

PETER JOHN ELLIOTT

Peter Elliott is one of Australia's most outstanding architects and urban designers and personally responsible for increasing the design quality and human experience of several significant public open spaces across the nation. Born in Melbourne in 1950, Elliott studied architecture at the University of Melbourne, earning multiple student prizes and graduating with honours in 1974. He gained a Master of Architecture from RMIT University in 1993. In 1975, he established his own practice, Peter Elliott Architecture + Urban Design. Early commissions were concentrated on community facilities, recreation, childcare and public housing. His work with the Fitzroy/Collingwood Rental Housing Association (1974-1977) and Carlton Rental Housing Association earned him professional accolades and demonstrated his commitment to community consultation and to the importance of small-scaled carefully resolved detail. Elliott's award-winning residential designs for the Whitelaw/Newhouse house, Lethridge (1980) and McCutcheon house, Clifton Hill (1980) made sensitive re-use of existing building fabric, which has since become a hallmark of his firm's approach to large-scale educational and institutional building commissions.

During the 1980s Elliott worked on important public housing projects including the Knox Schlapp development at Port Melbourne (1985) and the refurbishment of historic Osborne House in Fitzroy as a rooming house (1988). As Elliott's work grew in scale and complexity, his main interest and intellectual contribution has been the design of the public realm. He is acknowledged as one of Australia's most accomplished urban designers. Important projects include the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens (1994), Spencer Street Footbridge (1999), Observatory Gate, Kings Domain, Melbourne (2000), the multi-award-winning North Terrace in Adelaide (2005), Deer Park Bypass (2009) and the Barwon Heads pedestrian bridge (2009-2010).

Elliott has also been very active with projects in educational contexts, undertaking master planning, major buildings and urban design for RMIT University, Trinity College and International House at the University of Melbourne, Latrobe University, Victoria University, the University of Tasmania, Melbourne Boys Grammar School, Xavier College, and Geelong Grammar School. For the University of Melbourne, Elliott's work has been outstanding. Since refurbishing the Walter Boas Building in 1986, Elliott has completed more than twenty projects on campus, and most recently has, with Taylor Cullity Lethlean, reviewed the 2008 Master Plan to produce the Campus Development Framework (2014). Elliott has always understood the Melbourne campus as an intricate network of old and new structures, and fostered an urbanism that is intimate and reinforces the master plan concept of outdoor rooms.

Throughout his career Elliott has been a significant contributor to architectural education. He has lectured extensively on contemporary architectural design and practice at several Melbourne institutions. He was a part-time Design Tutor at the University of Melbourne (1974-1977) and has been a regular guest lecturer and critic in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning ever since. At RMIT University, he was Visiting Lecturer in Design (1982-1994) and Adjunct Professor (1994-2000), and in 2011 he was appointed Adjunct Professor and Senior Research Fellow at Monash University's Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture. In 2000 he taught in the James Hardie Master Class at Papua New Guinea University of Technology. His office has been an important training ground for young architects for more than thirty-five years.

Elliott's practice has been the recipient of numerous national and state awards from various professional bodies and organisations, including the Victorian Architecture Medal for the Carlton Baths and Community Centre in 1991. Consistently called upon to act as a juror for awards and competitions locally and nationally, his expertise has been especially valued by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) which has invited him to participate in judging panels since 1978.

Elliott has participated in many professional associations and committees, including the Victorian Ministry for the Arts' Arts and Public Spaces Program Steering Committee (1986-1987), Head of the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority Design Review Panel (2005-2008), Monash University Estates Committee (2009-2015), and the University of Melbourne Landscape and Open Space subcommittee (2008-2011). He has sat on numerous design review panels including the Office of the Victorian Government Architect Design Review Panel (2012-present).

Peter Elliott is a Life Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. In 1987, and unusually young for such an honour, especially for an architect, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to architecture, specifically in the field of public housing.