



PROFILE

CONTACT DETAILS

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PRACTICE SUMMARY

BB Architects are a specialist conservation practice based in the west end of Adelaide, South Australia. Its core expertise is advising on the restoration and adaptation of heritage buildings, designing additions to older buildings and integrating new buildings into old neighbourhoods.

SPECIALISATION

BB Architect's design skills are utilised in the planning and design of conservation and refurbishment projects where relationships of old and new building fabric are involved, adaptations of heritage buildings and additions to existing older buildings. The firm is recognised for its ability to achieve positive architectural balances between modern Australian design and listed heritage buildings.

PHILOSOPHY

The primary focus at BB Architects is on the integration and interaction of old and new building elements and their respective fabric. Much of our work is involved with conserving older buildings and integrating new development within or adjacent to listed buildings of cultural significance. We advise extensively on adding onto and adapting buildings and sites of heritage significance. This varies in scale and type and typically involves buildings and houses dating from the late 1830's through to the early 1960's. Detailed conservation work and considered modern architectural design is our forte.

Generally

We enjoy working closely with people and celebrating the inner-city cultures of Australian cities and that of our nearby Asian neighbours. People are what matter most.

Architecture

Good architectural design should reflect the cultural values of our time and place;
Good design involving buildings of cultural significance should be implemented in a way which reflects contemporary cultural values and avoids period replication;
Good design should always have regard to the physical context in which it is located.

Conservation

Our approach to conservation of the built environment is guided by the principles set out in the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter;

Our approach to conservation and new development is based on respect for the design and fabric of the original building or site concerned. We always aim to make a positive use of sites, buildings, and fabric of cultural significance;

We also recognise that Buildings are constantly being changed and modified to accommodate new uses. This is normal. What matters is how well this change is managed; We consider that additions and adaptations involving buildings and sites of cultural significance should be carried out in a way which respects the underlying character of these places, without dominating the old or resorting to period replication. Complementary design balances of conserved original building fabric and new design elements are aimed for; Buildings are intended to be used. Adapting an older building to accommodate a new use is quite normal. Ideally a use which is compatible with the older building should be aimed for.

Urban Design

Older towns and inner-city neighbourhoods are mixtures of constantly changing urban fabric as changing lifestyle needs are accommodated. Juxtapositions of buildings of different styles and uses are normal. Some degree of aesthetic tension and adversity which result from accommodating ongoing change is also part of a healthy urban environment. New development in these situations should endeavour to respect the existing urban character and its historic development pattern. This does not mean that new development should copy previous styles of architecture, but rather that it should respect its physical context and relate to it positively. Contemporary design can work within historic environments, but it needs to be implemented carefully and with regard to context.

CURRENT OR RECENT PROJECTS

- ❑ Architects for conservation of the exterior of Adelaide Town Hall
- ❑ Architects for conservation of the exterior of Norwood Town Hall
- ❑ Architects for conservation of the exterior of the Catholic Archbishops House, Adelaide
- ❑ Architects for conservation of Roseworthy College Hall
- ❑ Conservation Architects to University of Adelaide Roseworthy Campus
- ❑ Architects for adaptation of and additions to Victory Hotel, Sellicks Hill
- ❑ Project Architect for Rundle Lantern Project, corner of Pulteney & Rundle Streets
- ❑ Heritage Advisors to Adelaide City Council
- ❑ Heritage Advisors to Norwood Payneham & St Peters Council

PERSONAL SUMMARY

David Brown began his architectural career in 1991 with Woods Bagot Architects, after completing his honours Degree at the University of Adelaide and winning the inaugural Woods Bagot Scholarship in Architecture. While at Woods Bagot, David worked on various conservation projects including the restoration of St Peters Cathedral, North Adelaide, the restoration of St. Luke's Church in Whitmore Square, and the redevelopment and restoration of Regent Arcade in the city.

David spent several years in Adelaide working for SACON and Resource Development on projects including commercial office developments, Schools, Council depots, retail shop fit-outs and hospitals. During this time David also worked part time for Mark Butcher Architects on a range of conservation and residential projects.

In 1996 David left Australia and spent several years overseas in London and South America travelling and working. While in Brazil he worked on projects including a school master plan and several school buildings in the north of Brazil. In London he worked in a large private practice focussing on cinemas, health clubs and retail developments.

On returning to Australia in 1999 David resumed work with Mark Butcher Architects. At this time David also returned to full time study for another three year Bachelor of Arts Degree specialising Intercultural Studies while working part time.

In July 2002 David joined with Mark Butcher to establish Butcher Brown Architects, which later evolved into BB Architects. The new company continues to practice and specialise in conservation, restoration and integration of new development with old. The practice is based in the west end of the City of Adelaide.

David was project architect for the Rundle Lantern Project in the centre of Adelaide, winner of several major awards. When BB Architects moved into the city, David was project architect for redeveloping the property they purchased, which recently won a series of design awards at the 2011 RAA Awards.

In 2012 David has been appointed as a panel member to the Integrated Design Commission Design Review Panel (now being rebranded as the ODASA Design Review panel – Office for Design and Architecture SA).

In June 2012 Mark Butcher retired and David bought him out of the practice, leaving David as the sole director of the company. At this stage little has changed with focus of the business, the majority of the work is still conservation and heritage related.

David is involved in the local Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architect as a member of Chapter Council, and the director for the annual Architecture Awards in 2015.

David has also lectured and tutored at both schools of architecture in Adelaide, The University of Adelaide, and the University of South Australia.

AWARDS

BB Architects have won AIA Awards for their work on the Gateway-to-Adelaide at Glen Osmond, Adelaide Bridge Restoration, the Rundle Lantern and their own office additions. They have also won the Adelaide Prize for the Rundle Lantern and an Adelaide Prize Commendation for Excellence for adaptation of St. Mary's Church in North Adelaide.

