

News Update

March 1999

Griffin Drawings Discovered!

Marion Mahony and Walter Burley Griffin's extraordinary architectural legacy, revealed in their current exhibition at the Powerhouse, has recently been substantially augmented by the discovery of a number of architectural renderings on silk in a private collection in Sydney. Unlike many of Marion's silk drawings which through exposure to light are in a very fragile state, these unframed works had remained rolled up in plastic sheeting for years and are in comparatively pristine condition. *continued on page 3.*

Seminar: *Exploring the work of the Griffins* 26 March 1999, Powerhouse Museum

Aimed at upper secondary and tertiary students and interested members of the public, this seminar will include talks by A/Professor Anna Rubbo (Marion Mahony Griffin), Professor James Weirick (the Griffins and Expressionism) and Anne Watson (furniture and lighting design).

Participants will be able to view the recent American documentary *Walter Burley Griffin: in his own right* as well as the current Powerhouse exhibition *Beyond architecture: Marion Mahony and Walter Burley Griffin in America, Australia and India*. A discount of 20% on the exhibition book of the same title will be offered to participants.

Coles Theatre, Level 3 Powerhouse Museum,
500 Harris Street, Ultimo, Sydney, NSW 2007.
Cost \$10. Bookings essential: (02) 9217 0222

Walter Burley Griffin Society of America

The Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc. in Australia is very pleased to announce that the Walter Burley

Griffin Society of America was established last October. Peter Burley Griffin, Walter's great nephew is its President and already they have organised their first event - a lecture, organised in conjunction with the St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in St Louis, given by Professor Paul Kruty on his recent visit to India. The establishment of the American Society is very exciting and will assist in achieving due recognition and respect of the Griffins' work.

"Beyond Architecture" Farewell Saturday 1 May 2.30pm at Powerhouse

To farewell the superb Griffin exhibition at the Powerhouse the Society has organised a special event with guest speaker conservation architect Trevor Waters. *continued on next page.*

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"Beyond Architecture" Farewell Saturday 1 May 2.30pm at Powerhouse Museum's Target Theatre

As a farewell to the Griffin exhibition at the Powerhouse the Society has organised a special guest speaker. Trevor Waters, a conservation architect will talk about "Pyrmont Incinerator and its place within Sydney".

The exhibition has been substantially funded by the Pyrmont Incinerator demolition fund which was received by Sydney City Council from Meriton Apartments Pty Ltd, the developer who demolished Pyrmont Incinerator.

Before its demolition Trevor spent many years researching the Incinerator and drafted the most exquisite set of detailed measured drawings, some of which are on display in the exhibition.

Cost: Members \$5; Student members \$2; Non-members \$8. Entry to the Museum is free on the first Saturday of the month.

"The Griffins in Australia and India" a comprehensive new book

Co-edited by Jeff Turnbull and Peter Navaretti, this recent publication is the first comprehensive and authoritative study of the numerous projects undertaken by the Griffins in Australia and India.

The book contains a chronological Catalogue Raisonné of more than 300 built and unbuilt projects including a few only recently discovered. It also presents a series of essays by Griffin scholars examining many aspects of the Griffins' work, including their relationship with Frank Lloyd Wright and Eric Nicholls as well as their struggles and achievements in land planning, architecture and interior design.

The book's 440 pages are profusely illustrated with photographs, plans and perspectives, many never published previously. RRP \$95.00 free of postage within Australia, from:

Reply Paid 1043

Melbourne University Press

P.O.Box 278 Carlton South, Victoria 3053

Tel: (03) 9347 3455. Fax: (03) 9349 2527.

The Museum of Sydney Bookshop, corner Bridge and Phillip Streets, Sydney is offering a 10% discount to all Society members.

"The Legacy of the Griffins: America, Australia, India Symposium" at The University of Melbourne 1-4 Oct 1998

The hundred or so delegates who attended this symposium enjoyed two days of fascinating talks that included many insights and new revelations about Marion and Walter Griffin's work, their creativity and professional partnership.

A wonderful exhibition of photographs by Professor Mati Maldre, University of Chicago of the Griffins'

American and Australian work was held in conjunction with the symposium. These photographs and many others are published in the new book *The Griffins in Australia and India*.

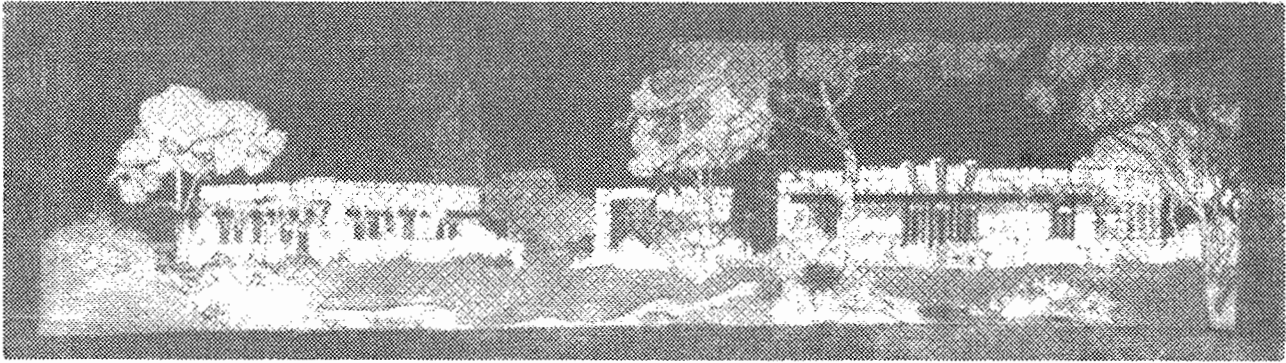
The bus tour on the third day of the symposium visited many Griffin sites and buildings in Melbourne including the magnificent interior of the Capitol Theatre in Swanson Street. Its fabulously decorated interior of crystalline ornament was lit by the sophisticated concealed lighting that bathed the dramatic projecting crystalline forms in a sequentially varying stipple of orange, green, yellow and blue light. Walter Burley Griffin designed the Capital Building in 1921 and Marion Mahony Griffin was responsible for designing its truly spectacular interiors.

The lectures covered a very wide range of topics that were introduced by Emeritus Professor H. Allen Brooks, University of Toronto, who spoke about 'The Prairie School', a term he coined in 1957. Professor Brooks explained how Walter Burley Griffin was the originator of working in horizontal space and first executed this in the Emery House at Elmhurst, Illinois in 1901. Frank Lloyd Wright did not adopt horizontal spatial forms in his architecture until 1906. The Ralph Griffin House designed by Walter for his brother in 1906 also reveals Griffin as the originator of the split level floor plan. A hallmark of Walter's design were large piers and one of Marion's design hallmarks was a long axis through a building often with a slight change in floor level. Marion designed Frank Lloyd Wright's commissions in the USA after he left for Europe in Autumn 1909.

Professor Paul Sprague, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, spoke on "Griffin's first American buildings beyond Frank Lloyd Wright" describing how Griffin embraced Louis Sullivan's challenge to abandon historic styles and develop new styles of architecture. He stated that Griffin's work was "sufficiently meritorious for Griffin to be considered one of the leading architects of the Prairie School".

Professor Paul Kruty, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign discussing the bounty of Walter Griffin's American work from 1910 to 1915, described this period as one of metamorphosis for him. He developed an expressive vocabulary of pylons, pilasters, crystalline forms and intriguing spatial relationships both horizontal and vertical. Griffin's late American work was infused with expressionist sensibility showing a preference for monumental form and a relationship to European Expressionism.

Professor James Weirick, University of New South Wales further explored this relationship stating that a critical turning point was the Memorial to Dr Clark in which Walter Griffin first uses an iconography of triangles and pre-Columbian influences. His work moved "into experimental and abstract expression with an overall character of severity" partly influenced by the vigour of Chicago architect
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Griffin Drawings Discovered!

Three of the drawings have been borrowed for addition to the Beyond Architecture exhibition and two provide an important supplement to the exhibition's section on the Griffins' Castlecrag project. While the development of this 'ideal community' occupied the Griffins from 1920-1935 very few of the presentation drawings that were produced for the many houses designed for Castlecrag appear to have survived.

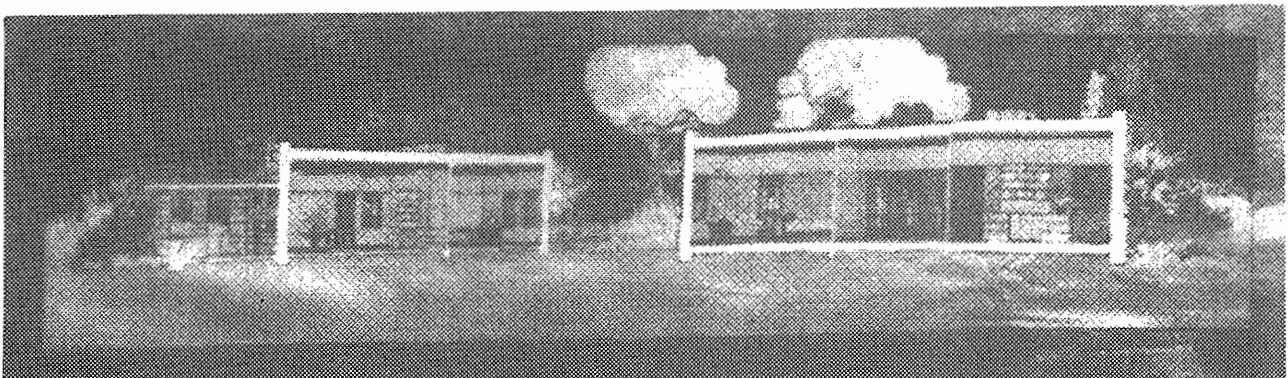
The newly discovered Castlecrag drawings include a superb tree study by Marion with the Cheong House in the background, until now known only through a black and white photograph and thought to have been lost long ago. This drawing was displayed in the window of the Griffins' Bligh Street office. The second drawing is a 1922 watercolour presentation rendering of the first two houses built - and still surviving - at Castlecrag, the GSDA (Greater Sydney Development Association) No. 1 and 2 Dwellings. Built as 'demonstration' houses, these two stone dwellings in Edinburgh Road were intended to introduce the architectural ideals that were to be embodied throughout the Castlecrag estate, envisaged as a utopian community living in harmony with the natural environment.

GSDA No. 1 Dwelling was conserved by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW in the early 1990s. The drawing, dated 31 January 1922, features perspectives, plans and interior sections of the two houses and is the only known surviving Castlecrag rendering employing this presentation format.

The third drawing to be borrowed for the exhibition is a smaller ink on silk, Japanese-style landscape drawing by Marion with verse from the anthem *America the Beautiful* added by Marion's niece Clarmyra Smith. Dated 1915 it must have been presented to Marion as a memento of her friends and family in America after her relocation from Chicago to Australia in 1914. The drawing demonstrates the early influence of Japanese art on Marion's work as well as recording the dislocation the move to Australia caused in the Griffins' personal and professional lives.

Together, these three newly-discovered drawings substantially enrich both the current Powerhouse exhibition, *Beyond architecture: Marion Mahony and Walter Burley Griffin in America, Australia & India*, and the significance of the Griffin heritage it explores. The exhibition will close on 2 May 1999.

Anne Watson
Curator, Decorative Arts & Design
Powerhouse Museum



Above and at top: details from the silk drawing of GSDA No.1 and 2 Dwellings that recently went on display in the exhibition

Walter Burley Griffin Society Melbourne Branch Committee

A Melbourne Branch Committee of the Society is being set up through the enthusiasm of some of our Melbourne members to expand the activities of the

Society more forcefully in Victoria. Through the Melbourne Branch Committee the Society will be better informed about what's happening with the Griffins' work in Victoria and become more actively involved in the preservation of the Griffins' Victorian

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Henry Hobson Richardson's work which combined Romanticism with an exaggerated rusticism.

Christopher Vernon, University of Western Australia, described Walter Griffin's Perth projects which included a competition entry for the laying out of the grounds, gardens and buildings of the University of Western Australia in 1914 and a commission for the Union League in Perth. He described Griffin's work as "Platonic, geometric and picturesque naturalism ... in which the architecture recedes in deference to the landscape".

Jeff Turnbull, University of Melbourne, described Griffin's 'architectonics' and the possible historical sources of these architectural forms.. Griffin described the ziggurat form as the last word of civilizations. Turnbull suggested that Lethaby's Golden Gate of the Sun may have inspired the pier form, and the raked gable ends used in the Swiss chalet may have been inspirational for the roof forms. The Davenport House of 1901 was the first Frank Lloyd Wright house with a gabled roof and it was referred to as a "Griffin roof type".

James Weirick then spoke on the Griffins' involvement with Theosophy and Anthroposophy. He described their fundamental humanity and passion, and their sociopolitical idealism of transparent open democratic government. Ula Maddocks introduced Griffin to Theosophy about 1926 and in July of that year a group of young Theosophists visited the Castlecrag Estate. While neither Walter nor Marion formally joined the Theosophical Society, in 1930/31 they joined the Anthroposophical Society which was inspirational for the Griffins' iconography of Pymont Incinerator.

Associate Professor Anna Rubbo, University of Sydney titled her talk "Through the looking glass: The Magic of America: Marion's role in the Australian and Indian practices" after the title of Marion Mahony Griffin's unpublished autobiography, and gave numerous wonderful and illuminating quotes from its 1,000 pages. Marion began writing "Magic" when she returned to USA a couple of years after Walter's death. It describes the professional and intellectual rapport between Walter and Marion, contains drawings, photographs and numerous letters including those to Marion from Walter shortly after he arrived in India, praising her creative energy. When Marion arrived in Lucknow to help Walter with all the architectural commissions he had there, she was 65 and as she writes "within an hour we were at the drafting board". On the 50th anniversary of Canberra's foundation, Marion stated that "Beauty is a necessity for people's health".

Following the day and a half of fascinating lectures, guided tours of Griffin's marvellous Newman College at the university were taken and lunch provided in the college's awe inspiring dining hall beneath its lofty dramatic dome. Congratulations go to the the organisers Jeff Turnbull and

Peter Navaretti and their team of assistants from The Faculty Architecture Building and Planning at The University of Melbourne.

Congratulations also go to the Griffin Exchange Program which initiated this symposium and several others at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, USA and at The University of Melbourne in 1996.

The Griffins and the Foreshore Building Line

Members will be concerned to hear that the bush-clad foreshores of Middle Harbour are under serious threat. This follows a decision by the Willoughby City Council (despite overwhelming public opposition) to make an arbitrary new line, drawn by one of the Councillors representing the interests of a small number of land owners rather than the recommendations of professional planners and the wishes of the informed majority. The outcome will be to allow building development in substantial bush areas previously protected; inevitably further clearing for fire protection along with other edge effects will result in serious losses of native plant and animal habitat as well as scenic amenity.

Of course the terminology of Foreshore Building Line (FBL) did not exist when Walter Burley Griffin was planning in the early 1920s what today is recognised nationally and internationally as an outstanding subdivision which allowed an area to continue to be dominated by its natural features. His approach resulted in a new way of integrating a housing development within the bush-clad slopes of this region. In Griffin's own words: 'The motive for the suburban development has been the permanent preservation of the pristine loveliness of some five miles of remnant of the rockbound woodland coves, through the vigilance of numerous interested owners and appreciative rangers.' 1

In 1922 Griffin, writing in despair for Sydney's Harbour stated, 'No savages could be capable of making such a mess of this opportunity as Sydney has hitherto made of it Our sordid environment is the consequence of an egotism that hardly even questions wanton sacrifice to immediate and personal — not social — advantage, of every vestige of harmonious, perfect development which an intense evolutionary process through aeons has prepared for us.' 1

Griffin's planning philosophy is summarised in his following words: 'since these encumbrances' [ie houses] 'actually only amount to an eighth part of the land occupied, there shall be no great difficulty in making them play a correspondingly subordinate part of the scheme already designed and executed by nature.' 1. The flat tops of the peninsula were at this time exposed as a result of uncontrolled clearing for firewood and cut flower collection, but the steep slopes remained bush-clad to the harbour edge. However, extensive areas on other parts of the shores of Port Jackson had by this time already been

cleared for building development.

Griffin's grand scheme for this suburban development was to preserve as much as possible of the natural features. He designed the roadways to the minimum possible width and fitted these wherever possible to the natural contours. When we add the numerous bush reserves, the sandstone features, the bush walkways and the preservation of so much of the foreshores from development, we have a very special example, today internationally acclaimed as a masterpiece of planning. The 'garden cities' movement in the northern hemisphere might have led the way but should not be confused with Griffin's truly naturalistic ideals for Castlecrag and nearby areas.

Peter Harrison wrote in 1995 in referring to Castlecrag developments by Griffin, 'The design of the subdivision was so different from the conventional grid of 66-foot roads in the older part of the municipality' that Willoughby Council had grave doubts about approving the scheme. The narrowness of both the road reservations and the 20-foot pavements, and the use of cul-de-sacs were all matters of much argument and these issues were only the beginning of an endless series of battles with the Council and other authorities.² One might wonder at the level of Griffin's despair if he were here today to witness the most recent machinations of Willoughby Council. If they succeed in convincing the State government to reduce drastically the land protected by the FBL this could be the knockout blow! Environmental indifference would reign supreme. Let us hope that this is not so.

The recent decision of the Willoughby City Council to support a line drawn up by one of their members totally ignores the professional advice on the appropriate position for the FBL. This new line is to go to the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning in the State Government of New South Wales for gazettal. The long term outcome of a substantial loss of foreshore bush will have a profound effect on the quality of this landscape especially as other landowners may eventually also seek permits to build on the basis of precedents.

All members of the Griffin Society (and not just a few who live in this area of Castlecrag and Northbridge) are urged to write to the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, The Hon. Craig Knowles MP and the Premier, The Hon. Bob Carr MP, urging that the Government uphold the principles established by the consultants Mitchell McCotter Pty Ltd. These were supported by Willoughby City Council's own planning officers over one year ago in November 1997. Only by successfully convincing the Government of New South Wales not to accept the Willoughby Council's November 1998 ad hoc planning decision, will we ensure that Walter Burley Griffin's plan to preserve the bushland character of the Middle Harbour foreshores survives for the benefit of future generations. Carrick Chambers

1. Walter Burley Griffin, 'Picturesque Waterside Suburb', *Australian Home Builder (A)*, No.1. (August 1922), p.51 as quoted in Donald Leslie Johnson, *The Architecture of Walter Burley Griffin*, 1977.

2. Peter Harrison, 1995, *Walter Burley Griffin Landscape Architect Chapter 8, 'Bowers in the Wilderness'*

(Emeritus Professor Carrick Chambers held a Chair of Botany at the University of Melbourne for twenty years prior to coming to Sydney to become Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens for ten years. He is a committee member of the Walter Burley Griffin Society Incorporated.)

Capitol Theatre, Melbourne - an update

Jeff Turnbull reports that an advisory committee to Melbourne City Council, called 'Working Capitol' has been established. Jeff who is Senior Lecturer in Architecture at The University of Melbourne, and Peter Navaretti, the Heritage Planner at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, accepted invitations to be on this committee. Consultants engaged by the MCC have conducted workshops with the committee members, seeking ideas about strategies for giving a new life to the Griffins' Capitol Theatre, which is located opposite the Town Hall. An interim report was presented by the consultants on 25 February summarising the committee's probable options for the long and short term rental use of the auditorium. The report in final form will be presented to the committee in a month's time. The committee is optimistic that various groups will create a full occupancy of the theatre. The ultimate aim is full restoration of the theatre.

Two Walter Burley Griffin Houses placed on Register of National Estate

Two neighbouring Walter Burley Griffin houses at Castlecrag were recently put on the Register of the National Estate by the Australian Heritage Commission.

The houses, known as the Moon House and the Cheong House, were built in 1922 for Melbourne Australian Chinese investors in Griffin's company, the Greater Sydney Development Association (GSDA). Chin Wah Moon was a herbalist practising in Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, and Cheok Hong Cheong was a superintendent of the Anglican Church in Melbourne, a great social reformer and one of the leading campaigners against the opium trade.

The Moon and Cheong houses are sited on adjacent blocks on the ridgetop of Castlecrag and still retain some of their once-magnificent views of Middle Harbour. Professor James Weirick from the University of NSW has described Griffin's plan for Castlecrag as an "idealistic venture of living intimately with the natural landscape of bush and water". Griffin designed many public reserves into the Castlecrag subdivision to retain the peninsula's significant landforms, foreshore bushland and

Middle Harbour views. The Lookout Reserve runs in front of the Moon and Cheong houses with a connecting walkway to the street running between them.

Griffin's design philosophy at Castlecrag was to subordinate the built environment to the natural beauty of Sydney's bushland. Thus one of his aims was to have no fences. Neither house has fences but they are stepped on their sites so as not to interfere with each other's privacy.

Both houses are built of sandstone with flat roofs and both have unusual and unique decorative features. The Cheong House has banks of windows punctuated by square columns and dramatic voussoirs that rise from the two living room windows. The Moon House has bold crystalline elements that are decorative surrounds for all the windows and that also effectively shade the windows from the midday summer sun.

The placement of these two very significant houses on the Permanent Register of the National Estate is a fitting recognition by the Australian Heritage Commission of these two fine Walter Burley Griffin houses with Chinese connections.

Volunteer work at the Powerhouse Museum

The Museum is looking for people over 16 who can make a regular commitment to variety of tasks including conducting tours and educational packages. Contact Volunteer Program Officer on tel. 9217 0386. Closing date for applications is 31 March 1999.

The Canberra Incinerator

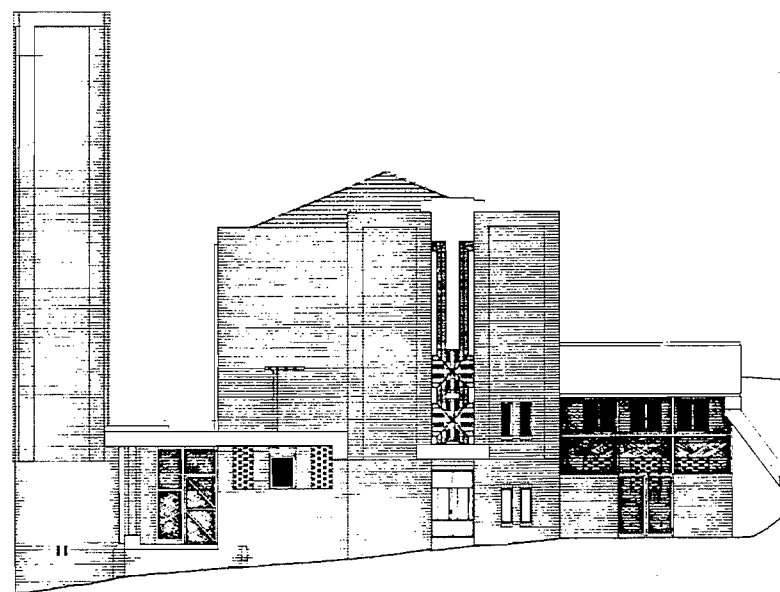
Nestled amongst the towering blue gums of Westbourne Woods, the Canberra Incinerator languishes like a forgotten Sumerian temple amongst the trees. Now located within the lush confines of the Royal Canberra Golf Club (RCGC), the Incinerator is the only example of work by the partnership of Walter Burley Griffin and Eric Nicholls in the ACT - accepted as being designed by Nicholls, it is the only building associated with Griffin in Canberra.

Also known as the Yarralumla (named after the suburb) and Westbourne Woods Incinerator, the building is one of a clutch of incinerators designed by the partnership for their client, the businessman Nisson Leonard-Kanevsky of RIECO (the Reverberatory Incinerator and Engineering Company), in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Ipswich during the 1930s. Opening in 1939 (sadly after Griffin's death in India in 1937), the Canberra Incinerator was one of the last to be constructed during a time when things were tough for both Griffin and the Nicholls partnership. The partnership was formed in Melbourne during the early 1920s and continued through the Griffins' move to Sydney to develop their beloved Castlecrag. Nicholls had joined Griffin as a young man of 19 and two years later in 1923 accepted his Associateship with the

Griffin practice working in the Melbourne office until 1930 and then in the Sydney office.

The monumental block Incinerator, with interlocking verticals and horizontals, is a reinforced concrete structure with load-bearing brick walls of a distinctive local brick in tonal browns, then manufactured at the nearby Canberra brickworks. Consisting of three levels which allowed for the gravity feed disposal of refuse (accessed via an extant earth ramp), the Incinerator used an Australian-designed disposal method that produced a very efficient level of destruction. The interior is one of the few remaining relatively intact. During a visit by visitors from the October 1998 Griffin Symposium held in Melbourne, it was possible to see areas in the precinct that had been filled with some of the clinker residue, accessible through a shallow grassy covering.

In 1960 a large portion of the Westbourne Woods plantation on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin was fenced off and leased to the RCGC, who are now responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Incinerator. The building and earth ramp are listed on a number of heritage protection registers, including the Register of the National Estate. Since its closure as an incinerator in 1959, it was used firstly for departmental then RCGC storage, and over the years the building fabric has been badly affected by water damage. A 1992 Conservation Plan by Freeman Collett and Partners, recommended interior and exterior restoration works, removal of alterations, and restoration of the access ramp and associated landscaping. There is the possibility of creating an alternative use for the building, such as an art gallery or theatre café, which would need to co-exist with the Golf Club operations and



SE ELEVATION

Yarralumla Incinerator. 1987 entry by Glenn Warburton in Marion Mahony Griffin Measured Drawing Competition.

maintenance depot located nearby.

Offers of assistance, both practical and advisory, would be most welcome. If you are interested in aiding the restoration of this very special building, please contact the Course Superintendent at Royal Canberra - Michael Waring - on tel. 02 6281 0879.

Amanda Meyers

(Amanda Myers is a member of the WBG Society and a landscape architect with a special interest in the development of Canberra.)

AGM guest speaker and report

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the Target Theatre at the Powerhouse Museum on 29 September with those attending enjoying the exhibition and guest speaker Professor Paul Kruty's fascinating illustrated talk *The Griffins in India*. Professor Kruty was visiting from the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign and has co-authored several books on the Griffins including *Walter Burley Griffin in America* and *Two American Architects in India: Walter B. Griffin and Marion M. Griffin 1935 - 1937*. The Society was greatly honoured to have Professor Kruty as guest speaker and we hope to publish his talk in a future newsletter.

The pace of last year for the Walter Burley Griffin Society can only be described as fast and furious. For our committee member Anne Watson who is the curator of the 'Beyond Architecture' exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum, the last twelve months were especially busy.

In April, 25 of the Society's members and friends were very fortunate to be able to attend the weekend in Canberra in which Professor James Weirick treated the group to a full two days of his amazingly in-depth knowledge of the "Griffins' Canberra: the city that was never built". It was a fascinating story of the hopes, the plans, the challenges and frustrations that Griffin had with Canberra.

On 21 July 1998, the Ambassador of the United States of America, the Honorable Genta Hawkins Holmes officially opened the *Beyond Architecture: Marion Mahony and Walter Burley Griffin, America, Australia, India* exhibition. It is truly an outstanding exhibition that superbly relates the talents and diversity of Walter and Marion's careers. The Society congratulates curator Anne Watson and the Powerhouse design and conservation teams for this magnificent exhibition.

The book that accompanies the exhibition is also magnificent and, only two months after its release, is the Powerhouse Museum's best selling publication ever. The book is edited by Anne with ten chapters including ones by Paul Kruty, Anna Rubbo, James Weirick and Anne Watson.

On 16 August, scheduled to coincide with Design Week and the exhibition, the Society organised an

open day "The Griffins' Castlecrag Today" in conjunction with the Powerhouse Museum. Due to torrential rain the day was postponed to the following Sunday which fortunately was a lovely sunny day. GSDA No.2 Dwelling, the Fishwick and Moon Houses were open for inspection and the gardens of GSDA No.1 Dwelling, the Grant, Wilson and Creswick Houses were part of guided walking tours. The finale of the afternoon was at the Haven Amphitheatre with Associate Professor Anna Rubbo giving a wonderful talk titled "Reflections on Marion". The Committee sincerely thanks Anna, the Haven Amphitheatre Management Committee, the team of over thirty volunteer helpers and all the home owners who so generously had their homes and / or gardens open for inspection. It was a huge effort but one greatly appreciated by the crowd of more than 500 people who attended.

Earlier in August the Committee organised a talk titled "Cultural Connections: Walter Burley Griffin and the Australian Chinese Community" given by Professor James Weirick and Paul McGregor, Curator of the Chinese Museum in Melbourne. The illustrated talks, held at the National Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour, were a fascinating insight into the numerous connections the Griffins' had with the Chinese communities in both America and Australia.

On 21 September Christopher Vernon, Senior Lecturer in Landscape Architecture at the University of Western Australia took members of the Society on a gallery walk of the "Beyond Architecture:" exhibition focusing on Walter Burley Griffin's landscape architecture and his wholistic design approach.

10th Anniversary - a review

Since 1998 was the Society's tenth anniversary, the president at the AGM reflected on some of the highlights of the WBG Society's first decade.

- In 1990 the Society successfully applied for a dollar for dollar grant from the NSW Department of Planning to publish a book on Castlecrag.
- In 1991 Max Dupain donated over 100 exhibition photographs of the Griffins' work to the Society.
- In 1992 the Committee successfully convinced the Sydney City Council (following the tragic demolition of the Pyrmont Incinerator) that funding should be made to the Powerhouse Museum to stage an exhibition of the Griffins' work.
- In 1993 the Society was instrumental in getting the Historic Houses Trust of NSW to purchase GSDA No.1 Dwelling for the purpose of restoration.
- In August 1994 the book published by the Society, "Building for Nature: Walter Burley Griffin and Castlecrag" was launched by the Minister for Arts.
- In 1995 the National Trust gave a Heritage Award to the book.

- Also in 1995 "The Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin Festival" Open Day of five Griffin houses and exhibition of the Max Dupain photographs was held which attracted well over 400 people.
- Over the years there have been wonderful talks by people such as architect Trevor Waters, architect Scott Robinson and Professor of Photography Mati Maldre from the University of Chicago, to name just a few and these talks have been at some really wonderful venues including the Willoughby Incinerator, the Winter House at Dundas and the Stella James House at Avalon.
- the Society has also been privileged to have a number of VIP guests including Mary Louise Lightfoot (the niece of Louise Lightfoot, the superb delineator who worked in the Griffin's office for a number of years before becoming a leading force in Australian dance), Professor Paul Kruty, Professor Paul Sprague and Janice Pregliasco all from USA and most recently Walter Griffin's great nephew Peter Burley Griffin and his wife Joanne, Professor Allen Forrester and Mrs Ginta Forrester.
- at the end of 1998 a Melbourne branch of the Walter Burley Griffin Society and a Walter Burley Griffin Society of America will be established (see article on page 1). This is a very exciting development and we look forward to this expansion of activities and to the next decade.

New WBGs committee

President: Adrienne Kabos
 Vice President: Professor James Weirick
 Treasurer: Maggie Chambers
 Secretary: Kerry McKillop
 Committee:
 Emeritus Professor Carrick Chambers, John Kabos
 John McInerney, Councillor Sue Randle
 Associate Professor Anna Rubbo, Howard Rubie
 Akky Van Ogtrop, Anne Watson.

Sincere thanks to retiring founding Committee Member Colleen Fry for her invaluable assistance over the past ten years.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 _____ Postcode: _____
 Phone: _____
 Date: _____
 Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please make cheque payable to
 Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc. and post it to
 The Treasurer at 7 Mackenzie Street, Lindfield NSW 2070.



MEMBERSHIP

Demolished Houses of Sydney

An exhibition to be presented by Historic Houses Trust at Hyde Park Barracks Museum, 17 April to 26 Sept '99. 200 houses ranging from slab huts to villas and mainly from the twentieth century will be represented and will include Griffin's King O'Malley House, Bim Hilder's House and Eric Nicholls' Reeves House. Photographs include those by Dupain and Cazneaux as well as some fuzzy Box Brownies.

Marion Mahony Griffin Award

This is a new award created last year by the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in recognition of Marion Mahony Griffin's contribution to architecture. Marion was the second woman to graduate in architecture from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1894 and the first registered woman architect in Illinois. Shortly after arriving in Australia she had several articles published including two titled "Democratic Architecture" and gave a number of public addresses including one to the National Council of Women in 1915. Marion was a pioneer of women's participation in architecture.

The first Marion Mahony Griffin Award has been given to Jennifer Taylor, Associate Professor at the University of Sydney, for her pioneering work in the study and recognition of Australian architecture.

Marion Mahony Griffin National Measured Drawing Competition

This is an annual competition conducted by the ACT Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects with \$9000 in prize money. Submissions of measured drawings or a rendered drawing of a building or interior of heritage significance are invited. For further information contact ACT Chapter RAlA, PO Box 3199, Manuka, ACT 2603 or telephone (02) 6273 2929 or fax (02) 6273 1953.

The Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc. was established in 1988 and aims to create a greater awareness and appreciation of the Griffins' town planning and architecture and thereby encourage the conservation of their internationally significant work. The Society produces a newsletter and regularly organises meetings with guest speakers. If you would like to join the Society in Australia fill out the form below.

Individual	\$ 15pa
Student	\$ 5pa
Individual overseas	\$ 25pa
Community organisations	\$ 25pa
Business organisations	\$ 50pa