

SCHUMACHER, Colin COLLECTION
Architecture Museum, Adelaide University

SCHUMACHER, Colin

SERIES 221, 400

Biography

Colin Schumacher (1931-2019) dedicated himself to public service and practised as a government architect for four decades from the mid-twentieth century. He endeavoured to raise the standard of South Australian government architecture and played an active role within the wider profession.

Educated at Blackwood Primary School and Unley High School, Schumacher commenced his architectural studies in 1949. He won many awards and graduated in 1954 with a Bachelor of Engineering (Architectural) from the University of Adelaide in addition to a Fellowship Diploma in Architecture from the South Australian School of Mines.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s local architectural education underwent a canonical change when the more mature ex-servicemen who became students after World War Two encouraged their younger colleagues to explore modernism rather than follow the Beaux-Arts tradition. Schumacher embraced the new style and, when head of the Architectural Students Association, helped organise the Drawing Exchange Scheme that toured student drawings around Australia, effectively disseminating this change. In 1957 he was awarded the Albert Kahn Memorial Fellowship for postgraduate study at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA and in 1958 received his Master of Architecture from that university.

While still a student Schumacher became a cadet with the Commonwealth Department of Works where he remained for most of his career. After graduating, he was predominantly involved in the design development and documentation phases of projects and from 1960 he focused on contract administration. When the Department was restructured in the 1970s, with more emphasis being placed on project management, he became the first resources manager and subsequently acted as project manager, technical services manager and, from 1989 until his retirement in 1992, Principal Architect.

Schumacher's work includes some projects of national importance and massive scale: the development of Woomera Rocket Range and township (c.1950); the Adelaide Airport developments at West Beach (1955–85) – one of Schumacher's first projects after graduating; the design and documentation of two large laboratory complexes for the CSIRO Division of Soils at Urrbrae (1956–60); contract administration of the Reserve Bank building – the then tallest building in Adelaide (1963–7), including underground extensions (1976); a widespread program of new telephone exchanges, lighthouses, post offices and regional office buildings (1955–85); restoration of the Adelaide GPO Postal Hall (1986); and the Garden of Remembrance, Pasadena (1987).

Schumacher was active in the profession. In 1952 he joined the South Australian Institute of Architects (later Royal Australian Institute of Architects) as a student member, in 1955 he became an Associate and in 1970 a Fellow. He served on the SA Chapter Council for 13 years, the last four of which he was Vice-President. In recognition of his service to the profession he was made a Life Fellow in 1987. His public activities included illustrated lectures on world architecture and civic design for the South Australian Libraries Board and guest lectures at the University of Adelaide on subjects including the architectural philosophies of Louis Kahn, and project management. He published several articles in local architecture journals.

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This is an abridged version of: Susan Collins, (2008) 'Colin Schumacher', *Architects of South Australia database*, online at http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=71

SOURCES

Collins, Susan, and Collins, Julie (2006) *Architectural Preludes: One Hundred Years of Student Drawings*. Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design, University of South Australia, Adelaide.

Collins, Susan (2007) 'Traces that Remain: Architectural Drawings as Contextual Records.' PhD Thesis, University of South Australia, 2007.

Biographical notes from Schumacher to Collins, 7 July 2008. Held at the LLSAM.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Schumacher collection is comprised of student architectural drawings and lecture notes; architectural drawings by Colin Schumacher; drafting tools and instruments; and books on drafting and drawing practice.

EXAMPLES OF ITEMS FROM THE COLLECTION



S221/1/1 Colin Schumacher, A Conservatorium of Music, Architectural Thesis cover sheet, 1953, watercolour on paper, South Australian School of Mines.

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SERIES 221

Plans from works drawn up by Colin Schumacher 1956 to 1959 in plan drawers.

| <u>Series No</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------------|---|
| S221/1/1-10 | Architectural thesis, student work, South Australian School of Mines, 1953 'A conservatorium of Music' Originals drawings on board, hand tinted - watercolours. |
| S221/2/1-3 | Design for School of Fine Arts, student work, University of Pennsylvania, Spring 1958. Original drawings on board, hand tinted - watercolours. |
| S221/2/4-5 | House Design, student work, University of Pennsylvania, Oct 1927, Original drawings on board, hand tinted - watercolours. |
| S221/3/1-2 | Plan for Small Homes Service of SA. Ozalids |
| S221/4/1 | New Soils Lab for CSIRO at Springfield. Elevations and notes, SA59/236B. Ozalid |
| S221/4/2 | New Soils Lab for CSIRO at Springfield. Floor plan main building. SA/SR7/7. Ozalid |
| S221/4/3 | New Soils Lab for CSIRO at Springfield. Ground floor, first and second floors. SA59/502B. Ozalid |
| S221/4/4 | New Soils Lab for CSIRO at Springfield. Construction details. SA/SR7/18. Ozalid |
| S221/5/1-3 | DCA Adelaide Airport. Revised Control Tower design. SA/CA43/66,68,78. Negative Photostat on paper |
| S221/5/4 | DCA Adelaide Airport. Toilet block. 1971. SA/S71/3D. Ozalid |
| S221/6/1 | PMG Dept. Lower Mitcham Post Office. 1957 SA/P48/11. Ozalid. |
| S221/6/2 | PMG Dept. Loxton Communications Centre. 1959. SA59/128B. Ozalid |
| S221/6/3/1 | PMG Dept. New Burra Post Office. Front view. 1959 SA59/414D. Ozalid |
| S221/6/3/2 | New Burra Post Office. Elevation and plan. 1959 SA59/221B. Ozalid |
| S221/7/1 | Residence for Mr and Mrs John Lawrence, Springbank Rd, St James Park. ND. Site plan, elevations, floor plan. JL/1. Blueprint. |
| S221/7/2 | Residence for Mr and Mrs M.J. Noble, ink on tracing paper, no date. |
| S221/8/1 | Lecture notes for Architectural History 1, from the SA School of Mines, School of Architecture with sketches by Schumacher. (In archive box.) |
| S221/9 | Architectural Drafting instruments |
| S221/10 | Technical books on drafting and drawing |

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SERIES 400

| <u>Series No</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|------------------|---|
| S400/1 | Questionnaire completed by Colin Schumacher for researcher Prue Lee, 30 December 2012 on his architectural career and influences, includes photocopied pages of drawings. |