

## **Margaret (Maggie) Leonie Edmond**

### **Citation for Doctor of Architecture *honoris causa***

Margaret (Maggies) Leonie Edmond studied at the University of Melbourne in the late 1960s, winning several awards for excellence during her studies, before graduating in 1969. In 1974 she formed a partnership with Peter Corrigan, which has gone on to be widely associated with the emergence of architectural postmodernism in Australia, an interest in suburbia, and the search for an Australian architectural identity.

Before establishing practice with Corrigan, Maggie Edmond worked on several large scale projects in Melbourne and Sydney, including the Hyatt Hotel in Kings Cross as well as several stadiums and office buildings with the firm of Meldrum Burrows. Early on, she was passionate about conservation and when working within the office of Yuncken Freeman (1973-4), she extensively documented and sketched historic buildings and streetscapes throughout Melbourne. Outside of this role, as part of the Brookes Crescent Action Committee and the Fitzroy Residents Association, she was also involved in community-based campaigns against demolition and for conservation within the central city.

After the establishment of Edmond and Corrigan in 1974, the firm's first published projects, the Edinburgh Gardens Pavilion (1977) and Patford House (1975), both in Fitzroy, were designs developed solely by Edmond, and she has handled, managed and presented most office work since then in addition to personally designing a considerable and significant collection of residential alterations and additions.

The practice of Edmond and Corrigan gained attention early on for its churches, schools and parish buildings designed for the Catholic communities of suburban Melbourne. A key project from these early years was the Keysborough Church of the Resurrection, completed in 1977, which became an important part of the contemporary debate between the prevalent regional architectural modernism and an emerging architectural post-modernism. The practice has gone on to win numerous high profile awards including 35 RAI A state awards, three Victorian Architecture Medals and four National Architectural Design Awards, and was recognised in 1982 with the National ACI Architecture Award "for the most outstanding contribution to the development of architectural theory expressed in completed buildings having particular relevance and significance to the Australian regional context." Many of the designs worked on by Edmond are striking, and examples such as Edmond and Corrigan's design for the Venice Biennale Pavilion (1982) and RMIT University's Building 8 (1990-4) pursue their idea of 'a city in a single building.' The completion of Building 8 and the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) Drama School also encouraged an emerging trend for free and bold designs within Melbourne's city centre. The firm's work has been exhibited internationally in 1991, 1999, 2002 and 2010 at the Venice Architecture Biennale.

During her career, Edmond has been an outstanding contributor to the architecture profession, to education, and within the broader community. She has served on numerous committees for the RAI A Victorian Chapter and has served as juror and jury chair for awards programs consistently since 1977. In 2012, she was Chair of the AIA Victorian Chapter's Melbourne Prize. She has been involved with the teaching of interior design and landscape architecture at RMIT, and as a regular design critic at the University of Melbourne. She has served on the Zoological Board of Victoria (1982-9), the City of Melbourne Aesthetics Advisory Panel (1985-9), the Victorian Design Advisory Panel (2003-4) and the Urban Design Advisory Panel for the State Government of Victoria (2004-5) and the Tribunal Panel of the Architects Registration Board of Victoria (2006-). She has been an influential contributor to Deakin University, serving as Deputy Chancellor (2003-7), sitting on its Council (1999-2011), and chairing its Campus Planning Committee for eight years (2003-11) during a period of great development and expansion. In 2012 Edmond was elected to the National Council of the Australian Institute of Architects and for her substantial contributions to the architectural fabric of the city, Edmond was honoured with an RAI A Life Fellowship in 2001. Maggie Edmond is not only a consummate professional and a key part of an internationally significant Australian architectural practice, she is also a model for Australian professional women demonstrating leadership within the broader community of the Australian built environment.