



I believe we can learn a lot from the past—particularly about sustainability, appropriate design for climate and place, efficient and effective use of resources, what works and what doesn't work.

Catherine Forbes

Principal

Catherine Forbes is an architect with over 30 years' experience in heritage conservation. Her expertise lies in analysing historic buildings, sites and urban precincts (including interiors and landscapes), and preparing appropriate guidelines for their conservation, maintenance, adaptation, development and management. She is an expert in disaster risk management planning for cultural heritage, damage assessment and post disaster recovery.

Catherine has an excellent knowledge of traditional construction materials and technologies, complemented by lengthy experience in their conservation and management. She has carried out conservation works to many historic buildings; created adaptive re-use solutions; designed sympathetic alterations and additions to existing buildings; and designed new buildings for historic contexts—all applying the sustainability principles that lie at the core of her approach. Throughout her career, Catherine has worked in complex multidisciplinary environments, undertaken consultation with stakeholder groups and local communities, and negotiated with authorities at all levels of government.

Qualifications

Master of Development Studies (Merit), University of Sydney
 Bachelor of Architecture (Honours), University of Sydney
 Bachelor of Science (Architecture) (Honours), University of Sydney
 Registered Architect, NSW Architects Registration Board, Registration No. 5861

Key experience

Disaster risk management plans and advice

- The Rocks Heritage Disaster Risk Management Plan—Client: Place Management NSW
- Safety Hazard Scoping Study, Kingston and Arthur's Vale Heritage Area, Norfolk Island—Client: Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities
- Tongatapu Post Cyclone Damage Assessment, Tonga—Client: Tonga Ministry of Tourism, Culture Division, Tonga
- HMAS Penguin and Chowder Bay, Bushfire Mitigation for Heritage Buildings—Client: WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff

Sustainability

- The Shine Dome, Canberra, Sustainability Plan—Client: University of Canberra and Australian Academy of Science
- Two terrace houses, Millers Point, Conservation, Alteration and Additions, Passive Solar Design—Client: Private (for Design 5 Architects)
- House, Wahroonga, Alterations and Additions, Environmentally Sustainable Design—Client: Private (for Design 5 Architects)

Strategic heritage advice

- Marrickville Library (former hospital), Conservation and Adaptive Re-use—Client: BVN, Inner West Council and Mirvac
- Arthur Phillip High School and Parramatta Public School Convict Barracks Wall and Historic School Buildings, Fabric Conservation and Post Fire Recovery—Client: Grimshaw Architects for Department of Education
- Prospect Reservoir—Upgrade of outlet system, including conservation works to Upper and Lower Valve Houses, heritage compliance certification—Client: Geotech for Water NSW

Landscape management plans

- Royal Botanic Garden and Domain, Sydney, Conservation Management Plan—Client: Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust and Centennial Parklands
- Taronga Zoo, Mosman, Landscape Management Plan—Client: Zoological Parks Board of NSW (for Design 5 Architects)

Conservation management plans and impact assessments

- The Mint, Macquarie Street, Sydney, Conservation Management Plan—Client: Sydney Living Museums
- Terrace Houses and Residential Flats, Millers Point and The Rocks, Conservation Management Plans—Client: Land and Housing Corporation
- Botanica (former Lidcombe Hospital Site), Lidcombe, Stages 64, 82, 83 and 87, Specific Elements, Conservation Plans and Heritage Impact Statements—Client: Australand Holdings Pty Ltd and Frasers Property Group

Condition surveys

- Parramatta Gaol, Parramatta, Condition Survey—Client: NSW Aboriginal Land Council
- Austral Brickworks, Eastwood, Condition Survey—Client: AV Jennings Pty Ltd

Professional background

Principal, GML Heritage, 2019–present

Senior Associate, GML Heritage, 2017–2019

Associate and Built Heritage Adviser, GML Heritage, 2012–2017

Teacher, Design for Sustainability, Bachelor of Design (Interior Design), The Design Centre, Enmore, TAFE NSW, 2012–2013

Operations Manager, Emergency Architects Australia, 2012

Senior Associate and Senior Conservation Architect, Design 5 Architects Pty Ltd, 1994–2010

Architect, Clive Lucas Stapleton and Partners Pty Ltd, 1984–1987

Selected honorary positions

Heritage Advisory Panel, Heritage Council of NSW, 2020–present

Joint Australia and New Zealand ICOMOS Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness (ANZCORP) (Convenor), 2017–present

ICOMOS, International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP), 2015–present

Australia ICOMOS, National Scientific Committee on Energy, Sustainability (NSCES), 2013–present

ICOMOS, International Scientific Committee on Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change (ISCES+CC), 2020–present

Blue Shield Australia, Australia ICOMOS Representative, 2016–present

Australia ICOMOS, Caring for Country Committee, 2020–present
Ku-ring-gai Council, Flood Risk Management Committee, 2019–present

Awards

National Trust of Australia (NSW) Adaptive Re-use Award and Judges Choice—Marrickville Library and Pavilion, 2020

Commendation, Marrickville Medal for Conservation—Marrickville Library, 2020

National Trust of Australia (NSW) Conservation Built Heritage Award—Conservation works to the Upper Entrance Building and Former Tram Shelter, Taronga Zoo, 2012 (awarded to Taronga Conservation Society Australia)

NSW Architecture Awards, Australian Institute of Architects, Greenway Award for Heritage Architecture—Conservation works to St James' Church, Sydney (awarded to Design 5 Architects), 2011

National Trust of Australia (NSW) Heritage Award (Conservation Management Plan Category)—Landscape Management Plan for Taronga Zoo (awarded to Design 5 Architects), 2008

National Trust of Australia (NSW) Heritage Award (Published Work)—Edwards, Z (ed), William Hardy Wilson: Artist, Architect, Orientalist, Visionary, The Watermark Press, Sydney (awarded to Edwards et al), 2002

Hastings Heritage and Design Award for Residential Building—Refurbishment and sympathetic additions to Pentimento, North Haven (awarded to Design 5 Architects), 2000

Teaching

Education and Development Officer, Nepal Village Sanitation and Reconstruction Studios for Healthabitat and CHDS Nepal, 2014 and 2016

Teacher, Design for Sustainability, Bachelor of Design (Interior Design), The Design Centre, Enmore, TAFE NSW, 2012–2013

Professional Mentor, the Global Studio, Bhopal, India, University of Sydney and Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, 2012

Previous honorary positions

ICOMOS Heritage Expert, Reactive Monitoring Missions to Assess the State of Conservation of the World Heritage Property of the Kathmandu Valley following the Ghorka Earthquake, 2015–2019

Director, Emergency Architects Australia, 2012–2013

ACFID (Australian Council for International Development) Shelter Reference Group, 2012–2013

Ku-ring-gai Council Heritage Advisory Committee, 2000–2004

Selected publications

'Christchurch: Heritage Recovery from the Canterbury Earthquakes'—comprising six case studies (with A. Ohs, F. Wykes, W. Clark), Analysis of Case Studies in Recovery and Reconstruction, Volume 1, ICOMOS–ICCROM, 2021

'Are we really prepared for disaster? Responding to the lessons from Christchurch', Historic Environment, Vol 31, No. 2, Conserving it Together—Heritage at Risk, Australia ICOMOS, 2019

'The Role of Cultural Heritage in Building Peace and Reconciliation: Conflict, Disaster and the Future of Heritage' (with M.Saldin), Historic Environment, Vol 30, No. 3, Going To Delhi: Australian Contributions to the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly, Delhi, India 2017, 2018

'Sustaining Heritage in the Face of Disaster: the importance of the intangible, from Nepal to New Zealand and Australia', Historic Environment, Vol 29, No. 2, The People's Ground, Australia ICOMOS, 2018

'Sunlight and Shadows', in Edwards, Z (ed) 2001, William Hardy Wilson: Artist, Architect, Orientalist, Visionary, The Watermark Press, Sydney

Memberships

Australian Institute of Architects

Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)

Living Future Institute, Australia

Specialist training

UNESCO International Training Course, Disaster Risk Management for Cultural Heritage, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, 2014

Capacity Development Across Cultures, Australian Red Cross, 2013

International Humanitarian Action Training, Australian Red Cross, 2012

Health Issues in Humanitarian Crises, Department of Public Health, University of Sydney, 2011

Conservation of Traditional Buildings, University of Canberra, 2003