

SUSAN HOLDEN AND OLIVIA DAW

INTERSTICES 22

Watershed or whimper? The Australian Year of the Built Environment, 2004



Year of the Built Environment 2004

Fig. 1 Year of the Built Environment logo. [Courtesy of Warren Kerr]

The announcement that 2004 would be designated the Year of the Built Environment (YBE) was an important declaration by Australian governments of the role of the built environment for future environmental sustainability. It provided an impetus for a whole-of-government perspective on built environment issues that also raised the spectre of past attempts at a federal urban policy agenda. It had been a long interval since the short-lived Commonwealth Department of Urban and Regional Development (DURD, 1972–75) initiated by the Whitlam Labor Government that sought to raise the profile of urban governance as a national policy priority, and the Hawke–Keating Labor Government’s Building Better Cities Program (1991–96) that piloted a model for intergovernmental collaboration catalysing the role of Australian cities in economic development.¹ If those previous schemes focused on the role of the federal government in coordinating more strategic resource distribution and incentivising high-quality urban development, what would the impetus of sustainability bring?

One of the main priorities of YBE was to activate community engagement in sustainability issues. In this respect, it aimed to cement emerging sustainable principles as a central tenet of urban development. This vision was articulated by the Governor-General Major General Michael Jeffery, patron-in-chief of YBE, at its national launch at the 5-star rated green building 30 Bond in Sydney: “I believe this can be a watershed year that will provide impetus for positive built environment outcomes to flow on to the community for years to come.”² With 2004 also a federal election year, there was a political context to the activities and debates of YBE, and associated industry-wide calls for a coordinated policy agenda. Yet in the lead up to the October election, the Urban Design Forum signalled the lack of ongoing political commitment:

The Year of the Built Environment is a whimper, the election year Budget offers little more, with practically no leadership for sustainable infrastructure and communities. Despite the rhetoric, recent road allocations well outpace public transport, and Australia’s response to the international Kyoto Protocol expectations for reduction of greenhouse gases is mostly smoke and mirrors.³

Despite being one of the few national attempts at coordinating resources and

attention around built environment issues, there has been little analysis of YBE or its impact. This paper draws together dispersed data on the events and outcomes of the year, and interviews with select protagonists, to present an account of YBE and analyse the initiative in relation to the evolution of built environment policy in Australia.⁴ To some extent YBE was a politically opportunistic attempt—in the lead up to a federal election—to focus attention and resources on the emerging imperative of environmental sustainability at a time when the concept was gaining popular momentum. Its expansive program of events, exhibitions, and demonstration projects engaged communities and industry as crucial actors in achieving sustainable built environments. However, YBE was also the outcome of a concerted effort in the architecture profession, led by Warren Kerr as Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) WA Chapter President (2001–03) and National President (2004–05), to more effectively influence the quality of the built environment and its legacy for future generations. One of its most important legacies was the re-establishment of Government Architect roles and the strategic connection of these roles through the Government Architects Network of Australia (GANA). That YBE has been somewhat forgotten in the professional record can be attributed to more than just the well-recognised problem of institutional amnesia.⁵ It also reflects how the environmental sustainability agenda was stalled in Australia by the politicisation of climate change.

A national approach to sustainable cities

The 2003 Australian Government Inquiry into Sustainable Cities 2025 and subsequently initiated Sustainable Cities Program provided an important political context for YBE.⁶ The Inquiry came about as a recommendation of the second State of the Environment Report of 2001, which recognised the key role of cities in achieving sustainable futures and established a policy impetus for the evaluation of urban environments as part of a broader sustainability agenda.⁷ During the 1990s, sustainability discourse advanced globally after the United Nations Brundtland Report, *Our Common Future* (1987), popularised the concept of a limit to growth and the term entered policy lexicon.⁸ During this so-called “sustainability decade,” Australia made significant political commitment to advancing sustainability, albeit with varying levels of success in operationalising policy.⁹

The sustainability agenda placed the built environment in direct relation to the natural environment and recast the value of a national approach to urban governance. Indeed, the Inquiry identified the lack of a national approach to policy and strategic coordination for the urban environment as a barrier to achieving more sustainable outcomes.¹⁰ In contrast to the integrated approach for the protection and management of Australia’s natural environment, the Inquiry identified that most government programs and constitutional power relating to factors influencing urban sustainability were coordinated at a state or local level without “high-level, strategic coordination.”¹¹ The federal government committed \$168.5 million in its 2003–04 budget “to protect the nation’s built heritage and help make urban life more sustainable.”¹² The Sustainable Cities Program was a headline initiative, receiving \$40 million of funding over five years to “ensure understanding of, and action for, sustainable Australia.”¹³ Federal funding was also made available under the Distinctively Australian program and the Cool Communities program that linked the Australian Greenhouse Office with NGOs and communities.¹⁴

The Federal Government's engagement with built environment issues provided an opportunity for the RAlA to advance its agenda for sustainable development and design excellence. The RAlA made a submission to the Inquiry,¹⁵ and they played a central role in initiating and subsequently organising YBE, in large part through the successful lobbying activities of Warren Kerr. During his term as RAlA WA Chapter President (2001–03), Kerr had developed the idea for a Year of the Built Environment, motivated by the desire to see more cohesive and effective built environment policy in Australia and the architecture profession make a bigger contribution to urban governance. He was inspired by the 2002 Year of the Outback, which aimed to highlight the importance of regional and remote Australia and was commemorated with a special \$1 coin. Kerr had extensive experience with government, having worked as a graduate for the Commonwealth Department of Works and then later for the WA Building Management Authority, and he used his experience and networks, also developed through his leadership roles with the RAlA and the Australian Council of Building Design Professions (BDP), to garner support for YBE initially in WA, then from the other states, and ultimately from the Office of the Prime Minister.¹⁶ In the lead up to the federal budget delivered in May 2003, the Commonwealth Government endorsed the initiative as a national activity, recognising an opportunity for policy announcements in an election year and, in turn, 2004 was officially designated the Year of the Built Environment.¹⁷ Responsibility for the year was then delegated to the Australian Department of the Environment and Heritage.

In the National Environment Budget Statement 2004–05, David Kemp, Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Heritage, outlined that one of the focuses for the year was the development of national standards for the sustainability of the built environment and working towards the adoption of a national approach to “policies, partnerships and programmes.”¹⁸ More specifically, this included legislation for national water efficiency labelling and standards (WELS), reviewing additional standards for toxic gas, sulphur, and ground-level ozone standards, and the aim to strengthen environmental aspects of building codes and standards, as well as ensuring access to community and decision makers to national information regarding the urban environment.

As the RAlA National President for 2003–04, David Parken chaired the National Steering Committee for YBE, while Kerr, who succeeded Parken as RAlA National President (2004–05), headed up the WA Steering Committee, which had its headquarters in the Western Australian Department of Housing and Works.¹⁹ The YBE National Steering Committee established seven themes for the year: Towards Sustainable Communities; Healthy Environments; Excellence in Building; Our Built Heritage; Imagining the Future; Design for All; and Building Regional Communities.²⁰ A National YBE Exemplars and Awards Program showcased and celebrated exemplary people, places, and organisations under these themes. Ten awards were given at a Gala event in November 2004, including the newly revised and illustrated edition of the *Burra Charter* published in 2004, and Council House 2 (CH2)—Australia's first Green Building Council 6-star rated building—completed in 2006 for the City of Melbourne (Table 1). The strategy of using exemplars to demonstrate tangible approaches to achieving sustainability in the built environment also informed the numerous built projects that were sponsored during YBE.

Category	Winners	Commendations
Towards Sustainable Communities	Ché Wall	Ecospecifier, and Inkerman Housing Project, VIC
Healthy Environments	ARUP OATSIH Capital Works Program	Humitec, Burnie City Walking Track, TAS, and Wangka Wilurrara, SA
Excellence in Building	Federation Square, VIC, and Walsh Bay, NSW	
Our Built Heritage	<i>Burra Charter</i>	Adelaide City Council Heritage Incentive Scheme, SA, and Canterbury Primary School, VIC
Imagining the Future	Council House 2, VIC, and Chris Johnson and the <i>Houses of the Future</i> exhibition, NSW	
Design for All	Archicentre, and John McInerney	Smart Housing Queensland
Building Regional Communities	Broken Hill Heritage Cultural Tourism Program, NSW	Tahune Forest Airwalk, TAS, and Queensland Heritage Trails

Table 1 YBE 2004 National Awards and Exemplars Program. [*Year of the Built Environment, 2004*, electronic resource (Perth, WA: YBE 2004, 2003)]

In addition to the *Burra Charter* being acknowledged in the YBE national awards program, the Australian Government also published *Adaptive Reuse: Preserving our Past, Building our Future*, which showcased exemplary projects, and there was a strong focus on heritage-themed activities and events in several states.²¹

Education was another important focus of YBE, and an opportunity to advance initiatives developed with prior government support. In Victoria the Designers in Schools initiative was reintroduced.²² The NSW Chapter of the RAIAs explored ways to advance the Built Environment Education (BEE) program.²³ A web-based School Sustainable Design Tool was launched in Queensland. Developed in collaboration with the Department of Education, it enabled students to learn about sustainability and contribute information showcasing their hometowns.²⁴

An extensive program of events gave momentum and shape to the year itself. A nationally coordinated website allowed the numerous events and exhibitions organised during the year by diverse groups to be supported by YBE, if not financially, then through endorsement by the YBE State Secretariats, as well as numerous related events to be opportunistically brought under the YBE banner.²⁵ Youthquake was a national gathering of under-35-year-old future leaders of the property and construction industries that focused on developing a sustainable vision for Australia in 2050, and there were several national- and state-based forums and symposiums on specific built environment issues including coastal urbanisation, project housing, and child-friendly cities.²⁶ The Museum of Brisbane hosted *The 200km City* exhibition, organised by Peter Spearritt and The Brisbane Institute, which highlighted the pressures of population growth in South-East Queensland and the role of strategic planning frameworks in shaping sustainable settlement patterns.²⁷ Tasmania’s events program focused on built and landscape heritage with a four-part debate series staged across the year. Topics included “old buildings are better than new ones,” and “suburbs: the great Australian dream has turned into a nightmare.” (Fig. 2)

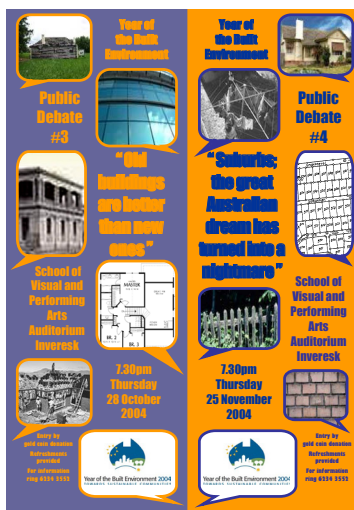


Fig. 2 Tasmania YBE Debate Series poster. [<https://web.archive.org/web/20050616084907/http://www.wsa.tas.gov.au/ybe/YBE%20DEBATE%20Poster%201%20%202%20.pdf>, accessed 16 May 2022; courtesy of the Tasmanian Conservation Trust]

Sydney hosted a YBE City Talks lecture series across the year with high-profile international speakers, including UK-based sustainability expert John Duggart with Australian architect Danielle McCartney,²⁸ American urban studies theorist Richard Florida on his recently published book *The Rise of the Creative Class* (2002), and architectural theorist Beatriz Colomina, director of Princeton University School of Architecture, who was in Australia as a keynote speaker for

the Biennale of Sydney. The Honourable Paul Keating spoke in this series in a debate on the Future of Sydney Harbour, a hot topic in the lead up to the East Darling Harbour urban design competition.²⁹ Another significant international visitor was Sir Stuart Lipton, chair of the UK Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), who visited Sydney in February 2004. Lipton brought CABE to the attention of an Australian audience, and it became something of a benchmark for those pondering the legacy of YBE for Australia.

YBE legacy projects

A focal point of YBE at both national and state levels was the promotion of exemplars through awards, educational material, and demonstration projects. The *Houses of the Future* exhibition was a flagship demonstration project led by NSW State Government Architect Chris Johnson. Johnson and his team, which included Sara Stace and Meredith Bennion, chose the lens of the home to address issues of sustainability, where they believed most people had experience and understanding of the built environment.³⁰ Following the well-established modernist tradition of housing exhibitions, they commissioned six futuristic houses that were displayed on the Sydney Opera House forecourt from 15–31 October 2004.³¹

Fig. 3 *Houses of the Future* on the Sydney Opera House forecourt (2004). [Photograph by John Gollings AM, Gollings Photography Pty Ltd]



Each house was designed by a different architect, made from a different base material, and aimed to provoke new thinking on the future of domestic space.³² Placing focus on the home was a tangible way to demonstrate lessons on environmental sustainability while showcasing design and material innovation. (Fig. 3)

The houses promoted sustainability through their use of materials, design for pre-fabrication, and incorporation of passive environmental design strategies and rainwater recycling.³³ Each house was required to conform with BASIX, a new building sustainability index being adopted in NSW in 2004 to ensure that new residential dwellings would be designed and built to use 40 per cent less drinking-quality water and produce less greenhouse gas emissions than average homes.³⁴ According to Johnson, there was some anxiety and resistance around

the introduction of BASIX, so the *Houses of the Future* exhibition additionally served to demystify the new tool.³⁵

Johnson also aspired to influence mass market housing and the exhibition aligned with the topic of the 2004 NSW Premier's Forum on Suburban and Project Housing. The houses were delivered by Multiplex and a key goal for the exhibition, influenced by Colomina's visit, was to have a broad impact via mass media coverage where Johnson hoped the projects would capture the imagination of the public and generate images of the possibilities of housing that would "outlast the reality" of the exhibited buildings.³⁶ Johnson's accompanying book, *HOMES DOT COM: Architecture for All*, placed the experimental houses from the exhibition and principles of sustainable design in relation to the ubiquitous "project home" and the broader context of Australian suburbia.³⁷ Over 75,000 people visited the exhibition, and extensive media interest through television, newspapers, magazines, and major websites brought international attention to YBE.³⁸ Accompanying *Houses of the Future*, the YBE Secretariat assisted the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) and the Sydney Botanic Gardens in developing *Gardens of the Future*, an exhibition that addressed similar issues.³⁹

The focus on demonstration projects continued in Victoria, where the City of Melbourne and Archicentre renovated two terrace houses in the inner-city suburb of Carlton. *The Terraces* sought to provide tangible "consumer education" on design, construction, and sustainability. The Victorian Building Commission was a partner in this demonstration project and provided secretariat support for YBE activities in Victoria, and was involved in several legacy projects. They partnered with Heritage Victoria to publish the first edition of *What House Is That?*, a booklet highlighting key housing styles in Victoria, that aimed to improve design literacy and appreciation of the value of Victoria's built heritage.⁴⁰

In Queensland, the single dwelling was also the focus of exemplar projects, with the Queensland State Government committing half a million dollars to support the construction of sustainable homes around the state, a program that extended The Smart Housing initiative established by the Department of Housing in 1999 to promote sustainability in the design and construction of housing in the private sector.⁴¹ Thirty-four local councils expressed interest in developing their own demonstration projects under the Sustainable Homes Program, a collaborative partnership between state and local governments and housing industry organisations.⁴² Thirty projects were realised, occupying all four of Queensland's climate zones defined in the Building Code of Australia (BCA), and each home was open for a minimum of six months for public viewing.⁴³

Adding to Queensland's YBE legacy projects, Wayne Petrie, who served as Chair of the YBE Steering Committee in Queensland for the Department of Public Works, developed the initial vision for the Architectural Practice Academy (APA) during the year.⁴⁴ As former president of the RAIQ Queensland Chapter, Petrie recognised the need to offer graduates ongoing education outside of academia and developed the experimental program to give graduates an opportunity to lead architectural projects overseen by mentors in the profession.⁴⁵ Federal YBE funding was used for the Academy's establishment, and it was supported by Minister Robert Schwarten.⁴⁶ The APA ran from 2005 to 2012, admitting six graduates each year for a two-year period, with the office functioning like a small practice as an independent unit within government while receiving assistance

from the Project Services Division. It also functioned as a design-focused internship program in the public service, exposing new graduates to careers in the public sector, while ensuring they gained the post-graduation experience required to achieve professional registration.⁴⁷ The APA contributed to the design of some of the Sustainable Houses in regional locations (Fig. 4). In 2011, under the new Liberal National Party Government, funding for the APA ceased.⁴⁸

Fig. 4 Jo Macleod (2004). The Zilzi Sustainable House by the APA. [Photograph by John Casey, courtesy of Queensland Department of Energy and Public Works]



Built environment governance after YBE: Design leadership and design policy

While the promotion of exemplars was seen as a powerful way to encourage behavioural change in the broader community, the goal of long-term influence through policy was a bigger challenge and ultimately subject to the contingencies of political cycles.⁴⁹ YBE did provide a framework for the built environment professions to collectively recognise the lack of strategic government leadership on built environment issues, if not to explicitly interrogate why, as Susan Oakley wrote during the year, “an urban policy discourse [had] not been sustainable in Federal Government.”⁵⁰ The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) took the opportunity to launch a revised version of its 2001 national policy statement, *Liveable Communities: How the Commonwealth can Foster Sustainable Cities and Regions*, which also formed the basis of its submission to the Sustainable Cities Inquiry, and called for coordinated national policy to rectify what Jago Dodson described as the “policy of wilful neglect” that had characterised the years since Building Better Cities.⁵¹ For Kerr, too, the lack of cohesive and coordinated urban policy had been an important motivating factor behind YBE, and informed his parallel lobbying for state and city architect positions in WA and nationally.

As part of YBE 2004, Western Australia developed a State Sustainability Strategy, which brought an explicit sustainability focus to the strategic whole-of-government approach to policy development that was occurring at state level across Australia.⁵² The WA Strategy was intended to lead to the adoption of a dedicated

built environment design policy, which had been developed in draft form by the RAIA WA Chapter in the lead up to YBE in 2003, but this was thwarted by a change in leadership of the Labor Government, and of the Minister for Public Works role.⁵³ While a dedicated design policy would take another seventeen years to arrive,⁵⁴ YBE was nonetheless a catalyst for decisive action on the establishment of a State Government Architect position in WA, with Geoffrey London commencing in 2004. Kerr claimed this as one of the most tangible legacies of YBE for the state:

In Australia, there is no government policy on the built environment, and the appointment of a government architect to advise ministers on issues to do with the built environment such as heritage, procurement, public-private partnerships and pilot projects is a step in the right direction.⁵⁵

This had been one of Kerr's priorities as RAIA WA Chapter President and National President and he used these roles to lobby jurisdictions across Australia. As part of the launch of YBE in the Northern Territory, Chief Minister Clare Martin announced the establishment of an NT Government Architect position and Bob Nation was appointed.⁵⁶ Victoria would follow in 2006, with John Denton appointed, and by 2010 all states and territories in Australia had a Government Architect position.⁵⁷

In the lead up to YBE only NSW and Queensland had Government Architect positions. NSW was the only state in Australia where the Government Architect position had been maintained since the colonial era.⁵⁸ In Queensland the position was re-established in 1999, with Michael Keniger appointed to the role in a part-time capacity. A significant task of Keniger's tenure was to begin to define a new kind of advisory-focused Government Architect role. This shift was also acknowledged in the RAIA WA Chapter's development of a draft policy for the built environment that identified an important role for governments as "custodians of design excellence" and the potential for government architects to advise and assist governments in this responsibility.⁵⁹ Keniger advised several states on the definition of the position in Queensland, including WA, Victoria, and NT, and contributed to the establishment of an AIA Government Architect Policy (2008).⁶⁰ This ad-hoc approach to knowledge sharing was formalised during YBE with the establishment of the GANA. Queensland hosted a second meeting of the GANA group in 2005, cementing it as an annual event.⁶¹ In the ongoing absence of national leadership in urban policy and strategic planning, GANA represents one of the few mechanisms for the national coordination of the architecture profession working in government.

Following visits to Australia by representatives of the UK's Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment,⁶² CABE would become a significant international benchmark for the development of design-led built environment governance in Australia in subsequent decades. In 2005, members of the RAIA NSW Chapter YBE Future Directions Committee called for an independent Built Environment Foundation as a meaningful legacy of YBE, taking inspiration from CABE.⁶³ While this did not come to fruition, CABE's practices and research have nonetheless informed the development of design review processes and design policy in Australia. Sustainability principles have been embedded in the design principle developed by government architects who guide the design review process for public buildings and infrastructure, state-significant projects,

and housing. The extent to which design-led built environment governance can influence strategic planning and procurement, and address some of the sustainability challenges associated with the mass housing market that Chris Johnson was concerned with during YBE, for example, remains an ongoing challenge.

Not to be outdone, New Zealand proclaimed 2005 as the Year of the Built Environment there, with a similar collaborative framework between central government, the New Zealand Institute of Architects, and other local government agencies and professional institutes, with over 200 activities held across the year.⁶⁴

Watershed or whimper?

In the July/August 2022 issue of *Architecture Australia*, the YBE award-winning Council House 2 was revisited by Stephen Choi.⁶⁵ Revisiting this project almost 20 years after its inception gives some perspective on how the sustainability discourse has evolved in the architecture profession. This special issue of *AA* on the power of regenerative design coincided with the delayed release of the 2021 State of the Environment Report, after a five-year period in which Australia has seen catastrophic bushfires and floods.⁶⁶ While the release of the report prompts outrage and grief at the ‘lost years’ since Australia took an early leading role in the sustainability discourse in the 1990s and highlights the fraught political dimension to Australia’s sustainability journey, it is also clear that the climate crisis requires a fundamental shift in thinking and action. Sustainability is now, in fact, almost a cliché, and as the *AA* special issue makes clear, the challenge is to move “beyond sustainability” and beyond the unproductive distinction between the natural and built environment that persisted in YBE. While YBE recognised the key role of cities in achieving a sustainable future, there is now recognition of the crucial role of biodiversity in natural and built environments, including urban ecosystems. While YBE saw heritage conservation as a parallel endeavour to the development of ecologically sustainable design, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is now calling for a broader definition of heritage to encompass its potential to catalyse climate action and social cohesion.⁶⁷

YBE may not have been a “watershed year,” and no commemorative coin was issued, but neither was it a whimper. Both Kerr and Johnson identified the development of design policies and the involvement of architects in built environment governance as important long-term goals. Many of the methods explored during YBE to promote the value of good design—such as identifying and awarding exemplary projects, supporting demonstration projects, and promoting public discourse and education—remain valid public policy tools. While the long-recognised challenges of overcoming siloed professional activity and achieving joined-up policy may persist, one of the main legacies of YBE has been in the incremental shifts in built environment governance processes that have made a greater role for architects to contribute design intelligence in the form of advocacy and advice to government. It remains for the architecture profession to further embrace the sphere of design governance in Australia as an avenue to achieve a greater impact on the design quality of the environment. The immense cultural change required to underpin climate adaptation remains ahead of us all.

NOTES

1. Tom Uren (Minister for Urban and Regional Development, 1972–75) was a YBE ambassador in NSW and Keating would re-enter the fray with a national lecture on the future of Sydney Harbour as part of the NSW YBE events program. Chris Johnson and Elizabeth Farrelly, “Year of the Built Environment: A Conversation,” *Architectural Theory Review* 9, no. 1 (2004): 97–111; “The Harbour of the Future,” *Architecture Bulletin* 3 (2004): 7–8.
2. Michael Jeffery quoted in “National Year of the Built Environment – 2004: A Year to Build On,” *Ecos*, no. 119 (2004): 8.
3. Bill Chandler, “Is the Federal Government Relevant,” *The Urban Design Forum*, no. 66 (2004): 1.
4. Interviews conducted under two larger projects: Design Governance and the Architecture Profession (ethics approval: 2022/HE000293) and Leadership in Design Governance: The Future of Advocacy and the Diversification of the Architecture Profession (2021/HE000992).
5. Alastair Stark and Brian Head, “Institutional Amnesia and Public Policy,” *Journal of European Public Policy*, no. 10 (2019): 1521–39; Laura Tingle, “Political Amnesia: How we Forgot to Govern,” *Quarterly Essay*, no. 60 (2015): 1–86.
6. Australian Government, Department of the Environment and Heritage, *Inquiry into Sustainable Cities 2025: Submission by the Department of the Environment and Heritage* (Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, 2003): 3; Australian Government, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage, *Sustainable Cities* (Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia, 2005): 21–22.
7. Australian State of the Environment Committee, *Australia State of the Environment 2001* (Canberra: CSIRO Publishing on behalf of the Department of the Environment and Heritage, 2001). See also *Inquiry into Sustainable Cities 2025*, 5–7. The first State of the Environment Report (1996) was initiated by Paul Keating on the back of Australia signing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992) at Rio’s Earth Summit and reflected Australia’s international leadership and credibility in the climate change arena at that time.
8. United Nations, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future* (New York, 1987).
9. Martin Brueckner and Christof Pforr, “The Rise and Fall of Sustainability in Western Australian Politics: A Review of Sustainable Development Under the Western Australian Labour Government Between 2001 and 2008,” *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy* 7, no. 2 (2011): 3.
10. Australian Government, Department of the Environment and Heritage, *Inquiry into Sustainable Cities 2025*, 19.
11. Australian Government, Department of the Environment and Heritage, *Inquiry into Sustainable Cities 2025*, 17. The RAIA made a submission to the Inquiry, prepared by the new National Environment Committee chaired by Lindsay Johnson. Lindsay Johnson, “Design Sustainability,” *Architecture Bulletin* 1 (2004): 16. Johnson and RAIA National President David Parken (2003–04) also appeared before the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage during the Inquiry. See *Architecture Australia*, May (2004).
12. David Kemp, “YBEO4,” *Queensland Planner* 44, no. 1 (2004): 2.
13. David Kemp, *A Sustainability Strategy for the Australian Continent, Environment Budget Statement 2004–05* (2004): 44.
14. “National Year of the Built Environment – 2004,” 8.
15. The Royal Australian Institute of Architects, “Inquiry into Sustainable Cities: Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage,” December 2003.
16. Warren Kerr, interview 28 July 2022. The initial idea for a national Year of Architecture was part of Kerr’s successful election platform for the RAIA National Presidency. To secure Federal Government support, Kerr communicated directly with Arthur Sinodinos, Chief of Staff to Prime Minister John Howard.
17. “Year of the Built Environment 2004, Introduction,” *The Architect* 1 (2004): 13. In addition to project and program funding from the Australian Department of the Environment and Heritage, \$500,000 was committed to help celebrate the year.
18. Kemp, *A Sustainability Strategy for the Australian Continent*.
19. Alongside the National Steering Committee, each state nominated a State Steering Committee to oversee the program for the year. Steering Committees included representatives from across the built environment professions and were typically supported by a relevant State Government department. State Governors were approached to be YBE patrons and some states nominated notable public figures as YBE ambassadors. State Steering Committees were led by: Chris Johnson, NSW Government Architect (NSW); Warren Kerr (WA) with support from the Department of Housing and Works; Wayne Petrie (QLD) with support from the Department of Public Works; in Victoria (VIC) initiatives were driven by the Department of Public Works and overseen by the Minister for Planning; and in Tasmania (TAS) initiatives were driven by the Governor. Little is documented on the initiatives of South Australia (SA), Australian Capital Territory (ACT), and Northern Territory (NT). *Architect South Australia* 18, no. 5 (2004): 8–10.
20. “National Year of the Built Environment – 2004,” 8.
21. Commonwealth of Australia, Department of the Environment and Heritage, *Adaptive Reuse: Preserving our Past, Building our Future* (Canberra, 2004).
22. Earlier iterations of this program had been supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.
23. Beverley Garlick, “BEE is Up and Running Again,” *Architecture Bulletin* 1 (2005): 22–23.
24. Queensland Parliament, *51st Parliament Weekly Hansard* (2004): 3816.
25. The national and state YBE websites have been discontinued and can be accessed via web archive. See: www.ybe2004.nsw.gov.au; www.builtenvironment2004.org.au; www.ybe2004.qld.gov.au; <http://www.wsa.tas.gov.au/ybe> (accessed 16 May 2022).
26. Some notable symposiums included: the National Coastal Urbanisation Symposium, Gold Coast, 29 March 2004; the NSW Premier’s Forum on Suburban and Project Housing, Paramatta, April 2004; and the Creating Child-Friendly Cities Symposium, Brisbane, 28–29 October 2004.
27. Peter Spearritt and K. Gum, *The 200km City: From Noosa to the Tweed* (Brisbane: The Brisbane Institute, 2004).
28. Doggett and McCartney also conducted a national seminar tour supported by the RAIA Continuing Education Unit in conjunction with the Australian Greenhouse Office.
29. Johnson and Farrelly, “The Harbour of the Future,” *Architecture Bulletin* 3 (2004): 6–9. Jack Munday also contributed to this debate and was a YBE ambassador in NSW.
30. Johnson and Farrelly, “Year of the Built Environment,” 97–111.

31. Chris Johnson, "Houses of the Future and the Mass Media," *Architecture Bulletin*, no. 3 (2004): 33. Johnson made specific mention of Harry Seidler's 1954 House of the Future and Alison and Peter Smithson's House of the Future, which Beatriz Colomina had lectured about during her visit to Sydney in 2004.
32. The six houses were: Steel House by Modabode (Sarah Bickford and Paul Lucas); Clay House by Environa Studio (Tone Wheeler); Concrete House by NSW Government Architect Office (Peter Poulet and Michael Harvey); Timber House by Innovachi (Stephanie Smith and Ken McBryde); Glass House by J. Muir & UTS; and Cardboard House by Stutchbury & Pape (Col James).
33. "Houses of the Future: The Brief," YBE 2004 Houses of the Future, www.housesofthefuture.com.au/hof_houses01.html (site discontinued, accessed via internet archive 16 May 2022).
34. "Why be Environmentally Sustainable?," YBE 2004 Houses of the Future, http://www.housesofthefuture.com.au/hof_what03.html (site discontinued, accessed via internet archive 16 May 2022).
35. Johnson and Farrelly, "Year of the Built Environment."
36. Johnson, "Houses of the Future and the Mass Media," 31.
37. Chris Johnson, *HOMES DOT COM: Architecture for All* (Sydney: Government Architect's Publications, 2004).
38. *Architecture Bulletin*, no. 1 (2005): 2.
39. *Architecture Bulletin*, no. 1 (2005): 2.
40. Victorian Building Commission, *Celebrating Our Built Environment Annual Report 2003–04* (2004): 15.
41. "Triple Bottom Line," Smart and Sustainable Homes, www.sustainable-homes.org.au/O2_design/triple.htm (site discontinued, accessed via internet archive 29 July 2022).
42. "About us," Smart and Sustainable Homes, www.sustainable-homes.org.au/O1_aboutus/index.htm (site discontinued, accessed via internet archive 29 July 2022).
43. "Projects," Smart and Sustainable Homes, www.sustainable-homes.org.au/O1_aboutus/index.htm (site discontinued, accessed via internet archive 29 July 2022).
44. Michael Keniger, "Mind the Gap: The Architectural Practice Academy," *Architectural Review Australia* 92, no. 16 (2005).
45. Charles Rowe, "The Legacy of the Architectural Practice Academy," *Architectural Review*, 5 March 2015, <http://www.australiandesignreview.com/architecture/the-legacy-of-the-architectural-practice-academy> (accessed 20 June 2022).
46. Rowe, "The Legacy of the Architectural Practice Academy."
47. A government-sponsored intern program for architectural graduates was also implemented in Western Australia. Warren Kerr, email correspondence, 2 August 2022.
48. Rowe, "The Legacy of the Architectural Practice Academy."
49. YBE was a catalyst for some advancements in national regulation and standards. Some key achievements cited by Kerr that were advanced during YBE include the Australasian Health Facilities Guidelines (AHFGs) which established national standards for hospital design, and a national review of Architects Acts and approach to Continuing Professional Development. Warren Kerr, email correspondence, 2 August 2022.
50. Susan Oakley, "Politics of Recollection: Examining the Rise and Fall of DURD and Better Cities through Narrative," *Urban Policy and Research* 22, no. 3 (2004): 300.
51. Planning Institute of Australia, *Liveable Communities: How the Commonwealth can Foster Sustainable Cities and Regions*, February 2004; Jago Dodson, "Pushing Planning in the Year of The Built Environment," *Queensland Planner* 44, no. 1 (2004): 12.
52. Kuntal Goswami and Rolf Gerritsen, "Policy Life Cycle Analysis of Three Australian State-Level Public Policies: Exploring the Political Dimension of Sustainable Development," *Journal of Development Policy and Practice* 6, no. 1 (2021): 9–35.
53. Royal Australian Institute of Architects (WA Chapter), *Policies for the WA Architecture Profession*, June 2003. Supplied by Warren Kerr. See also Marsha Jacobs. "Kerr Looks to Develop Understanding," *Business News*, 5 March 2005, www.businessnews.com.au/article/Kerr-looks-to-develop-understanding.
54. Western Australian Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, *State Planning Policy 7.0: Design of the Built Environment* (Perth: Western Australian Planning Commission, 2019).
55. Jacobs, "Kerr Looks to Develop Understanding."
56. *The Architect*, 1 (2004): 13.
57. There was no architect appointed to the role in the Northern Territory after 2009, and the role was subsequently abolished. The position was also discontinued in Tasmania after Peter Poulet left in 2012. Government Architect positions have been maintained in NSW, Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria, South Australia, and the ACT.
58. The Office of the NSW Government Architect transitioned to operating primarily in an advisory capacity in 2016.
59. RAIWA Chapter, *Policies for the WA Architecture Profession*, 8, 17.
60. Michael Keniger, interview 23 June 2022. See also Michael Keniger, "Queensland Government Architect," *Architect Victoria* (December 2000): 18–19.
61. Queensland Parliament, *51st Parliament Weekly Hansard* (2004).
62. Francis Golding visited Brisbane as a keynote speaker at the Making of the Public Realm Conference convened by Keniger in 2000, one of his first initiatives as Queensland State Government Architect. Sir Stuart Lipton visited Sydney during YBE for the YBE City Talks lecture series.
63. Caroline Pidcock, "News," *Architecture Bulletin* 1 (2005): 3; Chris Johnson; "Year of the Built Environment Overview," Year of the Built Environment website, <http://www.ybe2004.nsw.gov.au/ybe2004.asp> (site discontinued, accessed via internet archive 29 July 2022).
64. "2005 Year of the Built Environment: Celebrating our Cities and Towns," www.beehive.govt.nz/release/2005-year-built-environment-celebrating-our-cities-and-towns (accessed 29 July 2022). The year aimed to inform government initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Programme of Action and Urban Affairs portfolio.
65. Stephen Choi, "Revisited: CH2 (2006), Design Inc in Collaboration with the City of Melbourne," *Architecture Australia* 111, no. 4 Beyond Sustainability (2022): 86–93.
66. I. D. Cresswell, T. Janke, and E. L. Johnston, *Australia State of the Environment 2021: Overview*, Independent report to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, 2021, DOI: 10.26194/f1rh-7r05. Although handed down in 2021, this most recent iteration of the five-yearly report was not publicly released until July 2022 after the May federal election saw the Albanese Labor Government take office.
67. Climate Change and Cultural Heritage Working Group International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), *The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action* (ICOMOS, Paris: 2019), <https://indd.adobe.com/view/a9a551e3-3b23-4127-99fd-a7a80d91a29e> (accessed 12 July 2022).