

Jeffrey John Turnbull, *Walter Burley Griffin: the architecture of Newman College, 1915-18*, Vivid Publishing, 2018



The first 56 students were admitted to the Initial Structure at Newman College on 24 March 1918. As part of the centenary celebrations, a book on the architecture of the Initial Structure, 1915-18, conceptually designed by Walter Burley Griffin, facilitated by Marion Mahony Griffin, will be published during July 2018.

Little has been written on the Newman College commission, so the building was studied for notions in the literature available prior to 1915 that might explain Griffin's planning, construction and form. Unlike most architectural history writing the particular informed the general.

The Specific comes first. A building is in a specific place to which it must specifically respond. Generalised forms must grow out of a thorough understanding of the particular place, activities, techniques of building and systems of service- start not with the geometry but with the user.

Donlyn Lyndon, Charles W Moore, Patrick J Quinn, Sim van Der Ryn: "Towards Making Places", *Landscape*, Autumn 1962

Walter Burley Griffin, when writing on Christmas Day, 1915, about his conception for the new Roman Catholic College, emphasized the user's experience of facilities and functions of the proposed building. As an artist he did not reveal his design method, but alluded to some ideas embedded in the plan, and the character of the new building and its landscape. This new book is in two parts: 1. *Specific*, an exhaustive description of functions, facilities and

their sequence, and the construction process. 2 *Form*, explores Griffin's ideas and their realization in the architecture. Researching the origins of those ideas gave it its meaning, as a new place of dwelling and learning.



The story of the design of the Initial Structure is intriguing for all College alumni, everywhere, and all students and scholars of early 20thC social, technological, and aesthetic changes.

For copies of Jeffrey John Turnbull's, *Walter Burley Griffin, the architecture of Newman College*, please order or pre-order via an email to jjt.21rs@optusnet.com.au

The new self-published book sells at AUD\$100