. Does the entry fill the Jury with pleasure? (see General Criteria; no. 3)

### Town Planning

1. Is the development in scale with the existing neighbourhood?
2. Does the planning contribute to a sense of community, e.g. by having community facilities, a natural focus?
3. Does it increase community security, safety, comfort and well-being?
4. Is its convenient and pleasant for people who do not have cars?
5. Is car parking adequate but unobtrusive?
6. Is the development easily comprehensible for community members, and for visitors?
7. Is it compatible with the laid-down "desired future character" of the locality?
8. Would the Jury members be happy to live in the development? If not, it is probably not an Award winner.
9. Is there full provision of facilities and access for disabled persons?

Source: (Unpublished paper, draft MacDonald 1989, rev Warburton 1991 p1)



date the awards.

Warburton and MacDonald wrote in 1982, "it's not just a matter of saying 'boo' to a folly or a case of neglect that's detested. Hence the quality of the submission must be taken account of besides the defects in the critic's target." Their concerns were:

*The unnecessary and brutal lopping of trees by Electricity Trust of South Australia (ETSA) or Council workmen, unsightly machinery yards which can be easily be screened, public buildings of quality which have been allowed to slide into a state of neglect – all are suitable subjects for criticisms which don't cause juries unbearable headaches. The perpetrator(s) of such outrages can usually be identified and remedies suggested. Quarries in the hills are more difficult. ... Even more difficult are entries which arise from clear difference in taste e.g. public sculptures or structures which have been designed as objects of beauty. Here criticism must be very well argued and, if relevant, alternative approaches suggested. And such brickbats are unlikely to have an immediate effect since there is little chance that the offending objects costing hundreds or thousands of dollars will be removed or even screened. Such critical missiles must need have a long-term aim (Unpublished paper, MacDonald & Warburton 1982 p2).*

In stating the above, the two authors also recognised that it was not always the developer, owner, council, or designer that was at fault. Rather, clauses within the SA planning and development legislation may be the problem, and the Trust had a duty to point these out and offer solutions.

The 1981 Awards Panel qualified their interpretation of the brickbats so to "include: illmannered buildings, structures, signs, street furniture; the lopping or removal of trees; crudely planned subdivisions; defacing of areas of natural beauty." They believed that their purpose was to "draw attention to the eyesores or visual outrages – preferably of recent origin to make the task manageable" (Civic Trust 1981 p1).

Warburton and MacDonald proposed in 1991 three criteria:

- Does the entry clearly diminish public amenity?
- Is the entry clearly something more substantial than a difference between the taste standards of the entrant (or the

TABLE 3: BRICKBATS 1977-1995

| Year | Project   |
|------|---|
| 1995 | Recent Changes to the Main Hall, Adelaide<br>General Post Office<br>Kangaroo Island Ferry Terminal, Moseley Square, Glenelg<br>Retention of Tram Barn 'A' and the failure to extend the Botanic Gardens to provide the appropriate setting for the Bi-Centennial Conservatory<br>Southern Expressway proposal<br>Coastal Development<br>Overhead Telecommunication Cables – Optus and Telstra   |
| 1994 | 3 storey development at 134 Wright Street, Adelaide<br>Destruction of trees at Port Adelaide adjacent to the new TAFE college, Port Adelaide<br>Dept of Social Security Office, High Street, Gawler<br>Parking signage at 217-224 North Terrace, Adelaide<br>Victoria Square – lack of action in renovating the Square  |
| 1993 | Unley Shopping Centre, Unley Road, Unley<br>McLeod Tyres, 57 St Vincent Street, Port Adelaide<br>Proposal to rezone sand dunes portion of Minda Homes land at Brighton to residential   |
| 1992 | 1 awarded – information not available   |
| 1991 | Proposed Australian Taxation Office Building on the Somerset Hotel site, Pulteney & Flinders Streets, Adelaide<br>New 'Pylons' at the end of the Rundle Mall, Rundle Mall, Adelaide<br>Two storey office block, corner of Angus Street & Fullarton Road, Kent Town  |
| 1990 | Polites Sign, CML Building, Pirie Street, Adelaide<br>Lloyds Hardware & Building Centre, Rundle Street, Kent Town<br>ASER Office Tower and Exhibition Building, North Terrace, Adelaide<br>Southgate Building, corner King William Street & South Terrace, Adelaide<br>The Formula One Grand Prix siteworks, East Parklands, Adelaide<br>East End Market Development, corner East Terrace and Grenfell Street, Adelaide<br>No. 1 Anzac Highway, Keswick |
| 1989 | Pirie Street developments, Adelaide<br>Building at 544 Marion Road, Plympton Park   |
| 1988 | Electricity Trust of SA tree lopping programme in bushfire risk locations<br>Loss of open space on The Bluff, Encounter Bay<br>St Agnes Shopping Centre, corner North East Road and Hancock Road, St Agnes<br>Old Reynella Market, Main South Road, Reynella  |
| 1987 | Alienation of Parklands by the State Transport Authority in Botanic Park  |
| 1986 | Destruction of the amenity at Carpenter Rocks & Nene Valley<br>Stock Exchange Plaza, King William Street, Adelaide<br>Tea Tree Plaza Shopping Centre, Tea Tree Gully  |
| 1985 | 2 awarded – information not available   |
| 1984 | Adelaide Airport carparking area and surrounds, Adelaide Airport<br>Loss of the Aurora Hotel in Hindmarsh   |

| Year | Project   |
|------|---|
|      | Square, Adelaide<br>Surf Lifesaving Club House, near the Onkaparinga River mouth, Noarlunga<br>Car park and toilet block in Hills Face Zone and in a Recreation Park of the National Parks & Wildlife Service at Windy Point  |
| 1983 | Replacement of the former Brookside House, overlooking the Gums Reserve, Tranmere<br>Telephone Exchange, Mount Torrens<br>Magic Mountain complex, Glenelg<br>State Transport Authority's colour advertising buses   |
| 1982 | Housing on the Auldana Hills<br>A light industrial zone on Magill Road, just east of St Bernard's Road, Magill<br>Escalators to the bridge across Rundle Mall, Adelaide<br>Proposed 10-storey building on the Victor Harbor foreshore   |
| 1981 | The O'bahn route along the Torrens Valley<br>The Tusmore Avenue Shopping Centre, Tusmore<br>Main North Road, from the Parklands to Gepps Cross  |
| 1980 | Shop front of Arturo Taverna, Hairdresser, 22 Currie Street, Adelaide<br>Re-shaped road intersection, junction of Portrush and Payneham Roads, Payneham<br>The Rogerson Building, Adelaide Children's Hospital, corner King William and Kermode Streets, North Adelaide<br>City of Port Pirie Council's failure to use environmental assets   |
| 1979 | Tree lopping, Adelaide Road, Lobethal<br>Bottle department, Eagle on the Hill Hotel, Mount Barker Road, Eagle on the Hill.<br>Destroyed by fire in 1983<br>Proposed Sky Sign, Britannia Hotel, corner Kensington & Fullarton Roads, Norwood<br>Old Adelaide Inn, O'Connell Street, North Adelaide<br>Wirrina Cove advertising sign on the Normanville Road, near Normanville<br>Blackwood's Shopping Centre complex, Main Road, Blackwood                 |
| 1978 | The Gateway Inn, North Terrace, Adelaide<br>A Commonwealth Government building, Currie Street, Adelaide<br>Esso Depot, main road 1 km west of Meadows<br>Shrubs and miniature trees in large striped tubs, St Vincent Street, Port Adelaide<br>Machinery yard, Boskenna Avenue, Norwood<br>Former vineyard to be subdivided for housing, at southern entry to Reynella<br>Boarding House, Wakefield Street, Kent Town                                     |
| 1977 | Hajek Sculpture, Festival Centre Plaza, King William Street, Adelaide<br>Activity Hall, Coromandel Valley Primary School, Main Road, Coromandel Valley<br>Tree lopping in the main street of Meadows<br>K-Mart carpark, 171 Glynburn Road, Firlie<br>House on Lion Head, Port Willunga<br>Hoardings on railway property in alienated sections of the North Western Parklands, North Adelaide<br>Large commercial-type garage, Zerna Street, Murray Bridge |

Source: Civic Trust Awards and Commendations; Civic Trust Newsletters.

jury) and the perpetrator/designer/owner?

- Alternatively, does it raise an important principle bearing on public amenity welfare? (Unpublished paper, draft MacDonald 1989, rev Warburton 1991 p1).

It is difficult to gauge the impact and influence of the brickbats upon planning and design practice in SA. The SA media profiles the brickbats more than the awards when they are announced each year, and they are publicly discussed thereafter for several weeks. Several of the brickbats have simply endorsed public outrage at local and state government initiatives and action, providing an electoral warning. The brickbat to Optus' overhead cabling is an illustration. Its announcement has consolidated and endorsed professional concern by the RAlA (SA), the National Trust of South Australia and the State Urban Design Advisory Panel. Table 3 lists brickbats awarded for the period 1977 to 1995.

## A final note

The Civic Trust has made a significant contribution to the urban design debate in SA. Its existence and community activities, especially the public lectures and seminars in the 1970s and 80s, have markedly contributed to the already high level of community awareness to urban design in Adelaide – a point noted by the Prime Minister's Urban Design Task Force and more recently acknowledged by the Commonwealth Department of Housing & Regional Development in their administration of the Better Cities programme.

More importantly the record, profile and contribution of the Civic Trust in SA provides an important model upon which to base comparable state level community-based civic amenity or urban design action groups across Australia. ■

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