



Nomination for URBAN Award

Restoration of Institute Building

North Terrace, Adelaide



Image: Philip Handforth Architectural Photography

The Institute Building is the oldest cultural building on North Terrace and was the first permanent home of the now State Library and South Australian Museum, and it provided quarters for some important learned societies. It is now part of the State Library complex.

The project was to re-paint all external surfaces on the Institute Building including the repair of external timbers and walls. In addition the project team undertook the Internal painting of the timber frames of the windows of the main lantern roof, repaired cracking of the roof parapet back face render and the perimeter strip drain and replaced the damaged building plinth.

The scope was able to be amended to investigate the original unified colour scheme by undertaking extensive paint scrapes and samples from the northern section, referring to a 1910 photograph and checking large format samples in the morning and afternoon sun to return the building accurately to its original scheme, using mineral silicate paint to allow the building to breathe.

The works were completed in accordance with the principles of the Burra Charter at a high standard compatible with historic fabric, consistent with current materials and techniques and without adverse impact on the heritage values.