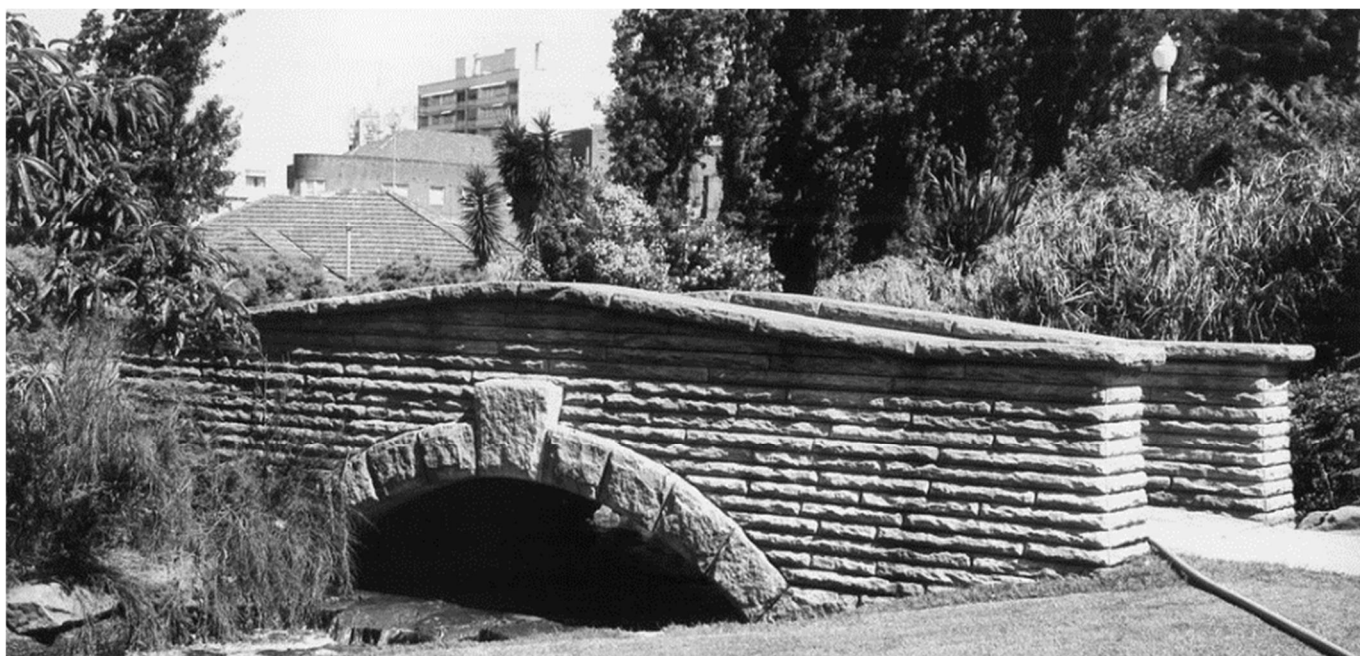


Attachment B

**Albert Smilie and Ilmar Berzins City
Architect and City Landscape Architect
Heritage Study**



Albert Smillie and Ilmar Berzins
City Architect and City Landscape Architect

Heritage Study



Prepared for the City of Sydney

October 2023

Cover

Alexandria Baby Health Centre, 1964.

Source: City of Sydney Archives, Unique ID A-00010293

McElhone Reserve, 1964.

Source: City of Sydney Archives, Unique ID A-00010383

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Acknowledgement of Country



We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the City of Sydney local government area, the Gadigal.

For thousands of years, the Gadigal cared for and cultivated their land which stretched from Burrawara (South Head), through Warrane (Sydney Cove), down to Blackwattle Creek. We acknowledge the continuing spiritual, cultural, political and physical connections which continue between the Gadigal, their descendants and other neighbouring clans, and this Country.

We pay respect to their Elders past, present and future.

Executive summary

This report surveys the careers of two significant civil servants, Albert Alexander Smillie and Ilmar Berzins, who played an important role in shaping the post-war development of the City of Sydney. Initially a draftsman and later Chief Architect, Smillie contributed a range of important civil buildings including baby health centres, community centres, libraries, public (council) housing, parking stations, playgrounds and pools. Ilmar Berzins designed a range of important public parks and gardens. He also designed the landscaping for numerous projects coming out of the City Architect's office.

Comparison with other local government areas in metropolitan Sydney and other parts of NSW and eastern Australia establishes that the City of Sydney was the first to employ a City Architect and the first to engage a qualified landscape. The range and scope of projects designed by the City Architect under Smillie and by Berzins are unique. They are significant historically and aesthetically and are important evidence of the City of Sydney's social and civic responsibility from the early twentieth century to the 1970s.

Sixteen sites identified within this study are considered to have the potential for inclusion in Schedule 5 of Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012.

Sites associated with Ilmar Berzins include:

- McElhone Reserve, 1A Billyard Avenue, Elizabeth Bay.
- Sandringham Gardens, Hyde Park North, Sydney.
- Landscaping, Quarry Street, Ultimo.
- Landscaping, Ulster Street, Paddington.

Sites associated with Albert Smillie (City Architect) are:

- Former Baby Health Centre, 12 Dadley Street, Alexandria.
- Former Joseph Sargent Children's Centre, 60 Prospect Street, Erskineville.
- Former Baby Health Centre, 87 Lower Fort Street, Millers Point.
- Former John Carroll Kindergarten, 2 Phelps Street, Surry Hills.
- Former Catherine Sloss Library, 130 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo.
- Victoria Park Swimming Pool, City Road, Camperdown.
- Pyrmont Housing Scheme, 1-7 Henry Avenue, Pyrmont.
- Alexandria-Erskineville Bowling Club House, 1 Fox Avenue, Erskineville.
- Hilda Booler Kindergarten, Jubilee Park, Eglinton Road, Glebe.
- Former Ron Williams Welfare centre for the Aged, 11 Kepos Street, Redfern.
- Draughts Shelter, adjacent to Waterloo Oval, McEvoy Street, Waterloo.

Darlington Aged Welfare Centre, 132-134 Shepherd Street, Darlington is significant for its associations with Berzins and with Smillie.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and purpose of the report

This Heritage Assessment has been prepared for the City of Sydney to investigate council projects completed under the jurisdiction of City Architect Albert Smillie and City Landscape Architect Ilmar Berzins and determine whether there are any extant examples of projects associated with them that meet the threshold for heritage listing.

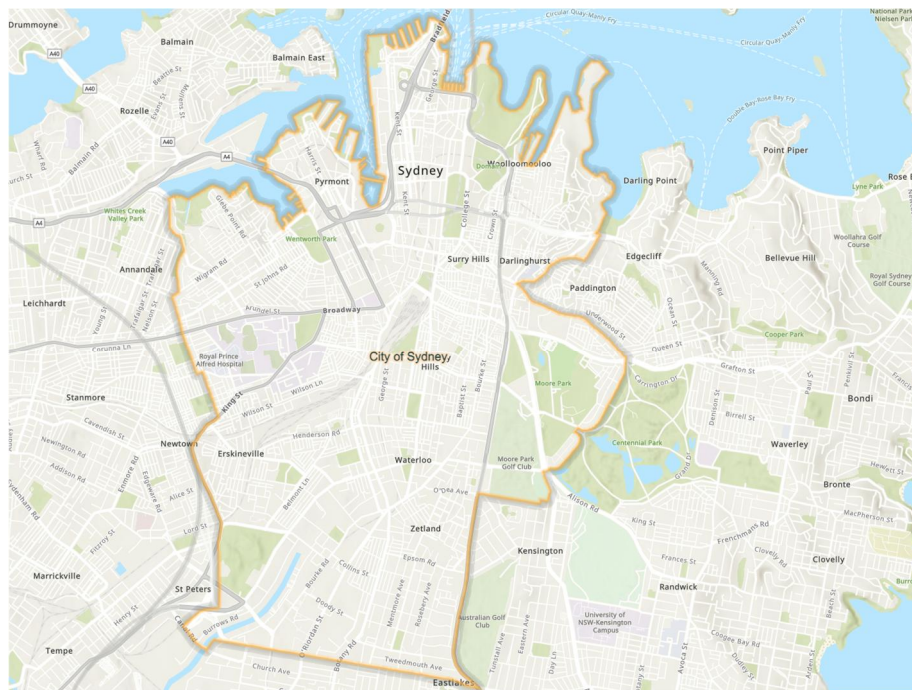
The study follows council discussion and resolution in August 2021 which acknowledged the contributions of Smillie and Berzins to the City, and the state of preservation of their legacy with many important works already demolished. Council resolved to investigate the commissioning of a heritage study of City projects under Albert Smillie and Ilmar Berzins in the Local Government Area and to consider which items could be considered for heritage listing.

This report surveys the careers of two significant civil servants, Albert Alexander Smillie and Ilmar Berzins, who played an important role in shaping the post-war development of the City of Sydney. Initially as a draftsman and later as Chief Architect, Smillie contributed a range of important civil buildings including baby health centres, community centres, libraries, public (council) housing, parking stations, playgrounds and pools. Ilmar Berzins designed a range of important public parks and gardens and was the first qualified landscape architect ever employed in local government in Australia.

This report provides a brief background on the careers of Smillie and Berzins in order to contextualise the research list of projects completed by each. The list of projects compiled includes remarks on the integrity and potential significance of the items and leads into recommendation for the potential heritage listing of items.

1.2 Study area

The study area for the purposes of this study is the entire City of Sydney Local Government area.



- 1 Study area, outlined yellow, not to scale.
Source: City of Sydney ARC GIS.

1.3 Abbreviations

CSA	City of Sydney Archives
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
NLA	National Library of Australia
SHR	State Heritage Register
SLNSW	State Library of NSW.

1.4 Heritage listings

Items that were designed by or involved Albert Smillie and Ilmar Berzins are included in the heritage listings for four items in Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012. In most cases there is no direct reference to their input:

- McElhone Reserve is included in the listing in Sydney LEP 2012 for House and Grounds, Elizabeth Bay House (Item I594) but is not specifically listed.
- Sandringham Gardens is included in the Sydney LEP listing for Hyde Park (Item I1654) The listing includes sundry items such as former public toilets, Sandringham Gardens including memorial gates/pergola, Nagoya Gardens and Chess Board.
- Macquarie Place, Sydney (Item I1856 in the LEP). The Macquarie Place Precinct is included in the State Heritage Register, which refers generally to 1960 and 1976 alterations.
- Victoria Park Swimming Pool forms part of listings in the State Heritage Register and Sydney LEP 2012. Its social significance is recognised in the

SHR listing for The University of Sydney, University Colleges and Victoria Park. Victoria Park, Gardener's Lodge and its interior, entry gates and piers, park layout, paths and plantings is Item I39 in the LEP. Here Victoria Park is of social significance for its role as a passive recreation area and for the active use of the Victoria Park Swimming Pool.

- The Substation and women's toilets at Taylor Square are part of a SHR listing for the Substation and Underground Conveniences at Taylor Square. The Substation and women's toilet is Item I400 in Sydney LEP 2012.
- The cast iron railings embellished by sea horses at Sydney Cove, a version of which appears in a sketch drawing initialled by Albert Smillie dated 4 August 1939 are included in Item 1709 in Sydney LEP 2012 and are attributed to the Maritime Services Board. More research is required to confirm that the balustrades installed at Circular Quay were designed and installed by the City of Sydney.

The railings are Also included in the State Heritage Register listing for Railings, Sydney Cove (SHR 01572) The contribution of the City of Sydney Architect, if the designer, is not acknowledged.

- The listing for Fitzroy Gardens, 64-68 Macleay Street, Elizabeth Bay (Item I593) acknowledges Ilmar Berzins' importance. The following is extracted from the Statement of Significance included in the State Heritage Inventory database entry for Fitzroy Gardens:

Fitzroy Gardens are an interesting example of 1970s modernist planning and detail and are largely the work of Ilmars Berzins (1921-1993) at that time employed by the City's Parks and Gardens Division, and the first qualified landscape architect to practice in Sydney. The existing 1970s design of the Gardens, demonstrates creative innovation as an example of an early progression from modernism to postmodernism in Sydney Landscape architecture. Examples of gardens of this style are becoming increasingly rare. However later modifications and management of the park have however detracted much from the original design and character.

2 Historical context

2.1 Introduction

This section of the report provides a historical background for the work of Albert Smillie and Ilmar Berzins. It provides a summary of the politics associated with the City of Sydney in the years that they worked for it and the ground-breaking report prepared by City Engineer Arnold Garnsey after his investigative tour of Europe and North America during the second half of the 1940s. This report strongly influenced the direction that municipal works and parks and gardens within the City of Sydney's boundaries would take from the late 1940s onwards. Council's involvement with community-oriented projects is also summarised, setting the scene for the projects undertaken by Smillie and Berzins in the second half of the twentieth century.

2.2 Political background

The City of Sydney has never been free of the yoke of the New South Wales Government. From the time of its incorporation as a municipality in 1842 onwards the City's powers have been curbed and curtailed by Macquarie Street. The period during which Albert Smillie and Ilmar Berzins were employed by the City of Sydney was no exception.

Albert Smillie joined the staff of the Municipal Council of Sydney in 1924 (refer to Section 3.2). A short-lived Civic Reform council, the result of a non-aligned ratepayers' organisation called the Civic Reform Association that was formed in 1920 to remove the administration of the City of Sydney from the control of the Australian Labor Party, was replaced by a Labor council at the end of 1924. This too was to be short-lived and was replaced by Commissioners at the beginning of 1928. From 1930 until 1948 Civic Reform largely held sway.

From May 1941 until May 1965 a Labor government ruled NSW, but lost power after a coalition of the Liberal and Country Parties led by Robin Askin was elected. The Liberals were replaced by Labor under Neville Wran in May 1976. Concurrently, the City of Sydney was led by a Labor Council between 1949 and 1967. The Labor Council was sacked by the Askin Government in November 1967¹ and replaced by three commissioners, who remained in power until September 1969. Civic Reform was returned to power and stayed there from 1969 until 1987, when the State government dismissed it.

When Labor returned to office in the NSW Parliament in 1941, Premier McKell "intimated his intention to revive the Greater Sydney Bill."² This was based on an initiative dating to the early twentieth century, meeting with defeat when introduced to parliament in the early 1930s. The resuscitated bill was delayed because of the war but in June 1945 a royal commission was appointed to reorganise local government boundaries. The commission followed the passage of a Town and Country Planning Bill amending the *Local Government Act* in April 1945, which allowed shire and municipal councils to prepare town and country planning schemes. Assistance was provided by committees and qualified planners and schemes ultimately approved by the Minister for Local Government. The Act also provided for the preparation of a planning scheme for

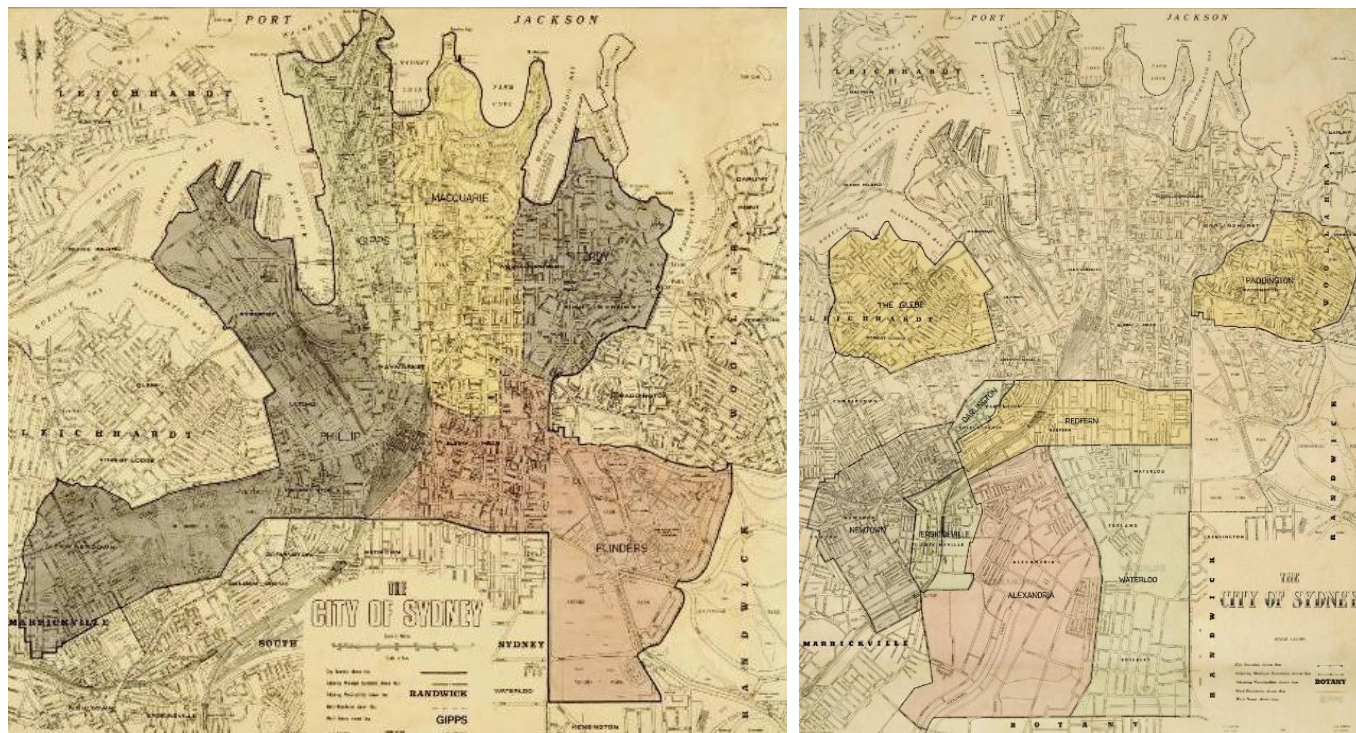
1 It was the third time this had happened. The first dismissal took place in 1853 and the second in 1927. The fourth occurred in 1987.

2 Peter Spearritt, *Sydney Since the Twenties* (Hale & Iremonger, 1978), p.177.

the County of Cumberland.³ The newly formed Cumberland County Council presented its scheme to the Minister for Local Government, J J Cahill, on 27 July 1948.⁴ After a lengthy period of amendment the Cumberland Planning Scheme officially came into operation on 27 July 1951.⁵

Perhaps more significantly for the City of Sydney, the passage of the *Local Government (Areas) Act* in 1948 enabled the extension of the city's municipal boundaries in 1949 to incorporate the surrounding municipalities of Alexandria, Darlinghurst, Erskineville, Glebe, Newtown, Paddington, Redfern and Waterloo, all characterised by Labor-voting, low income-earning residents. A Labor Party majority in Council was the inevitable outcome of the next local government election. It held sway for the next 19 years. This provided opportunities to renovate structures and build new community facilities; the construction of buildings, structures and parks to improve the condition of residents reflected the social agendas of aldermen relating to their electorates and the loss of residential population there as the demography of Sydney changed.⁶

On the planning front, the City Engineer's Department submitted a Land Use Zoning Scheme in October 1947 for Council's approval, which was submitted the following year for incorporation into the Cumberland Planning Scheme but not accepted.



- 2 The boundaries of the City of Sydney before (left) and after (right) the amalgamation of inner local government areas in 1948.

Source: CSA Historic Map Collections – City Boundaries and Wards, 1842-2004.

The City Council prepared its first, interim plan in 1948, which it intended to finalise through the City Planning and Improvement Committee, appointed by Council in

- 3 *Local Government (Town and Country Planning) Amendment Act* (Act No 21, 1945), Division 8 – Scheme for the County of Cumberland
- 4 "Sydney's Master Plan Ready", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 July 1948, p.3. The Council consisted of 10 members – one representing the City of Sydney and nine elected by constituencies of from five to 12 local councils (Spearritt, p.185).
- 5 "County Plan to be Set in Motion", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 July 1951, p.2.
- 6 Hilary Golder, *Sacked*, p.109.

December 1947. The plan was conceived as a method of preventing industrial development moving into residential areas and circumventing economically “unsound” development in “obsolete areas.”⁷ In October 1948 Council approved the formation of a Town Planning Branch in the City Engineer’s Department. Administration of planning in Council prior to 1972 was divided between the City Engineer (strategic planning) and the City Building Surveyor (development control).

The City of Sydney Planning Scheme formulated by the City Planning and Improvements Committee was adopted by Council on the 15 December 1958 and submitted to the Minister for Local Government. It was altered by the Minister on the advice of the State Planning Authority and exhibited in December 1964. Council lodged objections to these alterations based on the loose zoning that was proposed. The Scheme was re-exhibited in November 1967 and Council again raised objections to it. It was finally gazetted on 16 July 1971.⁸

In 1968 the boundaries of the City of Sydney were changed and many of these suburbs became part of the new municipality of South Sydney. In turn, South Sydney was amalgamated with the City of Sydney in 1982 but became separate again under the City of Sydney Act of 1988.

2.3 Arnold Garnsey's overseas tour and recommendations

Arnold Hugh Garnsey (1888-1953) was appointed City Engineer in 1929. He had joined the Municipal Council of Sydney in 1904 as an articled clerk in the Engineering Department, becoming a junior draftsman in the Department of Public Works about five years later. In March 1915 he returned to the employ of the City Council before enlisted for service in World War I. At war’s end Garnsey returned to the City Council but resigned during 1920 to join the War Service Homes Commission. In March 1925 Garnsey became a licensed surveyor. He was re-engaged by the City Council and in September 1925 was appointed deputy City Engineer and City Surveyor, then in April 1928 Acting City Engineer and in May 1929 City Engineer and City Surveyor, active from 1 January 1930. In 1947 he took the position of Town Planner at the City of Sydney.⁹ Garnsey, who had seen active service in World War I and World War II, died in December 1953.

After the conclusion of World War II Garnsey expressed his concerns about the inadequacies of Sydney’s parks and playgrounds. He submitted a master plan for the improvement of Sydney’s parks and playing fields and the acquisition of new parkland to the Council’s Health and Recreation Committee on 11 June 1946, which was accepted shortly afterwards.¹⁰

7 Paul Ashton, *The Accidental City: planning Sydney since 1788* (Hale & Iremonger, 1993), pp.68 and 75. According to Ashton, the floor space ratio met with more opposition than any other part of the planning scheme.

8 <https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/63128>, accessed 24 July 2023.

9 “City Engineer. Mr Garnsey Appointed”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9 May 1929, p.12; “Death of City Engineer”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 December 1953, p.12

10 “Plan for City Park Improvements”, *Daily Telegraph*, 12 June 1946, p.6.

The following month Arnold Garnsey and another Council engineer, Ken Andrews, departed on an extensive eight-month tour of cities in North America, Europe and Great Britain. Garnsey's illustrated report was comprehensive in scope, covering matters such as systems of local government and finance, road planning, design and traffic engineering, public transport, city planning, housing, street lighting, parks and park organisation and the administration and operation of municipal recreation activities. Amongst his numerous recommendations were those for bringing the standard of parks in Sydney up to the standard of those he had seen in cities overseas:

- Extent and disposition of parks and open spaces.
- Landscaping and park furnishings.
- Expenditure on parks.
- Organisation of the parks branch.¹¹

Garnsey strongly suggested that qualified professionals were critical to the successful implementation of park design and management. His argument was reinforced by overseas precedent:

One of the most attractive park systems seen was that in Stockholm, the head of the Parks Branch in that city being an architect. The parks of Paris are deservedly world famous, and it is perhaps significant that an engineer is in charge of this department. In Sheffield the parks had, for many years, been most unattractive, but have recently been brought to a fitting standard under the direction of a Parks Superintendent whose training is in engineering and architecture. To quote only two further examples, the parks in Vancouver and Oakland, California, were amongst the best seen on the west coast of North America, and these are under the control respectively of an engineer and a Master of Arts in landscape architecture.

Realising the importance of a city's parks, most councils make provision for a number of specialist officers to deal with the respective branches of park work. It is found, in many cities, that the parks superintendent has the assistance, in senior positions, of engineers, architects, landscape architects, horticulturalists, foresters and the like, irrespective of his own basic qualifications. A horticultural training is not always considered a prerequisite for appointment as Parks Superintendent.¹²

2.4 The City of Sydney and social welfare

Many of the buildings and structures designed or overseen by Albert Smillie were associated with social welfare and community amenity. The City Council became involved with social welfare during the early decades of the twentieth century, establishing a precedent for projects carried out in the post-World War II decades.

The projects on which Albert Smillie (and Ilmar Berzins for that matter) were involved reflected broad governmental priorities that were delivered at a national, state and local level during the twentieth century. In particular, many socially responsible endeavours were initiated by the City of Sydney in the 1950s.¹³ They were one part of wider efforts to provide needed community amenities and services, which included welfare centres



3 Arnold Garnsey.
Source: CSA UID A-00006294

¹¹ Sydney Council, *Report of the City Engineer and City Surveyor On His Visit to Europe and America 1946-47*, (WE Smith, 1949), p.486.

¹² *Report of the City Engineer and City Surveyor On His Visit to Europe and America 1946-47*, p.479

¹³ Shirley Fitzgerald, *Sydney 1842-1992* (Hale & Iremonger, 1992), p.16.

for the elderly, libraries, baby health centres, community halls and swimming pools. These facilities were constructed across the entire local government area.¹⁴

*These initiatives sought to support the health and welfare needs of the whole community, from infants to the aged. They often required new types of public services, many of which had emerged initially as the result of social activism, religious patronage or philanthropy, and then quickly became mainstays of municipal provision. These included baby health centres and kindergartens; libraries; community centres and halls; and recreational facilities such as swimming pools and bowling clubs. Such services and their associated buildings, although often ad hoc and unassuming in their formulation, were quietly instrumental in shaping everyday community life. By the mid-20th century, as such services expanded rapidly, an architectural language of economically lean, functionalist and often unpretentious modernism was assumed appropriate to express widely accepted social ideals of community participation and accessible recreation.*¹⁵

14 *City of Sydney Strategic Plan 1971*, p.43

15 Hannah Lewi and David Nichols (editors), *Community: building modern Australia* (UNSW Press, 2010), p.3.



- 4 Map showing the location of community facilities under the jurisdiction of the City of Sydney in 1971.
Source: City of Sydney Strategic Plan 1971, p.43.

3 Albert Smillie

3.1 Introduction

The construction of community facilities during the decades following World War II was a major feature of the urban Australian townscape. The City of Sydney was responsible for the construction of a substantial number of facilities, such as baby health centres, swimming pools, community halls, libraries, parks and playgrounds across the entire local government area. Few were built in Central Sydney, reflecting the spread of population within the municipal boundaries. Architect Albert Smillie and landscape architect Ilmar Berzins were a crucial part of these endeavours.

3.2 Biographical information

Albert Smillie was born Albert Alexander Smellie, the son of Alexander and Lillie M Smellie of Balmain South, on 13 March 1904.¹⁶ The family appears to have been of Scottish extraction.¹⁷ Smillie joined the Sydney Municipal Council's Architectural Branch as an architectural draftsman around 1924. On 29 April 1926 he registered as an architect with the Board of Architects of New South Wales.¹⁸ He subsequently became an Associate of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, established in 1930. In July 1927 Albert Smellie changed his name via deed poll to Albert Alexander Smillie.¹⁹ At this time he was living at "Boronia" in Claremont Street, Campsie. About three years later he married Ivy Hazel Martin.²⁰ A son was born to the couple in March 1932.²¹

In 1928 the commissioners who replaced the sacked Labor Council amalgamated the City Architect and Building Surveyor's Department with three others. They became the City Engineering and Building Surveyor's Department headed by engineer A H Garnsey. The City Architect lost the status of head of department. In 1936 the Department was split in two, and the City Architect and Building Surveyor's Department was re-created. In 1948 the title 'City Architect' was dropped from the department's name and it became the City Building Surveyor's Department. John Rankin was appointed City Building Surveyor in 1936, remaining in the role until 1963.

In July 1936 Smillie applied unsuccessfully for the position of City Building Surveyor but by the following September 1936 he had been promoted to the position of architectural assistant and from around this time his name appears on numerous drawings prepared in the Council's architectural department as Architect. On 29 November 1949 Smillie was appointed the City of Sydney's Chief Architect and was responsible for the City's architectural branch.

In May 1950, the City Council Works Committee recommended Albert Smillie and City Building Surveyor John Rankin, be sent to Great Britain, Europe and the United States to study trends in building control and modern building methods relating to civic infrastructure such as parking stations, libraries and swimming pools. They travelled to



5 Albert Alexander Smillie.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00016548.

¹⁶ Birth registration number 10127/1904, accessed at <https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search/result?4>.

¹⁷ "Obituary", *Williamstown Chronicle*, 28 June 1924, p.2.

¹⁸ AIA

¹⁹ Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales, 'Private Advertisements,' Fri 29 Jul 1927 [Issue No.101], Page 3815.

²⁰ 5904/1930

²¹ "Family Notices", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 March 1932, p.10.

England, Scotland, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, America and Canada, and were away from June to November 1950.²²

In June 1953 Smillie became the Council's Principal Architect. C G Mitchell became the Assistant Principal Architect, effectively Smillie's deputy.

As the Chief Architect, and later Principal Architect, Smillie signed off on all the building plans but was not necessarily the designer of the buildings work. According to Edward John Merewether, a member of Smillie's architectural team in the post-war period, "The bosses were mainly one hundred per cent keeping the Department going, dealing with the Council and that sort of thing. They signed the drawings but I don't ever remember any design criteria. I think most blokes were left to do what they wanted to do." Merewether's colleagues in the council's architectural branch were Jack Mitchell (second in command to Smillie), Arthur Collins, Ivor Lloyd and Loyal Alexander.²³

Albert Smillie retired at the beginning of 1969. He died in March 1986, aged 82.

3.3 Projects

The functions of the Architectural Branch comprised the following:

- To prepare plans, specifications and estimates for all building proposals to the Council, including the layout of playgrounds.
- To supervise Council's contracts for all building works.
- To make valuations of properties in connection with schemes for the widening of public ways and for insurance purposes, etc.
- To supervise alterations, repairs and painting of Council's leasehold properties.

The projects initiated by the City of Sydney were informed by an awareness of Modernist architecture, which was broadly associated with social improvement through hygiene and housing. There was a correlation between strategies to foster a healthy educated community and modern design initiatives.

However, by the early 1970s circumstances had changed. Residential population declined steadily between 1947 and the late 1960s, from over 10,000 to just over 7,000 in 1966. The most significant losses took place in Central Sydney, East Sydney, Darlinghurst and Surry Hills:²⁴

*Many community services are now obsolete. Many are no longer close to the people who need them. A multiplicity of agencies offer similar services with little coordination. There has been little systematic assessment of future needs. The result is that the City's facilities no longer satisfactorily cater for the needs of residents, or for the special needs of those disadvantaged groups who are traditionally and universally attracted to central urban areas.*²⁵

In his role as City Architect, Smillie designed or oversaw a vast array of projects. A large number related to Council owned buildings and included alterations to buildings such

22 City of Sydney Archives File 2339/50 Building Projects Visit of City Building Surveyor and Chief Architect Overseas 1950; "Tour plan for Council men," *Daily Telegraph*, 9 May 1950, Page 11.

23 Biography supplied by City of Sydney - Interview transcript with Edward John Merewether, Trim 2019/007226

24 City of Sydney Strategic Plan 1971 p.32

25 City of Sydney Strategic Plan 1971, p.42.

as Sydney and Glebe Town Halls and the Queen Victoria Building and upgrades and alterations to commercial assets, such as hotels, that were owned by Council.

Not every project was constructed and it appears that many that were built have since been demolished. It is considered unlikely that Smillie designed many, if any, buildings or other items after he was promoted to the role of Council's Principal Architect in June 1953. For instance, the project architect for the Sulman award-winning Florence Bartley Library at Potts Point (1958) was Arthur Collins.

The following section provides historical background and a summary of the numerous projects on which Albert Smillie is understood to have been involved.

Baby health centres

The Council became involved in infant health care in the wake of the outbreak of bubonic plague in 1900. The State government appointed Dr W G Armstrong the City Health Officer in 1901 and it was under his guidance that infant health became a concern of the Council. A "Lady Sanitary Inspector was appointed in 1902 and in 1904 started visiting households where infant deaths had occurred."²⁶

The earliest baby health clinics in Sydney, which were established by the state government, opened in Alexandria and Newtown during 1914. They were followed by clinics in Bourke Street, Darlinghurst and other localities. A baby health centre was constructed at Lower Fort Street, Millers Point by the Department of Health in conjunction with the City Council and opened in 1916.

The City of Sydney inherited baby health centres when its boundaries were enlarged in 1949, such as the building constructed in Redfern Park by Redfern Council and completed in 1949. A new building at 87 Lower Fort Street was opened by Labor MLA Daniel Clyne on 22 November 1952. The City of Sydney consolidated its child welfare efforts in the post-World War II era. Seven new baby health centres had been constructed by 1965.

Not all of the baby health centres within the City of Sydney's enlarged boundaries were designed in-house. For instance, Glebe Baby Health Centre was designed by architect R Lindsay Little in 1946 for Glebe Municipal Council and completed around 1950.²⁷

List of Baby Health Centres designed by or under Smillie

- Baby Health Centre at 62-64 Pine Street, Camperdown, n.d.
- Baby Health Centre at 12 Dadley St Alexandria, 1964
- Alterations and Additions to Baby Health Centre at 85 Lower Fort Street, n.d
- Baby Health Centre at 85 Lower Fort Street, 1952
- Baby Health Centre at Castlereagh Street, Redfern, n.d.
- Baby Health Centre at 103-105 Quarry Street, Ultimo, 1948 (demolished).
- Alterations to Playground Building to Temporary Baby Health Centre, Redfern Park, n.d.

Kindergartens and playgrounds

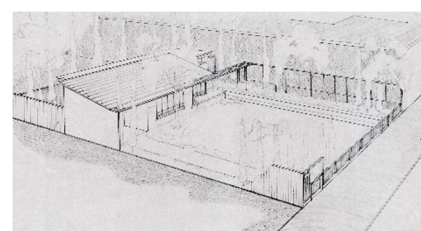
The first free kindergarten in Australia was an initiative of the Kindergarten Union of NSW, which was founded in 1895. It opened in Charles Street, Woolloomooloo in May

²⁶ Fitzgerald, p.219,

²⁷ CSA Unique ID A-00035904. It has since been demolished.



6 Baby health centre at 87 Lower Fort Street, November 1952.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00042650.



7 Perspective study of a proposed baby health centre in Castlereagh Street (Chalmers Street), Redfern (n.d.). Sheet 15 of the Building Surveyor's Detail Sheets, 1949-1972 shows the site of an infant welfare centre opposite Redfern Park. The site no longer exists.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00545664

1896 and was followed not long after by kindergartens in Newtown and Surry Hills, which were regarded at the time as slum areas.²⁸ What is understood to have been the first Council initiative occurred in the middle of 1912, when the Education Department approached it in regard to setting aside land in Victoria Park for a children's playground.²⁹ The playground was officially opened on 31 October 1913.³⁰

Victoria Park was followed some years later by a kindergarten playground at Moore Park equipped with play equipment and a shelter, which was officially opened by the Lord Mayor on 25 July 1917. Its use was granted to the Kindergarten Union, which was able to benefit financially as Council granted it the right to supply teas to golfers using the nearby golf course "as the profit made from this undertaking will be expended on children's welfare in the city."³¹ Additions to the small building at Moore Park were designed in 1924 by the City Architect's Department and officially opened the following year.³²

During 1922 the Council sought powers from the State government to resume land for conversion to children's playgrounds. Towards the end of July that year a small sub-committee was set up to investigate several matters:

- Which of the 19 parks and reserves controlled by the Council would be suitable for the erection of playgrounds.
- What other Council-controlled land would be suitable.
- What playgrounds were owned by the Council and their associated construction costs.
- Congested areas where it would be advisable to construct them.
- Provide a general report on the "question" of playgrounds.
- Collate the recommendations of each Ward representative concerning suitable locations for playgrounds.³³

A purpose-designed building at 222 Palmer Street, Darlinghurst, was designed and documented in the City Architect's Branch in 1927. The completed building, known as the Frances Newton Memorial Free Kindergarten in the John Birt Memorial Hall, was formally handed over to the Kindergarten Union at the beginning of July 1928.

The Council continued to establish playgrounds during the 1930s. Examples include the playground at Camperdown Park and in the King George V Memorial Park in Cumberland Street, The Rocks (both 1935). A 1938 sketch proposal of a preschool playground building at Camperdown Park, likely to have been designed by Smillie, includes a layout of the playground with landscape elements such as planter boxes.³⁴

Council had constructed 15 kindergartens and day nurseries by 1965. They were restrained buildings designed in the prevailing Modernist aesthetic, tailored to meet

28 Lewi and Nichols, p.55.

29 "Playgrounds. Victoria Park Site", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 June 1912, p.9; "Victoria Park. Site for Children's Playground", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 July 1912, p.7.

30 "The Real Issue", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 November 1913, p.12.

31 "Playgrounds. City Council Scheme", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 October 1924, p.17.

32 The Kindergarten Union enjoyed a very positive relationship with the City Council during the 1930s. Several mayors and their wives took what was termed a "keen interest" in its Free Kindergarten work, while the Town Clerk, City Engineer and Council Officers gave the Union "courteous treatment at all times." (Kindergarten Union 40th Annual Report, 1935, p.4). Council provided playground maintenance and salaries associated with the work, exempted Kindergarten Union buildings from rates and taxes, and by the end of the 1930s (if not before) was providing an annual grant. (Kindergarten Union 44th Annual Report, 1939, p.7).

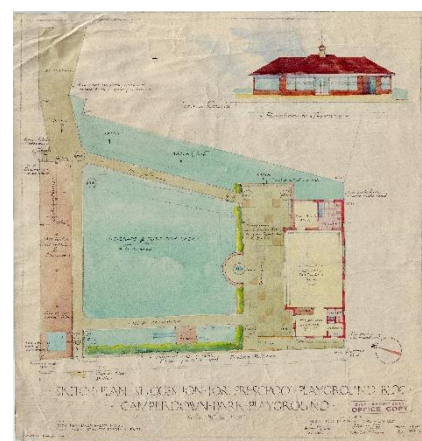
33 Municipal Council of Sydney, *Proceedings*, 25 July 1922, Item 2990/22.

34 CSA Job 1550.



8 Victoria Park playground and kindergarten.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00022828.



9 Sketch proposal describing a preschool playground building at Camperdown Park, 1938.

Source: CSA Job 1550.



10 John Carroll Kindergarten in Phelps Street, Surry Hills.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00042717.

strict budgets. Extensive areas of glass and deep eaves provided cheerful bright interiors protected from the sun's worst effects.

By 1971 Council was subsidising nine kindergartens and two-day nurseries, which were operated by the Kindergarten Union and Day Nursery Association. It was responsible for seven supervised and 16 unsupervised playgrounds within the City of Sydney's boundaries.³⁵

List of kindergartens and playgrounds designed by or under Smillie

- Enclosure of shelter shed and lavatories at No. 226 Dowling Street Playground, 1939.
- Playground, playground building, and equipment layout for Maybanke Kindergarten, Harris Street Ultimo, 1940.
- Preschool Playground Building at Camperdown Park Playground, 1941.
- Additions and remodelling of Pine Street Playground, 1942.
- Kindergarten building at Rushcutters Bay Park, Waratah Street, Rushcutters Bay, 1952.
- Alterations to form Kindergarten at Presbyterian Church, Quarry Street Ultimo, n.d.
- Alterations to form Children's Theatre, 47 Buckingham Street Surry Hills, n.d.
- Alterations and additions to Sunbeam Kindergarten, Lyne Street, Alexandria, 1957.
- Alterations to John Birt Kindergarten Hall, Palmer Street, Darlinghurst, 1957.
- Alterations and additions to Splatt Playground, Cardigan Street Glebe, n.d.
- Paving and Playground remodelling, Rest Park, Bridge Road Glebe, n.d.
- Playground shelter shed and playground layout at Little Riley Street Playground, n.d.
- Establishment of junior playground at Shannon Reserve, n.d.
- Playground at Glen and Stephen Streets, Paddington, n.d.
- Children's Centre and Library, Prospect Street, Erskineville, n.d.
- Childrens Play Group Centre, Phelps Street, Surry Hills, 1953.
- Children's Centre, Moore Park, n.d.
- Alterations to Camperdown Park Children's Playground and Junior Playground (layout), 1940.
- Alterations to King George V Memorial Playground Field House building, 1936
- Alterations and additions to Moore Park Playground field house, 1940.
- Additional playground building at Phillip Park Children's Playground, n.d.
- Craft shed at Phillip Park Playground, 1964.
- Coronation Playground Building at Prince Alfred Park, 1938.
- Playground building, Trumper Park Paddington, n.d.
- Victoria Park Playground and building, n.d.
- Hilda Booler Kindergarten, Jubilee Park, Glebe, 1965.
- Kindergarten at Lander Street, Darlington, 1954 (demolished).

Community and aged welfare centres

The concept of the community centre as series of buildings providing facilities such as a kindergarten, library and baby health centre emerged at the end of the 1930s. At a much smaller scale, the notion of a discrete building containing a hall, meeting rooms, a kitchen and other ancillary spaces appears to have emerged during the first half of the 1940s.³⁶

A community centre formed part of a housing scheme in Surry Hills for which planning was undertaken by Council's architects in the 1940s.³⁷ In 1943 documentation was

³⁵ City of Sydney Strategic Plan 1971, p.82

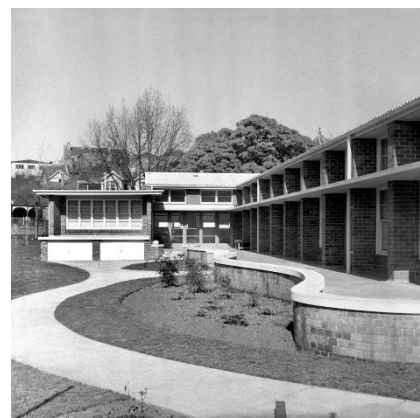
³⁶ Lewi and Nichols, pp.181-186.

³⁷ Fitzgerald, p.231.



11 Hilda Booler Kindergarten in Jubilee Park, Glebe.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00015417.



12 Rushcutters Bay Kindergarten.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00042726.



13 Aged Welfare Centre at Newtown in use, February 1959.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00043620.

prepared for a community centre building in Camperdown Park in 1943, although it is not certain if it was constructed. The single storey building contained a large hall with a stage at one end. The hall could be divided into three sections, for, dining, sleeping and playing, suggesting it would cater to the needs of young children. There was extensive lavatory accommodation, a room each for a doctor and for staff, and storage space for prams. A wide terrace provided sunny outdoor space.³⁸

Several community centres were constructed during the 1950s. One was the Cyril Carrol Recreation Centre, bounded by Bulwarra, William Henry and Harris Streets in Ultimo. Planned during 1952, it was proposed to construct a centre with a children's playground, tennis courts, baby health centre, library and public hall. A two storey Victorian house, Little Bridge, occupied part of the site for some time; it was proposed to use it as a temporary baby health centre pending a permanent building. A building known as the Esme Hackett Memorial Hall was constructed in two stages between 1955 and 1958. The site of the Cyril Carrol Recreation Centre and its facilities is now the site of the Ultimo Community Centre and Library.

Other examples include the Anthony Doherty Community Centre in Crown Street, Surry Hills, which opened in May 1956 and housed a branch library and recreation hall, and the Camperdown Community Recreation Centre, the first stage of which was completed in March 1959.

Discussion around the Council provision of amenities for aged persons is understood to have emerged during the second half of the 1950s, although the provision of these facilities by community groups began to emerge during the first half of the decade. Depending on the zoning of the proposed site consent was needed from the Cumberland County Council. The Health and Recreations Committee discussed amenities for aged and invalid persons in the Paddington District several times between June 1955 and July 1956.³⁹ The E J Ward Welfare Centre in Underwood Street, Paddington, opened around 1958 in the former Metropolitan Hotel, a fine Federation era building. It was subsequently transferred over to Woollahra Council at the end of the 1960s.

Similarly, the Reg Cope Welfare Centre at 55 Pitt Street, Redfern occupied a two storey Italianate style house, as did the Victoria Alice Lamkin Welfare Centre in Hereford Street, Glebe (circa 1963). The Reg Cope site was redeveloped in the 1970s while the Victoria Alice Lamkin site was purchased by a private developer in 2004 after the welfare centre transferred to another site.

Sites were acquired for the construction of new welfare centres and existing Council facilities were modified to accommodate them. For instance, the Roper Welfare centre is understood to have been constructed on the acquired property at 545 – 549 Dowling Street, as was the Ron Williams Welfare Centre for the Aged in Kepos Street, Redfern (opened in November 1966). On the other hand, the long-established Abraham Mott Hall (formerly known as the Coal Lumpers Hall and renamed in 1960) in Argyle Place, Millers Point was augmented by the Harry Jensen Welfare Centre in 1959, which offered older residents a place “for company and a midday meal.”⁴⁰ The Sid Fegan Welfare and Teenage Centre was constructed in the mid-1960s on land adjacent to the



14 Anthony Doherty Community Centre, Crown Street, Surry Hills (demolished).

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00043192



15 The Ron Williams Welfare Centre for the Aged in Kepos Street, Redfern. The open court within the building has since been roofed over.

Source: CSA UID A- A-00017944.



16 Harry Jensen Welfare Centre nearing completion, September 1958. The Abraham Mott Hall is in the background.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00043538.

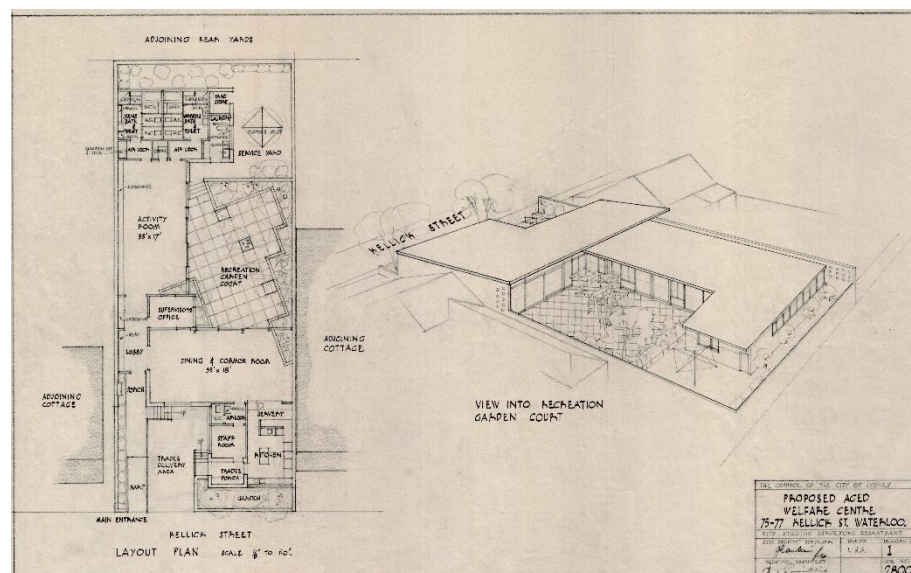
38 CSA Unique ID A-00545510.

39 CSA Unique ID A-00432748 Minutes of the Health and Recreations Committee, 1954-1956. Volume 13/22

40 Shirley Fitzgerald and Christopher Keating, *Millers Point: the urban village*, p.117.

Esme Hackett Memorial Hall in Ultimo. It catered both for the needs of the elderly and local youth but has since been demolished.

The Gordon Ibbett Welfare Centre at 75-77 Kellick Street, Waterloo, sketches for which were drawn in 1958, typifies this building type. Organised around an internal “recreation” courtyard, the main internal spaces consisted of an activity room and a dining/common room served by an adjacent kitchen. These were augmented by a service yard, lavatories, a laundry, staff and supervisor’s rooms and delivery dock.



17 Sketch drawing of the proposed Welfare Centre at 75-77 Kellick Street, Waterloo.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00545900.

Not all welfare centres were designed by Council architects. Prominent architect Harry Seidler’s office was responsible for the Cliff Noble Activity Centre at 24 Suttor Street Alexandria (1960-1964).

By 1971 the City of Sydney owned and operated eight community and recreation halls in Pyrmont, Surry Hills, West Rocks (Millers Point?), Paddington, Darlinghurst and Elizabeth Bay. It also owned and operated six welfare centres for the aged in Pyrmont, Surry Hills, West Rocks, Woolloomooloo, Newtown and Elizabeth Bay. It established a Senior Citizens Activity Centre in Pyrmont and a Youth Centre in association with the Boys, Brigade in Surry Hills during 1971.⁴¹

List of community and aged care centres designed by or under Smillie

- Camperdown Park Community Centre Building, n.d.
- Harry Jensen Welfare Centre and Abraham Mott Hall (Coal Lumpers’ Union), Argyle St, Millers Point, 1956
- Esme Hackett Memorial Hall, William Henry Street, Ultimo, 1955-1958 (demolished).
- May Street Public Hall / Community Centre, Newtown, n.d.
- Community Centre at Springfield Avenue, Kings Cross, n.d.
- Gordon Ibbett Welfare Centre, 75-77 Kellick Street, Waterloo, 1958-1963 (no longer in use as a Council facility).
- Ron Williams Welfare Centre for the Aged, 5-11 Kepos Street, Redfern, 1964. It is now the Ron Williams Community Centre.
- Amenities Centre for Aged Persons, Ivy and Shepherd Streets, Darlinghurst, n.d.
- Tom Foster Welfare Centre, 11-13 Darley Street, Newtown, 1963 (now under the control of Inner West Council).



18 Esme Hackett Memorial Hall, Ultimo.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00042993.

⁴¹ City of Sydney Strategic Plan 1971, p.82.

- Welfare Centre within the Florence Bartley Library, 60 Macleay Street, Potts Point, 1958 (since demolished).
- Anthony Doherty Community Centre, Crown Street, Surry Hills, 1956 (since demolished).
- Mary McDonald Welfare Centre, 49 McElhone Street, Woolloomooloo, 1960. In 2017 the building became the Sydney Youth Services (a First Nations youth support group) Weave Community Hub.
- Chrissie Cotter Hall at Camperdown Park, 1964.

Public housing

Following the passage of the Housing Act of 1912, the City Council was empowered to construct public housing. Several projects were completed in the following two decades. The Strickland Building in Chippendale was Sydney's first public housing project built under the Act. Originally conceived as two blocks, only half the scheme eventuated. Designed in the Council's architectural department as workers' housing, it comprised 71 flats and eight shops. The buildings were officially opened in April 1914.

During the 1920s three notable public housing projects, two of which were designed by architects in private practice, were completed. Ways Terrace in Pyrmont (architect Leslie Wilkinson), of which only half was constructed, and the Dowling Street Dwellings in Woolloomooloo (architect Peddle Thorp & Walker) were completed in 1925. The semi-detached housing known as Alexandra Dwellings on Pyrmont Bridge Road, Camperdown was completed in 1927. The Alexandra Dwellings were designed by the Council's architectural department. It is perhaps notable that these projects were undertaken under a Labor Council.⁴²

Other schemes were shelved because of expense and to impose commercial rather than residential use of the land, and construction ceased with the onset of depression during the 1930s. In 1938-1939, following recommendations from City Engineer Garnsey, Council briefly considered demolition of what were considered sub-standard housing in Surry Hills and constructing multi-storey flats to replace it.⁴³ A survey was subsequently undertaken of four areas in the city boundaries that were suitable for public housing, three of which were in Surry Hills. A Devonshire Street Remodelling Scheme was developed in 1945 incorporating four storey blocks of flats, a playground and community centre. At the same time schemes were prepared for sites in Bourke Street and Dowling Street in Surry Hills and Harris Street in Ultimo.⁴⁴

The Devonshire Street Remodelling Scheme was taken over by the State Housing Commission in 1947 and work began in 1950. The State was now the main provider of public housing in Sydney.⁴⁵

The Council continued to design and construct public housing projects during the 1950s and 1960s. Finance was raised by selling properties, notably Council-owned hotels. They included the Waratah Hotel in Bayswater Road, the Kings Cross Hotel and the Crecy and Oxford Hotels on Oxford Street, which were sold at auction.

The scale of the housing projects varied, ranging from large multi-storey blocks to small walk-up blocks. Some were built in the inner city, but most were located in the suburbs



19 The Strickland Building, Chippendale.
Source: Vade Mecum, 1915.



20 Walk-up flats in Henry Avenue, Pyrmont, completed in 1960.
Source: CSA UID A- 00043939.



21 John Byrne Court in Glebe, completed in 1961.
Source: CSA UID A- 00012502.

⁴² Fitzgerald, p.229.

⁴³ <https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/62727>

⁴⁴ City Architectural Branch Annual Report for 1945.

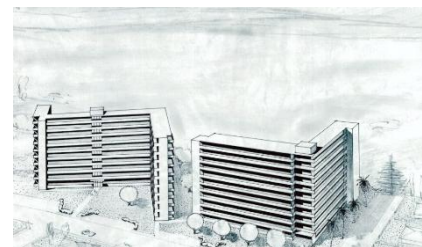
⁴⁵ "City Slums To Go Under New Housing Proposal", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 October 1947, p.11.

amalgamated into the City of Sydney's boundaries in 1949. Following the reduction of boundaries at the end of the 1960s and the return of Civic Reform interest in public housing flagged. The Council owned 12 blocks of residential flats and 98 terrace houses in Pyrmont, Surry Hills, Woolloomooloo and other locations by 1971. Later in the decade endeavours were made to sell off Council-owned properties outside its boundaries. At the end of 1988 all Council housing was transferred to the State.⁴⁶

Not all post-war public housing was designed by the Council architectural section. For instance, prominent Modernist architectural practice Harry Seidler & Associates designed two public housing apartment blocks at the intersection of Glen and Stephen Streets in Paddington (circa 1963) and a single slab block at 31-35 Station Street, Newtown (circa 1963). These projects are no longer within the City of Sydney's boundaries. Two larger schemes for low-cost housing, on sites in Camperdown and Glebe, were not built. The buildings were part of a competitive tender, in which several firms presented schemes for development. These were known as "package deals", where a developer provided design and construct services.

List of public housing projects designed by or under Smillie

- Joanna O'Dea Court, Pyrmont Bridge Road, Ultimo, 1959
- John Byrne Court, St John's Road, Glebe, 1959
- Council Flat building at Bannerman Crescent, Rosebery, 1960.
- Council Residential Flats Project, Charles Street, Woolloomooloo, n.d.
- Council Residential Flats Project, Harris Street, Pyrmont, 1944.
- Council Housing Development, 1-5 Henry Avenue, Pyrmont, 1960.
- Council Flats, Ithaca Road, Elizabeth Bay, n.d.
- Council Flats, Newton Street Alexandria, n.d.
- Council Housing Project at Wilson Lane, Redfern, 1963.



22 Unbuilt proposal for Council housing, Bannerman Crescent and Asquith Avenue, Rosebery, 1960.
Source: CSA Job No 2869.



23 Scheme for the redevelopment of a "substandard area" in Pyrmont prepared during 1944.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00545525.

⁴⁶ Fitzgerald, p.231.

Libraries

The NSW government opened the Free Public Library in September 1869. A lending branch was opened in July 1877. The Free Public Library was renamed the Public Library of NSW in 1895. In 1899 the lending branch moved into the Queen Victoria Building. Under the Sydney Corporation Act, Sydney Municipal Council was given statutory powers to establish a free reading and lending library for ratepayers, residents and employees within its boundaries to take effect from 6 March 1909. Following the establishment of the Mitchell Library in 1909, the City of Sydney received the Public Library's lending branch and newspaper room. It was renamed the Sydney Municipal Library. A separate children's library was established in 1918.⁴⁷ Alterations to the Nursery building at Phillip Park to accommodate a children's library were documented during 1936.

The popularity of the Sydney Municipal Library warranted detailed documentation for a new Free Classical style building with Art Deco flourishes that also incorporated a municipal art gallery and lecture hall in Druitt Street during 1940-41. Smillie appears to have been the architect. Construction did not proceed.⁴⁸

The Library Act of 1939, which only came into effect in 1944, provided the impetus for the establishment of municipal libraries across the state. The first suburban libraries in metropolitan Sydney were established in 1946 and their numbers proliferated during the 1950s. A library was opened in Newtown Town Hall by Newtown Council in 1947 (two years before amalgamation with Sydney Municipal Council). The City Council established the following branch libraries:

- Alexandria, within the existing town hall, 1951.
- The Frank Green Library, Paddington, within the existing town hall, 1952.
- Surry Hills, within the Anthony Doherty Community Centre in Crown Street, completed in October 1956. The building also contained other community facilities. The building has since been demolished.
- Glebe, within the existing school of Arts building, 1956
- Florence Bartley Library, Macleay Street, Potts Point, 1958. The project architect was Arthur Collins. An early scheme proposed a larger building with an RSL Club on the top floor. Despite winning the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australia Institute of Architects' Sulman Award in 1958, approval for demolition was given in October 1995.⁴⁹
- Catherine Sloss Library, 130 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo, 1963.

During the 1970s, after Albert Smillie had retired, branch libraries were established at Waterloo in 1972 and Haymarket in 1974. Both occupied existing buildings.

List of libraries designed by or under Smillie:

- Branch Library, Crown and Collins Streets Surry Hills, c1956 (demolished).
- Municipal Library Building, Kent Street, Sydney, 1941 (not built).

47 David J Jones, *A Source of Inspiration & Delight: the buildings of the State Library of New South Wales since 1826* (Library Council of New South Wales, 1988), p.31; Richard Neville, "The Free Public Library of Sydney" at <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/free-public-library-sydney>, accessed 5 July 2023; "City of Sydney Library Centenary Blog" at <https://cityofsydneylibrarycentenary.wordpress.com/timeline/>, accessed 5 July 2023.

48 CSA Job No. 1698.

49 Andrew Metcalf, *Architecture in Transition: the Sulman Award 1932-1996*, p.90.



24 Interior of the Frank Green Library at Paddington, November 1952.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00042637.



25 The Florence Bartley Library in Macleay Street, Potts Point.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00012068.



26 The Catherine Sloss Library in Woolloomooloo.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00046191.

- Building incorporating Baby Health Centre, Public Library, Public Hall and Conveniences for Men and Women at 60 Macleay Street, Kings Cross, 1956 (Florence Bartley Library; demolished).
- Catherine Sloss Library, 130 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo.
- Alterations to Phillip Park Nursery Building for use as Children's Library, 1936, plus further alterations and extensions.

Swimming pools

In 1858 the City Council built the first free public baths in Sydney on the site of the Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool on the western shore of Woolloomooloo Bay. The establishment was officially named the Corporation Baths. In 1903 the Corporation Baths were pulled down, along with several of the other old structures in the Bay, and a new complex was built. It consisted of a Ladies Bath and Free Baths and opened in 1908. This Edwardian structure was named the Domain Baths, which quickly became associated with the emerging sport of swimming. In 1955 the Ladies and Free Baths were demolished and in 1968 were replaced by a modern Olympic pool called the Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool (since replaced).⁵⁰

In 1872 the residents of Pyrmont petitioned the Council to erect a public swimming baths in the locality. Pyrmont baths were constructed around 1877 then were replaced by a new public swimming baths constructed by the Municipal Council of Sydney, which opened in 1902. Pyrmont Baths were demolished in 1946.⁵¹

Generally public swimming pools became a municipal concern between 1920 and 1970, the first large-scale wave of pool construction taking place in the 1930s.⁵² The swimming pools that were constructed in Victoria Park, Camperdown and Prince Alfred Park, Surry Hills were part of a boom in pool construction across metropolitan Sydney during the 1950s and 1960s.

Sketches for Victoria Park were prepared during 1946 but it took several years before construction commenced. The Victoria Park Pool offered some challenging design and technical issues, inspiration for which Smillie evidently sought on his 1950 overseas tour.

List of swimming pools designed by or under Smillie

- Extension of Club Rooms and Gymnasium at Domain Baths, n.d.
- Swimming pool at George and Harrington Streets, Circular Quay, n.d.
- Prince Alfred Park Swimming Pool, associated dressing pavilion and other facilities, 1954.
- Victoria Park Swimming Pool and buildings, 1954.

Sporting facilities

The City Council was responsible for a range of sporting facilities and associated structures during the twentieth century. For instance, municipal golf links in Moore Park were laid out during 1911. A nine-hole golf course known as the Moore Park Municipal Golf Links opened in May 1913. This was later expanded to include 18-holes in 1922



27 Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool. The photographed during the 1970s. Source: CSA Unique ID A-00018608.



28 Swimming pool complex in Prince Alfred Park. Source: CSA Unique ID A-00008445.



29 Swimming pool complex in Victoria Park. Source: CSA Unique ID A-00014927

50 Shirley Fitzgerald, "Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool" at https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/andrew_boy_charlton_pool#:~:text=The%20Domain%20Baths,labelled%20it%2C%20opened%20in%201908, accessed 8 June 2023.

51 "Pyrmont Baths" at <https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/1913294>, accessed 5 July 2023.

52 Lewi and Nichols, pp.116-117.

and become the Moore Park Golf Course. A “handsome golf house” was erected by Council in 1926. The Council engaged specialist architect Eric Apperly to prepare plans for a new layout at Moore Park in May 1937.⁵³

The Council was responsible for numerous parks, the larger of which incorporated ovals and buildings associated with their use such as grandstands, toilet blocks and changing rooms. Tennis courts and bowling greens were constructed in several parks. By the 1940s the process of installing sporting facilities into public parks and gardens and become quite entrenched. Camperdown Park demonstrates this process.

Camperdown Park was first resumed by the NSW government in 1892. The Municipal Council of Sydney was appointed trustee in 1909 following amalgamation with Camperdown Council. One of the first major improvements to the Park at this time was the construction of the bandstand. By 1917 what was termed a “gymnasium”, which comprised a fenced-off section of the park containing rudimentary exercise equipment, was in place.

In about 1921 the War Memorial was erected, and a program of maintenance and general improvements instigated, which may have included a children’s playground. Tennis courts were installed around 1923. A series of playgrounds were constructed during the 1930s. Undertaken jointly by the City Council and Board of Social Study and Training, the girls’ section opened in December 1935. This was followed by a boys’ playground and a young children’s playground. At some stage a field house associated with the playgrounds was constructed.

In 1938 a decision was made to establish a demonstration nursery school in the Park at the instigation of the Commonwealth Government, for which Smillie prepared a sketch drawing.⁵⁴ During the 1940s Smillie was responsible for schemes to upgrade playground and kindergarten facilities, along with the provision of tennis courts and courts for other ball games.

During the 1950s an oval was constructed at Camperdown Park. Ilmar Berzins prepared an elaborate sketch describing proposed landscaping around the oval in 1953, along with a bowling club and various courts for ball games.⁵⁵ Sadly, despite the construction of the oval the landscaping did not eventuate. The oval was, however, accompanied by a grandstand and dressing rooms. Along with the oval, a bowling club, including a clubhouse designed by Council architects, enlarged playground and tennis courts were all constructed and officially opened on 14 March 1959; The bowling club house and green were leased to Camperdown Bowling and Recreation Club.

A draughts players shelter was constructed in the south-western section of the Park in 1955, while a decade later the Chrissie Cotter Hall was constructed immediately adjacent to the bowling clubhouse. It was completed in 1964. Following redistribution of municipal boundaries later that decade, Marrickville Municipal Council assumed responsibility for Camperdown Park on 1 August 1968 and it is now administered by Inner West Council.

53 Hector Morrison, “Remodelling Moore Park Golf Course”, *Daily Telegraph*, 11 May 1937, p.20.

54 CSA Unique ID A-00545350. The drawing is dated 5 April 1938.

55 CSA Unique ID A-00493812. The drawing is dated 15 July 1953.



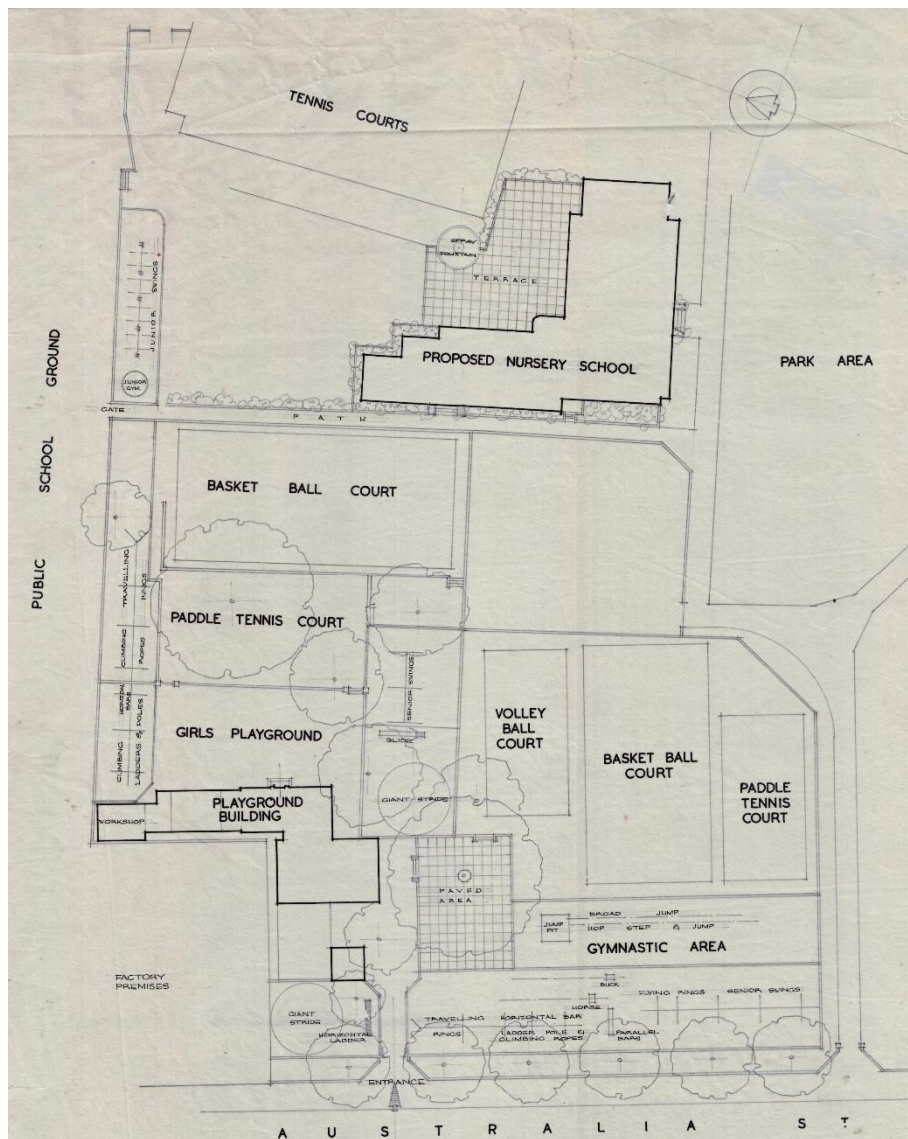
32 Camperdown Park in April 1909.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00037676.



31 The girls’ playground at the time of its opening in December 1935.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00055480.



30 Camperdown Park Bowling Club.
The clubhouse had been recently completed when the photograph was taken.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00043648.



- 34 1941 plan signed by Smillie describing a proposed upgrading of children's playground facilities and the proposed nursery school at Camperdown Park.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00545441



- 33 The grandstand overlooking the oval at Camperdown Park.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00016459.

List of sporting facilities designed by or under Smillie

- Additions to King George V Memorial Park Bowling Green Club House, 1939
- Male and Female Dressing Shed at Alexandra Park, n.d.
- Staff Amenities Building, Belmore Park, n.d.
- Dressing Pavilion and Grandstand at Camperdown Park, n.d.
- Extensions to Field House at Camperdown Park Playground, 1961
- Footballer's dressing rooms at Jubilee Park Glebe, n.d.
- Dressing Shed at Anzac Parade, Moore Park, n.d.
- Dressing rooms for girls at Grand Drive, Moore Park, n.d.
- Cycle Track, Boronia Street, Moore Park, 1954
- Grandstand pavilion and dressing rooms for athletes at Moore Park, 1937
- Dressing Shed at Cleveland Street, Moore Park, 1936
- Starters Office at Moore Park Golf Links, n.d.
- Squash Court building, Prince Alfred Park, n.d. and extensions n.d.
- Grandstand at Redfern Oval, 1957
- Grandstand at Trumper Park, Paddington, 1959
- Dressing Pavilion and Shelters for Tennis Courts, Trumper Park Paddington, n.d.

Bowling clubs

What is likely to have been the first bowling green in NSW was established at the Boundary Stone Inn, situated at the intersection of Bourke and Cleveland Streets in the second half of 1845.⁵⁶ In 1881 one of Sydney's first bowling clubs was established on the College Street frontage of Cook Park. A bowling club was established in Victoria Park in 1892. The sport became increasingly popular prior to World War II and rapidly expanded across the state from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Bowling greens and clubhouses were constructed in several parks within the City of Sydney's boundaries. They were leased to the various clubs. The City Architect's office designed some clubhouses although others, such as the building at the Cook Park bowling club, were designed by architects in private practice.

List of bowling clubs designed by or under Smillie

- King George V Bowling Club House, York Street North (Cumberland Street), Sydney, 1936 (demolished).
- Bowling Club house at Camperdown Park, 1955
- Bowling Club House at Erskineville Park, 1957
- Bowling Club House at Moore Park, n.d.
- Bowling club house, Trumper Park, Paddington, 1959 (modified and enlarged).
- Victoria Park Bowling Club, circa 1962.

Parking stations

Several privately constructed parking stations appeared in Central Sydney during the 1920s. Perhaps the first was the parking station at 213-217 Elizabeth Street, which was operated by Hunter Motor Service.⁵⁷ What was considered to be the first major parking station in Sydney "on a scale resembling the buildings which have been erected in American and Continental cities" was the Central Parking and Service Station at 105 York Street, occupying a remodelled building, and opening in December 1927.⁵⁸

The City Council was also investigating parking stations at this time. In March 1924 it was reported that the "The City Council has moved in the matter of providing car accommodation" – the City Surveyor was apparently preparing plans for an underground parking station at Wynyard, capitalising on excavations for the underground railway in this part of Central Sydney.⁵⁹ In 1927 it was suggested that the basement of the Queen Victoria Building be adapted as a parking station, accompanying the demolition of the building to provide open space.⁶⁰ This became a recurring theme until the beginning of the 1970s. Construction of a car park in Sydney's Domain was mooted as early as 1933, when the Lord Mayor of Sydney suggested it be converted to "a monster parking station for motor cars."⁶¹

During the 1940s a parking station under Hyde Park was considered by the City Council but did not eventuate. The Council resolved to undertake full control of parking and approved in principle a large central car park under the Domain as well as fringe parking around Central Sydney in 1945. A proposal for a Domain parking station was presented to State Cabinet in 1950, which handed over responsibility for car parking to

56 John P. Monro, "Origin of Bowls in NSW", *The Biz*, 30 January 1957, p.15.

57 "The Motoring World", *The Sun*, 18 August 1923, p.8.

58 "Homes for Cars", *Daily Telegraph*, 17 December 1927, p.29; "Parking Cars", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 December 1927, p.17.

59 "Motoring World. Parking of Cars. City Council's Scheme. Underground Garages", *The Sun*, 29 March 1924, p.7.

60 "Ambitious Scheme for Civic Reserve and Motor Parking Station", *Daily Telegraph*, 27 August 1927, p.13.

61 "Parking of Cars", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 October 1933, p.12.



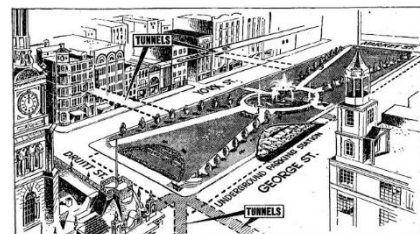
36 Club house at King George V Bowling Club, 1936. Smillie is noted as architect on the drawings for the building.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00016047



35 Trumper Park Bowling Club.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00043624.



37 The Queen Victoria Building replaced by a public park above an underground carpark. Published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 May 1959.

Source:
<https://fabsydneyflashbacks.blogspot.com/2017/06/1959-council-proposal-for-turn-queen.html>

the Council at the end of 1950. Permission to construct the parking station was finally granted in May 1955. In the interim Alderman Hills visited the west coast of America to study parking stations in May 1954. A Council delegation subsequently undertook a study tour of civic buildings and car parks. The Domain Parking Station was built in three stages – the first section was officially opened by the Lord Mayor Harry Jensen on 8 April 1958. The whole complex came into use in December 1959 after the completion of the third stage. Its distinctive moving footway was officially opened in June 1961.

Meanwhile, in September 1953 the Council acquired a site at 279-293 Kent Street off the Electricity Commission, which had commenced construction on a garage and workshop on the site during 1952. Alterations converting it into a large parking station were documented about two years later by architects D T Morrow & Gordon and constructed during 1955. Photographs of the carpark showing rows of angled parking bays and the fronts of parked cars were to become somewhat iconic.

The third of Central Sydney's major parking stations, the Goulburn Street Parking Station, was initially designed by Council's architectural staff but the final building is credited to architects Kevin Curtin & Partners. It was designed in 1961⁶² and officially opened on 16 April 1963. The bulky monolithic structure was constructed in airspace leased from the NSW Railways Department and incorporated a large amount of precast concrete, including pre-cast and pre-stressed concrete T beams and precast columns, and concrete block grilles across wide openings. It was claimed to have been financed entirely from revenue derived from parking meters.

List of parking stations designed by or under Smillie

- Central Station Parking Station, n.d.
- Goulburn Street Parking Station, 1963
- Haig Avenue Parking Station, n.d.
- Sussex Street Parking Station, n.d.
- The Domain Parking Station, 1956

Public conveniences

The design and construction of public conveniences occupied a fair amount of the City Architect's Department while Albert Smillie was employed by Council. There are numerous plans signed by Smillie for the construction of male and female toilet blocks in various locations. The numbers of extant drawings indicate the documentation of public conveniences occupied a sizable amount of the City Architects' time. However, this building typology was documented by Council's architects from the beginning of the twentieth century, if not earlier.

Sydney suffered from a shortage of public conveniences for a long period of time. There was a public urinal at the Haymarket by 1859, although it appeared to be constantly locked.⁶³ Patent cast iron urinals first appeared in the United Kingdom during the 1850s. An enterprising English manufacturer of these utilitarian objects sent information on its product to the Corporation in 1879.⁶⁴ During the mid-1880s some 15 urinals were

⁶² "New Sydney Parking Station", *Building, Lighting and Engineering*, December 1961.

⁶³ "Public Urinals", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 April 1859, p.2.

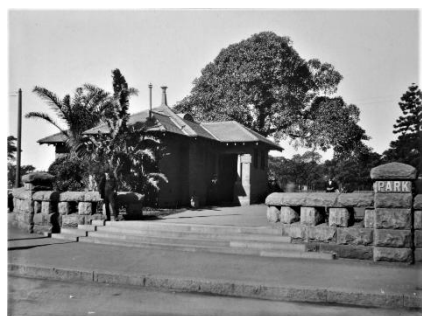
⁶⁴ CSA UID A-00303908, Letters Received. English manufacturer, George Henry Jennings, sent a catalogue of public conveniences manufactured by his firm and offering to tender for supply to the Corporation.



38 Kent Street parking station.
Source: City of Melbourne City
Collection registration number
1721347.



39 The Goulburn Street carpark shortly
before completion. The concrete
block grilles have since been
removed.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-
00045901.



40 The women's convenience in
Hyde Park South that was
completed in 1911.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-
00040824.

ordered by the Corporation but by the beginning of 1886 only one had been erected. There was public resistance to the installation of more of them in Sydney's streets.⁶⁵

For many years sanitary conveniences under the control of the Corporation were only available at the Redfern railway terminus and the Haymarket. Conveniences managed by others were situated at Circular Quay. In 1900 the Council decided to proceed with the construction of three underground male conveniences – in what is now Martin Place, in Darlinghurst Road near William Street and at the intersection of Liverpool and Oxford Streets. They were completed in May 1901. More were completed over the following decade.

By way of contrast, during the first decade of the twentieth century the City Council provided only two for women – in the basement of the Queen Victoria Building and in Parker Street at Haymarket. The latter were “extensively altered in 1906 so that it contained “very commodious and first-class accommodation, including cloak-room, etc.”⁶⁶ The situation improved slightly with the construction of the first above-ground ladies' convenience to be erected by Council, in Hyde Park near the south-eastern corner of Elizabeth and Park Street. Completed in 1911, it provided additional accommodation for children, a dressing room and a parcels office.⁶⁷ It proved over time to be unpopular, perhaps in part because of planting around it. Complaints continued over lack of facilities for women. In 1917 the lack of women's conveniences in Sydney was highlighted by the Royal Easter Show and the prevalence of “strong and sturdy sun-browned women from the north and south and west”. The Circular Quay wharves and Central Station remained the main public locations.⁶⁸ The Council's policy certainly played its part - women's conveniences “should, when possible, form part of a block of buildings. If it is only possible to have them in independent structures then they should be combined with a small shop such as a florist, tearooms, Parcels Office etc.”⁶⁹

Circumstances slowly improved. Plans prepared in 1924 show ladies' conveniences at Moore Park in a pavilion containing the entry to the cricket and tennis areas (not documented by Smillie).⁷⁰ Cast iron stall urinals were installed in various parts of Glebe during the mid-1920s.⁷¹ By 1938 the southern end of the substation at Taylor Square was modified to accommodate a women's convenience, some 55 years after a urinal had been installed there.⁷² By 1941 there were 41 public conveniences under the control of Council. Of these 23 were policed by an attendant. 10 were for the use of women.⁷³

At the end of 1949 consent was given for the construction of a women's amenities centre and creche in Hyde Park. An investigative scheme adapting the existing kiosk to south-east of Archibald fountain for use as a mother's centre, including infants' and children's spaces was prepared at some point of time.⁷⁴ Two women's rest rooms and parcel depots had been constructed in Hyde Park, one behind St James Station and



41 Public conveniences at Taylor Square – the underground men's convenience (1907) in the foreground and beyond it the women's convenience above the substation (1938).



42 Playground and creche associated with the Hyde Park women's amenities centre.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00014526.

65 “Sydney Municipal Council”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 February 1886 p.7.

66 Vade Mecum 1931, pp.168-170.

67 Vade Mecum 1931, p.174.

68 “Sydney's Apathy to Women's Health”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 March 1917, p.5. Clipping in Town Clerk's Department Correspondence File at CSA UID A-00103965.

69 CSA CRS 34/4356/20.

70 CSA UID A-00544828

71 CSA UID A-00543737.

72 State Heritage Inventory database entry for Former Electrical Substation (No. 6) Including Interior, 136 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst; architectural drawing at CSA Unique ID A-00545328. The drawing is dated 4 June 1937 and Smillie's signature appears as architect.

73 Vade Mecum 1941, pp.187-192.

74 CSA Unique ID A- 00545583. The undated drawing is signed by Smillie.

one on Elizabeth Street south of Park Street. The rest centre and creche was constructed in the southern section of Hyde Park on Park Street, strategically located near major department stores and underground railway stations, trams, buses and a taxi rank. It was officially opened in April 1954. The building was attributed to Albert Smillie.⁷⁵ The amenities centre, staffed with attendants and others, provided much needed facilities for women - a comfortable rest room with refreshment facilities, space for a chemist, a baby-feeding room, telephone and writing facilities, showers with dressing cubicles, lavatories, dressing room and ironing facilities. On the level above was a babies' section with vestibule and attendant, feed room, lavatories, doctor's room, baby wash and change, food preparation room, cot room, sunroom, nurse's room. A toddlers' playground adjoined a separate creche building with a playroom, sanitary facilities, kitchen, office and staff room.

The opinionated Melbourne architectural journal *Cross-section* was a bit unkind:

... Its heavy magazine modernism of horizontal stress & textural contrasts is not lightened by logic, e.g. plate glass to the ground fl[oor] lobby is unshaded, but the long first fl[oor] window has: 1, a hood 2, vertical louvres 3. Venetian blinds. The vertical louvre "sun-breakers" of Le Corbusier have swept the world from Brazil to Bendigo, Vic, as an answer to the problem of shading off-north windows. Why are they used on this north elevation? To break the winter sun? These summer days they are in the shadow of the hood.⁷⁶

However, the rest of the centre received a fair amount of positive press coverage both in NSW and in other states.



The City of Sydney built several rest centres for women after completing the Hyde Park amenities centre. They included a rest centre incorporated into the former Newtown Town Hall (circa 1962) and one on Oxford Street in Paddington (circa 1964).

List of public toilets designed by or under Smillie

- Norman Street bathing facilities, Sydney, 1958
- Observatory Park Women's Conveniences, 1938

⁷⁵ "Womens' Amenities Centre Hyde Park, Sydney", *Building, Lighting & Engineering*, 24 May 1954, p.44.

⁷⁶ *Cross-section* no. 16, 1 February 1954, no pagination.



43 Reception and rest room in the Hyde Park women's amenities centre.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00014527

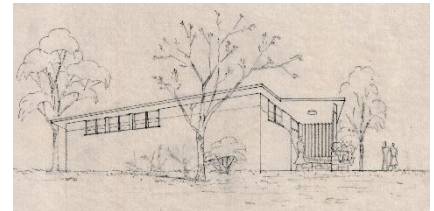
44 The women's amenities centre at the north-western corner of Hyde Park South.

Source: SLNSW Australian Photographic Agency -46311.

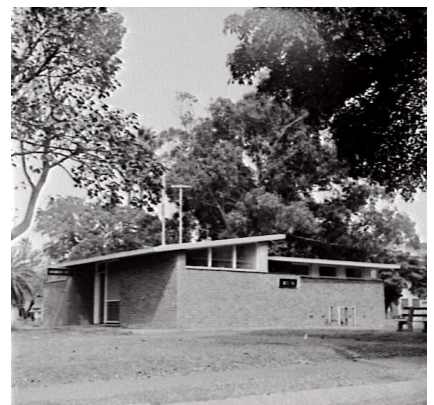
- Taylor Square Men's Conveniences, 1940
- Darlinghurst Road, Kings Cross Public Conveniences, 1938
- Paternoster Row Pyrmont Public Convenience, 1939.
- Lang Park Convenience, 1942
- Fitzroy and Foveaux Streets Public Convenience, n.d.
- Pyrmont Bridge Men's Convenience alterations and renovations, n.d.
- Hyde Park North Women's Convenience, 1947
- Park and Elizabeth Streets Men's Convenience, n.d.
- Anzac Parade Public Men's Convenience, n.d.
- Redfern Oval Women's Convenience, n.d.
- Wattle Street Men's Convenience, n.d.
- Cook Park Convenience for Men and Women, 1954
- Prince Alfred Park Men's Convenience, n.d., and Women's Convenience, 1939
- Gladstone Street Amenities Block, 1953
- St Peters Station Men's and Women's Convenience, 1955
- Macquarie Street Public Convenience, n.d.
- Dowling Street Public Convenience, n.d.
- Rushcutters's Bay Park, 1936 (men's conveniences), 1939 (women's conveniences).
- Quay Street Amenities Block and Male Toilet, 1960
- Beare Park Public Convenience, 1959
- Moore Park (Drive Ave Conveniences, Bleacher Toilets at ES Marks Field, Women's Convenience at Golf Links), n.d.
- Wynyard Park Men's and Women's Convenience, n.d.
- King Street Public Conveniences, Newtown, n.d.
- St Johns Road Conveniences for Women, Glebe, n.d.
- Enmore Road Conveniences, n.d.
- Anzac Parade and Cleveland Street Men's Convenience and shelter, n.d.
- Camdenville Oval dressing room and toilet block, n.d.
- Camperdown Park Dressing Room and Toilet Block, n.d. and Women's Convenience, circa 1955.
- Macleay St and Elizabeth Bay Rd, n.d.
- Fitzroy Gardens Men's and Women's Convenience, n.d.
- Trumper Park Paddington toilet block, 1954
- Women's Rest Centre including nursery and creche, Hyde Park, 1955
- St James Station Men's Convenience (1936) extension (1946)
- Women's rest centre, Oxford Street, Paddington, circa 1964.



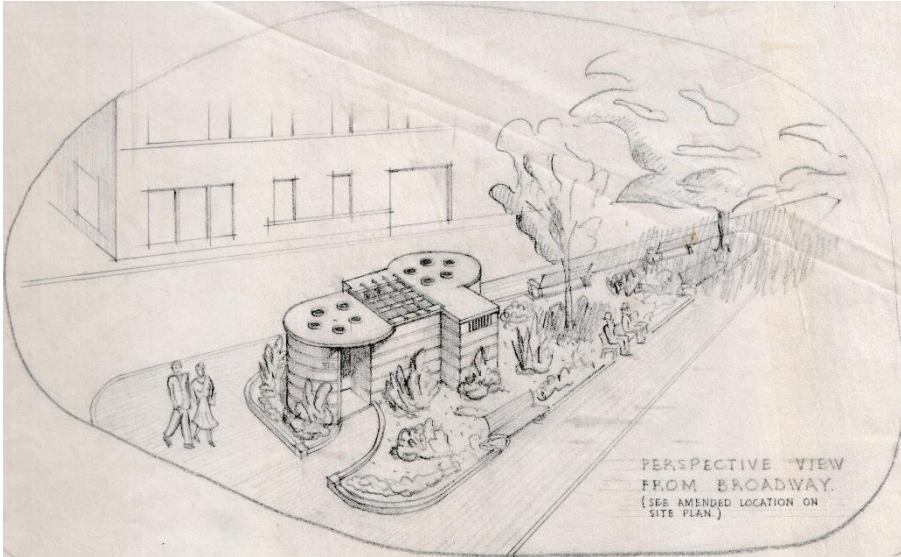
45 Women's rest centre, Oxford Street, Paddington.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00046434.



46 Perspective study of a women's convenience in Camperdown Park circa 1955.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-A-00545712 (Job 2430)



47 Toilet block in Redfern Park, 1954.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00042861



48 Male convenience on Broadway at Wattle Street, Ultimo, circa 1950. A similar structure was proposed for Lang Park in Central Sydney during 1942.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00545644.

Air raid shelters

A National Emergency Services Committee (NESC) was set up by the City Council towards the end of 1940. It immediately began co-ordinating air raid precautions and an advisory body to the NESC was established in February 1941. The decision to build shelters was made that month⁷⁷ and work commenced on the 17th of the month. It included a trench in Rushcutters Bay Park, construction of a brick pillbox in Wattle Street near Broadway and a pillbox in Taylor Square.⁷⁸ Construction of shelters continued into 1942. Perhaps one of the more unusual projects undertaken by the City Architect was a proposal for a subterranean bomb-proof control centre to be constructed in Hyde Park North. It has not been ascertained if this was constructed.

Once the war had ended time was spent documenting the adaptive reuse of air raid shelters to new uses such as park depots and toilets.

List of air raid shelters designed by or under Smillie

- Standard details, 1941.
- Air raid shelters (4 of) at Pyrmont Dwellings, Ways Terrace, 1942.
- Conversion of Air raid shelter at Waterloo Town Hall to Park Staff Amenities and Tool Store, n.d.
- Conversion of Air raid shelter at No. 6 Market, Corner Hay and Lackey Streets into Maintenance Office, 1942.
- Air raid shelter at Campbell Street for Haymarket Buildings, n.d.
- Alterations to Moore Park Depot Mess room to form Blast and Splinter Proof Shelter, 1941.
- Air raid shelter at Phillip Park Cleansing Depot site (part of future depot building), 1942.
- Conversion of Air Raid Shelter to Parks Depot/Store, Rushcutters' Bay Park, 1954.
- Alterations to Victoria Park Depot to form Blast and Splinter Proof Shelter, 1941.
- Proposed underground bomb proof control room Hyde Park North, 1941.
- Air raid shelter in the Shannon Reserve, Crown Street, Surry Hills (1940).



49 Concrete air raid shelter nearing completion.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00010152

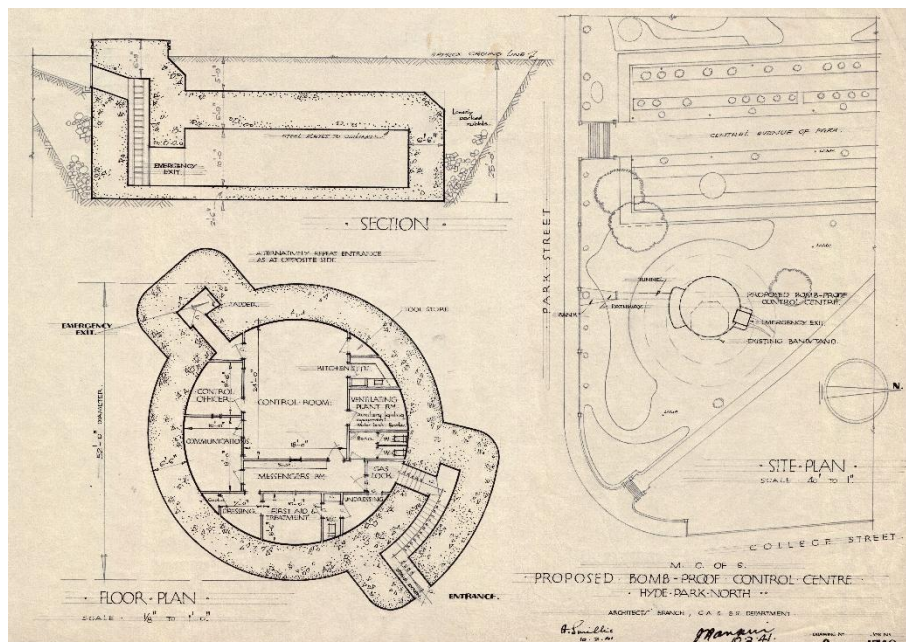


50 Cylindrical air raid shelter.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00010147

⁷⁷ "Shelters in Raids. Work to Begin at Once", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 February 1941, p.13.

⁷⁸ "Work Begun on City Council Air Raid Shelters", *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 February 1941, p.10.



51 Proposed bomb-proof control centre in Hyde Park North, 1941. Source: CSA Unique ID A-A-00545431

Recreational items

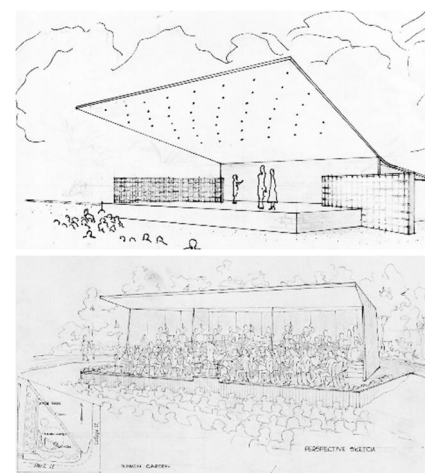
During the middle third of the twentieth century plans were prepared for several recreational building typologies to be constructed in parks and reserves across the City of Sydney: music shells, shelters for draughts players, swimming pools. Plans were prepared for sporting grounds and playing fields. They were also prepared for one-off items such as a stylish tourist information pavilion in Martin Place.

Music shells

Albert Smillie's signature appears on several drawings for music shells, post-war successors to the bandstands found in numerous parks across the state. The City Architect designed several bandstands well before World War II. Examples include the structures constructed in Moore Park (1908), Observatory Park (1909), the Coronation Bandstand in Hyde Park on the site of what is now Sandringham Gardens (circa 1911) and Green Park (1925).

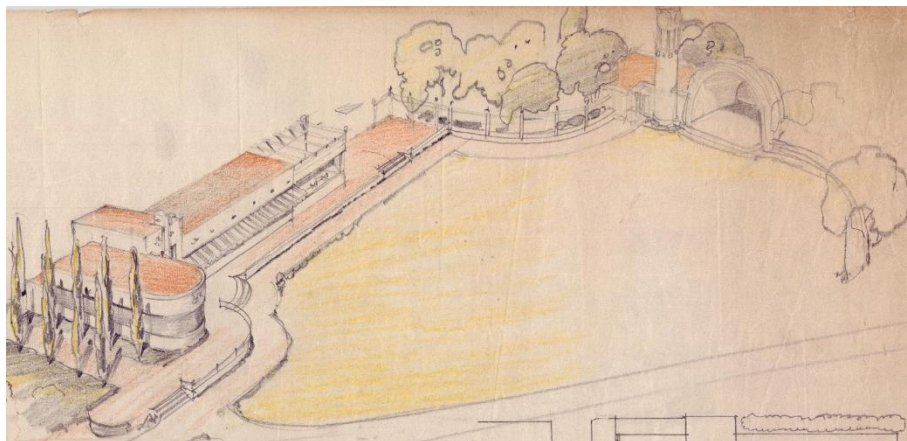
During the 1930s and 1940s several proposals for band and music shells in Hyde Park were prepared, none of which seem to have eventuated. The most ambitious was for a café and band shell, sketches for which were prepared in 1937 (with a clock tower) and 1939 (with a nearby café) and construction drawings in 1940. Another scheme for the northern end of the Park combined a kiosk and music shell, while detailed drawings for a shell were prepared in 1945. A temporary music platform was designed during the 1950s, to be located in part of the Sandringham Gardens.

Music shells were proposed for other parts of Sydney as well. Plans and reports were prepared for two in Wynyard Park during 1941 and during the post-war period, and another was proposed for Fitzroy Gardens around 1960. Perhaps the most extraordinary scheme was "the largest all plywood music shell ever built ... claimed to have better acoustics than the famous Hollywood Bowl", which was apparently erected at the E S Marks oval in 1956 or early 1957. It was, however, designed by plywood designer and fabricator Ralph Symonds.⁷⁹



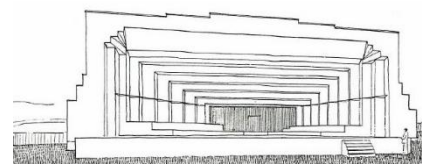
52 Bandshell proposed for Fitzroy Gardens (above) and temporary bandshell proposed for Hyde Park (below). Source: CSA Unique ID A-A-00545934 and A-00545662

⁷⁹ *Building, Lighting and Engineering*, 24 April 1958, p.57; "Advances in Plywood Utilisation", *The Australian Timber Journal*, May 1957, p.50.



54 Sketch of proposed café and music shell with attached clock tower in the south-western corner of Hyde Park North, 1939.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00545376



53 Plywood music shell constructed at the E S Marks oval, 1956. It was designed by plywood designer and manufacturer Ralph Symonds.

Source: *Building, Lighting and Engineering*, May 1957.

List of music shells designed by or under Smillie

- Band Stand/Music Shell and Café at Hyde Park, Sydney, 1937-1945 (various schemes)
- Wynyard Park Bandstand 1941.
- Music Shell at Fitzroy Gardens, 1960.

Draughts players shelters

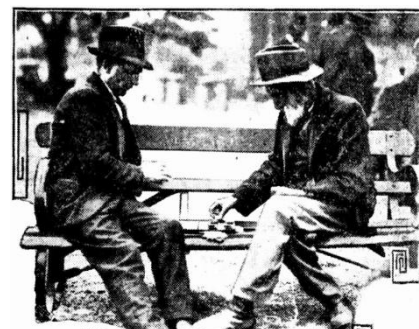
Public parks provided much needed recreational space during the interwar years. Amongst the activities that took place in them were games of draughts, which enjoyed great popularity during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and chess. In the mid-1920s draughts was described as “Hyde Park’s favourite sport”.⁸⁰ However, these informal games were not without their problems, as was reported in the middle of 1935:

In the city parks, especially Hyde Park and Belmore Park, groups of men, mostly in the evening of their lives, play draughts. They while away the hours of sunshine, with the boards balanced on their knees or placed between players on their seats. Their friends gather round, waiting their turns at the boards, occasionally giving advice or uttering friendly criticism of the moves.

They are, in the main, happy little reunions, which are invaluable in filling hours that would be empty and idle. The authorities regard these unofficial draughts tournaments with a benevolent eye. They fulfil a useful purpose; yet at the same time, there is an aspect which causes the authorities concern.

The city engineer (Mr Garnsey) reported yesterday to the health committee of the City Council ...that the draughts players monopolised the park seats, and the men watching the players caused damage to the grass, principally by shuffling their feet. He therefore proposed that a special area in Belmore Park should be set aside for the playing of draughts. This area would be provided with seven tables and seats and would be paved in order that players and spectators would not damage the grass. ...

The committee adopted the proposal and recommended it to the council.⁸¹



55 Playing draughts in Hyde Park before the advent of shelters.

Source: *Sunday Times*, 21 March 1926, p.20.



56 Playing draughts in Hyde Park South, circa 1950.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00014601

80 “Hyde Park’s Favourite Sport”, *Sunday Times*, 21 March 1926, p.20.

81 “Draughts in the Parks. Special Area for Players”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 June 1935, p.9.

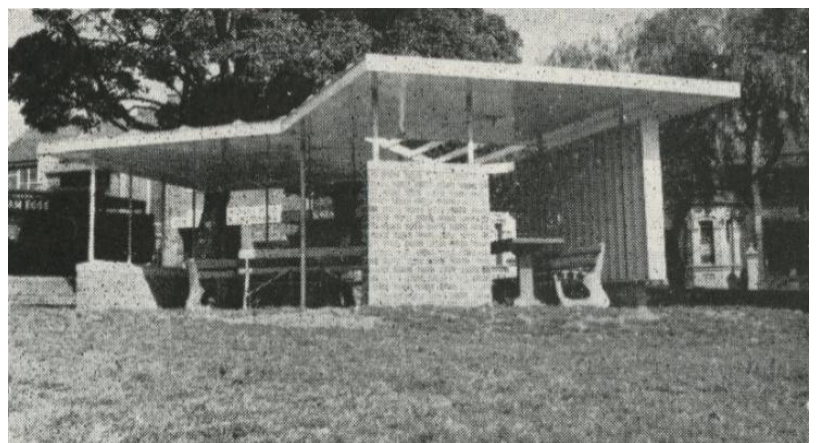
Concrete tables, with three boards per table, were designed by city staff and installed in 1936. One table in Hyde Park South was protected from rain and heat by an elegant shelter. Lighting was subsequently installed to enable people to play draughts and chess at night.

Construction of the shelters continued after World War II and numerous parks and rest areas were selected to become sites for them. Shelters were documented for Moore Park and Hyde Park between 1947 and 1949. Most were constructed during the 1950s. These were generally simple brick structures, open on two sides; the two enclosing walls often featured extensive areas of glazing. Flat roofs were supported off slender steel pipe columns. Perhaps the most audacious shelter was amongst the last to be constructed. The shelter in Waterloo Park near the intersection of McEvoy and Elizabeth Streets, which was documented in 1958, consists of a thin continuous reinforced concrete structure forming the floor, rear wall and roof.

Almost all the draughts shelters constructed by the City Council are understood to have been demolished. The shelter in Waterloo Park remains but has deteriorated and is not in good condition. An echo of these little structures is to be found in Hyde Park, where a chess garden with a giant chess board was constructed to a design by Ilmar Berzins in 1972 (refer to Section 4.6 below).



57 Draughts players shelter at Millers Point (since demolished).

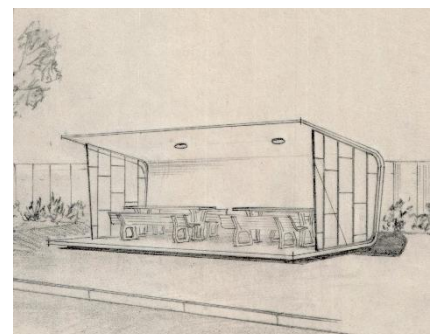


58 A simple draughts shelter constructed in Fitzroy Gardens (left) and a rather more elaborate structure in Camperdown Park (right). Both have been demolished.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00012101; *Cross-section* No. 36, October 1955.

List of draughts shelters designed by or under Smillie

- Hyde Park South, circa 1936
- Fitzroy Gardens, Potts Point, 1957.
- Moore Park, 1947.
- Victoria Park, Broadway, n1957.
- Camperdown Park, 1955.
- Oxford Street, Paddington 1955
- Prince Alfred Park.
- Rushcutters Bay Park.
- Argyle Street, Millers Point.
- Shannon Reserve, Crown Street, Surry Hills.
- Waterloo Park, 1958. Extant.
- Kensington Street Rest Area, Waterloo, 1958.

Other recreational items



59 Perspective study of the draughts shelter in Waterloo Park, 1958.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00545897.

List of other recreational items designed by or under Smillie

- Circular Quay handrailing to promenade, 1939. These remain in place.
- Proposed park at Circular Quay, 1939.
- Drinking fountain at Fitzroy Gardens, 1940.
- Lord Mayors patriotic fund recreation building in Hyde Park 1940.
- Temporary recreation building for servicemen in Hyde Park, 1940.
- Open air café, Hyde Park South, 1961.
- Refreshment stall at Moore Park Golf Links, 1939.
- Caretaker's Cottage at Rushcutters Bay Park, 1938-1940.
- Caretaker's Cottage at Trumper Park, n.d.
- Information Bureau, Martin Place, 1956 (since demolished).



60 The stylish Modernist Information Bureau at the eastern end of Martin Place, constructed just prior to the Melbourne Olympic Games in 1956.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-A-00008839.

Shelters

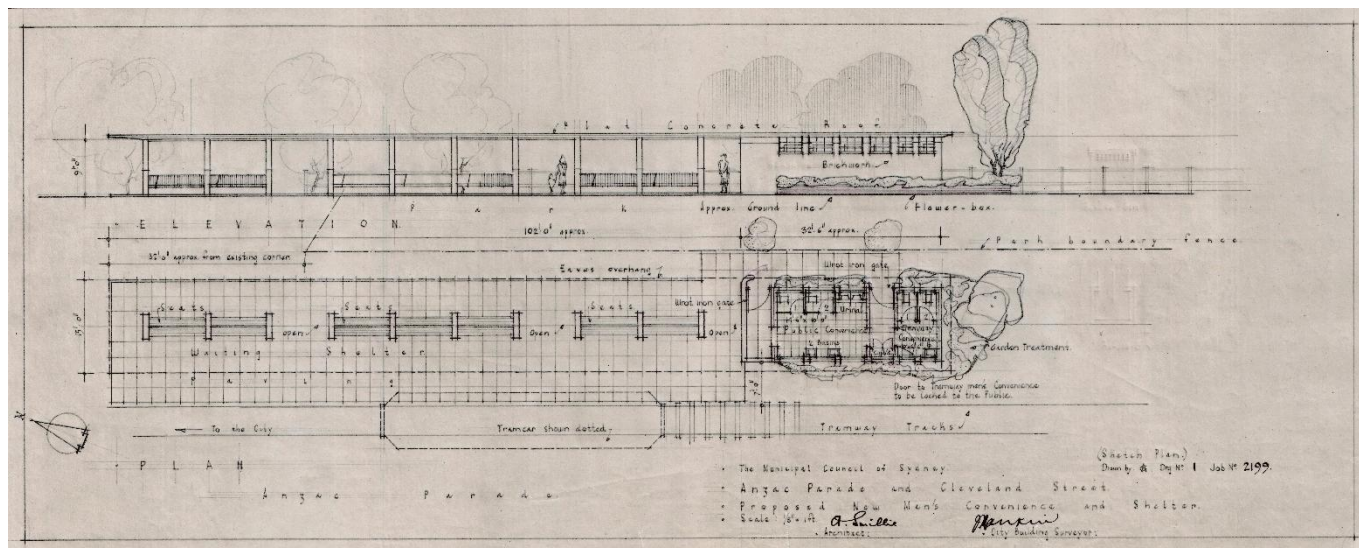
On occasion the City Architect was required to document shelters for those waiting to take public transport or for a taxi, or as protected seating adjacent to busy thoroughfares. Amongst the earliest were substantial brick structures with reinforced concrete hoods to be installed on the western side of Wynyard Park, which were designed during 1943. It is not known if these were constructed. Shelters designed and constructed during the 1950s and later were lightweight structures with steel pipe framing supporting metal or bituminous roofs.

- Bus shelters at Wynyard Park, 1943.
- Public Shelter, King Street, Newtown n.d.
- Bus shelter, Sir John Young Crescent, Woolloomooloo.
- Bus shelters, Elizabeth Street, Sydney.
- Tram shelter combined with men's convenience at the intersection of Anzac Parade and Cleveland Street.
- Taxi rank shelters, St James Road, Sydney.



61 Taxi shelters at St James Road, Sydney, September 1962.

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00045647



62 Proposed tram shelter and men's convenience at the intersection of Anzac
Parade and Cleveland Street, n.d.
Source: CSA City Architect's project no 2199

Council depots

Council depots were an essential part of the effective management, maintenance, cleaning and operation of facilities and parks under its jurisdiction. The City Architect's office documented numerous depots and associated buildings, which tended to be functional and pragmatic buildings with little architectural pretention.

List of depots designed by or under Smillie

- Parks depot and tennis shelter shed, William St Alexandria, 1955.
- Park staff building, Hyde Park South, 1952
- Amenities building for City Council Inspectors, Moore Park, n.d.
- Parks depot, Jubilee Oval, Glebe, n.d.
- Phillip Park Cleansing Depot, n.d. (c1942)
- Tool shed and mess room, Prince Alfred Park, n.d.
- Storage Building at Parks Depot, Ashmore St Alexandria, n.d.
- Alterations to Forsyth St Depot Glebe, c1952.
- District Engineering Depot, Gerard Street, Alexandria, n.d.
- Additions to Parks Depot Building, Alexandria Park, n.d.
- Cleansing Depot and Amenities Block, Bourke St Waterloo, 1959.
- Construction and maintenance depot, Bourke Street Surry Hills, n.d.
- Glass house at Bay Street Nursery, 1936.
- Buildings for Vehicle Housing and Properties Department, n.d.
- Cleansing Depot at Council St, Newtown, n.d.
- Extensions to Cleansing Depot, Pier and Harbour Streets, n.d.
- Hollis Park Park Depot Newtown, 1955.
- Parks Depot and Workshop, Gibbons St Redfern, 1955.
- Parks Depot at Oatley Road, Paddington, 1960.
- Alterations to Old Still Building, Wattle St Depot, 1937.
- Office and Amenities Building, Wattle St Depot, n.d.
- Weighbridge, wattle St Depot, 1938.
- Woolloomooloo Depot amenities block, 1957.
- Alterations and additions to Parks Depot, York Street, 1958.
- Moore Park depot alterations and additions (to old building), n.d.
- Moore Park depot (new), n.d.



64 Wattle Street Depot, 1953.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00029692.

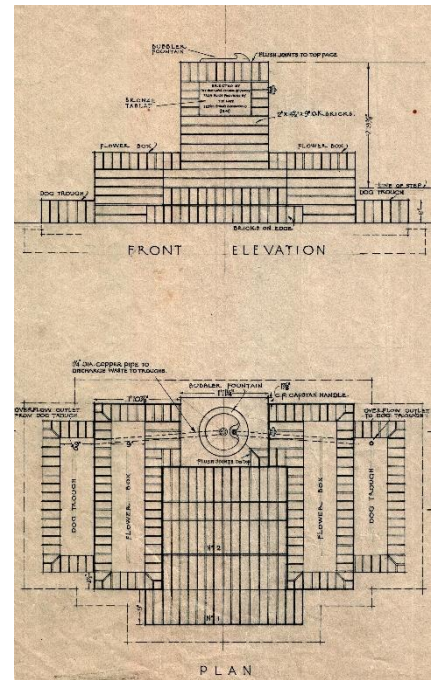
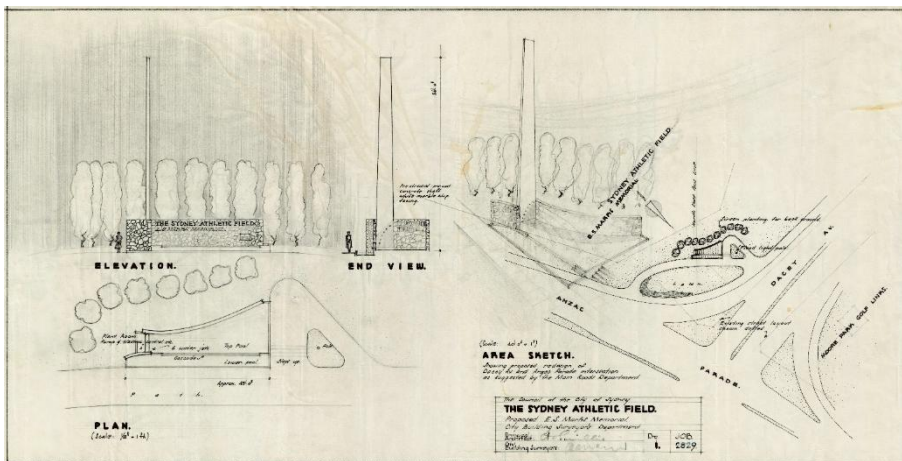


63 Depot in Hyde Park, 1960s.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00014603

Ephemeral items

Ephemeral items attributable to Smillie or documented under his jurisdiction included a wide and diverse range of items. These ranged from commemorative plaques and structures to drinking fountains, playground equipment and lettering on buildings:

- Decorations for civic buildings during commemorative or celebratory occasions.
- New granite facing to the base of the Archibald Fountain in Hyde Park.
- Commemorative plaques and honour rolls.
- Layout and design of lettering to be placed on building facades.
- Playground see-saws.
- Park by-law standards.
- Fruit barrows.
- Flower sales stands.
- Drinking fountains.
- Memorial gates and memorial to ES Marks Athletic Field, Moore Park, n.d.
- Drinking fountain and dog trough at Moore Park, 1941



65 Proposed drinking fountain and dog trough at Moore Park, 1941.
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00545426.

66 Proposed Ernest Samuel Marks Memorial Gates at the Sydney Athletic Field, Moore Park, 1959
Source: CSA Unique ID A-00545911.

4 Ilmar Berzins

4.1 Introduction

In 1936 the City Council embarked on a program of tree planting, which continued up to World War II. Trees were planted in Bridge and York Streets, Sydney, Potts Point, Camperdown, Woolloomooloo and various parks. Shortly after the end of World War II Arnold Garnsey announced planned improvements to Sydney's parks and streets. Approved schemes for "remodelled parks" included beautification of Prince Alfred Park near Central Station, redesigning and replanting Camperdown Park, improvements to Victoria Park and beautification of Moore Park. In addition to this, in coming years "thousands of trees" were to be planted in city streets and residential sections of the city. The works would be directed by City Parks Superintendent A E Bruce, who apparently had directed Canberra's tree planting scheme.⁸²

Following Bruce's resignation in 1948, Clarence (Clarrie) Garth (1904-1981), a registered architect who had worked in the Architects Branch assumed the role of Superintendent of Sydney Parks and Gardens. Several draftsmen, horticulturalists and technicians were engaged between 1949 and 1951. None of the original senior officers were landscape architects but some had architectural training.⁸³

Garth and Principal Assistant Architect, C G Mitchell are understood to have visited the United States of America and Canada to investigate and report upon matters relating to parks and recreation during the second half of the 1950s.

4.2 Biographical information

Ilmar Berzins was born in Latvia in 1921.⁸⁴ He studied horticulture at the State Horticultural College in Riga, Latvia and landscape architecture at Hanover's the State Horticultural College and University of Technology in Hanover, Germany. He, along with his wife Lucija (aka Sylvia?) and son Alnis arrived in Melbourne on the Greek ocean liner *Nea Hellas* on 23 February 1949. The family had been living at the displacement persons' resettlement camp at Bremen in Germany, before travelling to Australia via Genoa in Italy.

Migration records record their destination as Mr L Sampson of "Hazelhome" in Orange, NSW.⁸⁵ Lionel Sampson Berzins moved with his family to Orange. He worked in the Email Ltd whitegoods factory so that he could pay off the two-year bond for the fares to Australia. During this time Berzins prepared a master plan and nominated plantings for the Orange Golf Course:

Something between two and three thousand trees and shrubs have been planted since 1949 – pines, elms, magnolias, chestnuts, crab-apples, flowering cherries and prunuses, rhododendrons, berry-bushes, viburnums, azaleas and a multitude of others.



67 Circa 1949 photograph of Ilmar Berzins included in immigration records..
Source: National Archives of Australia Series A2571 ID 203663834.

82 "Sydney street, park beautification plan", *Daily Telegraph*, 18 November 1945, p.10. Bruce was Parks and Gardens Superintendent in Canberra during the 1920s and 1930s. Bruce joined the City Council in 1937 and retired from it in 1949.

83 Warwick Mayne-Wilson, Draft Heritage Study and Review of Proposed Landscape Master Plan of the McElhone Reserve, no pagination.

84 His name appears as Ilmars Berzins on immigration records held at the National Archives of Australia.

85 National Archives of Australia Series A2571, ID 203663834

The plantings have been carried out under the supervision of Elmar [sic] Berzins, who has had wide European experience in landscape-planning.⁸⁶

Ilmar Berzins and his family moved to Sydney in 1951. Berzins started working at Sydney Municipal Council on 13 June 1951 as a first-grade draftsman. His recruitment by the Council is widely said to be the first employment of a formally trained landscape architect in Australia. According to pioneering landscape architect Allan Corry,

*... he brought Modernist European design styles to a city desperately seeking innovative civic design ideas. Berzins was given many opportunities to create new community spaces and redesign existing parks. He developed a distinctive style that incorporated free-form shapes. Sandstone book-leaf walling, naturally sculpted boulders, water-worn pebbles, and strongly contrasting plant forms and textures, all artistically arranged to form pleasing compositions, a marked contrast to the traditional council designs of that time. His most important designs were completed during the 1950s and 1960s ...*⁸⁷

In 1953 Ilmar Berzins was promoted to senior draftsman. He and his wife Lucija became naturalised citizens in April 1958.⁸⁸ As time passed his abilities were recognised by the City Council and he was promoted to supervising draftsman in 1964, followed by assistant landscape architect in 1966. During 1966 Berzins was one of the founding members of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects. He was promoted to chief technical officer in 1971, followed in 1984 by promotion to Director of Parks and Gardens. In this role he would advise external consultants on major urban projects. Berzins retired in 1986 and died in October 1993 at the age of 72.

Ilmar Berzins was described by his colleague John Sweeney as “very flamboyant, probably one of the best draughtsmen and most knowledgeable person associated with horticulture that I'd encountered”.⁸⁹ According to landscape architect and urban designer Tempe McGowan, “[Berzins] held the passionate belief that all people need to enjoy nature and that nature in turn can ameliorate the human temperament. ... His designs were socially responsive and typical of trends in international, modernist design culture in the way he created little arcadian retreats in the city wilderness.”⁹⁰

Berzins' abilities were suited to the task, for he had the unwavering aim of introducing nature into the city and he instigated very liberal planting programs. His aesthetic was not related to Australian indigenous landscapes, instead introducing a European sensibility to the thoughtful design of public open spaces in Sydney, detailing his landscape designs in a way that was unprecedented in public works. Over the many years which his career spanned, Berzins gradually utilised more Australian natives and applied the principles of the Sydney Bush School of landscape architecture.

4.3 Critical appreciation of Berzins' work

Ilmar Berzins' work has been the focus of commentary from several authors, sharing their insights into his work.

86 “Golf and Blossom”, *The Bulletin*, 21 October 1953, p.4.

87 Allan Correy, “Berzins, Ilmars” in Richard Aitken and Michael Looker (editors), *Oxford Companion to Australia Gardens* (Oxford University Press in association with the Australian Garden History Society, 2002), p.87.

88 Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, ‘Certificates of Naturalization,’ Thursday 24 Apr 1958 [Issue No.23], Page 1261.

89 John Sweeney, Interviewed by Jo Kijas on 8 May 2012 (City of Sydney oral history collection), quoted in biography of Ilmars Berzins provided by the City of Sydney.

90 Tempe McGowan, ‘Humanising the City’, *Monument*, Issue No. 25, 1998, p.58.

In a short appreciation of his work, landscape architect and writer Tempe McGowan considered that “Berzins’ socially responsive designs provide an alternative model for [and in favour of] small-scale interventions in the public domain”:

He held the passionate belief that all people need to enjoy nature and that nature, in turn, can ameliorate the human temperament. His strategy was to create gardens and introduce tree-planting programmes defining council boundaries with poplar trees and trying out diverse species of trees – all of this long before the ecological/environmental movement got into full swing in the 1960s/70s.

His garden designs may appear “un-Australian” for that period. In post-World War II Australia, while public swimming pools and ovals were being built into Victorian era parks, Berzins was crafting nature into clear, articulated places. His designs were socially responsive and typical of trends in international, modernist design culture in the way he created little arcadian retreats in the city wilderness.⁹¹

McGowan wrote that Berzins’ drawings of “outdoor rooms” appear as “virtual gardens” His public gardens are experienced as lyric retreats with layers of subtlety that contrast with the austerity of the architecture of the time”. Referring specifically to the McElhone Reserve, McGowan commented that “against the high density massing of tall apartment buildings . . . the design provides a quiet, green refuge and an opportunity to feel and touch grass, watch carp in the pools, and look out across the most beautiful harbour in the world . . . These creations are enclosures with overlays of contemplative or reflective elements – water, diverse plant species, flowers, intricate walling or paving – woven together”.⁹²

Heritage landscape consultants Warwick Mayne Wilson’s Draft Heritage Study and Review of Proposed Landscape Master Plan of the McElhone Reserve (February 2001) cites landscape architect Leonard Lynch:

Landscape architect Leonard Lynch has provided another perspective. According to Lynch, Berzins was influenced by the landscape style of Christopher Tunnard, a Canadian-born landscape architect who lectured at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design in the late 1930s and 1940s and was author of the seminal work Gardens in the Modern Landscape, published in 1938. According to Peter Walker

‘Tunnard was sympathetic to many of the ideals of Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius and other European modernists . . . but what distinguished him from his modernist colleagues was a pragmatic, unsentimental interest in historic gardens and landscapes and his appreciation of the qualities of order, unified composition, and artistic expression in great gardens of any era and culture. He also believed in the sort of progress – artistic, scientific, technological, and social – that was based on an understanding of both past achievements and present opportunities. Even centuries-old historic landscapes could be preserved nearly intact and intensively developed.’

*Coming from Riga, Berzins would have been particularly attuned to Tunnard’s approach. It was certainly one which he applied to the Reserve in front of Elizabeth Bay House.*⁹³

91 McGowan, p.58

92 McGowan, p.58.

93 Mayne-Wilson, no pagination. The Peter Walker citation comes from P Walker and M Simo, *Invisible Gardens - the Search for Modernism in the American Landscape* (MIT Press, 1994).

While agreeing that Berzins had introduced a new style, Lynch described its trademark characteristics as “whimsical gardenesque”, with “amoebic shapes” and “bookleaf sandstone walls” to protect vegetative edges. Professor James Weirick has remarked on the influence of Lutyens and Jekyll in Berzins’ reliance on an underlying architectural layout (also a strong modernist approach), with the use of raised beds, built of bookleaf sandstone, but with soft planting overspilling them. Both Lynch and Weirick noted that during the 1950s, Sydney City Council had a lot of highly qualified stone masons, who had a high involvement in the actual execution of landscape works and were given a fairly free hand to decide on finishes.

4.4 Immigrant landscape designers

The expansive postwar immigration program resulted in the direct transfer of European and American garden design knowledge as new immigrants joined Australian designers and influenced practice. They were often employed initially as draftspersons usually because of language or regulatory barriers, even though state-of-the-art training offered in early 20th-century Europe often afforded a broad range of competencies such as structural detailing, pushing the boundaries of design beyond what someone who only specialised in plants might have achieved.

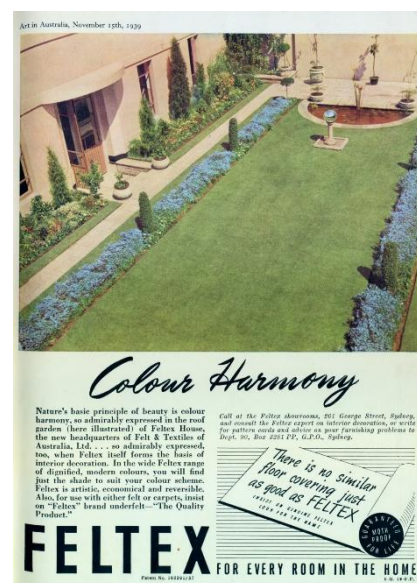
Ilmar Berzins was one of a small number of trained migrants who are noted to have made a significant impact on landscape design in Australia. He was one of the first qualified landscape architects to be employed in local government in Australia when he took up a position with the Sydney City Council’s Parks and Gardens Division in 1951. Amongst the earliest was horticulturalist Paul Sorensen (1891-1983), who was trained in France, Germany and Switzerland. He migrated from Denmark in 1914 and became established in the Blue Mountains around 1917. He is best known for the garden at Everglades at Leura, commissioned by Henri Van de Velde (1936), managing director of Felt and Textiles of Australia Ltd (Feltex). Sorensen built over 100 gardens, amongst the best-known of which are those at Invergowrie at Exeter in the Southern Highlands (1936) and Gleniffer Brae at Keiraville (1939) for Cecil Hoskins and the innovative rooftop garden at Feltex House in George Street, Sydney (1939).

Some decades later Viennese trained botanist Erwin Gauba arrived in Australia in 1941 and Czechoslovakian landscape draftsman Otakar Ruzika arrived in Australia in 1949. Both worked in Canberra during the 1950s and 1960s in the City Parks and Gardens Department headed by the noted Australian botanist Lindsay Pryor between 1944 and 1958. Ruzika is known for his landscape design at the Australian National University’s University House, the Australian National Botanic Gardens, the Lodge and public gardens across Canberra.⁹⁴

4.5 Evolution of landscape design

The time from 1951 to 1986 encompassed a period of substantial change in the evolving design and implementation of open space in Sydney. In the immediate post war period, park design followed the established characteristics of open lawn areas with feature exotic trees, ornamental garden beds, seating and public amenities. Berzins would have been aware of overall park and garden design and his internship at Orange prior to commencing with City Council demonstrated his knowledge of plant material.

Many of the public parks had the provision of a children’s play area that generally consisted of swings, sandbox and later climbing structures (for example, in the 1960s



68 The roof garden at Feltex House featured in this Feltex advertisement that was published in *Art in Australia*, 15 November 1939.

⁹⁴ Janie Gillespie, “Transplanting ideas: how migrants shaped the Australian garden” in Roger Butler (editor), *The Europeans: Émigré artists in Australia 1930-1960* (National Gallery of Australia, 1997), pp.180-189

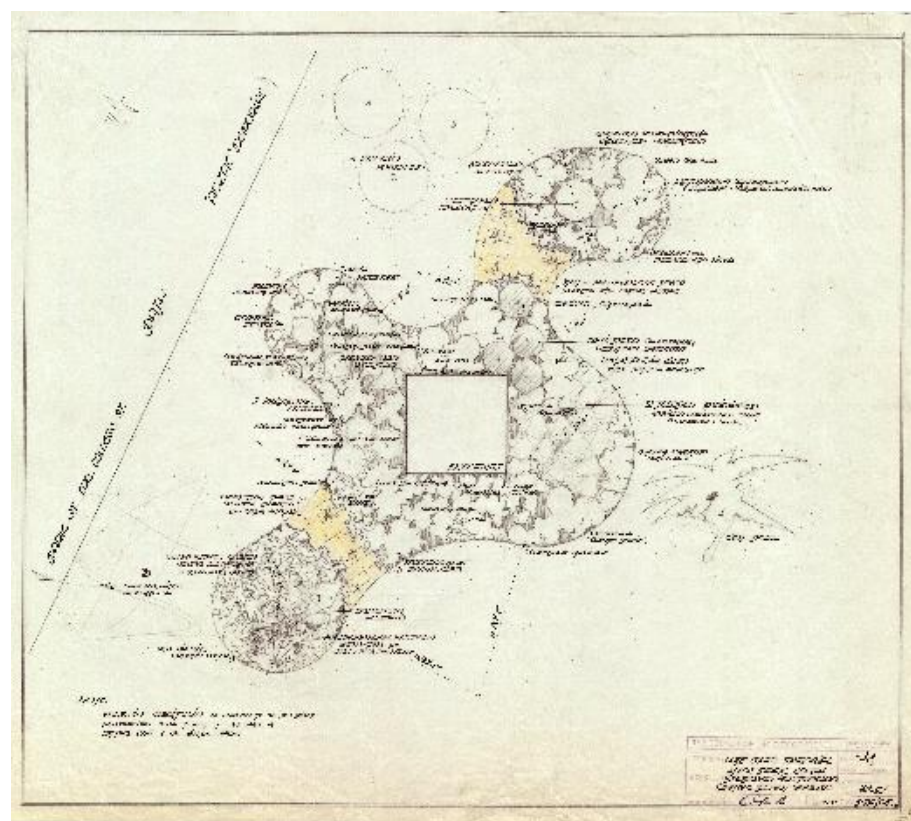
sometimes in the shape of rockets that responded to the vogue of space travel). Design and implementation of many parks would have been under the administration of qualified horticulturists and park supervisors where their background in horticulture, turf and tree management gave them a practical base for the administration of open space areas. Horticultural outcomes varied with specimen trees in the main being exotic and the use of flower beds gradually declining as costs to maintain these features became more expensive.

The rise of the environmental movement from the late 1950s and developing in the 1960s brought a new level of awareness of ecological concerns and the effect on the environment generally. Publications such as *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson and an awareness of the effect of contemporary development on natural systems became more prevalent. This concern was expressed in the evolution in the architecture of what became known as the Sydney School where natural materials were used and an awareness of the retention of existing natural bush was pursued. One of the outcomes of this greater consciousness was the establishment of the School of Landscape Architecture at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in 1974. The school was established under Professor Peter Spooner, an architect and landscape architect, who was influenced by Myles Dunphy amongst others in the benefits of bush walking in the Sydney region. Other staff included Finn Thorvaldsen, Donald Sigsby who had gained experience in the United States brought a level of broader application of landscape design through the writings of Ian McHarg, *Design with Nature* (1969) profoundly influenced the profession.

It should be noted, however, that during the 1950s Berzins provided alternative schemes utilising exotic and Australian planting. An example of this was the planting at Anzac House in College Street (1957). Australian plants were suggested around the base of the Captain Cook statue in Hyde Park (1959) and native trees were proposed for a park in Young Lane, Redfern (1954).



69 Landscaping by Otakar Ruzika in the central courtyard of University House at the Australian National University, photographed in 1959. Source: National Library of Australia PIC Box PIC/8974 #PIC/8974/3



70 Drawing signed by Ilmar Berzins describing a scheme of Australian plants around the base of the Captain Cook statue in Hyde Park. The drawing is dated 31 August 1959. Source: CSA Unique ID A-00493867

Berzins designs evolved with the changes in architectural and urban design. The use of Australian native plants and trees increased, and the greening cities movement resulted in extensive street plantings of native trees, particularly in the inner suburbs of Sydney and marked a change in the way cities were viewed and appreciated. The Green Ban movement of the 1970s helped to increase environmental awareness with Kelly's Bush in Hunters Hill being the first "Green Ban" in 1971. Graduates of the Landscape Architecture course at UNSW were starting to be employed by local suburban councils and the City of Sydney. Their training reflected the changes to attitudes to open space design, with a more contemporary public domain awareness and robust outcomes for a growing city. Raised planter boxes, brick paving, integrated seating and use of Australian natives (not all of local NSW origin) established a design approach that Berzins adopted while having a keen appreciation of the evolving needs and requirements for open space in the City of Sydney.

4.6 Projects

Parks

The City of Sydney was responsible for parks several decades before Ilmar Berzins entered its employ. The Sydney Corporation (City of Sydney) was made trustees of Moore Park in 1866. Several decades on, Beare Park at Elizabeth Bay, consisting of land reclaimed by the Council plus adjacent land reserved in a private subdivision, was conveyed to Council in trust during 1901, subsequently declared a public park and Council made a trustee in 1912. During the first decade of the twentieth century, the City Council assumed responsibility for several more parks following amendments to Acts of the NSW Parliament: Hyde, Cook and Phillip Parks (1904); Belmore and Observatory Parks and Dawes Point Reserve (1908) and Victoria and Rushcutters Bay Parks (1910).⁹⁵

Planning and parks were included in the Engineer's Department remit following the Commissioners' reorganisation during the 1920s.⁹⁶ Following the release of Arnold Garnsey's report to Council in 1947, its adoption led to the creation of a dedicated Parks and Receptions Department in 1948. architect Clary Garth was appointed to head up the new Department and he oversaw the appointment of 'several draftsmen, horticulturalists and technicians between 1949 and 1951. None of the original senior officers were landscape architects, but some had had architectural training. The arrival of Berzins in 1951 brought with it a new level of professional expertise.

One of Berzins' most highly regarded works was amongst his earliest at the City of Sydney. This was the Arthur McElhone Reserve at Elizabeth Bay. The land was purchased by Council in 1949 in response to public pressure to retain it as a park. Initial plans were prepared in 1950 but refined and developed by Ilmar Berzins. The design of the Reserve provided open space that was sensitive to the immediate presence of Elizabeth Bay House while providing amenity that provided a clear sense of design detail (sandstone bridge, water feature, garden beds, plantings). These details reflected contemporary design trends while providing a distinctive and memorable outcome. Assisting Berzins were established and expert stonemasons that realised his design. The Reserve has been described by Tempe McGowan as

Cleverly squeezed into a rocky traffic island between the meandering streets of Elizabeth Bay with its high density massing of tall apartment buildings. ... the



71 Ilmar Berzins on site during the construction of the Arthur McElhone Reserve, circa 1953.
Source: reproduced in State Heritage Register nomination for Elizabeth Bay House and Landscape Setting (Arthur McElhone Reserve).

⁹⁵ Fitzgerald, p.131; Warwick Mayne-Wilson, *Town Parks of New South Wales: past, present and future* (self-published, 2013), p.21

⁹⁶ Fitzgerald, p.182.

*design provides a quiet, green refuge and an opportunity to feel and touch grass, watch carp in the pools and look out across the most beautiful harbour in the world. The planting has lost some of its diversity but retains its original structure variety and mix of native and exotic species that form layers hinting at the underlying rock formation.*⁹⁷

The Arthur McElhone Reserve has also been cited as a significant example of the “European modern garden” approach taken by European émigré designers to landscape design in Australia, at the same time “being intrigued with the relatively exotic landscapes of a new land.” It is as “a refined landscape of walls, paths, water and lawn.”⁹⁸

List of park schemes designed by or under Berzins:

- Rest Park and children’s playground, Hereford Street and Wigram Lane, Glebe, 1960.
- Rest Park and children’s playground, Young Lane, Redfern, 1954.
- Children’s playground, Vine and Hugo Streets, Redfern, 1952.
- Children’s playground, Kepos and Zamia Streets, Redfern, 1952.
- Children’s playground, James Cahill Kindergarten Waterloo, 1955.
- Remodeling of Lake, Victoria Park, 1953.
- McElhone Reserve including rock gardens and rock pools, Billyard Avenue and Onslow Avenue, Elizabeth Bay, 1951-1952.
- Sports area and rest park, Perry Park, Alexandria, 1956.
- Remodeling of Macleay Reserve, 1974.
- Improvements to Fitzroy Gardens, Kings Cross, 1968.
- Centre rest park, Devonshire Street Housing Project, Surry Hills, 1954.
- Planting scheme (Autumn 1966), Wynyard Park, 1966.

Gardens

In addition to the design and remodelling of whole parks and reserves, Berzins and his team also designed smaller and more restrained garden schemes within larger open spaces or developments. These included small specialty gardens within Phillip and Hyde Parks, as well as gardens for council infrastructure including baby health centres, pools and council housing.

Berzins was responsible for several projects in Hyde Park. Sandringham Gardens, in the south-eastern corner of the northern section of Hyde Park, was initiated by the City Council in 1951 to commemorate the impending visit of King George VI and princesses Elizabeth and Margaret to Australia during April 1952. It opened to public November 1952. Following the death of King George VI it was decided to incorporate memorials to him and to King George V into the garden. These included gates designed by architect Henry Epstein and a circular pool with a mosaic floor by sculptor Lyndon Dadswell, necessitating modification to the existing reflecting pool. Sandringham Gardens was officially opened in February 1954 by the Queen during her visit to Australia.

In the 1960s an outdoor cafe was constructed behind (north-east) of Museum Station entry building, by Sydney City Council. The design of cafe and landscaping were both



72 Planting bed bordering the path along one side of the Arthur McElhone Reserve. The detailing of paths and walls is also clearly visible. The photograph was taken during the 1960s. Source: CSA Unique ID A-00013999.



73 Sandringham Gardens as initially conceived, 1952. Source: CSA Unique ID A-00014658



75 Chess garden at the north-western end of Hyde Park. Source: CSA Unique ID A-00026222

⁹⁷ McGowan, p.58.

⁹⁸ Andrew Saniga, “Landscape & infrastructure” in Hannah Lewi and Philip Goad, *Australia Modern: Architecture, landscape & design* (Thames & Hudson, 2019), p.199.

Ilmars Berzins' work.⁹⁹ Ilmar Berzins also designed the chess garden at the north-western end of Hyde Park, installed during 1972.

Another notable project by Berzins was Fitzroy Gardens at Potts Point. The original section of Fitzroy Gardens was a site on Macleay Street earmarked for the construction of the Paradise Theatre, an ambitious entertainment complex. The site was resumed by Council in April 1939 and named Fitzroy Gardens about four months later. A plan signed by Albert Smillie at the time it was resumed showing a playground and freely curved planting around the boundaries of the site. A stone flagged path was constructed in 1941. The Gardens were enlarged by the acquisition of a large mansion called Maramanah in October 1945 and resumption of additional land in March 1954. The Florence Bartley Library, which was completed in 1958 and included a playground in front of the building, formed the northern boundary of the Gardens.

In 1961 the El Alamein Fountain was added to the park, and its distinctive dandelion shape soon became a symbol of Kings Cross. Approval was given for the remodelling of Fitzroy Gardens in September 1970 and work in 1971 included the paving of the park to eliminate the dustbowl created by its large trees, installation of seating and low brick planters defining pedestrian movement across and through the space. The remodelling provided an appropriate setting for the Florence Bartley Library.



76 Fitzroy Gardens in the mid 1980s. The Florence Bartley Library has not yet been demolished. Source: CSA Unique ID A-00014452



77 Ilmar Berzins at the official opening of the upgraded Fitzroy Gardens on 11 June 1971. Berzins is second from the left. Ronald Stringer, Director of Parks, is to Berzins' right. Source: CSA Unique ID A-00012091.

List of gardens designed by or under Berzins:

- Improvements to fencing, walls and garden area at rear of Town Hall, Kent Street, 1964.
- Garden layout for Housing Development, Pyrmont Bridge Road and Lyons Road, 1961.
- Raised gardens at Prince Alfred Park Swimming Pool, 1958.
- Fragrance garden, Phillip Park, 1958-1960.
- Garden layout for Amenities Center for Ages Persons, Ivy and Shepherd Streets Darlington, 1960.
- Landscape treatment to café in Hyde Park South, 1961.
- Australian Native Plant Garden, Hyde Park South, 1959.



78 Fragrance Garden, Phillip Park (since demolished). Source: CSA Unique ID A-00011386.

⁹⁹ State Heritage Register inventory for Hyde Park.

- Sandringham Garden, Hyde Park North, 1954.
- Garden Area, Circular Quay West, 1971.
- Garden layout for Baby Health Centre, Dadley Street Alexandria, 1964.
- Garden layout for Anzac House, College Street, Sydney, 1957.
- Macquarie Place 1976

Streetscape upgrades and pedestrianized public spaces

Berzins' time with the City coincided with a later twentieth century movement toward pedestrianizing previously public spaces or closing sections of road to expand public space. Berzins designed the layout and landscape treatment of a number of such schemes:

List of streetscape upgrades designed by or under Berzins:

- Landscaping to public space in Ulster Street, Paddington, 1974.
- Street closure and landscaping for Springfield Avenue, Kings Cross, 1983.
- Street closure and landscaping for Quarry Street, Ultimo, c1980.
- Streetscape treatment, Macquarie Place and Macquarie Place Park, 1975.

Ornamental and ephemeral structures

Berzins roles in the Parks and Recreation department also afforded him the opportunity to work on ornamental structures such as fountains and cascades in parks, and ephemeral decorations and beautification of spaces for seasonal events. Examples of this type of project include:

List of ornamental and ephemeral structures designed by or under Berzins:

- Fountain, Chelmsford Avenue Entrance, Sydney Showground (for Sydney Trades Fair), 1961.
- Smoke screen vehicle for Pageant at Royal Agricultural Show Showground, 1963.
- Base and water reticulation for 'Porcellino' Fountain, Sydney Hospital, 1968.
- Fountains and water cascades, Phillip Park Fragrance Garden, 1960.
- Water cascades and terraced gardens, Hyde Park South, Liverpool Street Entrance, 1963.
- Waratah Spring Festival layout, Hyde Park North, 1961.
- Design for El Alamein Memorial Fountain (unsuccessful), Kings Cross, n.d.
- Sandstone fountain and bird bath at Beare Park, Elizabeth Bay, 1955.

Sporting facilities

In line with the recreational aspect of the Parks and Recreation department's duties, Berzins oversaw or designed a number of sporting facilities within existing Council assets. These included communal recreation facilities for Council housing projects, and community facilities within public parks.

List of sporting facilities designed by or under Berzins:

- "Par Three" illuminated 9-hole golf course at Moore Park, 1966.
- Bowling Greens and Tennis Courts, Erskineville Housing Settlement, Ashmore Street and Fox Avenue, Erskineville, 1955.
- New oval and general layout, Camperdown Park, 1953.



79 Fountain and bird bath at Beare Park (since removed).

Source: CSA Unique ID A-00034369.

5 Comparative context: other LGAs

This section of the report is intended to provide a comparative context for what was undertaken in the City of Sydney. It is not intended as a comprehensive survey of works undertaken in other local government areas. It includes Melbourne and Brisbane City Councils and local government areas across metropolitan Sydney and other parts of the state.

5.1 City architects

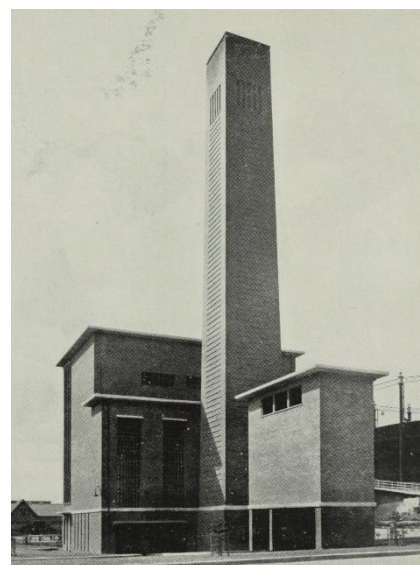
The City of Sydney was not the only NSW council to employ a city architect, although it was apparently the first to do so. The first City Surveyor was appointed in 1847, while the first Architect to be appointed was Alfred Bond, in 1873. In 1881 the two positions were combined and Thomas Sapsford was appointed City Architect and City Building Surveyor.

In Newcastle Frederick Abraham Scorer (1907-1966), who studied architecture at Newcastle and Sydney Technical Colleges, became that city's architect in 1935. He became Chief Architect of the Greater Newcastle Council on its formation in 1938. Scorer's Newcastle Municipal Incinerator won the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Sulman Medal – the first designed by an architect outside of Sydney, the first industrial building and the first to embrace Modernism. Scorer worked for the Commonwealth Department of the Interior from 1943 then after the war worked for Brisbane City Council before setting up his own practice in 1948.¹⁰⁰

At least one smaller local government area is known to have employed an architect. Frank George Dudley Stone (1905-1984) became shire engineer and health inspector for Stroud Shire Council in 1929. He later became its architect and town planner, registering as an architect in 1932. During World War II he was a commissioned officer at Allied Headquarters in Melbourne, then returned to Stroud after the war as Council's Architect, Engineer and Town Planner. In 1948 he was appointed to the Northumberland County Council. In 1958 he established his own practice.¹⁰¹

Henry Edgar Morton (1872-1952) was an assistant building surveyor working for the Melbourne City Council before his appointment to the newly created position of City Architect in June 1907. In this role he supervised all significant building projects of the Melbourne City Council. In October 1915 the Melbourne City Council abolished the positions of City Architect and City Surveyor and amalgamated them into the single position of City Engineer and Building Surveyor. Morton assumed this role. He resigned from the Melbourne City Council at the end of 1927 to take up the position of Commissioner of the City of Sydney (1928-1930) following the dismissal of the incumbent Labor council by the NSW government.

In Brisbane Alfred Herbert Foster (1873-1932), who had worked in England for several years before working for the Queensland Public Works Department, was appointed by Brisbane City Council assistant architect and building surveyor, a newly created post, in 1913. By the last quarter of 1916 he was referred to as City Architect and City Engineer. When the Greater Brisbane Council was formed in 1925, Foster retained his position as City Architect. Foster was granted leave of absence due to ill health in 1931



80 Frederick Scorer's Newcastle Municipal Incinerator. It was demolished in 1989.
Source: *Building*, 24 January 1940.



81 James Birrell's Centenary Swimming Pools at Spring Hill.
Source:
<https://rmitgallery.com/exhibitions/birrell-works-from-the-office-of-james-birrell/>

¹⁰⁰ Les Reedman, *Early Architects of the Hunter Region: a hundred years to 1940* (Boraga Academic, second edition 2010), pp.219-220; Metcalf, p.69.

¹⁰¹ Reedman, pp.232-234.

and died six months later.¹⁰² H A Erwood, chief assistant architect, was appointed City Architect in 1933. One of his successors, James Birrell (1928-2019), designed some exemplary buildings that received considerable national and overseas press. He was Chief Architect from 1955 to 1961 and oversaw an extensive range of public building projects, including libraries, swimming pools, car parks, and public toilet blocks. Many have since been altered or demolished. Amongst the most celebrated are the Wickham Terrace carpark (1958-1961), the Centenary Swimming Pools at Spring Hill (1957-59) and the Toowong Library (1961).

5.2 Baby health centres

Purpose-designed baby health centres in Australia were built from the 1920s onwards. In regional NSW the assistance of the Country Women's Association (CWA) allowed baby health centres to open in country towns. They were financed by the State government up to 1930, at which time there were 79 across the state. Funding then passed from state to local level, although the state provided staff. The CWA were building baby health centres as well, sometimes in collaboration with a local council.

By 1941 baby health centres were administered by the Division of Maternal and Baby Welfare for the Department of Public Health. According to NSW Health,

In 1942, a new interest developed from local government authorities in the establishment and improvement of baby health centres in their districts. This led to the preparation of lists and schedules setting forth the standard requirements for the premises of baby health centres including the appropriate equipment, maintenance and condition of the centres, the local responsibility, if any, and any other relevant data.¹⁰³

The baby health centre at Concord, opened in October 1943, was said to be "the first in the metropolitan area built to a special design for the Health Department by a municipal council."¹⁰⁴ It was the first to demonstrate these new requirements. The building was designed by architect R Lindsay Little (who also designed the baby health centre at Glebe, since demolished), it became the model for subsequent baby health centres. The Concord Council built and appointed the Centre, without any financial aid from the government.¹⁰⁵

The Commonwealth government published detailed guidelines in 1944, noting that the welfare of mothers as well as infants needed to be considered. There were a number of standard requirements - a waiting room for mothers, babies and toddlers; a room for every nurse at the establishment for consulting with the mother and weighing of the baby; a test-feeding room for instruction in breast-feeding; a kitchenette for sterilising equipment; a nurses change room; and if possible, a doctor's room. The bungalow-like Centre at Concord was presented as a paradigm. Towards the end of World War II, the NSW government began to contribute half of the costs associated with building the centres.

Communities and community groups staged a variety of fund-raising events such as reviews, balls, card nights and mannequin parades while local councils could hold



82 Weighing a baby at a baby health centre, circa 1936.

Source: SLNSW Home and Away – 3915, Sam Hood photograph.



83 The baby health centre at Concord.

Source: Roy Lumby photograph.



84 The baby health centre at Earlwood.

Source: Roy Lumby photographs.

¹⁰² "Mr A H Foster", *The Brisbane Courier*, 24 March 1932, p.15: "Personal", *Daily Standard*, 25 September 1916, p.6.

¹⁰³ Various authors, *Our Babies: the States Best Asset. A history of 100 years of child and family health services in NSW*, p.66.

¹⁰⁴ "New Baby Clinic", *Sun*, 17 October 1943, p.8.

¹⁰⁵ "Concord Baby Health Centre" at <https://canadabayheritage.asn.au/concord-baby-health-centre/>, accessed 9 August 2023.

money in trust and invest it. Some were built as war memorials. In at least one case several groups were involved. In 1951 the centre at Blackheath was opened, a collaborative effort between Rotary, the Country Women's Association, Department of Health and the local community.

A series of delightful Modernist pavilions was built during the 1950s. A respectable number were designed by the architectural firm of Davey & Brindley, which amongst others designed six baby health centres for Canterbury Council:

- Lakemba, officially opened on 22 November 1947.
- Punchbowl, opened 28 February 1948.
- Earlwood, completed circa 1951.
- Belmore, circa 1951, and Hurlstone Park, circa 1952, both of which have been demolished.
- Campsie, officially opened on 10 December 1954.

The buildings at Lakemba, Earlwood and Belmore are significant because they did double-duty to the community, incorporating both baby health centre and local library. Construction of baby health centres across the state continued during the second half of the 1950s and the 1960s.

5.3 Kindergartens and playgrounds

In 1936 the National Health and Medical Research Council was formed to advise on research proposals for health-related topics. In 1937 a motion calling for a review of children's health was passed. It led to the establishment of a model demonstration centre in each of the state capitals and gave an institutional form to preschool education. Lady Gowrie Centres, named after the wife of the Governor-General, were established in State capitals. In Sydney one was built close to the Erskineville public housing scheme. The Centres became an influential model and marked shifts in attitude from developmental aid for disadvantaged children to one aiding the psychological and social growth of all children: "What had begun in the early years of the 20th century as a tool for urban social reform aimed at the working class, through national government initiative became a model admired, envied and desired by the middle class."¹⁰⁶

By the 1960s pre-school kindergartens were becoming a ubiquitous feature of early childhood, an accompaniment to rapid population growth in the post-war era. However, it is not clear how many were financed by the community or, apart from the City of Sydney, how many were funded by local councils. Ryde Council began planning to construct pre-school kindergartens in the mid-1940s. The first was at Eastwood, completed in 1948. Some funding came from the NSW. The Kindergarten Union was one recipient.

Regardless of where funding 88 Collard Clarke & Jackson's 'garden buildings
were designed by prominent Eleanor Cullis-Hill
designed two kindergartens f i, at Turramurra
and at Wahroonga.¹⁰⁷ The lat ind hall and was
entered for the prestigious In 56.
An informal Modernist kinder, S,80. David Moore photograph,
Johnson was constructed cir published in *Cross-section*,
widely published

¹⁰⁶ Lewi and Nichols, p.71.

¹⁰⁷ Bronwyn Hanna, *Absence and Presence: a historiography of early women architects in New South Wales* (Doctor of Philosophy theses, Faculty of the Built Environment, University of NSW, 1999), p.281.



85 Mona Vale Baby Health Centre, designed by Clarke Gazzard & partners, 1966.
Source: State Library Victoria
Accession No:
H91.244/1513 Peter Wille photograph.



86 Inside the Lady Gowrie Centre at Erskineville, 1940.
Source: SLNSW ON 388/Box
029/Item 067, Frederick Stanley
Grimes photograph.



87 The kindergarten at Palm Beach designed by Peter Muller,
Source: State Library Victoria ID
1700462, Peter Wille photograph.

kindergarten at Palm Beach. Originally established by community efforts in 1948 and housed in the local surf life saving club, it was relocated on Crown Land. Construction was funded by the community and the building was completed in 1961.¹⁰⁸

In 1960 a public meeting was called to discuss the establishment of a Community Kindergarten in St Ives. The formation of the St Ives Preschool Kindergarten followed and the Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council leased some land in Garrick Road to the newly established association. Intensive fundraising activities were initiated and architects Collard, Clarke and Jackson were commissioned to design a building, completed in 1961. What emerged was described as “A charming innocence that is wholly suitable to the function pervades this rather perfect little pavilion with its exactly square plan, wide veranda [sic], and pyramid roof.”¹⁰⁹

Community and aged welfare centres

Many local communities and local councils built multi-purpose buildings designated Community Centres, essentially flexible halls for the use of residents. Prominent architects could be involved in their design. Construction of community buildings commenced soon after World War II ended and continued into the 1950s and 1960s. For instance, in June 1945, the Willoughby Youth Welfare Committee was formed, and a scheme for a recreational hall was prepared by the Committee's honorary architect Eric Nicholls, formerly a partner in Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin's practice. The proposed building contained a gymnasium, kindergarten and ancillary spaces and was funded in part by donations. Because of a shortage of building materials and funds, the hall as planned was never built, but a modified version was finally approved by Willoughby Council in 1951. Construction of the stage and hall commenced in 1953. The Albert Chowne VC Memorial Hall was officially opened in 1954.¹¹⁰

Nicholls was honorary architect for Castlecrag's community centre, which opened in November 1947. It was used by day as a kindergarten, by night for meetings, dances or other purposes and was intended as the nucleus of a group of buildings, the first stage of Castlecrag-East Willoughby Community Centre project.¹¹¹ A library opened in an extension the building during 1951, the addition partly financed by Council and partly by the community.

Sometimes local councils could work with the community to provide a much-needed facility. The extraordinary Lilac Time Hall in Goulburn is a special case. It was designed by architects Brown Brewer & Gregory and was officially opened on 11 March 1960. It is associated with Australia's longest running community festival, the annual Lilac Time Festival, which was first staged in October 1952. The Festival's chief fundraising objective was the construction of a community hall, which was primarily designed for dancing and theatrical productions. It's somewhat audacious structure ensured clear open space within the hall and supported the main roof.



89 The kindergarten at St Ives designed by Collard Clarke & Jackson.

Source:

https://www.csec.esrc.unimelb.edu.au/image_viewer.htm?CSEC00602,4, David Moore photograph published in *Cross-section*, September 1962.



90 The Lilac Time Hall in Goulburn.

Source: Goulburn Mulwaree Library reference number 20859.

108 “Palm Beach War Memorial Kindergarten” at <https://pbwba.org.au/newsletter-october-2022/>, accessed 28 August 2023.

109 “St Ives Preschool Kindergarten” at http://www.stivespreschool.org.au/uploads/8/3/3/9/83397228/information_booklet_2016.pdf, accessed 28 August 2023; Robin Boyd, *The New Architecture* (Croydon, Vic., 1963), p.25.

110 “Chowne Memorial Hall” at <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2660259>, accessed 14 August 2023; “The Albert Chowne Memorial Hall”, *Construction*, 26 November 1947, p.4.

111 “V.A.D. Annual Parade”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 November 1947, p.14.

Although many services for aged welfare were managed and funded by community groups, several councils were active in providing assistance and providing financial support for services such as Meals on Wheels and the construction of welfare centres. Many more aged welfare centres were community endeavours that received subsidies from local government. In recent years, usage of seniors' centres by senior citizens' clubs has generally declined, so that the centres have been used more as multi-purpose facilities for a variety of community and seniors' groups.

Some councils constructed welfare centres for older people in their local communities, although perhaps not to the extent undertaken by the City of Sydney. Occasionally they buildings were visually adventurous. The striking, if architecturally confused, Woollahra Old People's Welfare Centre in Gaden Reserve, Woollahra was designed by Steven Kalmar and officially opened in August 1960. It now houses a seniors and community centre, although its landmark arch has gone. The E J Ward Welfare Centre in Underwood Street, Paddington, was originally a City of Sydney facility that was taken over by Woollahra Council at the end of the 1960s following adjustment of municipal boundaries.

Aged Welfare Centres also utilised existing buildings. The Centre at Turramurra was housed in an adapted Federation era house. On the other hand, the Aged Welfare Centre at East Lindfield was purpose-built as part of a deal between Ku-ring-gai Council and a community organisation as part of the development of a large site given over to community purposes. Council resumed the site in 1948. The first building to be constructed was Lindfield Library (1954). A seniors' welfare centre opened nearby in July 1963. This was a collaboration between the Lions Club of Ku-ring-gai and a group called Ku-ring-gai Old People's Welfare Association (KOPWA). KOPWA was founded in 1957 by residents concerned about the needs of the elderly in the Ku-ring-gai community. The founding principle of the KOPWA was the need to house needy elderly in a home type environment and residential units were constructed behind the welfare centre at the same time as it was being built. The housing component was eligible for Commonwealth funding. From the beginning KOPWA was assisted by Ku-ring-gai Council.¹¹²

5.4 Public housing

Most public housing after World War II in NSW was undertaken by the NSW Housing Commission. The NSW Housing Commission was formed in 1942 to house war workers. As well, The Commonwealth inaugurated the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement (CSHA) to fund state governments to build and operate public housing. Under the first CSHA (1945-55) the NSW Housing Commission built almost 38,000 dwellings under the first CSHA.¹¹³

However, some local councils confronted housing after World War II:

One of the most innovative post-World War II housing schemes operated in the municipality of Ryde. This was the Ryde Council Housing Scheme and consisted of a number of project areas in various suburbs including Denistone West, Meadowbank and Gladesville. ...

The housing shortage that existed before World War II had worsened during the war, due to building restrictions. At the end of the war, as ex-servicemen and



91 Woollahra Old People's Welfare Centre as originally constructed.

Source:

https://www.csec.esrc.unimelb.edu.au/image_viewer.htm?CSEC01187, David Potts photograph, published in *Cross-section*, November 1960.



92 The Ku-ring-gai Centre for Seniors at East Lindfield.

Source: Roy Lumby photograph.

¹¹² Ku-ring-gai Council, *Lindfield Library Site Plan of Management*, December 2014, pp.30-31.

¹¹³ Chris Martin, *Public Housing in New South Wales: a brief history* at <https://innersydneyvoice.org.au/magazine/public-housing-new-south-wales-brief-history/>, accessed 10 August 2023.

women were demobilised, marriage rates increased and so did the need for houses. With federal government funding, the New South Wales Housing Commission embarked on a large-scale program of welfare housing. However, Ryde Council wanted more than welfare housing. Their scheme offered would-be home owners the option of buying houses with small deposits at a low rate of interest, and repayments over a long period. The scheme was distinguished also by its employment of a panel of ten architects and town planners, who were then leaders in their fields.

The scheme provided for the erection by council of 2,500 homes over a five-year period. Each subdivision boasted bitumen-surfaced roads, kerbing and channelling, footpath paving, street beautification and general drainage. Not only was each subdivision planned with attention to the natural contours of the land but roads were designed to reduce traffic speeds and provide safety to residents. The planning of the subdivision was linked with the planning of each house in its own garden setting.

Between 1945 and 1952, 599 houses were built by council and a further 360 were built under a Ryde Loan Scheme.¹¹⁴

Stroud Shire Council introduced a short-lived scheme Housing Project in 1947. It was formulated by Council Architect Frank Stone and comprised a range of six low-cost houses that he designed. Applicants preferably owned their own land and paid a 10% deposit. Finance at a low rate of interest was offered by the council.¹¹⁵

5.5 Libraries

Many though not all municipal libraries were designed by architects in private practice, who generally provided a high standard of design.

The Library Act of 1939, which only came into effect in 1944, provided the impetus for the establishment of municipal libraries across the state. Grafton Council is thought to be the first to take advantage of the Act and by the end of 1946 some 60 local councils across NSW had followed its lead. In 1948 funding was increased, precipitating a boom in library construction. Thus, the local municipal library is almost exclusively a post war phenomenon.

Newcastle provides a striking example of other local government endeavours. The suburban Mayfield Library, approved by Newcastle Council in June 1951 and officially opened by the Minister for Education, Robert Heffron, on 2 October 1953, was the latest in the city's endeavours to provide libraries for its citizens. From 1946 the Council managed to establish a central library a children's library and four branches. The uncompromisingly contemporary building was designed by City Architect D Sutherland in association with City Librarian Mr Miller – Heffron suggested at its opening that it had been described as the most modern in the Commonwealth, while the Newcastle Morning Herald proudly reported that "a world authority on library construction and planning, the Dean of Humanities and Social Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Dr J E Burchard), said the library was equal to anything in the world in design." The new library certainly aroused a great deal of community interest, as about



93 Mayfield Library.

Source: SLNSW Home and Away - 28324

¹¹⁴ Angela Phippen, "Denistone East" at https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/denistone_east#ref-uuid=58be687c-d9a1-3d77-76b1-918f57243b35, accessed 30 August 2023.

¹¹⁵ Reedman, p.233.

a thousand people crowded nearby footpaths at its opening, and several hundred took the opportunity to inspect the premises after it was opened.

One of the most significant suburban libraries constructed during the 1950s was Davey & Brindley's 1954 building for Ku-ring-gai Council at East Lindfield. Ku-ring-gai Council set up its first library in the Council Chambers at Gordon in 1945, which is claimed to be the first municipal library in NSW set up after the passage of the 1939 NSW Library Act. The council then opened a succession of branch libraries in various suburbs between 1948 and 1968, including purpose designed buildings by architects Ancher, Mortlock, Murray and Woolley at Gordon (1965) and Turramurra (1968).

The building at East Lindfield was an almost elemental Modernist building - refined, minimalist and visually satisfying. It also proved to be influential - regularly spaced steel columns supporting exposed roof trusses allowed an unobstructed, well-lit space supplemented by separate work and processing rooms, with an inviting, low-key entrance. A wall of west facing glass provided ample natural light and was protected by canted full-height timber louvres across the facade. The example of the East Lindfield Library may have influenced the design of other municipal libraries. Natural light and functional planning were certainly important in many libraries, including those built by the City of Sydney.

Edwards Madigan Torzillo & Briggs' library at Dee Why for Warringah Council broke out of this mould. The library was an innovative, internalised complex with a double height reading room surrounded by galleries naturally lit from above and embellished with a mural by Melbourne artist Tom Sanders. It also experimented with the Sydney School in its massing and use of materials. It was completed in 1966 and was promptly awarded the Sulman Medallion by the Institute of Architects. The same firm continued to explore the potential of Dee Why with its design for the library at Warren, which was completed at the end of the 1960s.

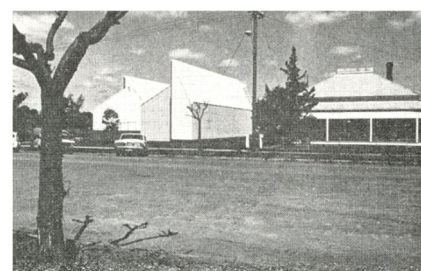
As with Lakemba and Earlwood, a number of other libraries were included in buildings that contained other facilities. For instance, Davey & Brindley's Bankstown library included a baby health centre, as did Morrow & Gordon's Burwood Library. Individual buildings could also form the nucleus of bigger civic complexes. For instance, Campsie Baby Health Centre, although an autonomous building, was the first stage of a larger civic centre development, the second stage of which was a library, also designed by Davey & Brindley & Vickery and completed in 1959 and Council Administration Offices designed by Whitehead & Payne and completed in 1963. The 1966 Dee Why Library, designed by Col Madigan and Chris Kringas of Edwards Madigan & Torzillo, preceded council offices designed by the same architects. It fused Sydney School and Brutalist idioms to create monumental concrete forms successfully interfacing with a bushland setting. The prismatic library at Warren (1969) was also the first stage of a civic centre. It too was designed by Col Madigan and Chris Kringas.

5.6 Swimming pools

Local councils, particularly in regional NSW, were beginning to construct swimming pools during the 1920s. By the end of the decade "splendid baths" had been constructed at Lismore, Albury, Singleton, Wellington, Orange and Muswellbrook. These were considered superior to any public baths in Sydney¹¹⁶



94 East Lindfield Library.
Source: SLNSW ON 558/Box
19/nos. 176-177, Max Dupain
photograph.



95 Above: Dee Why Library.
Below: Warren Library.
Sources: State Library Victoria
Accession No: H91.244/1851;
Cross-section no 205, December
1969.

¹¹⁶ "Swimming Boom in Country", *Glen Innes Examiner*, 2 October 1928, p.2.

The first major push to construct public swimming pools in suburban Sydney (and regional NSW) took place during the 1930s. Funding varied. It could be on a 50/50 basis, half supplied by the local council and half by a state government grant. Some pools were funded by depression unemployment relief schemes, such as the pool at Parkes (1935). In metropolitan Sydney important Olympic-standard pools were constructed to the design of architects Rudder & Grout at Enfield, Granville and North Sydney, which hosted aquatic events during the 3rd British Empire Games of 1938. Councils also funded the construction of bathing pavilions at beaches during the 1930s. And council staff sometimes designed them – one example is the pavilion at North Beach in Wollongong (1938) designed by Harvey Gale, Chief Council Inspector. This tradition continued into the post-war era. Balmoral Baths, an enclosed harbourside pool, was designed by H H Mee, Council's Building Surveyor around 1950.¹¹⁷

The Federal National Fitness Council was established at the end of 1939 to promote physical fitness. It advised the Education Department on implementing physical fitness in school children. In 1944, learning to swim became compulsory for primary school students in NSW. In 1947 the State government released a document entitled *Standards for Modern Swimming Pools*. These guidelines resulted in uniformity in layout and facilities - change rooms on either side of an entry pavilion with an ideal complement of pools including an Olympic pool, diving pool, children's wading pool, and learner's pool, the last two emphasising the needs of children. Simple modern forms were used, although diving towers could be quite dramatic.

Construction of pools took off immediately after the war. The swimming pool in Crookwell is one early instance. The Crookwell Swimming Club was agitating to have a proper pool constructed as early as 1925 and one was constructed on Kiama Creek during 1930. It clearly became inadequate, as the Shire Council decided to construct a new pool in February 1946, and the Crookwell Baths opened in December 1949. The works were entirely funded by the Shire Council and may well have been designed by Council's engineer. The facility has recently been upgraded and original fabric demolished.

By 1951 pools were regarded as a necessary community facility and what followed was a boom in pool construction across the state. At least 25 were constructed in the Sydney region between 1953 and 1967, in an arc from the southern to the northern suburbs - as Sydney's population expanded to the west, coastal regions become less accessible to more and more people. Funding came from Councils, although the community raised funds and additional assistance could be provided if the pool became a war memorial. During 1954-1955 alone Bathurst Pool, Canowindra Pool and Griffith Pool all opened. Between 1955 and 1959 swimming centres opened at Gosford, Liverpool, Marrickville, Canterbury and Auburn. Cabramatta pool, which opened in December 1960 and was built by Fairfield Council, featured Olympic, learners, and waders pools and a diving tower, plus dressing facilities, a kiosk, club room and managers residence. There were many others. The architectural firm of Figgis & Jefferson designed a fair number, such as Gosford swimming centre (circa 1955), the Parramatta and District War Memorial Swimming Centre (1959-1960) and the Goulburn War Memorial Pool which was designed around 1964.

There are a couple of swimming pools that stand out for their architectural character. One is the Ruth Everuss Aquatic Centre, formerly Auburn Swimming Centre, completed in 1959. Designed by Frank R Hines in association with Auburn Council's engineer, it



96 Enfield swimming pool at Henley Park, 1933.

Source: National Library of Australia
PIC P838/2175 LOC PIC Album
172, Edward Searle photograph.



97 Two swimming centres designed by Figgis & Jefferson: Gosford (above) and Parramatta (below).

Sources: *Cross-section* no 29, March 1955;
<https://historyandheritage.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/blog/2016/02/19/the-parramatta-and-district-war-memorial-swimming-pool>

¹¹⁷ "The New Balmoral Swimming Baths", *Building and Engineering*, September 1950, pp.30–32. It is not certain if the project actually proceeded.

offered comprehensive facilities - male and female pavilions, club rooms, kiosk, manager's flat and spectators' gallery. The entrance lobby was covered by a cantilevered butterfly roof supported off inverted A-frames. The diving tower was even more spectacular.

Another is the Queanbeyan War Memorial Pool, designed by architect Robert Warren and opened on Armistice Day, 1961. A war memorial pool had been suggested as early as 1921, but the local river remained the only option, augmented by dressing sheds and a couple of swimming clubs. A series of drownings prompted action - swimming classes and the formation of the Queanbeyan Floral Festival Committee by townspeople as a fund-raising venture. The committee raised £16,000, local MLA J W Seiffert secured a government grant of £10,000 and service clubs, including Rotary, Lions and Apex, also made important funding contributions.

5.7 Parking stations

As with the City of Sydney, other councils erected multi-storey car parks once the volume of motor traffic and the need for parking warranted it. One of the earliest was the six level Whistler Street carpark in Manly, a utilitarian six level reinforced concrete structure built for Manly Council in 1969-1970 and extended in 1973-1974. North Sydney Council constructed its Ridge Street carpark in 1982, followed by other car parks in North Sydney and Crows Nest at the end of the decade.

Woollahra Council constructed the five level Cross Street parking station at Double Bay around 1977. Designed by architect Furio Valich for McConnel Smith & Johnson, its external cladding was apparently based on the Fibonacci sequence, transforming the building into a minor Brutalist style masterpiece.¹¹⁸



5.8 Public conveniences

Women's rest centres were a specialised public amenity, although notionally similar to what the Country Women's Association had been providing for some years in regional NSW.

The circa 1948 Children's Library at Chatswood was a little different to most. It shared a building with a women's rest centre. Both facilities closed during the 1970s.

In August 1950 the State government pledged half the capital cost of acquiring buildings or constructing and equipping new ones in selected Sydney and country shopping centres but they had to be approved by the Minister for Local Government "as being in accordance with sound town planning principles." The first to be constructed in suburban Sydney was designed by architect Harold Smith in 1953 and located in Bexley shopping centre. It contained a waiting area, meeting room on the first



98 Entry pavilion at Queanbeyan War Memorial Pool.

Source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/index.php?title=File:Queanbeyan_War_Memorial_Swimming_Pool_located_in_Moore_Park_in_Queanbeyan.jpg&redirect=no

99 Ridge Street carpark in North Sydney (left); Cross Street carpark, Double Bay (right).

Source: Stanton Library LH REF CT 27/33;

<https://www.theurbandevolver.com/articles/fortis-assembly-add-double-bay-development-pipeline>.



100 The combined children's library and women's rest centre at Chatswood.

Source: Willoughby City Library record number 22170.

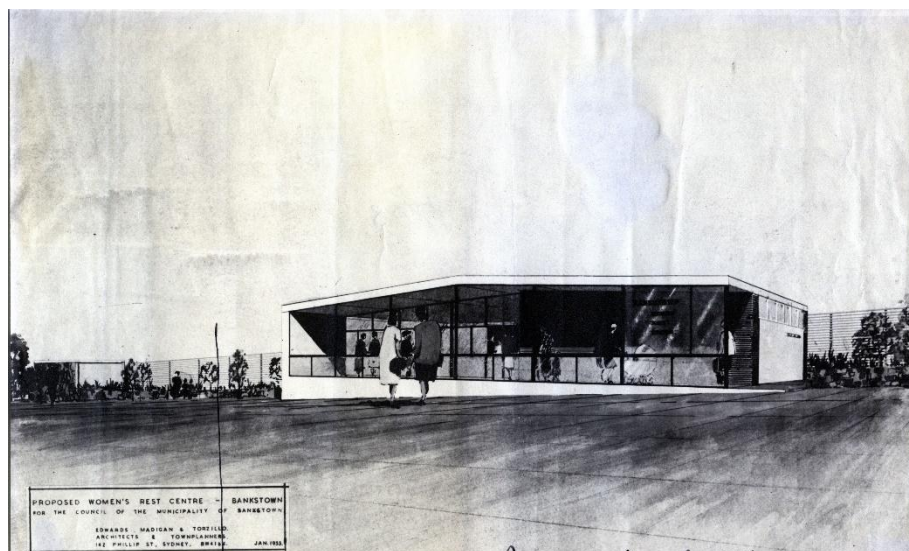
¹¹⁸ "The Cross Street parking station" at <https://mhnsw.au/stories/general/cross-street-parking-station/>, accessed 21 August 2023; kmarchitect at https://www.instagram.com/p/CUtgWqlJT9/?img_index=1, accessed 21 August 2023.

floor for women's organisations and a tearoom. The building is understood to be unoccupied. A stylish rest centre for Bankstown was designed by architects Edwards Madigan & Torzillo in 1955. The completed building differed substantially in appearance and has since been demolished.

The women's rest centre at Hornsby (known locally as the CWA Building) was designed by architects Ross Aynsley & Partners. The Modernist building was erected in 1958 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of local government in the shire. It has since been demolished.¹¹⁹ Other rest centres that are known to have been built during the 1960s were at Lane Cove, Caringbah, Lakemba and Cronulla. The Cronulla facility was demolished in 2017 amidst a great deal of public outcry. So too was the building at Hornsby. Similarly, the rest centre at Campbelltown, designed by Davey Brindley & Vickery as the and opening in March 1969 as the third building in the civic centre complex, was demolished in 2013.¹²⁰



102 Bexley Women's Rest Centre.
Source: SLNSW ON 558/Box 2/nos. 620-625 Max Dupain photograph.



103 Above: the proposed womens rest centre at Bankstown designed by Edwards Madigan & Torzillo, 1955. Below: Davey Brindley & Vickery's women's rest centre at Campbelltown, 1969. Sources: Cross-section, June 1955; <http://campbelltown-library.blogspot.com/2019/07/the-womens-rest-centre.html>



5.9 Air raid shelters

As with the City of Sydney, other local councils are on record as having constructed air raid shelters. Woollahra Council's engineer designed a generic air raid shelter, which was constructed by Council staff.¹²¹ Holroyd Council constructed a shelter in its council chamber yard. Newcastle Council built a variety of shelters in public parks, which included pillboxes, Anderson type shelters and trenches.

119 "Heritage CWA Building to be demolished" at <https://architectureau.com/articles/heritage-cwa-building-to-be-demolished/>, accessed 14 August 2023.

120 Samantha Stevenson, "The Women's Rest Centre" at <http://campbelltown-library.blogspot.com/2019/07/the-womens-rest-centre.html>, accessed 14 August 2023.

121 "Air Raid Shelter", *The Sun*, 15 December 1941, p.3.

Shelters were constructed in school grounds, even in regional NSW where volunteer labour constructed them. Slit trenches in some localities such as Blackheath were constructed by local council.

5.10 Recreational

Music shells

Several music shells were constructed in other local government areas. The music shells that have been located during research were designed by architects in private practice and constructed after World War II. Perhaps the exemplar of post war music shells was built in Melbourne. The Sidney Myer Music Bowl was an innovative tensile structure completed in 1959. It is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

There was favourable discussion concerning the construction of music shells in numerous local government areas in metropolitan Sydney and other parts of the state, but proposals did not always eventuate. Of those that were constructed, perhaps the finest was the music shell at St Leonards Park in North Sydney. Designed by architects Peddle Thorp & Walker, it was completed in 1948. Its dramatic roof sheltering the stage is embellished by relief sculpture. The structure remains in use with occasional musical performances. The band practice room and storage areas at the rear of the shell house now house community activities.

Music shells were constructed in Newcastle. One was completed in Civic Park, in 1951. It was preceded by a temporary shell in King Edward Park, which had been erected a couple of years earlier. What appears to have been a temporary shell was built in Cooper Park at Bellevue Hill. Woollahra Council agreed to construct an auditorium in 1931; by the mid-1940s photographic evidence indicates that a temporary structure had been built. Discussions continued after World War II ended. A proposal for a music shell not unlike the Hollywood Bowl was publicised during 1951, its construction dependent on a loan from the NSW Government. Evidently it remained unrealised, but not built. A concrete music shell was constructed in Hurstville Park in 1957 to the design of architect Denis Moulen. It replaced a temporary structure that was extant by the 1940s. The music shell was in turn demolished during 1984.

The music Shell in Centennial Park, Cooma, was designed by the prominent architectural firm Fowell Mansfield & Maclurcan and completed in 1959. It remains an important feature of the Park. The same cannot be said for the distinctive music shell in Mawson Park, Campbelltown. In 1956 the Fisher's Ghost Festival and Miss Spirit contest raised funds to build a music shell in Mawson Park dedicated to the memory of those who served in World War II. It was finally built in 1964. However, the structure was demolished in 1991 and replaced by the present War Memorial.

Draughts players shelters

Research undertaken during the preparation of this report uncovered relatively little evidence of draughts players' shelters being constructed in other parts of NSW or other parts of the country.

Petersham Council did accommodate draughts players when during 1936 it constructed a giant draughts board in Petersham Park, claimed to be the first in Australia and predating the draughts garden in Hyde Park by several decades. Between 1960 and 1963, Marrickville Council undertook a program of works that included construction of a shelter shed with draughts tables. A similar outdoor draughts board was constructed in Hamilton, an inner suburb of Newcastle, in 1937.



104 The music shell in St Leonards Park, 1948.

Source: Roy Lumby photograph.



105 Cooma music shell, 1959.

Source: Roy Lumby photograph.



106 Hurstville music shell, circa 1956.

Source: Georges River Libraries Local Studies Collection reference number LMG16-032.

Further afield, by the end of 1938 Melbourne City Council had built four shelters in several Melbourne Parks ¹²² During the 1930s Hobart City Council provided tables for players and Launceston Council erected a shelter.

In 1948 it was suggested that provision be made for a draughts shelter in a proposed building to house the Albury Museum, then under consideration by the Albury City Council. It was evidently the latest instalment in ongoing discussions concerning amenities for draughts players. ¹²³

5.11 Civic centres

One typology not constructed by the City of Sydney was the civic centre. The concept of civic or community centres emerged during the 1940s. During the 1920s and 1930s town halls, the focal point of local government, evolved to accommodate public functions. In the 1940s the notion of the civic centre embraced an orientation towards family life. Plans for civic centres were conceived as “a collection of facilities for the community, with the majority of spaces reserved for cultural and educational activities.”¹²⁴ Those civic centres that were built in NSW were somewhat different. For instance, the civic centre at Campsie was initiated by a baby health centre (1954), followed by a library and then council offices. East Maitland Neighbourhood Centre included a municipal building, library, baby health centre and electricity and gas showrooms. Bankstown Civic Centre comprised a library, town hall and a detached circular council chamber. Ryde Civic Centre consisted of municipal offices, a library and a public hall. And further afield, Cowra Civic Centre consisted of a single administrative building including council offices and chambers, a library, exhibition space and a multi-purpose hall.

Not all were the result of council endeavours. For instance, in 1950 the Riverstone Civic Centre Co-operative was formed by local citizens to raise funds so that community facilities in the area could be improved. One of the principal objectives was an Olympic standard swimming pool. In the early 1950s the Co-operative bought several parcels of land to build a swimming pool, bowling club and civic centre. After examining the costs and returns, they decided to build a bowling club first. Fundraising events were staged, and the bowling club was formed in November 1952. Initially occupying a building transported to the site, a new clubhouse designed by architect Kevin Curtin was completed in 1965. Riverstone Swimming Pool opened in December 1962.¹²⁵

Newcastle established a civic group in the post-war period, known as the War Memorial Cultural Centre. The first building was a library and art gallery designed by a consortium of local architects and completed in 1957. A purpose-built regional gallery, the first in the country, was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in March 1977. It was designed by Newcastle City Council’s architect Brian Pile.¹²⁶

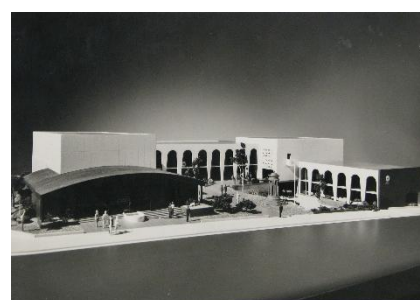
5.12 Parks and gardens

Unlike the City of Sydney, local councils did not engage qualified landscape architects during the 1950s and 1960s. They all had parks and gardens departments with horticulturalists and looked after parks in-house. Engineers prepared plans for the parks



107 The giant draughts board in Petersham Park, photographed in May 1938.

Source: SLNSW ON 388/Box 033/Item 111.



109 Model of Drummoyne Civic Centre, 1967.

Source: City of Canada Bay Local Studies Collection record number 422308.



108 Coffs Harbour Civic Centre, 1964.

Source: Coffs Harbour Regional Museum accession number M2021.61.130, Arnold Forsyth photograph.

¹²² Rambler, “Draughts in the Park”, *The Age*, 3 December 1938, p.30.

¹²³ “Shelter for Draughts Players”, *Border Morning Mail*, 3 April 1948, p.2.

¹²⁴ Lewi and Nicholls, pp.180-182.

¹²⁵ “The Riverstone Swimming Pool” at https://www.riverstonehistoricalsociety.org.au/blog/?page_id=548, accessed 9 August 2023. The pool soon became inadequate and the local council was lobbied for a new pool.

¹²⁶ Newcastle Art Gallery. History at <https://nag.org.au/about/history>, accessed 26 September 2023.

and horticulturists filled in the plantings. Qualified landscape architects did not enter many councils' employ until graduates began emerging from the University of NSW's degree course in landscape architecture, established in 1974.

In 1969 Lane Cove Council was the first to engage a qualified professional, architect Harry Howard. Although Howard had no qualifications in landscape architecture, he had experience in the integration of architecture and landscape that included the site design and landscape development of many schools. He grew up playing with his brothers in bush gullies around Gordon and Turramurra. He was one of a highly talented group which included architects and landscape designers who were committed to creating an inspired response to the Sydney landscape and was a foundation member of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, a seminal moment in the establishment of the profession of landscape architecture in Australia in 1966. Howard consulted to Lane Cove Council until 1993.¹²⁷

Leichhardt Council engaged prominent landscape architect Bruce McKenzie to consult on two major and seminal projects during the 1970s – Iloura Reserve (Peacock Point) at Balmain and Yurulbin Reserve (Long Nose Point) at Birchgrove. Other councils took longer to employ qualified landscape architects, waiting until the 1980s. They were originally employed as part of the engineer's department.¹²⁸

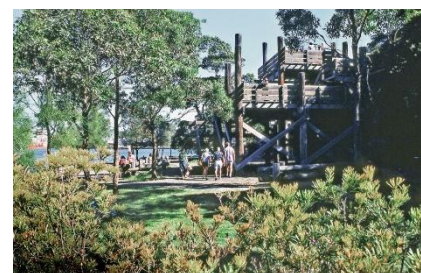
The first chief landscape architect appointed in Canberra took place in 1963 with the engagement of Harry Oakman. He headed the National Capital Development Commission's newly formed Landscape Division, which covered the entire range of landscape works in the nation's capital. Oakman (1906-2002) was born Henry Octave Cyril Vereecke in Belgium. He emigrated to Australia in 1914 and first worked on farms in rural New South Wales, then worked in flower nurseries at Pennant Hills. In his 20s he worked in parks for Ku-ring-gai Council. Oakman was Head Gardener, Department of Parks, for Newcastle City Council from 1940 to 1946, and was Manager of Parks and Gardens for the Brisbane City Council from 1946 to 1963. He retired in 1972.¹²⁹



110 Harry Howard's significant contribution to landscape design and its implementation in Lane Cove is interpreted by this signage and a bushwalk.

Source:

<https://inthecove.com.au/2021/07/03/lane-cove-north-bushwalk-stringybark-creek-reserve/>



¹²⁷ Barbara Buchanan, *Modernism Meets the Australian Bush: Harry Howard and the 'Sydney Bush School' of landscape architecture*, PhD thesis, Faculty of Built Environment, University of NSW, 2009.

¹²⁸ Information from Matthew Taylor.

¹²⁹ "Oakman, Harry (1906-2002), Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria Australian National Herbarium Biographical Notes at <https://www.anbg.gov.au/biography/oakman-harry.html>, accessed 31 August 2023; Ken Taylor, *Canberra: city in the landscape* (Halstead Press and the National Capital Authority, 2007), p.122.

5.13 Conclusions

Based on comparative evidence, the City of Sydney is unique in several ways.

The City of Sydney was the first local council to engage an in-house architect, in 1873. It was not until 1907 that one was engaged by Melbourne City Council, followed by Brisbane circa 1916 and Newcastle in 1935. The City of Sydney was also the first to employ an in-house qualified landscape architect, in 1951. In NSW Lane Cove Council was next, engaging Harry Howard as its long-term landscape consultant. It was not until the first graduates emerged from the University of NSW school of landscape architecture that landscape architects established a greater presence in local government instrumentalities.

Although the buildings associated with community welfare and well being such as libraries, kindergartens, baby health centres and aged welfare and community centres were constructed in local government areas across the state., they were generally designed by independent architects and many were the result of community endeavours and fund-raising. Buildings of outstanding quality were produced, such as the libraries and baby health centres designed by Davey & Brindley in the 1950s and kindergartens designed by Peter Muller, Eleanor Cullis-Hill and Collard Clarke & Jackson. The baby health centre at Concord, designed by R Lindsay Little became the model for subsequent baby health centres in NSW. Apart from buildings designed by architects permanently employed by councils or employed as project consultants, relatively few buildings were designed by council employees (generally engineers or building inspectors). Examples include Mayfield Library in Newcastle and Canowindra swimming pool.

The City of Sydney is unique because of the large number of buildings of different typologies it constructed to serve the needs of its residents, demonstrating a relatively high level of social awareness (and perhaps political calculation on the part of councillors). These included building types not associated with local councils such as bowling clubhouses and draughts shelters.

- 111 A section of Illoura Reserve. This timber deck was an original component of the landscaping at the Reserve.
Source:
<https://architectureau.com/articles/bruce-mackenzie-design-with-landscape/#img-4>

6 Summary of recommendations

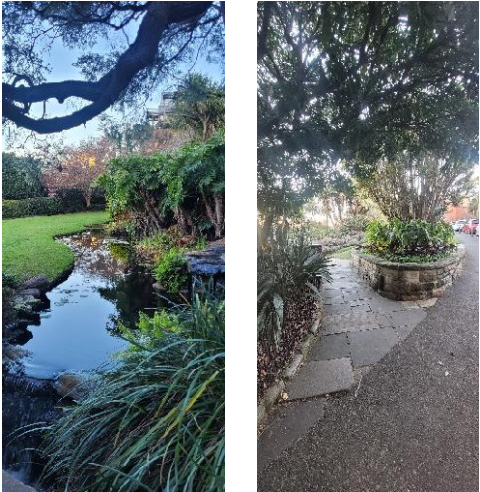
There is some difficulty in attributing projects directly to Albert Smillie and Ilmar Berzins because their role changed as they received promotions upwards through Council's hierarchies.

The following 13 items have been recommended for listing, as defined by the scope of this project brief to identify 10 items. The selected items are considered to be the most intact and aesthetically interesting examples of their type. Other items may also meet the threshold for inclusion in the LEP, but require further research and assessment, and as such are outside the scope of this study.

It is recommended that the contributions of Ilmar Berzins and Albert Smillie is included in listed items where their contribution is known but not acknowledged or significance assessed. Listings should be updated to reflect the importance of their contributions.

The following items are recommended for consideration for inclusion in Sydney LEP 2012, based on research undertaken to date and levels of integrity. Some items were superintended by Ilmar Berzins or Albert Smillie and therefore under their jurisdiction, if not designed by them.

Items associated with Ilmar Berzins

Item	Comments	Image
McElhone Reserve, 1A Billyard Avenue, Elizabeth Bay (1952)	Intent of planting has been retained, significant stone retaining walls, sandstone in good order. Recommended for listing because of its historic significance as a major early project designed by Ilmar Berzins, demonstrating his approach to landscape design shortly after joining the City of Sydney. It is an important early post World War II landscaping project undertaken by the City of Sydney. The McElhone Reserve has a high level of aesthetic significance and is relatively intact. The Reserve has social significance, demonstrated by its popularity as a passive recreational area by residents and visitors to the locality.	
Sandringham Gardens, Hyde Park North, south-eastern corner near Park Street (1952, 1954)	High level of integrity. Recommended for listing because of its historic associations with the commemoration of King George V and VI and the visit to Sydney of Queen Elizabeth II in 1954. The Sandringham Gardens have high aesthetic significance and are representative of formal landscape design in the post World War II era. Apart from their associations with Ilmar Berzins, the Sandringham Gardens feature significant work by sculptor Lyndon Dadswell and Dr Henry Epstein, a notable émigré architect.	
Darlington Aged Welfare Centre (now Darlington Activity Club), 132-134 Shepherd Street at Ivy Street, Darlington (1959)	Four trees retained from original Ilmar Berzins planting scheme: Queensland Black Pine (<i>Prumnopitys amara</i>), London Plane tree (<i>Platanus orientalis</i>), Chinese Tallowwood (<i>Sapium seberiferum</i>) and Jacaranda (<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>). Shrub plantings have been replaced. Recommended for listing as a representative and relatively intact aged welfare centre building designed in the City Architect's office that still serves its original function. It is also significant for the original surviving trees specified by Berzins, which are evidence of his evolving approach to landscape design. The site demonstrates the relationship of landscape and architectural design at the end of the 1950s and early 1960s.	

Item	Comments	Image
Quarry Street Ultimo (circa 1980)	Brick paving and some planting intact: River Oak (<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>), Paper Bark (<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>) some changes to species, urban furniture (bins, seats). Berzins' signature on drawings appears under Director of Parks. Recommended for listing on the basis of its aesthetic significance as a late twentieth century open park space designed by Council. which retains a high level of integrity. The landscaping demonstrates the evolution of approach to landscape design and is representative of 1970s landscape design. It has retained a relatively high level of integrity.	
Ulster Street, Paddington (1974)	Raised brick garden beds with timber seating attached. Brick paving in grid pattern. Detailing of seating and raised garden beds similar to Fitzroy Gardens. High integrity. Berzins' signature on drawings appears under Chief Technical Officer. Recommended for listing on the basis of its aesthetic significance as a late twentieth century urban domain designed by Council. which retains a high level of integrity. The landscaping demonstrates the evolution of approach to landscape design and is representative of 1970s landscape design. It has retained a high level of integrity.	

Items associated with Albert Smille

Item	Comments	Image
Former Baby Health Centre, 12A Dudley Street, Alexandria (1964)	The building, which has an unusual form, is relatively intact. Landscaping has been extensively modified in the late 1980s with Black Locust (<i>Robinia Pseuduacacia</i>) and other plantings of the time (<i>Lomandra longfolia</i> etc); later metal fence. One tree remains from the original planting scheme - Common Hackberry (<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>). Now a community care centre. Became a home and Community Care centre circa 2002. The Australian Unity Home Care Centre – Alleena Aboriginal Services. Recommended for listing on the basis of its aesthetic and historic significance. The first baby health centre in NSW opened on Henderson Road Alexandria in 1914. This building opened some 50 years later and continued to provide services to the local community until the early 21st century. It is an unusual example of a baby health centre designed by the City Architect, which has a distinctive external expression and was unusually planned around a central court (since removed). The building is likely to have social significance.	
Former Joseph Sargent Children's Centre, 60 Prospect Street, Erskineville (1956)	High level of integrity externally and internally (https://news.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/articles/joseph-sargeant-community-centre-upgrade). Now used as a community centre. Recommended for listing on the basis of its aesthetic and historic value as a children's activity centre designed by the City Architect, which retains a high level of integrity and continues to be used for community purposes. The building is a good representative example of post war Modernist architecture and is sited as an integral component of the adjacent playground space. It is likely to have social significance.	

Item	Comments	Image
Former Baby Health Centre, 87 Lower Fort Street, The Rocks (1952)	Early post World War II baby health centre designed by the City Architect. Original roofing and some windows replaced. Overall building form and other external fabric is intact. Adjacent to original building that served as the baby health centre at Millers Point (85 Lower Fort Street) and thought to have replaced a circa 1930s addition to that building. Still used for community purposes – Older Women’s Network. Recommended for listing on the basis of its aesthetic, historic and social significance, as a rare early post-war baby health centre designed by the City Architect. It is evidence of the City of Sydney’s contribution to an important community health service. There is the potential to incorporate the building into a group listing with the Abraham Mott Hall and the Harry Jensen Welfare Centre (1959) at 17 Argyle Street, Miller’s Point.	
Children’s Playgroup Centre, 2 Phelps Street, Surry Hills (1954)	Site resumed by Council for a playground in 1926. Named the John J Carroll Playground since 1953. Now KU John J Carroll Preschool. Combination of playground and shelter. The exterior of the building appears to be intact. The integrity of its interior requires investigation. Recommended for listing on the basis of its aesthetic, social and historic significance. The building is a good representative example of a Modernist style kindergarten building designed by the City Architect. It is still serving its original purpose.	
Former Catherine Sloss Library, 130 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo (1963).	Further investigation required as to the building’s interior and its context of other surviving post-war libraries designed by the City of Sydney. The library closed in 1988. Now houses a Baptist Care Hope Street counselling service. Recommended for listing on the basis of its potential rarity as a post-war library designed and constructed by the City of Sydney. Of some aesthetic significance for its external design. May have social significance.	
Victoria Park Pool, City Road, Camperdown (1954)	Rare example of a public swimming pool constructed by the City of Sydney, which has retained a relatively large amount of original fabric and site planning. Recommended for listing on the basis of its historic and aesthetic significance as a fine and rare swimming pool complex designed by the City Architect, which retains a substantial amount of its original fabric and planning. Likely to be of social significance.	

Item	Comments	Image
Pymont Housing Scheme, 1-7 Henry Avenue, Pymont (1960)	Rare example of walk-up public housing designed and constructed by the City of Sydney. The building exterior has a high level of integrity. Built component of what appears to have been a larger scheme. Recommended for listing on the basis of its historic and aesthetic significance as a fine and rare example of public housing designed by the City Architect. It is representative of smaller flat blocks erected for public housing in the post World War II era. Planting around the building suggests high level of resident esteem and potential social significance.	
Alexandria-Erskineville Bowling Club House, 1 Fox Avenue, Erskineville (1957).	Potentially rare surviving example of a bowling club house designed by the City Architect. Representative of this building typology. The integrity of the building requires further investigation. Recommended for listing on the basis of its aesthetic and historic significance, as a representative and rare example of bowling club houses designed by the City Architect. Should the listing be approved, it should include the bowling greens as part of the setting and curtilage of the club house.	
Hilda Booler Kindergarten, Jubilee Park, Eglinton Road, Glebe (1965)	Kindergarten located in a park setting that is still fulfilling its original function. Recommended for listing as a fine and representative example of a kindergarten designed by the City Architect which has aesthetic significance as an example of vernacular scaled Modernist architecture. The building appears to have retained a high level of integrity, but this needs to be confirmed. It may have social significance.	
Ron Williams Community Centre, 5-11 Kepos Street, Redfern (1966)	Designed as an aged welfare centre, one of several initiated by the City of Sydney. Appears to have retained a relatively high level of integrity. Now used by the Ron Williams Community Centre. Recommended for listing as a rare and representative example of an aged welfare centre designed by the City Architect which has some aesthetic significance as an example of vernacular scaled Modernist architecture.	

Item	Comments	Image
Waterloo Park Draughts Shelter (1958)	A rare surviving draughts shelter designed by the City Architect. It is notable for its distinctive structure, setting it apart from the more conventional structures of other shelters, most if not all of which have been demolished. Recommended for listing as a surviving example of a building typology pioneered by the City of Sydney and for its aesthetic, technical and historic importance. It has rarity value.	
Phillip Park Cleansing Depot, 17 Riley Street, Woolloomooloo (circa 1947)	Air raid shelter (1942) subsequently modified and building enlarged. Investigation of interior required. Prominent streetscape element with dichromatic brickwork and dominant horizontal emphasis.. Recommended for listing on the basis of its aesthetic and historic significance, as a fine and representative example of utilitarian council building designed by the City Architect in the Inter War Functionalist style. It is likely to have been designed by Albert Smillie.	

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Appendix A List of projects

7.1 Works of Albert Smillie

The following tabulated analysis lists all the known works of Albert Smillie during his time as an architect at the City of Sydney Council, including projects completed during his time as City Architect. It provides the year of design/construction, extant status, integrity, current heritage protections and recommendations for each item. It is limited to projects which are known to have been built and includes those which have since been demolished.

Project	Year	Status	Integrity	Listed	Recommendation	Notes/Source
Aged Welfare Centres						
Darlington Aged Welfare Centre (now Darlington Activity Club), 132-134 Shepherd St, Darlington	1959	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C10 Darling Nursery Estate	Recommended for listing.	Council Plan 2832 Note Garden scheme originally designed by Berzins.
Welfare Centre for Aged Persons (now Ron Williams Activity Club), 5-11 Kepos Street, Redfern	1965	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C53 Baptist Street	Recommended for listing.	Council Plan 2988, BA2475/65
Gordon Ibbett Aged Welfare Centre, 75-77 Kellick St Waterloo	1958	Extant	Appears somewhat intact externally, with enclosure to western side and painting to brickwork.	In HCA C70 Waterloo	Recommended for further investigation.	Council Plan 2800
Anthony Doherty Community Centre, Crown Street, Surry Hills	1956	Demolished	—	—	—	
Tom Foster Welfare Centre, 11-13 Darley Street, Newtown (now Inner West LGA)	1963	Extant	Out of scope	Out of scope	Now in Inner West LGA.	Council Plan 2880
Mary McDonald Welfare Centre, 49 McElhone Street, Woolloomooloo	1960	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C71 Woolloomooloo	Recommended for further investigation.	Council Plan 2875
Baby Health Centres						
Baby Health Centre (now Pine Street Creative Art Centre), 62-64 Pine Street, Camperdown	1946	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C10 Darling Nursery Estate	Recommended for further investigation.	Council Plan 2001, 2672
Baby Health Centre (now Alleena Home Care), 12 Dudley St Alexandria	1964	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C3 Kingsclear	Recommended for listing.	Council Plan 2794
Baby Health Centre (now Older Women Network Inc), 85 Lower Fort Street	1952	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C35 Millers Point Technically covered by curtilage of local heritage item 'Terrace house 'Argyle House' (85 Lower Fort Street) Item Number I948' but values of this building and later history not included.	Recommended for listing (or update to existing listing).	Council Plan 2424
Hyde Park Women's Amenities and Baby Health Care Centre	1954	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2364
Baby Health Centre at 103-105 Quarry Street, Ultimo	1948	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2012
Children / Play Group Centres						
Children's Play Group Centre (now KU John J Carroll Preschool), 2 Phelps St, Surry Hills	Circa 1951	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C60 Moore Park	Recommended for listing.	Council Plan 2109 Town Clerk correspondence re borrowing funds 4627B/46 Playground gone?
Joseph Sargeant Children's Centre (now Joseph Sargeant Community Centre), 60 Prospect St, Erskineville.	1956	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected but original balustrade to music room within is visible from street.. Colour scheme – original?	In HCA C26 Toogood & White's Estate	Recommended for listing.	Council Plan 2392
Rushcutters's Bay Park Kindergarten Building	1952	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected. Less architecturally interesting than other examples.	In HCA C20 Elizabeth and Rushcutters Bay Covered by Rushcutters Bay Park SHR listing #02041 but values of this building and later history not included.	Recommended for further investigation.	Council Plan 2175

Project	Year	Status	Integrity	Listed	Recommendation	Notes/Source
Hilda Booler Kindergarten, Jubilee Park, Eglinton Road, Glebe	1965	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C34 Toxeth Covered by Jubilee Park local heritage item I648, but values of this building and later history not included.	Recommended for listing (or update to existing listing).	
Kindergarten at Lander Street, Darlington	1954	Demolished	—	—	—	
Libraries						
Catherine Sloss Library (now Hope St Baptist Care Centre), 130 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo	1962	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C71 Woolloomooloo	Recommended for listing.	Not Smillie? 1 x Plan signed FA Cavalier Council Plan 2948 Enquire about 1962/018, 2741/62
Library, Baby Health Centre and Public Conveniences (later known as Florence Bartley Library), 50 Macleay St, Kings Cross	1958	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2651
Branch Library, Crown and Collins Street, Surry Hills	C1956	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2575
Council Housing						
Council Housing Development, 1-7 Henry Avenue Pyrmont	1958	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Still public housing. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C69 Ultimo	Recommended for listing.	Council Plan 2797
Council Housing Development (John Byrne Court), St Johns Road, Glebe	1959	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Some of the building is no longer public housing. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C32 St Phillips	Recommended for further investigation.	Council Plan 2771 Note Garden scheme by Berzins.
Council Housing Development (Joanna Odea), Pyrmont Bridge Road, Camperdown.	1959	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Still public housing. Interiors not inspected.	No coverage.	Recommended for further investigation.	Council Plan 2778 Note Garden scheme by Berzins.
Council Housing Development, 262 Wilson Lane, Redfern	1963	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2960
Miscellaneous structures						
Circular Quay Balustrades with Seahorse Motif	C1939	Extant	Intact may be to final design by Smillie	Listed as part of SHR Item No. 01572 and as a s170 item, 'Cast iron railings, palisade fence and gate posts.'	—	Council Plan 1657
Wattle St & Broadway Toilet Block	1950	Extant	Appears largely externally intact in form but openings have been bricked closed.	No coverage.	Not recommended for listing.	Council Plan 2296 Bricked up openings 1950/0985
Beare Park Toilet Block	1959	Extant	Recently upgraded by Sam Crawford Architects (modified)	In HCA C20 Elizabeth and Rushcutters Bay	Not recommended for listing.	Recently upgraded by Sam Crawford Architects (modified) Council Plan 2799
St James Train Station Toilet Block and extension (now Café), Hyde Park	1946	Extant	Modified for use as café.	'Amenities block' is listed as part of local Item No. #I1740.	—	Council Plan 2016
Argyle Place Park Draught Shelter	N.D.	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2673
Waterloo Park Draughts Shelter	1958	Extant	Appears largely intact.	Covered by curtilage of local item Waterloo Park I2079. No reference to Draughts Shelter and not included as a structure of noted significance.	Recommended for listing (or update to existing listing).	Council Plan 2797
Parks						
Circular Quay Park (First Fleet Park)	1939	Extant	General layout of the park including circular garden bed are extant, though intersecting paths have been removed and park layout changed substantially.	Within Sydney Cove West Archaeological Precinct, SHR 01860.	Not recommended for listing.	Council Plan 1653
Fitzroy Gardens	1961	Extant	Substantially modified in recent years including with recent playground upgrade. Retains elements of its general planning and landscape design – related more to Berzins that Smillie. All Smillie related structures and inputs were either never built or have been demolished.	Listed as a local heritage item (Gardens). El Alamein Fountain within as a local and state item. In HCA C51 Potts Point.	—	Council Plans 1624, 1679, 2407, 2604, 2725, 2873.

Project	Year	Status	Integrity	Listed	Recommendation	Notes/Source
Park buildings, playgrounds						
Playground and Field House Building, Bowling Club, Public Hall (attached to Club), Camperdown Park.	Playground building (1941) and field house extension (1961), Bowling Club (1955) and Public Hall (1963)	Extant	Bowling Club and Public Hall are largely externally intact, cohesive and legible as two similar elements. Playground and Field House appear somewhat intact but read as two disparate buildings stuck onto one another.	In HCA C32 Camperdown Park. Camperdown Park local listing (Landscape item). Its described values relate to its landscape and not to the built form on its fringes which was designed under the City Architect.	Recommended for further investigation.	Council Plan 1753, 2274, 2774 (Playground), 2589 (Bowling Club), 2935 (Public Hall)
Bowling Club (Alexandria Erskineville), Erskineville Oval	1957	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C22 Erskineville Estate	Recommended for listing.	Council Plan 2710
Alexandria Park Dressing Shed	N.D.	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 3037
Belmore Park Staff Amenities Building	N.D.	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2255
Hyde Park Wartime Recreation Building	1940	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 1709
John Birt Memorial Park Playground Building	1943	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 1947
King George V Memorial Park Playground Building	1936	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 1409
Moore Park Pavilion/Dressing Rooms	1937	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 1509
Moore Park detached dressing shed	1963	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2925
Moore Park Drinking Fountain and Dog Trough (Jessie Broomfield)	1941	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 1735
Moore Park Toilets x3	Various	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plans 2168, 2469, 2545
Prince Alfred Park Coronation Playground Building	1938	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	'Coronation Recreation centre' listed as part of local item no. #I1406	—	Council Plan 1577
Redfern Oval Grandstand	1957	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2660
Redfern Park Toilets	ND	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2465
Rest Park Glebe Toilets	ND	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2494
Rushcutters's Bay Caretaker's Cottage	c1938	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2169
Trumper Park Toilets	1954	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2476
Trumper Park Bowling Club House	1959	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2679
Information Centres						
Martin Place Civic Information Centre	1959	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2709
Swimming Pools						
Prince Alfred Park	1958	Extant	Has been progressively modified over time.	Included as part of local item no. #I1406, graded as intrusive.	Recommended for further investigation.	Council Plan 2623
Victoria Park	1953	Extant	Has been progressively modified over time.	Included as part of SHR item no. #01974 which considers social value of the pool only.	Recommended for listing (or update to existing listing)	Council Plan 2089

Project	Year	Status	Integrity	Listed	Recommendation	Notes/Source
Parks Depots						
Philip Park Cleansing Depot and Air Raid Shelter	1942	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C71 Woolloomooloo	Recommended for listing.	Council Plans 1904 and 2081
Beaconsfield Park Parks Depot, William St Alexandria	1955	Extant	Appears relatively intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	No coverage.	Recommended for further investigation.	Council Plan 2614
Engineering Depot, Gerard Street Alexandria	TBC	Extant	Appears relatively intact externally. Interiors not inspected.	In HCA C1 Alexandria Park.	Recommended for further investigation.	Council Plan 2329
Wattle and Fig Streets Depot	Various	Extant	Abandoned site, buildings falling apart.	No coverage.	Not recommended for listing.	Council Plan 1583, 1504, 2144
Bourke Street Maintenance Depot Surry Hills	TBC	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2714
Cleansing and Maintenance Depot, Bourke Street Waterloo	1952 + 1958	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2449, 2815 and 2656
Brougham Lane sub-depot	1941	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 1766
Forsyth St Depot Glebe	1952	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2482
Hollis Park Parks Depot Newtown	1955	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2565
Marian St Redfern Parks Depot	1953	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2425
Oatley Rd Paddington Parks Depot	1960	Demolished	—	—	—	Council Plan 2834
Parking Stations						
The Domain Parking Station	1956-58	Extant	Appears largely intact externally. Interior space not inspected. Moving walkway was upgraded in 1990s.	Excluded from curtilage of The Domain local heritage item. Covered by The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain SHR item 01070.	Recommended for further consideration. Recommended for listing as part of Modern Movement study.	Original Station plan not found, BA 1956/2068 Moving Walkway Council Plan 2786
Goulburn Street Parking Station	1960	Extant	Appears largely intact externally when viewed from Goulburn Street, though the bee-hive style external screens have been removed from all remaining elevations compromising the original intent. Interior space not inspected.	No coverage.	Not recommended for listing.	Council Plan 2870

7.2 Works of Ilmar Berzins

Project	Year	Status	Integrity	Listed	Recommendation	Notes/Source
Anzac House Gardens		Non extant	—	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493969
Baby Health Centre (now Alleena Home Care), 12 Dudley St Alexandria	1964	Non extant	Extensively modified in the late 1980s with Black Locust <i>Robinia Pseuduacacia</i> and other plantings of the time (<i>Lomandra longfolia</i> etc) metal fence. One tree remains from original planting scheme, Common Hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	In HCA C3 Kingsclear	—	Archives record ID No. A-00494067
Beare Park	1955	Non extant	Extensively modified Jane Irwin Landscape Architect 2000s toilet facilities with green roof. Pond on file does not exist	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00494926
Camperdown Park	1953	Extant	Proposed new oval, replaced existing oval	Locally listed item under inner west LEP (1942) & own heritage conservation area (C32).	Not recommended for listing.	Archives record ID No. A-00493812
Circular Quay	1971	Non extant	Replaced with quay paving and public domain works for 1988 bicentenary.	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00494042
Devonshire Street Housing Development	1954	Non extant	New building footprints and changes to park	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493891
Erskineville Housing Development	1955	Extant	Bowling greens, tennis courts now removed. Plan has no tree species noted, evidence of new plantings of the 1970s	In HCA C22 Erskineville Estate/	Not recommended for listing.	Archives record ID No. A-00493892
Fitzroy Gardens	undated		Sketch of El Alamein Fountain (not built)	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493974
Hyde Park Sandringham Garden	1954	Extant	Sandringham Gardens, High integrity.	TBC	Recommended for listing.	Archives record ID No. A-00493860-67.
Ivy and Shepherd Streets, Darlington Aged Welfare Centre (now Darlington Activity Club), 132-134 Shepherd St, Darlington	1959	Extant	Four trees retained from original scheme, Queensland Black Pine, <i>Primnopitys amara</i> , London Plane tree, <i>Platanus orientalis</i> , Chinese Tallowwood <i>Sapium seberiferum</i> and <i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> Shrub plantings replaced.	In HCA C10 Darling Nursery Estate	Recommended for listing.	Archives record ID No. A-00494021
James Cahill Kindergarten, Waterloo	1955	Non extant	Extensive remodelling of playground area	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493846
Kepos Street Redfern Playground	1952	Non extant	Park has been extensively remodelled with new play area, walls, trees	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493868
Macleay Reserve	1974	Non extant	Pre-existing Moreton Bay Figs <i>Ficus macrophylla</i> noted as retained, all lawn under trees.	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493837
McElhone Reserve	1952	Extant	Intent of planting retaining, retaining walls, sandstone in good order	Listed as part of Elizabeth Bay House and grounds (LEP #1594). Values don't address the reserve.	Recommended for listing.	Archives record ID No. A-00493802, 08, 10.
Moore Park	1961	Non extant	Water and planting feature for the Sydney Trades Fair, Chelmsford Avenue	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493942
Perry Park	1961	Non extant	Substantial remodelling of the park, no features noted extant, possibly not built?	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493799-800.
Phillip Park	1960	Non extant	Roads realigned and renamed circa 1988 with Cook and Phillip Park Pool.	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493964-68.
Prince Alfred Park		Non extant	Detailed planting plan with <i>Kentia Howea Forsteriana</i> Palms	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493933
Pymont Bridge Road Housing development (Joanna O'Dea Court)	1961	Non extant	Detail planting and landscape feature removed.	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00494047
Quarry Street Ultimo	Circa 1980	Extant	Brick paving and some planting intact, River Oak <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> , Paper Bark <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> some changes to species, urban furniture (bins seats)	In HCA Ultimo C69.	Recommended for listing.	Archives record ID No. A-00494139
Springfield Avenue, Kings Cross	1983	Non extant	Replaced by civic works post 2000	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00494134
Sydney Hospital Macquarie Street	1968	Extant	Not clear that the fountain is working, stone base retained	Included as part of Sydney Hospital group (LEP No. 11865)	—	Archives record ID No. A-00494073
Sydney Showground	1961	Non extant	Re landscaped with palms and plantings	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00494059
Town Hall rear yard	1964	Non extant	Possibly temporary path and plantings, timber garden walls. Replaced by Town Hall extension	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493834
Ulster Street, Paddington	1974	Extant	Raised brick garden beds with timber seating attached. Brick paving in grid pattern. Detailing of seating and raised garden beds similar to Fitzroy Gardens. High integrity	In HCA C48 Paddington South.	Recommended for listing.	Archives record ID No. A-00494106-07.
Victoria Park	1953	Non extant	Proposed horticultural planting to around lake. Lake and surrounds have been extensively remodelled since 2010?	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493826.

Project	Year	Status	Integrity	Listed	Recommendation	Notes/Source
Vine Street, Redfern	1952	Non extant	Extensively remodelled, no planting on 1952 plan remains.	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493889
Wynyard Park	1966	Non extant	Extensively remodelled, no planting on 1952 plan remains with the exception of the existing trees noted.	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493940
Young Lane, Redfern	1954	Non extant	Extensively remodelled, no planting on 1954 plan remains.	—	—	Archives record ID No. A-00493905-06.