



## MAX COLLARD (1909-2008)

Melbourne-born to a French Mauritian father and an Australian mother, Maxwell Ernest Collard was dux of University High School and topped the State Matriculation exam. Before graduating from the University of Melbourne in civil engineering in 1932 he became "starry-eyed" (he said) about the aesthetic possibilities of architecture, and completed an architecture degree in 1937. While working for Stephenson & Meldrum, he was impressed by Arthur Stephenson's approach to architecture. In 1938 Collard won a Haddon travelling scholarship to study architectural trends in Europe and the US, building on his earlier trips to Europe with beautifully detailed notebooks, photographs and drawings. After returning in 1940 he joined the army, then the Air Force, designing runways and seeing active service in the Pacific. He married interior designer Joan Malloch in 1944. In 1947 he started a practice in Sydney, took on a partner, Guy Clarke in 1955 and opened an office in Canberra in 1960, where he developed good relationships with the ANU and NCDC. He lectured in architecture at Sydney University from 1957 until he acted as Head of the Faculty in 1962. His teaching there explored the link between the role of the architect and the speculative boom years, as he saw an industry changing from craft-based to industrialised methods of construction. Also in 1962, with Philip Jackson, the firm became Collard Clarke & Jackson. An ARAIA since 1942 and FRAIA since 1952, Collard was RAIA (NSW) president in 1958-60 and as national president in 1962-4 he oversaw the move of the national headquarters from Sydney to Canberra. He also served the profession on the Commonwealth Association of Architects' Board of Architectural Education.

Collard made a significant contribution to Australian 20th century architecture, with notable buildings in Sydney, including the Isotopes and Technical Physics Building (1958), the first to be built for the nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights; a technical training centre for Qantas at Mascot Airport in the early 1960s and St Ives Kindergarten (1962), an early example of the Sydney Regional style. The most important buildings produced by his practice are in Canberra: The Menzies Library (1963), which received a RAIA (ACT) 25-year Award for enduring Architecture in 2006, and Jaegar 6 Engineering Workshop (1959-1964) both at the ANU, and in collaboration with the NCDC, Kanangra Court housing (1964-5), Capital Territory Health Commission Building (1976), Fraser Primary School (1971) and Russell No14 Office Building (1971), which reflects his interest in modular construction. It won the RAIA Canberra Medallion, as did the Waterman Arts Centre at Canberra Girls' Grammar School (1985) and Ainslie Village Redevelopment (1994). The City Walk transformation (1971) and City and Woden Bus Interchanges (1982), with barrel-vaulted shelters, were other Collard Clarke & Jackson projects in association with NCDC architects. Collard was made a RAIA Life Fellow in 1970 and lived at Mt Wilson, NSW during his retirement.



Clockwise: Jaegar 6 Engineering Workshop (1959) in 1961; Russell No14 Office Building (1971); Menzies Library (1963) Capital Territory Health Commission Building (1976) and Kanangra Court (1964-5), all four in 2017. Photos: Ken Charlton

### References:

Photo of Max Collard from *Architecture in Australia*, Vol 53 No 3, Sept 1964, p 72

Cameron Logan 'Collard, Max' in *The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, 2012, Cambridge UP, p 161

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