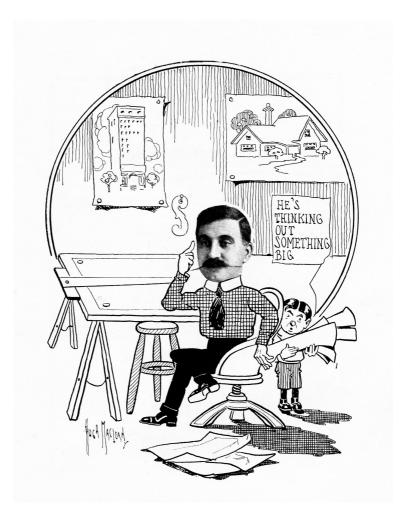
Byera Hadley a biography

A biography of Byera Hadley, originally authored by Michael Bogle to mark the 60th anniversary of the Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarships







The Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarships have been awarded annually since 1951, funded from a bequest from Byera Hadley, formerly a Sydney architect and Lecturer-in-Charge, School of Architecture at Sydney Technical College. Byera Hadley, who died in 1937, provided in his will for the establishment of the Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarship Fund. The bequest required that the income from the Trust be applied in perpetuity for the "promotion and encouragement of students and/ or graduates of architecture". The NSW Architects Registration Board manages the Scholarships. The funds are held in Trust by Perpetual. This essay on Byera Hadley was originally commissioned by the NSW Architects Registration Board to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the award of the first Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarship. The Board acknowledged the important research of Michael Bogle, PhD (RMIT) - a historian specialising in the history of Australian architecture and design.

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Introduction

Byera Hadley's career as an architect and teacher has received much less attention than his bequest. While the Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarship enjoys the benefit of a well-publicised annual reminder, his buildings remain mute and for the most part. unlisted in the suburban LGA Heritage Schedules, J.M. Freeland's landmark survey works, "Architecture in Australia and The Making of a Profession" offer Hadlev no comfort despite the architect's two town halls. a number of multi-storey city warehouses, Sydney University's original Wesley College and chapel, the Leigh College building and a number of significant suburban churches.

[He was] of a retiring nature," a friend

recalls, "he was not easy to know intimately, but his qualities of sincerity and uprightness were obvious to all who came in contact with him. Those who knew him intimately always benefited greatly by his advice ...".[3]

The architectural press of the era illustrates that he did very little self-promotion, preferring to remain a sole practice as "B. Hadley, Architect" and to lecture and later to lead the architecture programme at the Sydney Technical College. In a jostling field of talented Sydney Technical College-trained architects, Hadley was an early 20th century historicist architect who drew on the pattern books for a wide range of revival styles for his urban and suburban commissions.

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His work was competent, contemporary and in his residential Arts and Crafts style, occasionally playful.

His work was competent, contemporary and in his residential Arts and Crafts style, occasionally playful. It has failed, however, to draw the accolades of his profession.

Australian beginnings

Byera Hadley (1872-1937) was born in Cotham, North Bristol, Gloucestershire, into a merchant family and attended a private school in the nearby Bristol suburb of Clifton. Both residential suburbs can be described as "comfortable" with a large stock of 19th century houses and terraces. Byera was the third son of E.A. (Alexander) Hadley (1855-1929)[4] and Florence (Mary Adeline) Hadley.[5] The precise "merchant" occupation of Alexander Hadley is unknown.

Byera Hadley and his family arrived in Australia in 1887 and soon afterward, he was indentured to *A.L. and G. Mc-Credie and Sons*, Architects and Consulting Engineers in Sydney.

Arthur W. Anderson (1869-1942) was working his indentures at McCredie's at the same time and he was three years into the five-year architecture programme at Sydney Technical College (STC). While their studies and indentures coincide, there are other parallels in Hadley's and Anderson's careers. Anderson, for example, was a prominent Methodist churchman serving on their Executive Committee and enjoyed a number of major commissions from his church.[6]

Early career

through Anderson's influence, also provided a number of commissions for Byera Hadley. Anderson was also an "Old Boy" from Newington College, Stanmore, a Methodist-supported institution founded in 1863. While Hadley (Church of England) had no direct affiliation with Newington, he later received an important commission from Newington College for Leigh College, a Newington residential hall for thirty-seven pupils as well as contracts for several Methodist Halls, churches, interior works and chapels.[8]

A.L. and G. McCredie, Architects and Consulting Engineers

The A.L. [Arthur] and G. [George] McCredie, Architects and Consulting Engineers practice has not been thoroughly documented but the firm had a number of important commercial clients in the city. Their Romanesque Revival Burns Philp Building (1899-1900) at 5-11 Bridge Street is one of their most celebrated works and their Burns Philp work led to other building works for this Pacific trading company.

"George McCredie (1859-1903) [...] was educated at Fort Street Public School and left to become an apprentice carpenter with the Australasian Steam Navigation Company (ASN



Co.).[...] In 1880 he left the company and traveled overseas in a world trip [...]. Following his return to Australia he joined a partnership [1884] with his brother in A.L. (Arthur) & G. McCredie, Architects and Consulting Engineers." This partnership lasted until 1904.[9]

"McCredie and Sons [...] were involved in engineering works for warehouses, factories, stores docks and reclamation projects and were responsible for [...] [commissions such as Linnwood, Guildford NSW; the George McCredie home; the Oswald Bond Store (1892), Walsh Bay]; [...] the 1900 Burns Philip Building in Bridge Street; the 1908 Mark Foy Building (as McCredie and [Arthur] Anderson) [...]. The firm was

also responsible for the notable Studley Park villa, Camden (including the House, Stables, Granary and steam engine house)."[10] Hadley would have had direct experience with the Oswald Bond Store and Burns Philp works during his apprenticeship.

Sydney Technical College

Although Hadley had only arrived in Sydney in 1887, by Australia's Centennial year, he was enrolled in the Sydney Technical College's (STC) architecture programme and taking first-year course in Model Drawing (awarded 1st grade) and Freehand Drawing (honours).[11] The first-year awards suggest that he possessed considerable talent in drawing. First-year students took courses in Build-

These second-year STC classes were the first to put Hadley amongst Sydney's more illustrious architects

ing and Construction; Planning and Designing and the History of Architecture.

In 1888, Byera's STC classmates included Holland Andrews, Guilford Dudley, W. S. Sweet, Thomas Lockley, George Setchell, Frederick Morton Marshall, Walter Hunt, Richard Blake Brigdale, Finlay Elgin Munro and Frank Lee. The sole Honours winner in this year was W. S. Sweet while Second Grade Honours were awarded to Finlay Elgin Munro, Walter Hunt and Frank Lee.

Hadley continued to show accomplishment in Drawing and Presentation in 1889. He took second-year courses in the History of Architec-

ture (2nd grade mark), Architectural Planning and Design (1st grade mark) and a course in Perspective Drawing (honours).[12]

These second-year STC classes were the first to put Hadley amongst Sydney's more illustrious architects such as James Nangle, L.S. Robertson, J. A. Kethel and Alfred Spain (later a partner in Spain and Cosh who built Culwulla Chambers, Castlereagh Street) who took Second-year Honours along with F.L. Grace

In 1890-91, Hadley also began receiving external awards for his work and finished his year with a STC scholarship.[13] The *Sydney Morning Herald* always kept a close watch on the

Byera Hadley's STC scholarship allowed him to undertake two years of college study tuition-free.

STC's activities and they proudly reported that "Works of students of the Technical [College] classes are sent annually to [the] South Kensington [Museum, London] for classification by the examiners of the Science and Art Department of Great Britain. Returns just received of the results of the examination of the works sent in March last show that a high percentage of prizes has been gained this year, and that more awards have been given than in any previous year. [...]"

"Mr. Alfred Spain gained a bronze medal for a design for a town hall. The other students obtaining prizes are: Architectural Design: Holland Andrews; Joseph A. Kethel [silver medalist]; two prizes. [...] Linear Geometry: James Nangle; W. J. Taylor. Linear Perspective: George Poole. Details of Architecture from Copies: Byera Hadley [...]. The works of the following students have been adjudged by the examiners as worthy of free studentships: Holland Andrews, Joseph Buckley, Byera Hadley, George Harvey, J. A. Kethel, Edward Mueller, Edward Nancarrow, Edward Paton, and Alfred Spain. [...]."[14]

Byera Hadley's STC scholarship allowed him to undertake two years of college study tuition-free. A number of references have been made about Hadley's overseas travel, particularly to the United States (returning in 1895). This travel cannot be verified

by the documents found to date but reference is made to "...a trip through the United States" in the 1907 edition of the Cyclopedia of New South Wales.[15]

It was (and remains) common practice in Australian schools of architecture to identify and appoint superior students to lecturer and tutorial positions and Hadley's talents in drawing ensured that he would be identified as a potential recruit. By 1899, Hadley was working for the STC as "assistant lecturer, architectural classes" and that same year, he was elevated to "assistant teacher of Architectural and Trades Drawing".[16]

With his schoolwork behind him, the comfort of a part-time salary from a STC teaching appointment could supplement his income and support the founding of a practice. By 1897, he was advertising for tenders under the name of "B. Hadley, Architect. Camden Buildings, 418 George Street, Sydney." and making offers to buy a block of land in Park Street.[17]

Based on a search of Sydney Morning Herald notices, it appears his private practice was founded in 1897.[18] Continuing to construct his career, he also became a Fellow of the Institute of Architects NSW in 1899.[19]

Personal life



In the late 1890s, Hadley became acquainted with Florence Debelle and her six siblings through a friendship with her brother Arthur Debelle; a fellow drawing student at the Sydney Technical College.[20]

Arthur Debelle was also "stroke" in a number of Hadley's Mercantile Rowing Club "Fours" races.[21] Hadley was an active member of the rowing club during this period.

A year later, he married Florence Debelle (1871-1945) and they took up residence in Sydney.[24] The couple had two children, Florence who died in infancy (1907-1908) and Byera Alexander Hadley (b.1903), sometimes known as Byera Junior.[25] His son be-

came the Inspector of Mines, Broken Hill, and after enlisting for the 1939-45 War, the ex-soldier continued his Inspector of Mines career in the Armidale area.[26]

B.Hadley, Architect

After 1897, Hadley worked from rooms in the Camden Buildings, 418 George Street, Sydney. The Sydney Morning Herald tender notices suggest that Hadley first worked as a speculative architect developing vacant parcels of land for "cottages" as well as "villas". There seemed to be no shortage of work for his practice. By 1899, however, the 28-year old architect was celebrating the Earl Beauchamp's well-publicised opening of the Hadley-designed Botany Town Hall described in the press as "...a Town Hall which seems to have been well designed, and is a decided architectural feature of the borough. The building, which is in the Early Italian Renaissance style, occupies a site on the main road. [...]"

"There are imposing entrances with broad flights of steps which form approaches [to] both the municipal block and the post-office. [...] The main hall of the building is on the first floor and is 71 ft in length by 42 ft in width."[27] The Botany Town Hall commission has been described as the result of a competition but no records have been found to date to verify it.[28] The following year, his office completed the Greenwich Congregational Church, 9 Carlotta Street, Greenwich, a small Parish Gothic slate-roofed church in brick with a capacity of 150 parishioners.[29] The press report states that the church was "Erected to designs by Mr. W. [sic] Hadley of George Street, the contractor being T. Nicholace of Willoughby."



commercial-scale Following these commissions, Hadley's office began to receive substantial civic works including the three-storey Sydney United Friendly Societies Dispensary and Medical Institute building in "Macquarie Street-south" (commemorative stone laid in 1902); the commission for the Willoughby Town Hall (opened by the Premier of NSW Sir John See) completed in 1903 and the Baumann Café (1904) in Pitt Street, opposite the entrance to the Strand Arcade next to Washington Soul's drug store.

The Pitt Street façade of Baumann's "Model Café" is described in the press as presenting a "florid modern Renaissance design in brick and stone. While no photographs have been found to

date, the extensive description of Baumann's suggests that the café's fit-out and engineering were the latest word in catering.[30] [31] [32]

It has not been possible to discover the employees of Hadley's practice to date, but press reports and surviving documents indicate that he did not form associations or partnerships with other architects. There is no question, however, that the scale, complexity and quantity of the design, engineering and specification work would have required a number of architects, engineers and draughting specialists.

By 1905, Hadley was fluent in a number of 19th and early 20th century period revival styles and generally reserved



his Gothic Revival and Romanesque Revival vocabulary for ecclesiastical work; employed variations of the Renaissance Revival for medium scale commercial work; and used a more assertive Classical Revival expression for large-scale commercial commissions for the urban warehouses to the west of George Street in the city.

Examples of Hadley's large-scale urban commercial structures include the 1907 former Aberdeen House (seven storey) at 204-206 Clarence Street; the 1908 Smith Copeland warehouse (four storey) at 144 Clarence Street (extending to 83-87 York Street) with later floors added by others and the 1916 Commerce Buildings (five storey) at 349-353 Sussex Street;

While a number of Byera Hadley's commercial works are known and listed as heritage items in Local Government Local Environmental Plans (LEPs), residential work was a very active part of his practice. Few domestic commissions have achieved heritage listings and those identified suggest a tendency toward an Arts-and-Crafts, bungalow or a Tudor Revival style.

His most grand ecclesiastical work, on the other hand, is typically drawn from the Gothic Revival style and is exemplified by the original wing of the Wesley College, Sydney University (designed in 1916) and its 1919 chapel.[33] [34] His more modest commissions such as the 1900 Greenwich Congregational Church (Carlotta Street); the 1919

Teaching

"George Smith Memorial Hall" (New-combe Street) of the Paddington Uniting Church, 395 Oxford Street and the 1928 Wesley Hall (Dover Road), Rose Bay mingle the Parish Gothic and the red brick associations of the Romanesque Revival.[35] [36] [37]

Lecturer-in-Charge

While Hadley's practice expanded, he maintained his part-time teaching associations with the STC and continued to hone his drawing and presentation skills. Beginning in 1908, Hadley began to seek a more prominent profile in the architectural community.

A generous illustrated feature of Hadley's drawings of Edmund Blacket's Anglican church, St John, the Evangelist, Darlinghurst featured prominently over four pages in *Art and Architecture*. These drawings include perspectives, moulding details and a ground plan. They provide first hand examples of Byera Hadley's visualization skills. As a teacher of "architectural and trades drawing" a great deal would have been expected of his drawing style.[38] The following year, 1909, a perspective (dated 1908) of a Clarence Street warehouse for Smith Copeland and Co., was also exhibited in *Art & Architecture*.[39]

By 1911, Hadley was exhibiting his drawing work in the Institute of Architects NSW 4th Biennial "Exhibition of Architectural Drawings". His drawing (with the subject unfortunately unidenti-



fied) appeared in "the warehouse section" alongside work by his competitors in the city warehouse genre. The Art & Architecture reviewer identifies the participants as Byera Hadley, Kent and Budden; Power and Adam; Slayter and Schiels; and McCredie and Anderson in an exhibition where, according to the anonymous writer, "much good work was shown".[40]

In the following year, a career opportunity emerged. The Superintendent of the STC, Mr. J.W. Turner fell ill and Byera Hadley's former classmate James Nangle (1868-1941) was appointed Acting Superintendent [reference is made to Nangle's trade training as a carpenter and bricklayer]. The retirement of Turner, followed by

Nangle's advancement, left the architecture Lecturer-in-Charge position vacant and, fifteen years after assuming his part-time teaching position at Sydney Technical College, Hadley advanced to Lecturer-in-Charge of the architecture course.

From the 21st century, it is difficult to assess the breadth of Hadley's contribution at the STC. His obituary in the STC publication *Atelier*, states "Under Mr. Hadley's able and enthusiastic direction the school rapidly increased the range and efficiency of it's teaching until finally [...] [it was] acknowledged as one of the finest schools of architecture in the Empire". While some of the STC's reforms were the work of the well-regarded James Nan-



gle, O.B.E., Hadley had established the formal five-year architecture course at the STC by 1918. Eric Daniels notes that "... the new course was designed to fulfill the requirements of [...] [the forthcoming Architects Registration] Act...".[42] Spooner's History of the School of Architecture and Building notes the passing of the Architects Registration Act (gazetted in 1922) coinciding with the first five-year architecture diplomas awarded in 1923. [43] Hadley is also credited with gaining Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) recognition of the STC course diploma. This gave post-1923 STCtrained architects exemption from the RIBA examinations.[44]

Hadley and his Advisory Board also supported the publication of the first Sydney Technical College School of Architecture Year Book 1928.[45] The heavily illustrated volume (selling for two shillings) featured reproductions of student works from 1926 and 1927. Subsequent volumes appeared in 1929, 1930 and 1931. The STC's Year Book celebrated, publicized and affirmed the status of the first generation of graduates of the five-year education programme. They also generously illustrate the earliest student works of the interwar generation of NSW architects.

Legacy

Hadley's greatest contribution to NSW architecture remains his insistence on the importance of travel in Australian architectural training. His involvement appears some years before his formal bequest for the Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarships.

A ledger maintained by the Board of Architects of NSW (Now NSW Architects Registration Board) records a 1928 "Byera Hadley Scholarship for Interstate Study" of £25 for Duncan McPhee Smith (d.1987) of the STC and a 1929 Byera Hadley Scholarship for Richard Simpson, STC.[46] The awards ledger records two donations of £25 from Mr Hadley. The success of these two "interstate study" scholarships must have provided the catalyst

for the 1937 Byera Hadley bequest.

Although he left the STC in 1927, Hadley maintained his architectural practice until his death in 1937.[47] Major commissions arising after his STC appointment included the Methodist Girls School, Bowral (The Annesley School) (1923); the Colonial Mutual Building, 74 Pitt Street (1924); the Vickery Memorial Chapel (1926), Leigh College, Newington (1927) and the Wesley Hall (1929), Rose Bay. [48] [49] [50]

Glimpses of Hadley's character

Byera Hadley's foreword for the STC School of Architecture Year Book 1928 provides a rare statement from an architect and lecturer who avoided appearing in print. An excerpt from his



brief introduction suggests something of Hadley's character as well as providing a hint of the architectural concerns of the post-federation era.

"[B]ecause of the changed conditions of modern practice," Hadley writes, "the creation of a Sir Christopher Wren or a Welby Pugin, though not impossible, is less likely today than in the past. Nevertheless, the value of men whose ability raises them above their fellows makes them natural leaders. However, no one man, or group of men can form a national style for their work. Our soldiers, cricketers and footballers have already demonstrated the formation of a national character possessing such traits as courage and initiative. If our architects will add to these, at

least the three R's of Design: Repose, Restraint and Refinement, our architectural practice will surely express the foundation of a national style."[51]

By the late 1920s, Hadley's practice appears to have slowed and by the mid-1930s, the STC-trained architect Osmond Jarvis went to work for Hadley, later giving an interview to Paul-Alan Johnson about his experiences in the practice in 1936-1937.[52]

"He [Hadley] was on his own and was then doing work for a prominent family named Cull. They were involved in all sorts of things but were also supporters of his church. I worked on some of the churches that Byera Hadley designed and also did some work Hadley had established the formal five-year architecture course at the STC by 1918.

on Cull's houses. [...]

[H]e had spells of sickness and couldn't cope and only came in a couple of days a week and eventually went to hospital and never left it. I think it may have been heart trouble but I am not sure. [He was] very softly spoken. I would say that he was very well read, and of course, he was getting on in years. It was amazing how much work he left to me. He never spoke of any family. [We were doing] some domestic work, but a lot of church work. I worked on refurbishing a church for him ...".

Jarvis's characterisation of Hadley as "softly spoken" also surfaces in his *Atelier* obituary. "Being of a retiring nature," his anonymous memorialist

writes in 1938, "he was not easy to know intimately, but his qualities of sincerity and uprightness were obvious to all who came in contact with him. Those who knew him intimately always benefited greatly by his advice which was always given in the direction of truth...".[53]

The Death of Byera Hadley

When Hadley died in 1937 of circulatory disease, his will provided an annuity for his wife while establishing a travelling scholarship bequest of £10,000 for graduates of the Sydney Technical College and Sydney University to be administered by the *Board of Architects NSW*. The news of the scholarship bequest excited considerable national attention and was published in

Hadley's greatest contribution to NSW architecture remains his insistence on the importance of travel in Australian architectural training.

a number of out-of-state newspapers. [54]

Hadley gave his "residuary estate" to the Permanent Trustees Co. on trust for the purpose of creating a *Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarship Fund.* "He directed that the income therefrom should be applied in perpetuity," the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported, "to scholarships, to be awarded to students of architecture or graduates at the Sydney Technical College or University of Sydney."[55]

The Sydney Morning Herald also reported that "Mr. Hadley gave £500 to Rita Haley, who had been his nurse, in recognition of her care for him, directed that a sum sufficient to yield

his widow an annuity of £200 be set aside, to fall eventually into residue, and gave his architectural library to East Sydney Technical College." Hadley also left Rita Haley "such of the furniture, pictures, and articles or personal or household use or ornament as belong to me now situated in [...] number 137 Livingstone Road, Marrickville." [56] The estate was sworn for probate at £10,825. To date, nothing has emerged regarding Rita Haley or her relationship with Hadley.

Hadley was buried at the Woronora Cemetery and a gravestone in trachyte stone was executed under the direction of Fowell, Mansfield and Maclurcan and after some delay, the stone was placed in 1950.[58] The notable achievements of the award winners from the first, Bryce Mortlock (1951), to the recent winners, speak for themselves.

By 1939, however, Hadley's widow, Florence Debelle Hadley made an application to the Equity Court for financial relief under the "Family Maintenance Act". The press reported "Mrs. Hadley, who is now 67 applied for an increase of the provision made for her. Evidence was submitted that Mr. Hadley left his home many years ago. He made a small monthly payment to his wife, who in order to educate her son and maintain herself, trained as a nurse."[59]

The Judge, Justice Nicholas, was sympathetic to Mrs. Hadley's plea and ordered that she be paid £100 and that she receive "the net income of the estate (about £427 a year) for the rest of her life." "The scholarship fund, it

was reported, would come into effect on Mrs. Hadley's death."[60] The Permanent Trustees Co. and the *Board of Architects* (now the *NSW Architects Registration Board*) jointly managed the Byera Hadley estate (including letting, repairing and ultimately selling properties held by the Trustees) until Mrs. Florence Hadley's death in 1945 when the balance of the bequest could be realised.[61]

Extended negotiations with the *Permanent Trustees Co.* regarding the estate, legal matters and the internal review of the "Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarship Rules" continued until 1950 when the Board wrote that "The Award is to be made to the student and/or graduate who in the opinion

of the Board gives promise of profiting most by study abroad, upon such evidence by way of competitions or otherwise as the Board may determine from time to time..."

The list of scholarship recipients over the years includes many architects who have contributed enormously to the profession and the broader community. This embraces such celebrated figures as Milo Dunphy, the 1953 recipient in whose passion for encouraging community awareness of environmental issues resulted in the foundation of the Total Environment Centre and includes State, National and International award-winning architects as well as State and National Presidents of the *Australian Institute of Archi-*

tects. Byera Hadley's wishes have been satisfied by the Board's desire to select architects based on their ability for "profiting most" from the Byera Hadley Travelling Scholarship". The notable achievements of the award winners from the first, Bryce Mortlock (1951), to the recent winners, speak for themselves.

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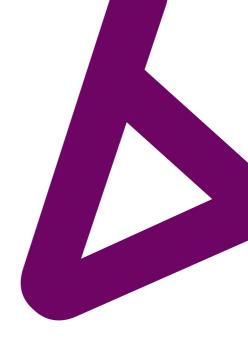
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