

**Swanbury
Penglase**

#99 After a long wait for some much needed conservation works, the Adelaide Town Hall can again be appreciated in all its glory. You can read about it below!

Adelaide Town Hall Façade Conservation

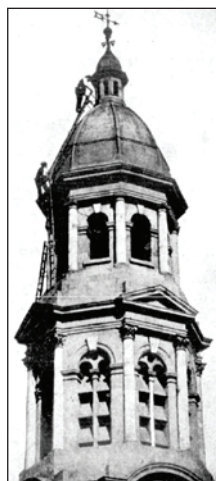
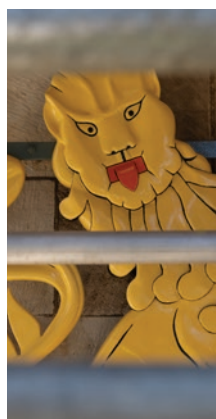
On 29 November 1865, the Adelaide Town Hall tower – then the tallest structure in the city – was officially “topped out” with a suitable ceremony. Named the ‘Albert Tower’ in memory of Queen Victoria’s late husband, more than thirty prominent invited guests climbed the timber scaffold at the contractors’ invitation to hear speeches and drink toasts of sherry in celebration. The celebratory mood culminated in one adventurous guest clambering onto the finial and spinning atop its cast-iron ball. When the recent façade conservation works reached completion, today’s regulations ensured the moment was celebrated rather more sedately.

After nearly two years veiled in scaffolding, the 160-year-old landmark has emerged revitalised having undergone critical conservation works. In addition to cleaning, repointing, render repairs, installation of protective cappings and repainting, it also proved necessary to structurally stabilise and replace portions of deteriorated stone. With the original quarry no longer available, matching stone was sourced

from salvaged material stockpiled from the demolition of the Port Road bridge over the Torrens more than thirty years ago. The project also required the complete dismantling and rebuilding of the tower’s upper section above the cupola. This addressed both long-term weathering and the structural damage first caused by the 1902 earthquake and subsequent corrosion of internal ties.

It also provided an opportunity to gain deeper insight into its original construction, as the disassembly of components undertaken to address issues revealed unexpectedly sophisticated techniques and systems. Such challenges are seldom apparent in the completed work, as is appropriate.

The conservation of this civic icon stands as a testament to the patience and commitment of the City of Adelaide, the stewardship of Place PM, and the skill and dedication of Duratec, whose efforts – in collaboration with the Heritage Team at Swanbury Penglase – have ensured the Albert Tower will continue to stand proudly for generations to come.

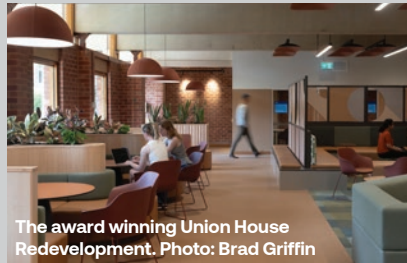


Left and top photographs by Brad Griffin

Sites
notes



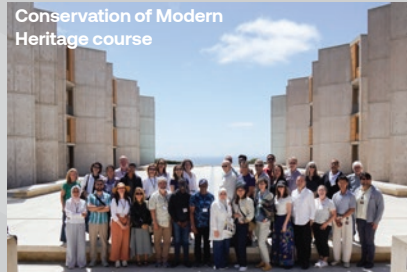
Some of the Union House team at the Architecture Awards



The award winning Union House Redevelopment. Photo: Brad Griffin



Stephen visiting Eames House, LA



Conservation of Modern Heritage course



Ugly sweater and bowling night



SPA Bake Off



Amy receiving her award

Staff Notes



Name: Cameron Burfield

Position: Architect

Current projects: New Mount Barker Hospital, various Nexus Hospital fitout upgrades, Flinders University roof renewal and internal upgrades

What inspires you? Brennan Huff and Dale Doback's breathtaking rendition of 'Por Ti Volare' at the Catalina Wine Mixer (IYKYK)

Design Idols: Frank Lloyd Wright and John Wardle

Fav eatery: Fancy: Fugazzi
Not-as-fancy: Whistle & Flute

Most treasured possession: Lenny, my '03 yellow Mitsubishi Lancer

Best thing about living in Adelaide:

Access to the world's best wine regions and beaches right at our doorstep, with an honourable mention to our giant Pigeon Overlord statue in Rundle Mall

Fantasy (or next) holiday destination: Fiji is up next, but Japan is high up on the list

Life motto: Love many, trust few, and always paddle your own canoe

Superpower (if you could have one): Telekinesis

Growing up you thought you would be: The person who moves the arrow on the bushfire warning sign

Memorable SP (Swanbury Penglase) moment: Possessing the power of hosting the coveted 'Golden Swanny' awards over the last 3 years

Office News

You may remember from Issue 96 of sitenotes our feature on the Union House Redevelopment, at the University of Adelaide. We are delighted to share its success in the recent Australian Institute of Architecture Awards (SA Chapter), held at the Queens Theatre. The project received the Award for Interior Architecture, the David Saunders Award for Heritage Architecture, as well as a commendation in the City of Adelaide Prize for Design Excellence. Congratulations to those who have contributed to this project over the last eight years – we are incredibly proud of this showcase of what our Heritage, Interiors, Landscape and Architecture disciplines can achieve together. We would like to thank our client, the University of Adelaide, for inviting us to collaborate with them on the building's rejuvenation.

We are thrilled to announce that our own Interior Designer Amy Pedler, recently won an award in the Graduates of the Year Awards (GOTYAs) 2025. The GOTYAs is a program run by the Design Institute of Australia (DIA), to support and recognise highly talented emerging designers embarking upon their careers. Amy was nominated as a top graduate by the University of South Australia, in the 'PLACE' category, in which she was announced as the winner.

Earlier this month, our Senior Associate (Heritage), Stephen Schrapel completed the International Course on the Conservation of Modern Heritage at the Getty Conservation Institute, consisting of 3 months of online learning and 2 weeks in Los Angeles. The course brought together 26 mid-career professionals from 21 countries to deepen their understanding of the conservation of 20th-century places. The two weeks in Los Angeles were a whirlwind of activities, in and out of the classroom that included lectures by local experts, discussions, and exercises; site visits to significant modern sites all around Southern California with tours focused on their conservation; a hands-on concrete conservation workshop; all with the aim of continuing to provide participants with methodological and technical skills for modern heritage conservation.

This year, our Culture Committee launched an exciting new event in the office – the Great Swanbury Penglase Bake Off. Entrants put their best 'tastiest go-to winter comfort treat' forward, with their creations ultimately being taste tested and judged by their fellow staff members, all while raising money for our office charity of the year, Beyond Blue. Everyone involved made an amazing effort and a total of \$318.50 was raised.

The winners on the day were:

1st – Graduate of Architecture Charlotte Folland and her Melting Moments

2nd – Graduate of Architecture Bailey Sturru and his Basque Cheesecake

3rd – Keti from Admin with her Office Policy Cigars

Keeping with tradition, back in July it was time for our annual Christmas in July festivities, including our bowling and ugly sweater night. This year, Interior Designer Debbie Wood took out the trophy in a thrilling win.