



## Threads of Conservation

Social fabric • Fabric and place • Conserving fabric

**Australia ICOMOS Conference**  
5-8 November 2015  
Adelaide Australia



### **Andrew Klenke**

Andrew Klenke is a practicing architect based in South Australia with over twenty-five years experience working in the field of building conservation. A Senior Associate at Swanbury Penglase Architects, his career has provided him with the privilege of experiencing and working on a wide variety of the state's significant places, including some of its most important.

While interested in all aspects of history and conservation, Andrew has a particular interest in furthering the ongoing use of heritage places, better understanding traditional materials and construction practices, as well as exploring and advancing conservation techniques to suit our local environment and conditions.

### **Old Parliament House, Adelaide – the practicality of the Burra Charter process**

#### **Paper Abstract**

Old Parliament House is one of our most significant places, it being the only building in South Australia on the National Heritage List for its role in advancing Australian democracy. Originating in the construction of the meeting place for the first Legislative Council in 1843, it grew to contain both houses of the bicameral Parliament. The resulting complicated and confusing building is the embodiment of the complex evolving politics of the Parliament until the completion of the adjoining Parliament House in 1939.

Suffering from a number of conservation and functional problems that made the building inefficient and underutilised in an environment where space is at a premium, a major upgrade was necessary to ensure the building would meet the current demands of the Parliament of South Australia. After thoroughly understanding the significance of the place and its associated components, a proposal was developed to address all the buildings major problems by maximising the opportunities while respecting the constraints. The work was documented and executed in a manner that allowed for the design to evolve as the work progressed. In the process significant fabric was revealed and new appropriate uses developed for significant spaces whose importance had previously been concealed.

The redevelopment completed in 2014 is an excellent demonstration how the process outlined in the ICOMOS Burra Charter can help to achieve exceptional outcomes in even the most significant context. This presentation is intended to summarise the significance of the building and its associated problems before outlining the decision making process and how the eventual outcome was achieved.