

**NEIGHBOUR, Keith COLLECTION**  
**Architecture Museum, University of South Australia**

**NEIGHBOUR, Keith**

**SERIES 294**

**Biography**

Keith Neighbour (born 13/06/1919) is one of the first of the new breed of architects who shaped his own role as a project manager and entrepreneur. His designs show a sophisticated use and understanding of concrete as a material.

Neighbour attended Victor Harbor High School and then took courses at the South Australian School of Arts and Crafts. After returning from World War Two, where he suffered appalling hardships as a POW, he studied architecture, graduating in 1952 with a Fellowship in Architectural Engineering from the South Australian School of Mines and Industries and a Bachelor of Engineering in Architecture from the University of Adelaide.

Between 1948 and 1953 he was articled at Hassell and McConnell Architects. He then worked in the Architect-in-Chief's Department in South Australia before travelling to the USA as an International Fulbright Scholar. He was awarded the Albert Kahn Memorial Fellowship by the University of Pennsylvania and, in 1954, a Master of Architecture. While in the US he published articles in an Adelaide newspaper as an overseas architecture correspondent and was employed with Vincent G. Kling of Philadelphia.

Back in Adelaide in 1954 Neighbour joined Lawson, Cheesman and Doley. When he and three of the senior architects, R.A. Brabham, A.L. Brownell and Newell J. Platten, became partners the firm became Lawson, Cheesman, Doley and Partners. The firm grew and mutated, with new architects replacing those who retired or died, and by 1973 employed over 100 people in offices in Adelaide and Sydney; it was the largest architectural firm in South Australia and the third largest in Australia. In 1979, the firm amicably divided into three: Raffin Maron Architects; Haddrick, Harris & Wyman; and KMH Neighbour & Lapsys Architects Pty. Ltd., in which Keith Neighbour and Antanas Lapsys were partners. In 1987 the practice became KMH Neighbour Lapsys Pty Ltd.

The work of Neighbour's practices is varied. The Highways Department building, Walkerville (1959) is a prime example of reinforced concrete with exposed structural elements, whereas Nunyara Chapel, Belair (1962) nestles within a bushland setting and uses domestic materials, form, construction and scale to integrate the spiritual with daily life. The IMFC building, King William Street, Adelaide (1964) uses prefabricated load-bearing concrete wall panels to provide an economical alternative for multi-storey construction, while St Martin's Church of England, Campbelltown (1970) shows how local materials can be used to great effect in an unusual design. Regency Park College, Regency Park (1974) comprises bold concrete forms that reflect the functions of the School of Food and Catering. Several designs have won awards: the Adelaide Kindergarten Teachers College, North Adelaide won an Award of Merit from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) (SA Chapter) in 1972; in 1977 the Noarlunga Regional Centre and Civic Centre received an Award of Merit from the RAIA (SA Chapter).

In 1956 Neighbour chaired the committee overseeing an exhibition held in conjunction with the Sixth Australian Architectural Convention. Held in the Botanic Park, the exhibition showcased architecture by means of models and actual buildings to stimulate interest in the

## **NEIGHBOUR, Keith COLLECTION**

### **Architecture Museum, University of South Australia**

latest developments. Neighbour is a Life Fellow of the RAIA, after first joining the South Australian Institute of Architects as an Associate in 1952, and was awarded the RAIA (SA Chapter) President's Medal in 1994; he is also a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He has been a member of the Architects Registration Board of South Australia since 1979 to 1995, Chairman from 1987 to 1995, as well as fulfilling many other public roles for the profession. He has lectured at the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia and written on architecture for the local architectural media. He received an Order of Australia in 1992 for his services to architecture.

This is an abridged version of: Julie Collins, (2008) 'Keith neighbour, *Architects of South Australia database*, online at

[http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch\\_full.asp?Arch\\_ID=49](http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=49)

### **SOURCES**

Page, M. (1986) *Sculptors in Space: South Australian Architects 1836–1986*, RAIA (SA), Adelaide.

'President's Medal 1994: Keith Neighbour', *Architect South Australia*, vol.9, no.5, November 1994: 6–7.

Royal Australian Institute of Architects (SA Chapter) (1981) *Architecture SA 1970–1980*, RAIA, Unley.

Walkley, G (1976) *The Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Building*, South Australian Institute of Technology, Adelaide.

### **COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**

The Neighbour collection is comprised of: slides of Architecture Exhibition May 1956 in Botanic Park, Adelaide featuring pavilions; Original typescripts of newspaper articles by Keith Neighbour on topic of house design; Items relating to Australian Architectural Convention Exhibition held in Botanic Park, Adelaide 1956; Notes on overseas trip to USA; Copies of speeches, lectures given by Keith Neighbour, 1950-1970s on topics including housing, USA, space exploration, hospitals and television; Architectural Drawings; pamphlets; proposals; schedules; Photo reproductions of renderings; copies of certificates; newspaper and magazine clippings.

**NEIGHBOUR, Keith COLLECTION**  
**Architecture Museum, University of South Australia**

**EXAMPLES OF ITEMS IN COLLECTION**



S294/1/3/6 Slide of entrance pavilion to 1956 Sixth Australian Architectural convention Exhibition



S294/1/2/20 Slide of the Architects Model for the 1956 Sixth Australian Architectural convention Exhibition



S294/7 Brochure front cover for the 1956 Sixth Australian Architectural convention Exhibition

**NEIGHBOUR, Keith COLLECTION**  
**Architecture Museum, University of South Australia**

**Series List**

Series No.	Description
<b>S294/1</b>	<b>Slides of Architecture Exhibition May 1956 in Botanic Park, Adelaide featuring pavilions</b>
S294/1/1/1-3	Site
S294/1/2/1-36	Model
S294/1/3/1-17	Entrance Canopy
S294/1/4/1-24	Concrete Pavilion Construction
S294/1/5/1-7	Concrete Pavilion
S294/1/6/1-24	Trades Pavilion Construction
S294/1/7/1-8	Trades Pavilion
S294/1/8/1-5	SA Government Pavilion Construction
S294/1/9/1-7	SA Government Pavilion
S294/1/10/1-26	Timber House construction
S294/1/11/1-27	Timber House Exterior
S294/1/12/1-14	Timber House Interior
S294/1/13/1-25	Steel Pavilion construction
S294/1/14/1-17	Glass Pavilion construction
S294/1/15/1-10	Glass pavilion
S294/1/16/1-3	Dome
S294/1/17/1-11	CSR Pavilion
S294/1/18/1-15	International pavilion construction
S294/1/19/1-11	International pavilion interior
S294/1/20/1-14	International pavilion
S294/1/21/1-2	ETA factory and offices, Adelaide featuring mural by Stanislav Ostoja Kotkowski
<b>S294/2</b>	<b>In manila folder marked "Articles etc."</b>
S294/2/1	black and white photo of woman doing laundry in house
S294/2/2	reduced plans of residence at Hazelwood Park for C. Rothauser
S294/2/3	Original typescripts of newspaper articles by Keith Neighbour on topic of house design
S294/2/4	Published newspaper articles clippings of articles by Keith Neighbour on topic of house design dated 1955, in 'Sunday Mail'
<b>S294/3</b>	<b>In unmarked manila folder</b>
S294/3/1	copy of drawing showing living in a dome
S294/3/2	9 perspectives and plans of houses, reduced copies
S294/3/3	Architectural drawings of house for Mr Williamson and Miss Budgen at Beaumont, no date, Lawson, Cheesman, Doley and Partners. In plans drawers
S294/3/4	Architectural drawings of house for Mr and Mrs Eberhard at Pt Lincoln Boulevard, Pasadena., March 1957, Lawson, Cheesman, Doley and Partners. In plans drawers
<b>S294/4</b>	<b>In manila folder marked "Duplicate Articles, Hospitals etc."</b> Assorted newspaper clippings relating to hospitals, Adelaide architecture, housing, mainly 1950s

**NEIGHBOUR, Keith COLLECTION**  
**Architecture Museum, University of South Australia**

- S294/5**      **In Manila folder marked “Talks “B””.** Copies of speeches, lectures given by Keith Neighbour, 1950-1970s on topics including housing, USA, space exploration, hospitals and television.
- S294/5/1      SAIA and Planning Institute, May 1955
- S294/5/2      Glass
- S294/5/3      Notes on introduction to talk on lighting for the house
- S294/5/4      The future of Architecture and our cities, PSA address at Maughan Church, Adelaide, 31 January 1960
- S294/5/5      Floors and Roofs, 1 April 1953
- S294/5/6      Footings and new trends in architecture, Conference at Waite Agricultural Research Institute, 7-9 July 1956.
- S294/5/7      Adelaide Rotary Club Talk 14 November 1956
- S294/5/8      Talk to legacy Club 1 September 1955, re: television and the McCarthy Trials
- S294/5/9      Annual Dinner – Timber Development Company
- S294/5/10      Notes on overseas trip to USA (for News), gave to Milne 8 February 1955
- S294/6/1-10**      **In manila folder marked “Exhibition May 1956”** Items relating to Australian Architectural Convention Exhibition held in Botanic Park, Adelaide 1956
- S294/7**      **In manila folder marked “Arch. Exhibition 26 May – 1 June 1956”** Items relating to Australian Architectural Convention Exhibition held in Botanic Park, Adelaide 1956
- S294/8**      **In unmarked manila folder.** Various newspaper clippings dated 1960-1995. On topics including Rundle Mall, Keith Neighbour, Norwood, Dunstan, Doley, Victoria Square, Hilton Hotel
- S294/9**      **Architectural Drawings**
- S294/9/1      Highways and local government Department, Walkerville, 1967-1968
- S294/9/2      Hilton International Hotel, Victoria Square, Adelaide, 1980-1983
- S294/9/3      The Terrace Hotel, (previously The Ansett Gateway Hotel) refurbishment, North Terrace, Adelaide, 1987-1988
- S294/9/4      The Sheraton Hotel, Alice Springs, 1984
- S294/10**      **In Cardboard folder**
- Items relating to The Terrace Hotel, (previously The Ansett Gateway Hotel) refurbishment, North Terrace, Adelaide, 1987-1988, including renderings, pamphlets, proposals and schedules. Photo reproductions of renderings of Flinders Medical Centre carpark. Colour digital copies of certificates (Order of Australia 1992 and Diploma of Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta, 1967). Hilton International Hotel, Victoria Square, Adelaide, 1980-1983 brochures. Article on Keith Neighbour “And a good judge too!”, *SA Builder* July 1988, p.17. (oversize)