



JOHN ANDREWS (1933-)

Australia's most internationally significant architect, John Hamilton Andrews was born in Sydney and educated at North Sydney Boys' High School, Sydney University (B Arch. 1951-6) and Harvard University (M Arch. 1957) under José Luis Sert. His 1958 competition design for Toronto City Hall earned him a position with John B. Parkin in Toronto. In 1961 he travelled extensively through Europe, Russia and the Middle East to India, then established his highly regarded practice John Andrews Architects, in Toronto. The following year he was appointed assistant professor at the University of Toronto, then became a full professor and chairman of the School of Architecture from 1967 to 1969. Much university work followed, including student residences for the new University of Guelph (1965) and Brock University, Ontario (1967); Scarborough College, University of Toronto (1966); Weldon Library for the University of Western Ontario (1967); Smith College Art Complex, Northampton, Massachusetts (1968) and the School of Art, Kent State University, Ohio (1970). The most prestigious project was Gund Hall for Harvard University (1968). He also designed the Miami Seaport Passenger Terminal (1967) and the Canadian National Tower (1970) in Toronto, the world's tallest freestanding structure. Andrews was invited in 1969 by Sir John Overall, head of the NCDC, to return to Australia to design the Cameron Offices, which he agreed to do. He had married in 1958 and his desire to have his four sons grow up in Australia was a major factor in his decision to return.

Andrews renamed his firm, based in Palm Beach, Sydney, John Andrews International. He undertook work throughout Australia and internationally, winning the 1980 competition for the design of the Intelsat building in Washington, DC. The Cameron Offices (1976) accommodated 4,000 public servants in nine stepped wings with vast courtyards and was one of the most inventive buildings of its time. Despite being heritage listed, all but three of the wings have been demolished. His other work in Canberra included student residences at CCAE (1973-5) and Toad Hall, ANU (1977); Belconnen Bus Terminal (1976-8) and Woden TAFE College (1980), first designed as open offices with many more 'pods' than the three built. Andrews also advised on the selection of architects for other Canberra projects, and was a juror for the 1979 competition for the design of Australia's new Parliament House. Projects elsewhere were King George Tower, Sydney (1970), Garden Island Parking Structure, (1980) Eugowra Farmhouse, NSW (1980), Little Bay Housing, Sydney (1981); the Merlin Hotel, Perth (1983); Sydney Convention Centre; the World Trade Centre and Hotel, Melbourne (both 1989); the Hyatt Hotel Adelaide (1988), the nearby railway station and office building; and lastly, the Veterinary Science Complex for Sydney University (1995). Andrews has received the Centennial Medal, Canada (1967), Arnold Brunner Award, US Academy of Arts and Letters (1971), American Institute of Architects Honour Award and Bartlett Award (1973), an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Sydney (1980), the RAI A Gold Medal in 1980 and in 1981 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia, all for his services to architecture.



Left: Woden TAFE; Centre: Toad Hall; Right: Cameron Offices; CCAE (now U of C) Residences.

References

- Jennifer Taylor, 'Andrews, John' in *The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture* 2012, p.23
 'John Andrews RAI A Gold Medallist' in *Architecture Australia* May 1981
 'John Hamilton Andrews' in *Notable Australians* 1978

Portrait: Gary Ede, other photos: Ken Charlton