

KIRSTEN ORR

Richard Francis-Jones/Spain & Cosh

2011 | *The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*,
Cambridge University Press

The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture is the first major work of reference to be published on Australian architecture and provides an unparalleled compendium of architectural knowledge. It draws together 225 contributing scholars resulting in over 1,000 entries and 500 images that document and analyse Australian architecture and architects from indigenous beginnings to colonial, modern and contemporary eras. Its significance is in part because no such study existed previously and because it recovers gaps in the record.

Both Richard Francis-Jones (1860–) and Spain & Cosh (1904–1938) have been instrumental in the development of Australian architecture. While the architectural work of Francis-Jones has been widely published in the mainstream architectural press, no complete biographical account previously existed. Material was gathered from primary sources, including a literature review of articles on individual buildings and an interview with Francis-Jones in November 2008. The architectural work of Spain & Cosh has been overlooked in architectural histories and previous biographical registers of Australian architects. *The Australian Dictionary of Biography* includes an entry for Alfred Spain but makes only a fleeting reference to Spain & Cosh. Material for the entry was gathered from primary sources, including journal articles (1904–1938), and a study of original drawings.

Culwulla Chambers, King and Castlereagh streets, Sydney, detail



KIRSTEN ORR

Francis-Jones, Richard/
Spain & Cosh

Spain & Cosh entry, pp.644-645.



Beehive Corner, corner King William and Rundle streets, Adelaide (1896). Architect: George Soward. Source: State Library of SA.

Montifore Jackman (1897–1968) joined the firm in 1919, thus linking it with the early practice of **Daniel Garlick** and **Herbert Louis Jackman**.

Soward's designs were large stone residences generally in the Gothic style, of which a number survive: 'Stormont', Glenelg (1886), 'Boston House', Port Lincoln (1886), 'St Corantyn', Adelaide (1892). However, his later houses in the interwar period were more classically derived, such as 19 Palmer Place, North Adelaide (1928). Commercial premises in Adelaide designed by English & Soward include the Tavistock Building (1885), Beehive Corner (1896), Gawler Chambers (1913) and the Epworth Building (1927). These buildings display a range of styles from **Italianate** to Gothic. The firm also designed a number of grandstands, including one at the University of Adelaide sports field (1908) and at Morphettville Racecourse (1913).

Soward was an inaugural member of the SAIA in 1886, although he resigned on a matter of principle when he realised that Joseph English was charging less than the recommended fee to his father's old clients. He did rejoin by 1924 and became a Fellow in 1934. Active in public life, Soward lived at Glenelg and was mayor there from 1895 to 1898. He was also Member for Torrens in the South Australian Parliament from 1902 to 1905. Soward retired in 1936. In that year he wrote an article for *South Australian Homes and Gardens* titled 'One hundred years of building', in which he expressed his strong interest in the historic built environment and its value to society.

KATRINA McDOUGALL

J. Collins, 'Soward, George Klewitz', Architects of SA, online.
S.H. Gilbert, 'Soward, George Klewitz (1857–1941)', *Australian dictionary of biography*, 12, 1990.

SPAIN & COSH

SPAIN & Cosh (1904–1938), a Sydney firm, had its origins in the architectural practice of Colonel **Thomas Rowe**, who practised with successive partners in Sydney from 1857.

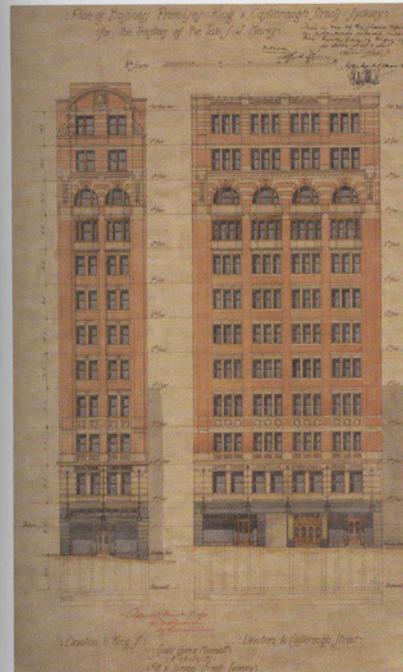
Alfred Spain (1868–1954) was articled in 1884 to Thomas Rowe of Rowe & Green and commenced study at the Sydney Technical College, graduating in 1890 with a Bronze Medal awarded by the South Kensington School of Science and Art for his design of a town hall. He became a partner of Rowe, Campbell & Spain in 1893, which became Rowe & Spain in 1895. After Rowe's death in 1899, Spain practised alone until 1904.

Thomas Frame Cosh (1868–1946) attended the Sydney Technical College, where he met Spain. He also attended the two subjects that comprised the architecture course run by **John Sulman** in the School of Engineering at the University of Sydney. In 1885 he was articled to the firm of Ellis & **Slatyer**, which became Slatyer & Cosh in 1893 and continued until 1904, when they parted to pursue different interests.

No sooner had Spain & Cosh formed their partnership in 1904 than Spain departed for England to further his military career. He was subsequently recalled for active service during WWI. Over the years the firm of Spain & Cosh adjusted

the partnership to include Rupert V. Minnett (Spain, Cosh & Minnett 1910–12), **Robin Dods** (Spain Cosh & Dods 1914–20), James A. Cosh (1930–) and Reginald A. Stewart (Spain, Cosh & Stewart 1938–). Other well-known architects associated with the firm included Alex Virtue, Harold Ruskin Rowe, Edward Green and **C. Bruce Dellitt**.

Spain & Cosh was a respected but conservative commercial firm that adopted current styles in its work. Its pre-WWI buildings tended to be variations on the **Federation** style: warehouses were usually derived from the American **Romanesque** and Singleton District Hospital was Federation **Arts and Crafts** style. Their commercial work of the interwar period was dominated by a Free Classical style in Commercial Palazzo form. The firm was always willing to incorporate new technologies and building materials and is notable for having established trends in construction that were to shape the city of Sydney to the present day. The Blashki Building (1909) in Hunter Street was a fast-tracked steel and brick structure whose speed of construction excited much public comment. The Culwulla Chambers (1911) in Castlereagh Street was Sydney's tallest building, 12 storeys high, and caused a public outcry and the introduction of new height limits and fire controls. The Australian Drug Company Building (1923) at Wynyard Square, Sydney was one of Australia's first reinforced concrete-framed buildings.



Culwulla Chambers, King and Castlereagh streets, Sydney, NSW (1910–12). Architects: Spain & Cosh. Source: State Library of NSW.

The firm designed commercial buildings, flats, hotels, breweries, **fire stations**, houses, warehouses and manufacturing establishments. NSW **heritage** items, the Mercantile Hotel, 25–27 George Street (1914) and the former Sailors' Home (1920 additions), both in The Rocks, Sydney, are significant reminders of the original physical and social character of this area. Buildings listed by local government and state agencies include the ACP Offices, Sydney (originally Evening News Building, 1925); the Lincoln Building (originally the Mechanics School of Arts, 1924); the Marcus Clark Building, TAFE, Railway Square, Sydney (1928); the Menzies Hotel, Carrington Street, Sydney (originally Shell House, 1938); RTA House (originally Hooper & Harrison, 1909); Singapore Airlines House, Bridge Street, Sydney (originally Scottish House, 1925, 1927); the Singleton District Hospital (1907); St Clement's Church, Marrickville, NSW (1899, 1907); and Stoddart House (originally premises for Bundock, 1908).

The firm carried on Rowe & Spain's role as architects to the NSW Board of Fire Commissioners, designing 29 fire stations including Ashfield (1901), Manly (1921) and Maroubra (1924). The last, at Hornsby (1925), was typical, being built of red **brick** and **terracotta** tiles in the Federation style with decorative flourishes. Another important client was Tooth & Co. Ltd, whose brewery administration building, 10B, Ultimo (1911) in the Federation **Free Style** is a prestigious and elaborate example of the firm's brewery work.

Alfred Spain was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1917. Alongside architecture, he pursued a distinguished career in the NSW and Commonwealth Military Forces. Thomas Cosh was a foundation member of the Sydney Architectural Association and later influential in the IA NSW.

KIRSTEN ORR

- A. Ashton, 'Australia's elder architects: 2. Mr T.F. Cosh', *Building and Engineering*, 24 April 1946.
- A. Ashton, 'Australia's elder architects: 3', *Building and Engineering*, 24 May 1946.
- E. Fayad, 'The architectural practice of Spain and Cosh', Bachelor of Science (Architecture) thesis, University of NSW, 1986.
- 'The future of Australian architecture – III: the spirit of prophecy in planning: a review of the work of architects Spain, Cosh & Minnett, of Sydney', *Building*, 12 March 1910.
- P. Spearritt, 'Spain, Staunton William (1865–1946)', *Australian dictionary of biography*, 12, 1990.

SPEIGHT, RICHARD

RICHARD Speight (c1860–1927) was an eclectic architect best known for his design with **H.W. Tompkins** of the Victorian Artists' Society Building (1893) in East Melbourne.

Born in England, Speight was apprenticed in the office of the Midland Railways Architect. In 1884 he arrived in Melbourne with his father, also Richard Speight, who had been appointed Chief Commissioner of the Victorian Railways. The younger Speight established himself in architectural practice in Collins Street, Melbourne in 1886 and built a commercial and residential practice of some substance. His most significant early work was the Hotel Victoria, a typical Boom-period, seaside landmark on Beaconsfield Parade in Albert Park (1887–8).

In the following years he went beyond the conventionality of that Victorian pile and collaborated on two highly

quarters, stables and outbuildings in a variety of eclectic styles, culminating in the design of the Victorian Tudor style 'Berrambool' homestead and outbuildings near Wickliffe, Vic. for Thomas Maidment, and the simpler Gothic homestead of Charles Gray at Nareeb Nareeb, Vic. both in 1869. In the same year, Fox moved to Ballarat to join **Percy Oakden** in a shortlived, but nevertheless productive architectural practice. Fox & Oakden designed the new Wesleyan Church at Brunswick, Vic. (1872), extensive homestead building works on the Lake Bolac West Estate (1873) and the exotically detailed Victorian **Free Style** Town Hall and Court House at Clunes, Vic. (1874).

Fox was appointed quantity and measuring surveyor under **William Wardell** in the Vic. PWD in 1872, evidently while still involved with Oakden and their new partner **Leonard Terry**. He held this position, seemingly with the right to private practice, until the infamous 'Black Wednesday' in 1878, when he 'shared the fate of many other Government employees' and was retrenched. While the architectural provenance of Thomas and Andrew Chirnside's mansion 'Werribee Park' is still unresolved and the longstanding attribution to Fox is unsustainable, it is otherwise recorded that J.H. Fox spent five years building 'one of the largest private residences in the colony' and overseeing the expenditure of more than £60 000 on this Italian country house.

After 1878, Fox focused on quantity surveying and the preparation of bills of quantities for a number of architects, including his old firm of Terry & Oakden, such as bills for the New Public Library at Adelaide (1879), land boomer Matthew Henry Davies' mansion 'Bracknell' in Toorak, Vic., the London Chartered Bank in Brisbane, Qld (1886) and Queen's College at The University of Melbourne, Parkville, Vic. (1887). Fox suffered in the 1890s Depression, and in 1894 he was appointed as the honorary assistant secretary of the RVIA (in lieu of payment of outstanding dues), rising to the position of secretary in 1896. Fox's intervention was timely as he steered the Institute through difficult times.

Fox died at his residence in Chapel Street, East St Kilda, of heart disease, on 4 August 1900, and was interred in the St Kilda Cemetery two days later. Some four years later the RVIA paid for the erection of a tombstone at his grave, 'in recognition of services faithfully rendered during seven years of office'.

ALLAN WILLINGHAM

I.G. Cortese, 'James Henry Fox 1828–1900', Investigation program,

Department of Architecture, the University of Melbourne, 1975.

A. Sutherland, *Victoria and its metropolis*, 1888.

FRANCIS-JONES, RICHARD

RICHARD Francis-Jones (1960–), graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Science (Architecture) in 1981 and a Bachelor of Architecture and the University Medal in 1985. He then worked briefly in the offices of **Alec Tzannes** and **Bruce Eeles** before attending Columbia University in the United States, completing further architectural studies in 1987 under Kenneth Frampton and also teaching there. He worked for John Averitt Associates in New York and then with Harry Wolf at Ellerbe Becket, Santa Monica. Returning to Sydney in 1989, he joined



John Niland Scientia Building, University of NSW, Kensington, NSW (1999). Architect: fjmt (Richard Francis-Jones). Photograph: John Gollings.

the newly established Sydney office of the Canberra firm Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp, where he became a partner in 1996. After **Romaldo Giurgola's** retirement in 1999, the firm was restructured and became Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp (fjmt). fjmt has a commitment to the public domain, designing buildings that sensitively respond to place and culture and that express formal ideas through the nature and assembly of materials and inventive construction systems. John Niland Scientia Building (1999), the jewel in the crown of the University of NSW's undulating campus (winner of the 2000 Sulman Award), and the Red Centre building (1998), housing the Faculty of the Built Environment, received national acclaim. The restoration and **adaptive reuse** of the Royal Mint, Sydney, in 2004, as the head office for the Historic Houses Trust also won considerable acclaim. Other significant projects include Edith Cowan University Chancellery & Business School, WA (2003), Max Webber Library Blacktown, NSW (2005), University of Sydney Eastern Avenue Auditorium (2000) and Law School, NSW (2009), Australian School of Business at the University of NSW (2007), Auckland University Business School, New Zealand (2007) and Auckland Art Gallery (2010–11). Most of the firm's major commissions have been won by **competition**. Francis-Jones has taught and lectured in architecture, design and theory, locally and abroad, since 1987. He is an editor of *Content*, has written extensively on architecture and has convened several architectural theory conferences, including 'On Monumentality' (2001) and 'Tectonic Form and Critical Culture' (2004), and was creative director of the RAI A 2008 national conference. Francis-Jones was RAI A NSW Chapter president (2001–2), and a member of the NSW Architects Registration Board (2001–4). He remains a partner at fjmt and is currently visiting professor at the University of NSW.

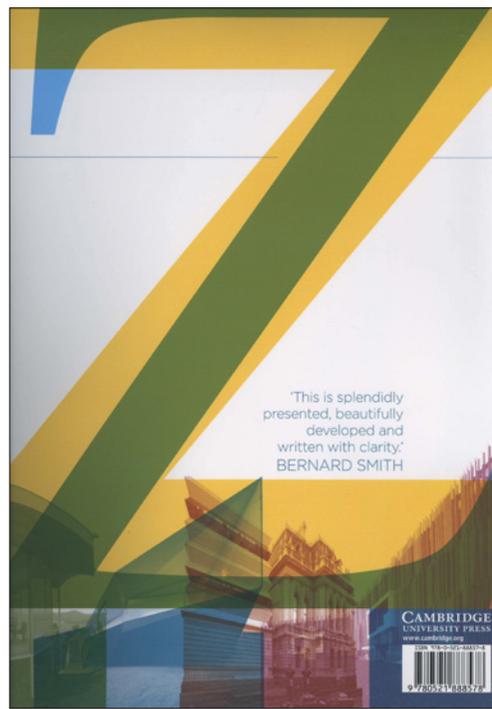
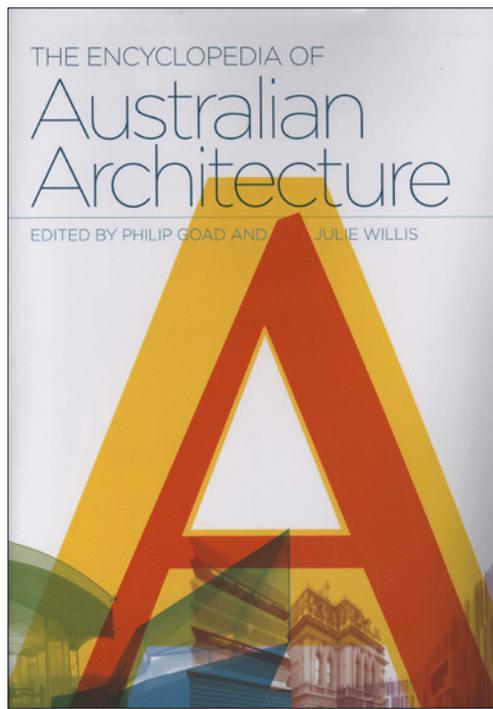
KIRSTEN ORR

S. Ridgway, 'Sam Ridgway and Richard Francis-Jones: a conversation', *Architectural Theory Review*, 8: 1, 2003.

KIRSTEN ORR

Francis-Jones, Richard/
Spain & Cosh

Francis-Jones Richard entry, p.262



Cambridge University Press
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207 Australia
Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521888578

© Cambridge University Press 2012

This publication is copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2012

Design by Chong Wang Ho
Typeset by Ashraf Saadoun
Printed in China by 502 Printing International Ltd

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

National Library of Australia Cataloguing in Publication data

Goad, Philip
The encyclopedia of Australian architecture / Philip Goad and Julie Willis.
9780521888578 (hbk. 1)
Includes bibliographical references and index.
Architecture—Australia.
Architecture—Encyclopedias.
720.964
ISBN 978-0-521-88857-8 (Hardback)

Reproduction and communication for educational purposes
The Australian Copyright Act 1969 (the Act) allows a maximum of one chapter or 10% of the pages of this work, whichever is the greater, to be reproduced and/or communicated by any educational institution for its educational purposes provided that the educational institution for the body that administers it has given a remuneration notice to Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) under the Act.

For details of the CAL licence for educational institutions contact
Copyright Agency Limited
Level 15, 233 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone: (02) 9394 7600
Facsimile: (02) 9394 7601
E-mail: info@copyright.com.au

Reproduction and communication for other purposes
Except as permitted under the Act (for example, a fair dealing for the purposes of study, research, criticism or review or part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, communicated or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission. All requests should be made to the publisher at the address above.

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.



CONTENTS

CONTRIBUTORS vi

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS x

RATIONALE AND STRUCTURE xix

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS xxii

MARKING PLACE: AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECTURE xxiv

ENTRIES A–Z 1

INDEX 784

KIRSTEN ORR
Francis-Jones, Richard/
Spain & Cosh

Book cover and contents