



Catherine Forbes Principal

Catherine Forbes is an architect with over 30 years' experience in heritage conservation. Her expertise lies in analysing historic buildings, sites and urban precincts (including interiors and landscapes), and preparing appropriate guidelines for their conservation, maintenance, adaptation, development and management.

Catherine has an excellent knowledge of traditional construction materials and technologies and lengthy experience in their conservation and management. She has carried out conservation works to many historic buildings; created adaptive re-use solutions; designed sympathetic alterations and additions to existing buildings; and designed new buildings for historic contexts—all applying the sustainability principles that lie at the core of her approach. Throughout her career, Catherine has worked in complex multidisciplinary environments, undertaken consultation with stakeholder groups and local communities, and negotiated with authorities at all levels of government.

Catherine is also an expert in disaster risk management planning for cultural heritage, damage assessment and post disaster recovery.

Qualifications

Master of Development Studies (Merit), University of Sydney
 Bachelor of Architecture (Honours), University of Sydney
 Bachelor of Science (Architecture) (Honours), University of Sydney
 Registered Architect, NSW Architects Registration Board, Registration No. 5861

Professional affiliations

Australian Institute of Architects
 Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)

I believe we can learn a lot from the past—particularly about sustainability, appropriate design for climate and place, efficient and effective use of resources, what works and what doesn't work.

Key experience

Strategic heritage advice

- The Shine Dome, Canberra, Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Upgrades—Client: University of Canberra and Australian Academy of Science
- Marrickville Library (Former Hospital), Conservation and Adaptive Re-use—Client: BVN, Inner West Council and Mirvac
- Arthur Phillip High School and Parramatta Public School Convict Barracks Wall and Historic School Buildings, Refurbishment and New Development—Client: Grimshaw Architects for Department of Education
- Maitland Hospital, Heritage Assessment and Advice—Client: NSW Health
- 341 George Street and 4–6 York Street, Sydney, Heritage Advice for Adaptation and New Development—Client: PDS Group, Tzannes

Conservation management plans and heritage impact assessments

- Argyle Stores, Cleland Bond Stores and ASN Co. Building, The Rocks, Conservation Management Plans—Client: Property NSW
- The Mint, Macquarie Street, Sydney, Conservation Management Plan—Client: Sydney Living Museums
- Royal Botanic Garden and The Domain, Sydney, Conservation Management Plan and Update for National Values—Client: Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust
- Botanica (Former Lidcombe Hospital Site), Lidcombe, Stages 64, 82, 83 and 87, Specific Elements Conservation Policies and Heritage Impact Statements—Client: Frasers Property Group
- 10–14 Hunter Street, Sydney (NSW Sport Club), Conservation Management Plan and Heritage Impact Statement—Client: Joshua Farkesh & Associates Pty Ltd
- Terrace Houses and Residential Flats, Millers Point and The Rocks, Conservation Management Plans—Client: Land and Housing Corporation

Condition surveys and conservation works

- Victoria Barracks, Paddington, Repair and Conservation Works to Numerous Buildings—Client: Brookfield Global Integrated Solutions, Defence Housing Australia
- Walter Burley Griffin House, Centennial Park, Conservation, Alterations and Additions—Client: Private

- Arthur Phillip High School and Parramatta Public School Convict Barracks Wall and Historic School Buildings, Fabric Conservation and Post Fire Recovery—Client: Schools Infrastructure NSW
- Prospect Reservoir, Upgrade of Outlet System, Including Conservation Works to Upper and Lower Valve Houses, Heritage Compliance Certification—Client: Geotech for Water NSW

Adaptive re-use

- Marrickville Library and Pavillion (Former Marrickville Hospital), Conservation and Adaptive Re-use—Client: BVN, Inner West Council and Mirvac
- Botanica (Former Lidcombe Hospital), Lidcombe, Conservation and Adaptive Re-use of Former Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Hospital Buildings—Client: Frasers Property Group
- Taronga Zoo, Mosman, Upper Entrance Building Refurbishment—Client: Taronga Conservation Society Australia (Design 5 Architects, BVN)
- Trocadero, Newtown, Adaptive Re-use—Client: Fuel VFX (Design 5 Architects)

Sustainability and climate change adaptation

- The Shine Dome, Canberra, Sustainability Plan—Client: University of Canberra and Australian Academy of Science
- Climate Change Adaptation Case Studies—Client: Heritage Council of Victoria

Disaster risk reduction

- Historic Heritage Bushfire Vulnerability Assessment Framework—Client: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- The Rocks, NSW, Heritage Disaster Risk Management Plan—Client: Place Management NSW
- The Rocks, NSW, Heritage Buildings Seismic Assessment Framework—Client: Property NSW
- Safety Hazard Scoping Study, Kingston and Arthur's Vale Heritage Area, Norfolk Island—Client: Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities

Post-disaster recovery

- Cobargo, Historic Main Street Bushfire Recovery Project, Heritage Advice—Client: Dunn + Hillam Architects and Takt Studio for Architecture
- Acton Peninsula Buildings, Canberra, Hail Damage—Client: National Capital Authority
- Parramatta Public School, Post Fire Recovery—Client: Grimshaw Architects for Department of Education

International experience

- Mission to Assess State of Conservation, Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu, Japan—ICOMOS, World Heritage Centre
- Three Reactive Monitoring Missions to Assess the State of Conservation of the World Heritage Property of the Kathmandu Valley following the Ghorka Earthquakes, Nepal—ICOMOS, World Heritage Centre
- Tongatapu, Post Cyclone Damage Assessment and Recovery Planning, Tonga—Client: Tonga Ministry of Tourism, Culture Division, Tonga

Professional background

Principal, GML Heritage, 2019–present

Senior Associate, GML Heritage, 2017–2019

Associate and Built Heritage Adviser, GML Heritage, 2012–2017

Teacher, Design for Sustainability, Bachelor of Design (Interior Design), The Design Centre, Enmore, TAFE NSW, 2012–2013

Operations Manager, Emergency Architects Australia, 2012

Senior Associate and Senior Conservation Architect, Design 5 Architects Pty Ltd, 1994–2010

Architect, Clive Lucas Stapleton and Partners Pty Ltd, 1984–1987

Specialist training

UNESCO International Training Course, Disaster Risk Management for Cultural Heritage, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan, 2014

Capacity Development Across Cultures, Australian Red Cross, 2013

International Humanitarian Action Training, Australian Red Cross, 2012

Health Issues in Humanitarian Crises, Department of Public Health, University of Sydney, 2011

Conservation of Traditional Buildings, University of Canberra, 2003

Awards

National Trust of Australia (NSW), Adaptive Re-use Award and Judges Choice—Marrickville Library and Pavilion, 2020

Commendation, Marrickville Medal for Conservation—Marrickville Library, 2020

National Trust of Australia (NSW) Conservation Built Heritage Award—Conservation works to the Upper Entrance Building and Former Tram Shelter, Taronga Zoo (awarded to Taronga Conservation Society Australia), 2012

NSW Architecture Awards, Australian Institute of Architects, Greenway Award for Heritage Architecture—Conservation works to St James' Church, Sydney (awarded to Design 5 Architects), 2011

National Trust of Australia (NSW) Heritage Award (Conservation Management Plan Category)—Landscape Management Plan for Taronga Zoo (awarded to Design 5 Architects), 2008

National Trust of Australia (NSW) Heritage Award (Published Work)—Edwards, Z (ed), William Hardy Wilson: Artist, Architect, Orientalist, Visionary, The Watermark Press, Sydney (awarded to Edwards et al), 2002

Hastings Heritage and Design Award for Residential Building—Refurbishment and Sympathetic Additions to Pentimento, North Haven (awarded to Design 5 Architects), 2000

Committees and honorary positions

International Scientific Committee for Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Property, 2023–present

Heritage Advisory Panel, Heritage Council of NSW, 2020–present

Joint Australia and New Zealand ICOMOS Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness (ANZCORP) (Convenor), 2017–present

ICOMOS, International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP), 2015–present

Australia ICOMOS, National Scientific Committee on Energy and Sustainability (NSCES), 2013–present

ICOMOS, International Scientific Committee on Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change (ISCES+CC), 2020–present

Blue Shield Australia, Australia ICOMOS Representative, 2016–present

Australia ICOMOS, Caring for Country Committee, 2020–2023

Ku-ring-gai Council, Flood Risk Management Committee, 2019–2022

Selected publications

'Disaster Risk Management Strategy for the Cultural Heritage of The Rocks, Sydney, Australia, including Managing Risks Arising from Climate Change', Case Study for Climate.Culture.Peace Conference, ICCROM, online 2022

'The Sustainable Shine Dome Project, Canberra, Australia', Case Study for Climate.Culture.Peace Conference, ICCROM, online 2022

'Christchurch: Heritage Recovery from the Canterbury Earthquakes'—comprising six case studies (with A. Ohs, F. Wykes, W. Clark), *Analysis of Case Studies in Recovery and Reconstruction*, Volume 1, ICOMOS–ICCROM, 2021

'Risk to cultural heritage in Baixa Pombalina (Lisbon Downtown)—a transdisciplinary approach to exposure and drivers of vulnerability', *International Journal of Architectural Heritage*, Taylor & Francis online, 11 April 2020

'Are we really prepared for disaster? Responding to the lessons from Christchurch', *Historic Environment*, Vol 31, No. 2, Conserving it Together—Heritage at Risk, Australia ICOMOS, 2019

'The Role of Cultural Heritage in Building Peace and Reconciliation: Conflict, Disaster and the Future of Heritage' (with M. Saldin), *Historic Environment*, Vol 30, No. 3, Going To Delhi: Australian Contributions to the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly, Delhi, India 2017, 2018

'Sustaining Heritage in the Face of Disaster: the importance of the intangible, from Nepal to New Zealand and Australia', *Historic Environment*, Vol 29, No. 2, The People's Ground, Australia ICOMOS, 2018

'Sunlight and Shadows', in Edwards, Z (ed) 2001, *William Hardy Wilson: Artist, Architect, Orientalist, Visionary*, The Watermark Press, Sydney, 2006

Expert peer review

Guidance on Post-Disaster and Post-Conflict Recovery and Reconstruction for Heritage Places of Cultural Significance and World Heritage Cultural Properties—Expert Peer Review for ICOMOS and ICCROM

The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action—Expert Peer Review for ICOMOS