

Robert Simeoni Pty Ltd Architects

In association with

Webber & Associates - Specialised Architectural Documentation

New Building for the Faculty of Architecture Building & Planning - Expression of Interest



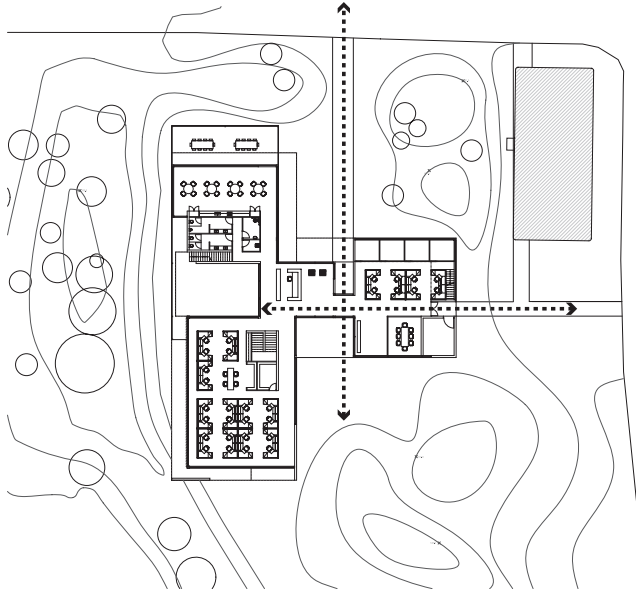
SEAFORD LIFE SAVING CLUB - View from foreshore



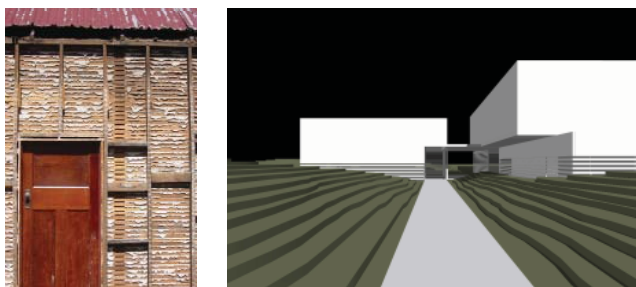
SEAFORD LIFE SAVING CLUB - Pedestrian connection, town to foreshore



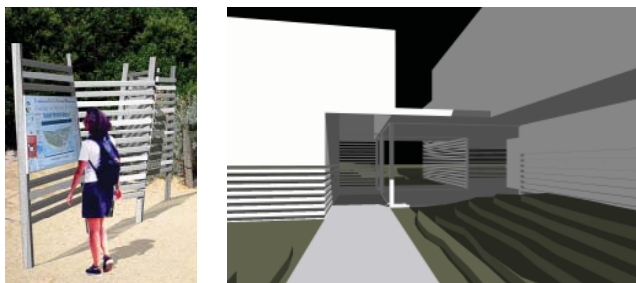
SEAFORD LIFE SAVING CLUB - Pedestrian connection, foreshore to town



WESTKON PRECAST OFFICES - Ground floor plan



WESTKON PRECAST OFFICES - Pedestrian address



WESTKON PRECAST OFFICES - Pedestrian entry

05.1.1 BUILT PEDAGOGY

Over time we at Robert Simeoni Architects have observed certain types of interventions that achieve a directness of expression, often as a result of utility yet full of character. In the mid-20th century in suburbs such as Carlton, Brunswick and Northcote, these kinds of buildings were born of necessity and are often characterized by the skillful use of sturdy materials such as concrete, bricks, and mortar. Working class migrant families, small businesses and marginal organizations were the end users but the buildings remain to be adapted with new layers and programs. Some of these things appear ad-hoc and unusually proportioned, even awkward, but looking closer they have a weight, honesty and beauty of their own. Being surrounded by these buildings burns into the collective memory a certain sense of what density means in these suburbs. A sunny first floor terrace with hills hoist and a garage under, these are often simple solutions to programmatic or spatial problems but are also often much more. There is poetry here in the robust, builderly quality of the forms and the labour invested in them. They are by no means expedient or temporary and arise from the needs of growing families at those times.

Through our photographic cataloguing of these local buildings we validate their quiet awkwardness, directness and plainness. They offer us cues of an approach to design that demonstrates totality, utility and detail. Not only do these buildings inspire our formal aspirations for projects, but suggest an intense discourse between context, design process and building technique. This is not a linear process requiring design to foretell architectural outcome, but one which is plastic enough to take on developments and respond to the built work as a full scale design study allowing the skill of the tradesman to influence architectural outcome.

In the case of the Seaford Lifesaving Club, which was won through an open national design competition, the detailed development of the brief the ambitions of the client (Frankston city Council) and it's financial capacity lead to an attitude towards building and detailing that was accepting of rawness and forthrightness as an appropriate and possibly beautiful

quality. This is especially evident in the interior architecture where the natural 'feel' of timber is used throughout on floors, walls and ceilings to help focus on the essential quality of the spaces and their relationships to one another, the surrounding dunescape and sea beyond. There is a cultivated sense of deep space running through the north/south axis, with shaded spaces looking out upon the sunbleached sand dunes. The materiality of the interiors develops a sense of the exterior, these spaces are lined with plywood and balustrades replaced with steel mesh cyclone fencing maintaining the connectiveness between spaces. This is consistent with the manner in which materials have been chosen for their durability, plainness and affordability. The detailing is carefully designed to be direct and easy-to-build, junctions and lines exposed in an unfussy manner consistent with the buildings' use and the barefoot beachside manner of its users.

Asimilar quality of rawness and forthrightness was also sought in a new 1500m.sq. office building for Westkon, a growing precast concrete company, are to be built adjacent to their existing fabrication facilities in Melton.

The plan of the building is a pin-wheel like arrangement of spaces around a void which contains reception and waiting areas. This arrangement maximises connectivity between departments, aids controlled view-lines through and out the building and creates a clear entry point for visitors. The proposed structure utilises several of the company's own products including hollowcore beams giving clear spans of up to 9m for the flexible arrangement of open plan office desking, thermomass insulated concrete wall panels requiring no internal wall finish and mini-slab flooring system for cost-efficient cantilevering.

Additionally large prefabricated concrete trusses reference a scale of architecture closer to the type of road-side infrastructure found on the freeway. The intention of the design is to expose the construction where possible and in doing so create a building of raw integrity whilst reducing the amount of physical product used to build it.



PARK STREET HOUSE - Corridor, in which space is borrowed



PARK STREET HOUSE - Vertical spaces, added amenity of natural light. A relief space



PARK STREET HOUSE - Double height



PARK STREET HOUSE - Screens & curtains, a sense of totality & utility



PARK STREET HOUSE - Vertical circulation as relief space to give a sense of expanse where little is available horizontally.



PARK STREET HOUSE - In context



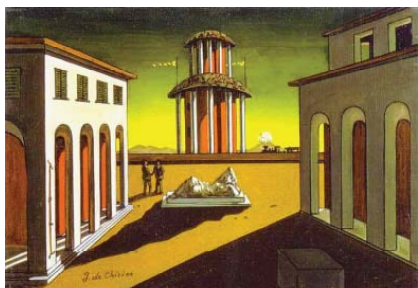
PARK STREET HOUSE - In context



PARK STREET HOUSE - Construction



Aldo Rossi



Giorgio de Chirico



Giorgio de Chirico



Giorgio de Chirico



Giorgio de Chirico



Pervading quietness of the overall composition overcomes the sense of eeriness or disquiet created by the figures

WOOLAMAI HOUSE - Image catalogue - Sense of the archaeological, a question of infill and occupation

WOOLAMAI HOUSE - Inhabitation of landscape object, layer & texture

05.1.2 THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

We value the melancholy quality that can exist as an architectural expression is considered through its beauty. There are thoughts of a fallow space, of diverse possibilities/realities. Consideration of the sense of the awkward in architecture – a mannerist manipulation of form and space.

Due to their age and neglect there is a sense of the melancholy that we recognize also in certain artworks and architecture that have come to influence the practice's work. These are artworks that in the words of Marfredo Tafuri attempt to express 'the secret aspiration to relive – necessarily as a dream – mythical seasons governed by divine language.'

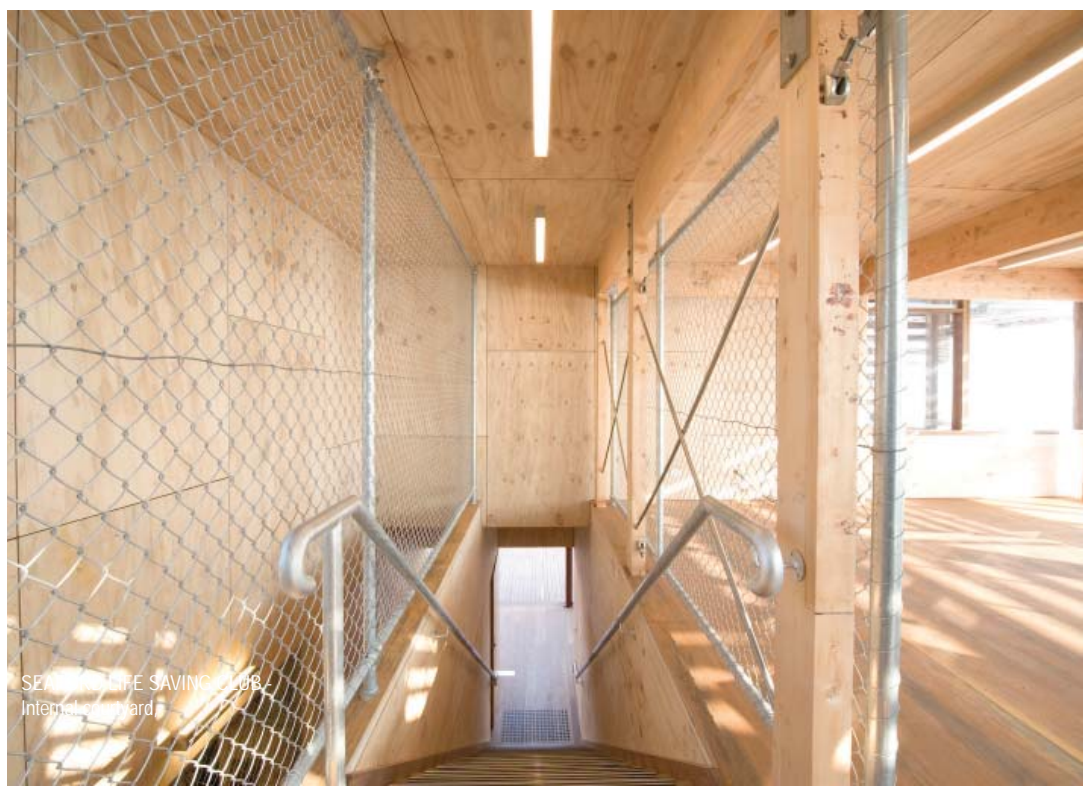
In the works of Giorgio de Chirico and Aldo Rossi there is quiet and permanence. There is a sort of metaphysical extraction, a form of visual suspension. One in which the insistent play of light and shadows tend to reconcile the more graphic quality with that of its more painterly aspect. The architecture, whilst really only a pretence for the act of painting, is meaningfully engaged as a sort of privileged reference. The architecture exists quietly, in which the painting is neither the representation of the 'real', nor is it the design for or of a place.

The question of space continues for a search for emptiness that which forms a separation between object and time; that which is emblematic of an absence. The sense of transparency forms the object within its context, when imposed in the fabric of the built form evinces absent models. The quietness of the space and of uncertainty – a metaphysical manifestation in which many realities become possible.

The viewing of disused objects, whose meaning remains through an iconic representation, can be enduring – becoming metaphorical in its expression. The consideration of architecture as an archaeological object. The sense of the desolate (of the forlorn) remains within the consciousness, awaiting reclamation and validation. The extension of Woolamai House conceived as an archaeological remains – a lost concrete structure. Subsequently made fit for habitation, yet remaining more a landscape object than a building.



SEAFORD LIFE SAVING CLUB



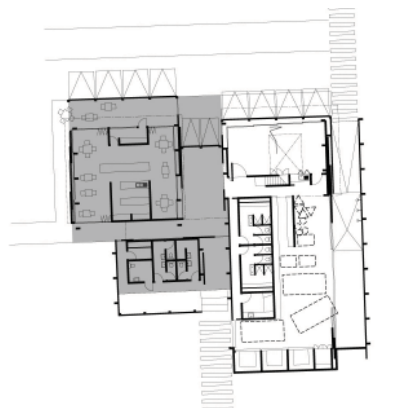
SEAFORD LIFE SAVING CLUB



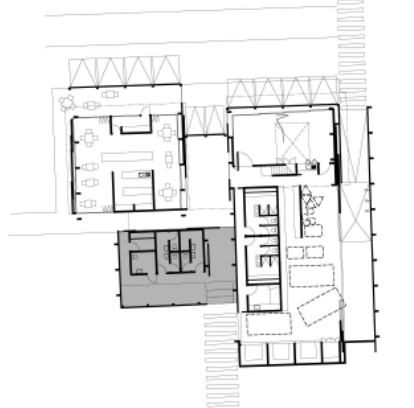
SEAFORD LIFE SAVING CLUB - Itinerant planning 1



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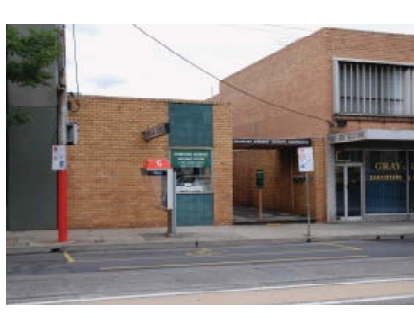
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IMAGE CATALOGUING



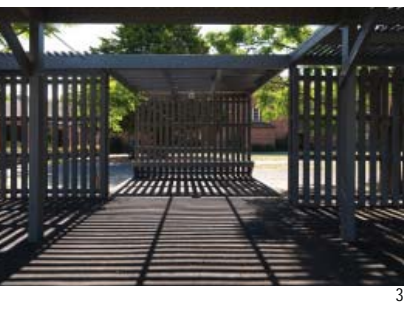
SEAFORD LIFE SAVING CLUB - Screens



ST. ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL - Shelter shed 1



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5

05.1.3 THE DESIGN STUDIO

In many respects we find ourselves validating the pre-existing through its presence in our own design. This arises from observing and measuring, quite literally the sites on which we build. Often the arrangement of an existing structure can inform the arrangement of rooms for the new but sometimes it is a less literal migration of the found. There is a texture and sensibility towards detailing that we inherit from our context that to us seems appropriate for application across scales.

Urban architecture is born of the condition of in-fill and ad-on, a type of Darwinism where forms must adapt to survive. And so the architect's ability to invent sensitive ways of doing this enriches our cities, re-inventing them by slow accretion rather than grand gesture. Addressing urbanity at one-to-one scale in this way has an intensity all of its own and in our work we tend to look for visual cues in the context as to how best to respond.

Many of our projects use external and internal screens to create a visual layering and spatial overlap. Through the use of curtains and solid sliding panels space is often borrowed.

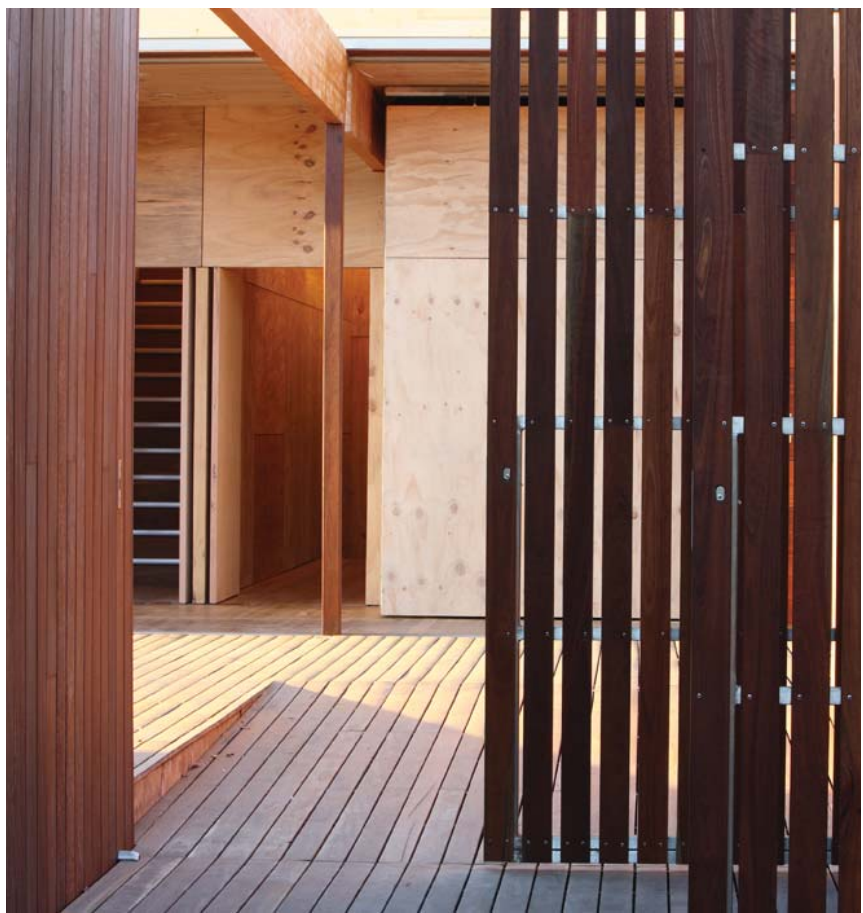
As an example the Seaford Lifesaving Club outdoor spaces are manipulated by the use of folding screens to control accessibility and allow different zones to be adaptable to purpose, depending on the time of year or time of day. There is an orchestrated and intentional borrowing between these

spaces and the adjacent interiors as well as a concern for view-lines and the visual effect of seeing through spaces into others and beyond into the cropped view.

The question of space continues through the search for emptiness, through the study of a courtyard – a conjoiner that forms a separation of object and time; emblematic of an absence. The sense of transparency forms the object within its context and evinces absent models. The quietness of the space and of uncertainty – metaphysical manifestation in which many realities become possible.

At its heart designing for these kinds of sites offers architects the opportunity to amplify quality and focus function in ways that creates an architecture of physical closeness. This is the ergonomic architecture of daily use where small details become significant through their practicality and sense of invention. There is a rewardingly humility to this sort of design as well as a joy of discovery that is fundamental to a more specific and direct connection between architect and client.

Addressing projects at one-to-one scale when done well can communicate more directly a sense of totality as well as utility. For example at the Park Street house sliding screens have been used to configure privacy, shade and outlook but also in the case of the stair, safety – becoming a retractable child-proof barrier.



SEAFORD LIFE SAVING CLUB - The screens may be adjusted to provide protection from prevailing winds, or, during the summer, to encourage passive cooling.



ST. ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL - Shelter shed



PARK STREET HOUSE



05.1.3 THE LIVING BUILDING

The viewing of a layered and ambiguous ensemble of spaces and shadows – existing between elements, between buildings – requires consideration of the point at which the pictorial three dimensional becomes two dimensional in its depiction. A colonnade or a verandah, the depth of a recess – shadow – in which the perceived reality can become another. Surrounding space has an imaginary quality – the architecture of emptiness and ambiguity.

Ecologically Sustainable Design

The design team at Robert Simeoni Pty Ltd Architects works together to investigate and achieve an environmentally sustainable design. Under the guidance of employed consultants buildings are designed with the aim to optimize building thermal performance and solar access and control. Natural ventilation, sunlight and shading devices are utilized and opportunities explored in the environment with water reduction strategies and re-use investigated. Seaford Life Saving Club, Woolamai House and Park Street House are projects that display our clever use of Ecologically Sustainable Design.

Approach

We envisage the new faculty building to be a flexible container with adaptable teaching spaces. More a landscape object than a singular edifice with transparency from within to out being an important architectural quality executed through the layering of screens. We see interstitial spaces as important as prescribed spaces offering the spatial qualities we believe are important in providing flexible yet comfortable studio spaces.

An application of environmentally sustainable techniques will be integrated throughout the natural and built environment of the new faculty building. Vertical gardens, controlled northern light, integrated stormwater and grey water management systems will be utilised.

We envisage a cultivated sense of deep space running through the built form, with shaded spaces looking out upon the sunlit campus grounds, dearth of late 19th to 20th century value of the campus we feel needs to be re-instated. The campus' mass and road figure enhanced to inspire resilient and residual spaces.

The materiality of the interiors will imbue a sense of the exterior, maintaining connectiveness between spaces. This should be consistent with the manner in which materials be chosen for their durability, plainness and affordability.

Screens creating an additional skin will be important for zoning off areas when not in use, but also for buffering cold winds, filtering unwanted summer sun and in tandem with the glass behind, to guide valuable cross-ventilation throughout internal spaces – a necessity in areas where high-tech E.S.D. solutions may simply be beyond the budget.



05.1.5 CAPABILITY & PROCESS

Robert Simeoni Pty Ltd Architects

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Robert Simeoni Pty Ltd Architects provides an extensive architectural service focusing on high quality, resolved design solutions. This is achieved by working closely with clients to create realistic design briefs resulting in intelligent design solutions. Robert Simeoni Pty Ltd Architects also has a strong design interest in environmentally sustainable design and incorporates such principles in its design solutions; this being reflective of the practice's belief in the wider social responsibility of architecture.

Management

Robert Simeoni Pty Ltd Architects, a Melbourne based firm, believes that its experienced team of architects, project management and technical staff provides a strong basis for performing the architectural services required. The firm's strong belief in continual interaction with clients and consultants is fundamental to the development of quality design and documentation. The responsibility for the management of the project rests with the team leader who will establish the scope of work, the methodology to be adopted and the human and physical resources required.

Robert Simeoni Pty Ltd Architects prides itself on attention to detail through all levels of the project resulting in refined, resolved design solutions for the end users. We set a realistic time program that gives an outline of the design and documentation time schedule for the project. Closely monitoring our activities and those of the Consultants enables us to update or revise this schedule as required and follow it through to meet target dates and deadlines. Our experienced staff will manage the project within time and budget constraints, leading to a successful project delivery.

The key to keeping within timelines involves the identification of the document to be produced, the monitoring of the progress of each document on a percentage complete basis at regular intervals, the allocation of resources and effective information transfer between team members. These become important management tools to ensure delivering on time.

Project Delivery

The allocated project team will be managed by the Project Architect who will have the responsibility for the administration of Client and design management, the overview and co-ordination of the design at regular intervals, overview of all correspondence and monitoring of the programme. We envisage seeing the project proceed with regular PCG meetings and discussion sessions with the Project working group, with monthly reports being issued. Critical meetings would be held with the key stakeholders to present the project and understand the feedback.

Planning

Planning for the project includes the different stages of design (e.g. schematic design, design development, development approval drawings and documentation) and addresses the allocation of resources required, describes the documents to be prepared and develops a programme for the project comprising projected time-lines and milestones. Regular review meetings and projected co-ordination meetings with the consultant team ensure time-lines are kept and co-ordination between disciplines maintained.

A proven team of consultants including structural and services engineers, planning consultants and traffic engineers, cost consultants and landscape architects assist us in providing a full service from initial conceptual stages through to completion of construction and post occupancy evaluation.

Document Control

The tracking of information in and out of the office is via the transmittal and information register systems developed to control the issue and receipt of documents. Other correspondence and filing is based on our internal QA system.

Quality Assurance

Robert Simeoni Pty Ltd Architects is committed to providing a quality service in a professional and highly organised and efficient manner.

Robert Simeoni Qualifications

Registered Architect, ARBV Associate RAI A Member no. 17231

- 1990 BPD B. Arch (1St Class Hons) University of Melbourne
- 1991-1992 Post Graduate Study, University of Venice, Italy
- 2005- Masters by Invitation, RMIT under the directorship of Professor Leon van Schaik
- 2007 Member of Design Advisory Panel for Mornington Shire Council
- 2007 Member of Design Advisory Panel for Frankston City Council

Webber & Associates - Specialised Architectural Documentation Company Profile

Established over 13 years ago, Webber & Associates (W&A) employs a professional staff of up to 20 dedicated to the production of highly accurate documentation for the construction industry. The company's operations are overseen by founder and Managing Director, Geoff Webber.

W&A has amassed considerable experience in their field, and attract a full range of clients seeking a high quality range of documentation services.

As a result of this specialisation, W&A have gained an enviable reputation with major building industry leaders for achieving successful outcomes on projects ranging from medium sized to iconic multi rise development.

While maintaining a head office in Adelaide, regular site visits to major projects (often on the eastern seaboard) and close liaison with architectural design teams, has allowed W&A to manage the demands to deliver the full potential of any project. State of the art teleconferencing facilities also ensures that the project team is able to communicate effectively with the client.

W&A understand the importance of clear and effective communication and have adopted an integrated approach to producing architectural documentation by coordinating other key disciplines at all stages of documentation.

This approach minimises documentation conflicts on-site and delivers highly accurate, integrated drawings providing the basis for on budget and to program projects.

Depending on the preference of the Client, W&A can deliver documentation in either AutoCAD or ArchiCAD (Building Information Model – BIM) formats. Each format has particular advantages, however the BIM format is capable of integrating the entire building lifecycle 'live' in 3D and providing such features as interactive design sessions with Clients.

Greater versatility can be achieved with the capability of BIM, to effectively translate and communicate design concepts to Clients. This advanced software also has the ability through 3D modeling to identify where potential design problems may occur.

Projects within the W&A portfolio range from the iconic Vision Tower in Brisbane towering 78 stories with a construction budget exceeding \$900 million; Australian Defence Force projects requiring strict adherence to Government specific standards; and smaller commercial projects demanding observation of Value Management principles.

The formation of joint ventures with Design Architects and Construction Managers means that W&A are able to manage projects from inception until completion.

ROBERT SIMEONI PTY LTD ARCHITECTS

CLIENT REFERENCE

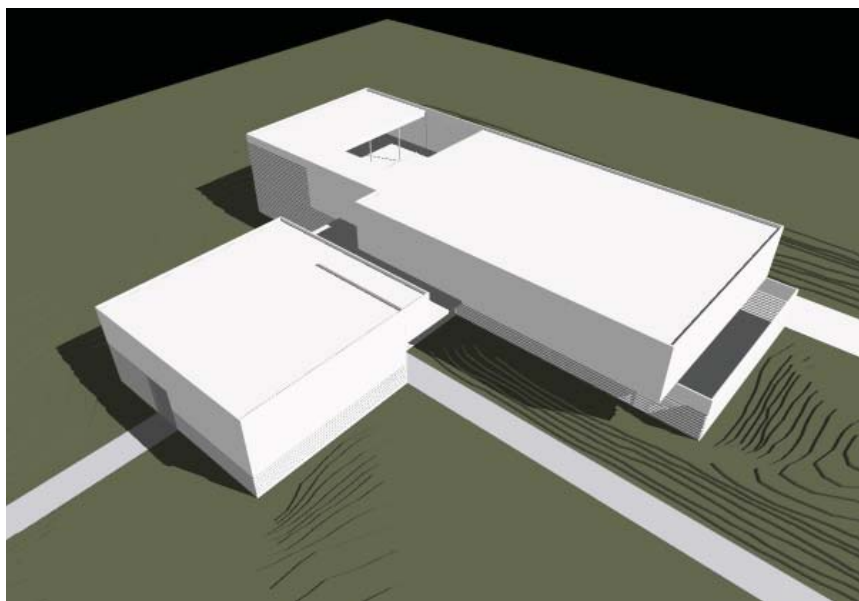
BRUNO GROLLO

Robert Simeoni Pty Ltd Architects have been engaged by me for more than twelve years delivering a range of buildings, employing and satisfying a diverse range of consultancy groups including the National Trust and Heritage Victoria. Documentation is of a high and exacting standard, allowing for a very concise and effective building program.

Staffing levels have grown over years to a point where projects of greater complexity are being handled with great efficiency. Their controlled process is exhaustive and complete. In dealing with my projects, Robert works very closely with the operational building arm in all building processes.

Robert and his staff have presented us with beautiful and outstanding buildings. The period of preparation; their presentation to the wider community, their relationship with the builders; their engagement of wider expertise has been a source of support and encouragement to myself.

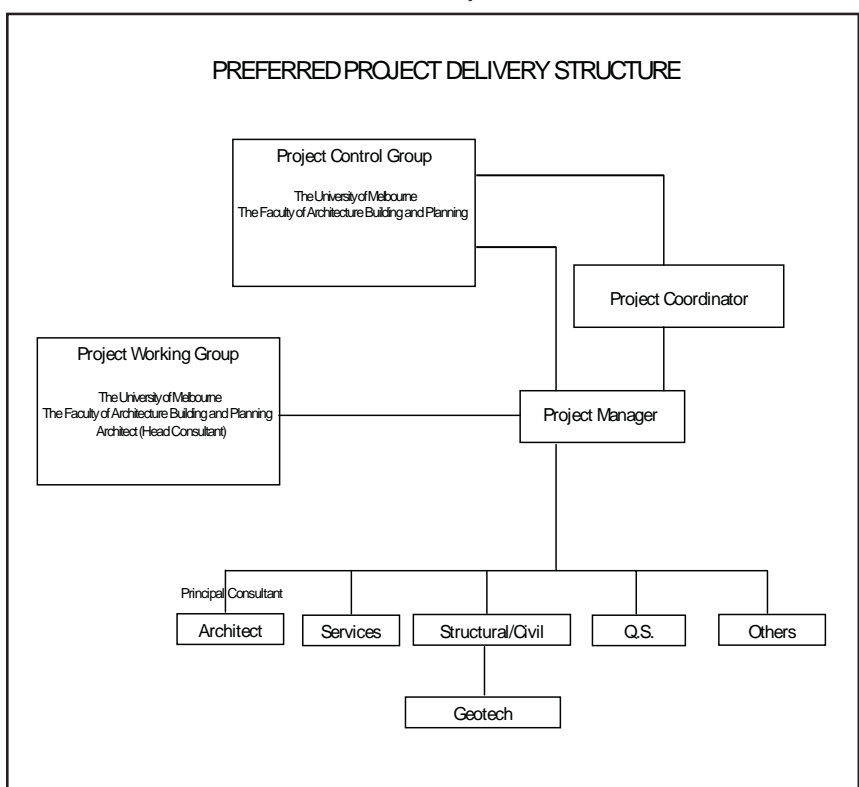
Bruno Grollo



WESTKON PRECAST OFFICES, Melton, Victoria - Robert Simeoni Pty Ltd Architects



SEAFORD LIFE SAVING CLUB, Seaford, Victoria - Robert Simeoni Pty Ltd Architects



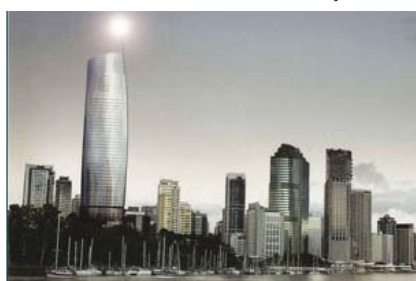
VISION, Brisbane - Construction documentation by W&A



AXA, Melbourne - Construction documentation by W&A



AXA, Melbourne - Construction Documentation by W&A



VISION, Brisbane - Construction documentation by W&A



QV, Melbourne - Construction documentation by W&A



WESTKON PRECAST OFFICES - Aerial view



SEAFORD LIFE SAVING CLUB



WOOLAMAI HOUSE



WOOLAMAI HOUSE



PARK STREET HOUSE

05.1.6 MERIT

Awards:

Seaford Life Saving Club:
2008 Australian Institute of Architects National Public Architecture Award

Victorian AIA Marion Mahony Interior Architecture Award

2008 Premier's Design Award for Cultural Architecture

Outdoor Timber Award, Best Use of Engineered Timber Products and Highly Commended in the Public and Commercial Buildings category in the 2008 Australian Timber Design Awards.

Architectural & Design Excellence in the South East Awards 2009 Outstanding Public Building Award

Park Street House:

2007 AIA National Small Project Architecture Award

2007 Victorian AIA Harold Desbrowe-Anneer Award for Residential Architecture

2007 Victorian AIA Small Project Architecture Award

1990 Eleanor Norris Medal Award for Best Architecture Graduate, The University of Melbourne

Woolamai House:

2004 AIA National Commendation

2004 Victorian RAI Award for Architecture
The National jury panel stated that Woolamai House is "exemplary in its restraint and exhilarating in its scale and simplicity" and describes the living spaces as "some of the most gracious living spaces ever built".

Selected Publications:

Architecture Australia
Park Street House - National Award For Small Project Architecture - November/December 2007

Woolamai House - Commendation For Residential Buildings - November/December 2004

Woolamai House - Residential Alterations & Additions Award - September/October 2004

Seaford Life Saving Club - Awards - July/August 2008

Seaford Life Saving Club - National Award For Public Architecture - November/December 2008

Seaford Life Saving Club - The Critics Respond - November/December 2008

Mongrel, Issue 01
Woolamai House
Work under Bernard Joyce
House - Elm Grove, St. Kilda
House - Eglington St, Moonee Ponds
House - St. Andrews St, Balmain, NSW
House - Findon Crescent, Kew
House - Loriket Close, Bawly Point
House - Wolseley Parade, Kensington
House - Hodgkinson St, Clifton Hill
House - Sydney Rd, Coburg

Backlogue
Essay by Robert Simeoni

Robert Simeoni - Post Graduate Education & Tutoring

2005- Masters by Invitation, RMIT under the directorship of Professor Leon van Schaik

1990- Design studios, RMIT
Lead with Kim Halik
Extensive tutoring & guest critique