

Jeffrey Turnbull, *Walter Burley Griffin: the architecture of Newman College*, e-book, University of Melbourne, 2015

http://issuu.com/walterburleygriffinnewman/docs/walter_burley_griffin_-_the_archite/0

Viewing is free



The study engaged with the architecture of the 'Initial Structure' at Newman College, 1915-1918, so as to establish this building's place in the *oeuvre* of Walter Burley Griffin (1876-1937). Griffin's architecture at Newman College was unparalleled in Melbourne, yet it has never been the subject of a comprehensive study. Further, a measure for Griffin's creative method and architectural style has not been developed to date, although much scholarship has been devoted to the identification of events and works in Griffin's career. Furthermore, a substantive analysis of the architecture of Walter Burley Griffin was lacking that defined and distinguished his work from that of the so-called *Prairie School*, and of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Walter Burley Griffin was the conceptual designer of Newman College, while Marion Mahony Griffin (1871-1961), his wife and architectural practice partner, was its facilitator. An evaluation of Griffin's university education, 1895-1899, drew out the compositional concepts of *parti*, types and architectonics, as his own preferred means of working. Griffin was also indebted to his architectural practice and experiences in Chicago, 1899-1914. He was eclectic, as were the American predecessors he admired, Thomas Jefferson and Henry Hobson Richardson, as were Griffin's contemporaries, Louis Henri Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. In Europe, 16thC Philibert de l'Orme, and late 19thC contemporaries, William Richard Lethaby, and Otto

Wagner, also inspired him. Thus the sources of Griffin's architectural ideas, elements, and methods of composition, have been traced in this study.

The description of the commissioning, committee-work, and program for the Newman College building revealed the social and political idealism that linked Griffin with his supporters among Melbourne's Roman Catholic community.

Griffin worked with 'structure' in mind, both in composition and construction. Particular *partis*, typologies and architectonic patterns have been identified in the compositional structures of the college building design. Similarly, Griffin's adaptations of new and exploratory building techniques were investigated. Griffin's sources were not only American. He derived inspiration equally from seminal European and Asian precedents, which provided instances of shared underlying compositional structures. His sources for architectural motifs were from both Occidental and Oriental buildings, in the Ancient to the Modern eras. In the architecture of Newman College the composite plans, mixed construction techniques and materials, and richly layered forms, allowed Griffin scope to express ideal college purposes, spiritual universality, and organic wholeness.

TABLES OF CONTENTS

part 1, SPECIFICS

Chapter 1	INTRODUCTION methodology & literature review	5-15
Chapter 2	CONTEXTS Melbourne, Chicago & campus planning types	16-70
Chapter 3	APPEARANCE functions, materials and form	71-117
Chapter 4	PROCESS 1915-1918 & PROGRESS 1918-1965	118-148
Chapter 5	MARION MAHONY her role	149-172
Appendix A	Chronology for the new Roman Catholic College	173-193
Appendix B	Griffin, <i>The Advocate</i> article, Christmas Day 1915	194-196
List of Illustrations part 1, Specifics		197-201

part 2, FORM

Chapter 6	DESIGN METHOD sources	202-218
Chapter 7	PLAN PATTERNS and STRATEGIES <i>partis</i>	219-250
Chapter 8	ELEMENTS and TYPOLOGICAL PATTERNS types	251-287
Chapter 9	STRUCTURAL PATTERNS architectonics & reinforced concrete	288-317
Chapter 10	STYLE comparisons with the <i>Shingle Style</i> and the <i>Prairie School</i>	318-347
Chapter 11	INTERPRETATION exfoliation, the living-bridge, democracy	348-363
	CONCLUSION	364
	ENVOY	365-378

Biographical Notes	379-396
Appendix C Griffin, 1913 address to the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects	397-403
Appendix D Professor Nathan Clifford Ricker's list	404-407
Bibliography	408-432
List of Illustrations part 2, Form	433-438
Acknowledgements	439-440