Managing 20th Century Obsolescence in Western Australia

challenges conflicts outcomes

Nerida Moredoundt
Practice Director
Palassis Architects
Unloved modern in western Australia

Western Australia

Perth

Darwin

N.T.

NT

N.S.W.

Brisbane

QLD.

Sydney

VIC.

Canberra

S.A.

Adelaide

TAS.

Melbourne

A.C.T.

Hobart
ROOFTOP LEVEL
The Courier-Mail
Rooftop Terrace

ADMIN LEVEL
Brisbane Powerhouse Admin
Arts Training Queensland

TURBINE LEVEL
Powerhouse Theatre
Box Office
Turbine Hall
Spark Bar
Graffiti Room
Devine Plaza &
Access to Stones Building
Labyrinth & Carpark

RIVER LEVEL
Visit Modern Dining on the River
Riverside Gallery
Visit Theatre
Turbine Rehearsal Room
east perth
power station
unloved modern in western australia
midland
railway
workshops
Midland Railway Workshops

Built Form Analysis

The Workshop Village precinct is characterised by a mix of industrial, administration and ancillary buildings dating from the early 20th century, connected by an established network of roadways, rail tracks and open spaces.
Industrial Buildings

- Robust and simple forms
- Sawtooth or gable roofs
- Red face-brickwork with contrasting horizontal rendered banding
- Facades divided into vertical bays formed by recessed arches and the arrangement of vertically-proportioned openings
- Long clear-span spaces with large internal volumes, austere internal finishes and abundant natural light
Administration Buildings

- Simple rectilinear plans
- Gable or hipped roofs
- Projecting awnings fixed over windows
- Red face-brickwork contrasting with rendered horizontal banding and decorative ornament to the cornice and upper wall areas
- Regular patterns are created across the facades by the arrangement of openings and repetition of elements
Ancillary Buildings

- Simple rectilinear plans - usually extendable
- Shed-like appearance with domestic-scale details including timber-framed doors, awnings and porches
- Vernacular building materials including horizontal weatherboards and sheets of corrugated galvanised iron, combined with concrete and brick
Adaptive Re-use – Main Store
Adaptive Re-use – Blocks 1, 2 & 3