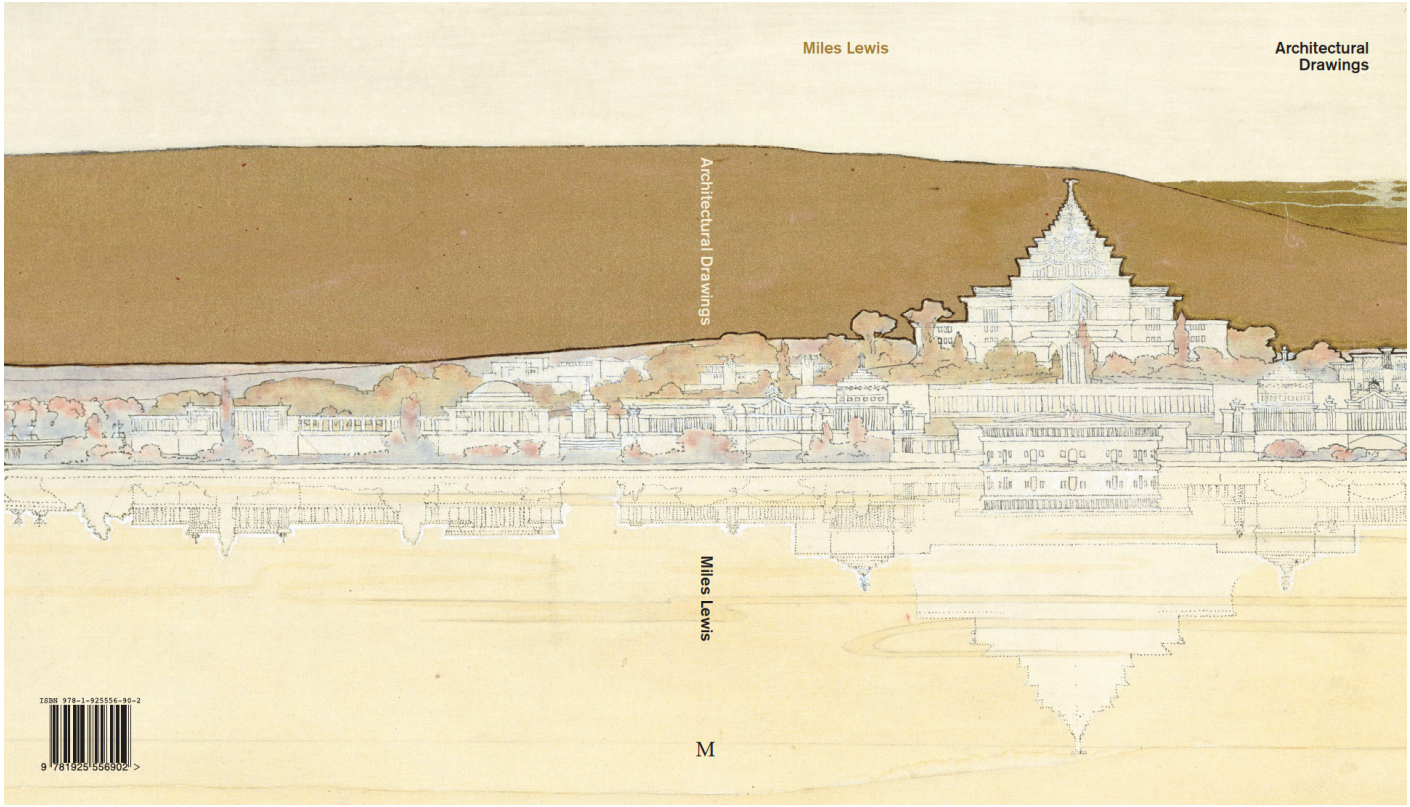
Architectural Drawings

Collecting in Australia

Miles Lewis



This book illuminates the art of architectural drawings.

The best trained and most experienced librarian or curator is likely to confront difficulties in dealing with architectural drawings. Even an architect will be unable to understand some aspects of drawings a century old.

Professor Miles Lewis, a leading architectural historian, in conjunction with the International Confederation of Architectural Museums (Australasia) demonstrates to professional curators how to collect, interpret and conserve these ephemeral works of art. In so doing he reveals fascinating insights and wonderful images for all who appreciate and practise fine art and architecture.

The Author

Miles Lewis AM FAHA, Professor in the Faculty of Architecture, Building & Planning, at the University of Melbourne, is an architectural historian specialising in the cultural history of building.

He edited the international text *Architectura*, and is an honorary life fellow of the Comité International d'Architecture Vernaculaire. He also has a specialised architectural library collection, some hundreds of titles from which have recently been digitised and added to the on-line Building Technology Heritage Library (USA).

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'Carnich Towers', 60-64 Clarendon St, East Melbourne, unrealised scheme for Carnich Properties, by Robin Boyd, 1969-71: RMIT Design Archives 2008 0020.2008.0016. The plan depended upon buying the adjoining property, and did not proceed.

The brief

However the job was obtained, or the architect selected, the work will proceed only when there is a brief setting out the client's requirements and preferences. In the case of a private house it might be entirely oral, but for a large project the client will provide considerable detail – schedules of the rooms required, standards for circulation, particular elements which must be incorporated, and so on. This is generally in writing, but it may include drawings – such as a university or other institutional master plan which governs the siting and maximum dimensions of future buildings on the site, or a drawing by the hospital's in-house architect showing the currently applicable space standards for wards. Sometimes the architect has to elicit the brief by questioning, and this may also result in drawings – sketches which are by the architect but are not really part of the design process, simply records of the client's requirements.

Architectural Drawings sample pages

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