

History

Philip Rupert Claridge (1884-1968) was a founder of what has become one of Australia's largest architectural practices, Hassell. Claridge was born in Crystal Brook in rural South Australia and was educated locally and in Adelaide. After leaving school he attended the SA School of Mines and Industries and was articled to Edward Davies in 1903 for his architectural training. In 1911 Claridge married Evelyn Degenhardt, they had a daughter, Evelyn and a son, P.G. Brian Claridge who also became an architect.

In 1930 Claridge opened his own practice with offices in Renmark and Adelaide working with various associates. He took on two associates, Russell Ellis and Colin Hassell to become Philip R. Claridge and Associates. In 1937 Jack McConnell moved to South Australia to begin work with the practice. In 1939 the practice became Philip R. Claridge, Hassell and McConnell. The practice continues as Hassell with offices both nationally and internationally.

While working with Hubert H. Cowell he designed the Memorial Block at Prince Alfred College and the later Preparatory School building (1936). Claridge designed many suburban residences, including one for V. Claring-Bould, Heywood Avenue, Unley Park, and his own homes in both in Toorak Gardens. Claridge designed the Westbourne Park Methodist Church and Girton Girl's School, Kensington Park (now part of Pembroke School). In 1936 the practice designed the Port Lincoln Soldiers Memorial Hall which features Art Deco inspired interiors. Another built work by Claridge, Bruer and Fisher is Sands and MacDougall's building on King William Street, Adelaide (1933). The Bank of NSW, Adelaide, (1937-38) designed by a young Jack McConnell for the practice is perhaps the practice's first truly modern building.

Philip Claridge was an active member of the South Australian Institute of Architects (SAIA) serving as President. He was also President of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects from 1931 to 1932. Philip Claridge was very active in his local community serving as a member of Burnside City Council for 25 years as well as being twice elected Mayor.

Key references

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'Structure Designers – Mr Philip R. Claridge', *News*, 3 April 1929.

CLARIDGE, Philip Rupert COLLECTION
Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

Special List

Series 188

Architectural Drawings

Architectural works carried out by Philip R. Claridge and Associates, Philip R. Claridge, Hassell and McConnell or Philip Claridge. In Plans Drawers.

Series No.	Description	Architects	Date
S188/1/1-3	International Harvester Co, new premises, Southwark, SA, working drawings, print	Philip R. Claridge, Hassell and McConnell	Sept 1947
S188/2/1-5	Port Lincoln Soldiers Memorial Hall, interior details, pencil on paper	Philip R. Claridge and Associates	1936
S188/3/1-6	Burnside War Memorial Hospital Design Competition, ink on tracing paper	unsigned	1946