



Designing Place in South Australia

A Retrospective Exhibition - 21st OCT 2011 – 18th NOV 2011

Australia's longest-running architectural practice has provided generations of South Australians with places to work, interact, live and be entertained in since it began in 1851.

This year JPE celebrates 160 years of practice. In a retrospective exhibition to mark the occasion, visitors are invited to take a journey back to the decades, directors and designs that have shaped key aspects of South Australia's history and what JPE Design Studio is today. The exhibition, a visual essay spanning our entire studio space, opens to the public on 21st October 2011 and will run for one month during office hours.

JPE Design Studio started in Adelaide when the British Empire was at its zenith, it was the year the Australian gold rush began, resulting in an enormous influx of migrants to our shores and it was the same year London's Crystal Palace dazzled visitors for the first-ever world expo.

Adelaide was slowly taking shape in 1851, just 14 years after it was designed and laid out by Colonel William Light. Although Light didn't see his vision realised, he died in 1839, the practice that would be winning architecture awards 160 years later was helping to shape the young colony's landscape, and Light's dream of a genteel, wide-streeted city with gracious buildings.

Historic Adelaide names such as Garlick, English, Soward, Jackman and Gooden have left their signatures on buildings in the city, the suburbs and the country in the name of JPE Design Studio.

The Adelaide Railway Station (1925) on North Terrace is perhaps the practice's most famous landmark, along with the grand Charles Moore Department store in Victoria Square which was destroyed by fire in 1948, rebuilt and ultimately redeveloped to its present form – the Samuel Way Law Courts Building.

Many of the pubs designed by the practice are still standing, most well over a century old, and are household names, including The Stag, the Elephant and Castle, the Robin Hood, the Crown and Anchor, and Tattersalls.

Norwood's Wesleyan and Presbyterian churches on The Parade, along with the Flinders St Baptist Church and St Jude's of Brighton Rd, are some of the familiar churches. Over 500 historic drawings of buildings designed by the practice (circa 1869 –1930's) are held by the Mortlock Library of South Australia and are being conserved for the heritage of the State.

Today, JPE Design Studio continues to enhance the built environment of Adelaide. At the 2011 SA Architecture Awards the Wave and Edge received a Commendation for the Adelaide Prize. JPE Director, Adrian Evans, describes the importance of the buildings within the public realm, 'These two buildings assist in the public recognition of the Southern Precinct and together with the Optus Building provide a dignified gateway entry to the CBD along King William Street. The new JPE Studio was awarded an Interior Architecture Award also at the SA Architecture Awards in 2011. Our exhibition takes place within this studio environment.