

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
DEGREE CEREMONY , MONDAY 2 MAY 1994 3.00PM

Citation by Professor David Robinson

Presentation of Gavin Walkley for the degree of Doctor of the University (DUniv)

"Deputy Chancellor,

Gavin Walkley entered St Mark's College of the University of Adelaide in 1930, to study for what was then the only available degree in Architecture in this state:

Bachelor of Engineering (Architecture).

He was articled to Louis Laybourne Smith, founder of the school in the University of South Australia that now bears his name, and partner in the firm which continues as Woods Bagot.

Completing his undergraduate studies, and as an associate of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects, Gavin Walkley left Australia to enter Clare College, Oxford in 1935. There, he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts (Architecture) in 1938.

The following year he received his M.Litt., and he completed his M.A. after he enlisted in the Royal Australian Engineers in 1940, achieving the rank of Major. Although for many years after that a practitioner, Gavin Walkley was probably the first "academic" architect in South Australia.

After World War II, back in Adelaide from service in the Middle East and New Guinea, he joined the South Australian Housing Trust as Planning Officer.

He was also appointed as a part time lecturer in the School of Architecture at the South Australian School of Mines.

His interest in Town Planning and Landscape Design led him to undertake a distance education course in Planning and he was admitted to the Royal Town Planning Institute (U K) at the end of the 'forties. Around that time, he developed Australia's first Planning course, opened to students in February 1948.

Three years later, Gavin Walkley was appointed to succeed his mentor Laybourne Smith as Head of the School of Architecture. He continued in that position until his retirement in July 1976.

During his quarter of a century incumbency Gavin Walkley saw many changes in the School: the School of Mines became the Institute of Technology; undergraduate and technicians' courses in building technology and town planning were added; the profile of the student population changed from mostly part time to mostly full time.

Now the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture is part of the University of South Australia, and the man who steered it through many of those changes is being honoured by the wider academic community.

His name is commemorated in the School by the Gavin Walkley collection of rare books, most of them in the discipline of architectural history, in which his main teaching interest lay.

It must be stated that Gavin Walkley's contribution to Australia has not been limited to the sphere of tertiary education.

He has always been active in professional circles, serving as Chapter and Federal President of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (of which he was made a Life Member) and president of the Royal Australian Planning Institute.

In 1965 he worked for the establishment of the Australian Institute of Urban Studies; it was inaugurated in 1967 and in the following year Gavin Walkley became its first Director. Also in that year, he was awarded the C.B.E. for his important contributions to professional education in Australia.

Since his retirement he has also been very active in the affairs of the National Trust of South Australia.

Deputy Chancellor, I have the honour to present Gavin Walkley for the degree of Doctor of the University"

*Accolade written by Donald Langmead
Head, Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture
14 April 1994*