

Catherine Forbes—Principal



Catherine Forbes, GML Heritage Principal, is an architect with over 25 years' experience in heritage conservation. Her expertise lies in analysing historic buildings, sites and urban precincts (including interiors and landscapes), preparing appropriate guidelines for their conservation, adaptation, development and management, disaster risk management planning for cultural heritage and reviewing post disaster recovery.

Catherine has excellent knowledge of traditional construction materials and technologies, complemented by lengthy experience of issues associated with 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, requiring consultation with stakeholder groups and local communities, and negotiation with authorities at all levels of government.

Prior to joining GML, Catherine worked in some of Australia's leading heritage architecture firms. In 2014, Catherine undertook specialist training in Disaster Risk Management for Cultural Heritage at Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto.



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

Key Experience

Heritage Advice

Convict Barracks Wall and Historic School Buildings, Arthur Phillip High School and Parramatta Public School, Fabric Conservation and Post Fire Recovery—Project Director—Client: Grimshaw Architects for Department of Education, 2016–Present.

Walter Burley Griffin House, Centennial Park—Conservation, Alterations and Additions—Project Director—Private client, 2015–Present.

Marrickville Library (former hospital), Conservation and Adaptive Re-use—Project Director—Client: BVN, 2014–Present.

Botanica (former Lidcombe Hospital), Lidcombe, Conservation and Adaptive Re-use—Project Manager—Client: Australand Holdings Pty Ltd, 2012–2015.

Hadley Park, Penrith Lakes, Maintenance and Adaptive Re-use—Project Manager—Client: Penrith Lakes Development Corporation, 2012–2015.

Apartments, Jones Street, Ultimo, Noise Reduction and Joinery Repairs—Project Manager—Client: BAAM Consulting, 2012.

Henry Head Lighthouse, Botany Bay National Park, Solar Power Installation—Project Manager—Client: Sydney Ports Corporation, 2012.

Sydney Cricket Ground, Telecommunications Installation—Project Manager—Client: Vodafone, 2013–2014.

Edwin Davey Flour Mill, Pyrmont, Fabric Conservation—Client: Ceerose, 2013–2014.

Conservation Management Plans and Impact Assessments

The Mint, Macquarie Street, Sydney, Conservation Management Plan—Project Manager—Client: Sydney Living Museums, 2016–2017.

Terrace Houses and Residential Flats, Millers Point and The Rocks, Conservation Management Plans—Project Manager—Client: Land and Housing Corporation, 2014–2016.

Botanica (former Lidcombe Hospital Site), Lidcombe, Stages 64, 82, 83 and 87, Specific Elements, Conservation Plans and Heritage Impact Statements—Project Manager—Client: Australand Holdings Pty Ltd, 2012–2017.

Penrith Lakes, Conservation Management Plans for Hadley Park, Upper Castlereagh Group and Long's Cottage—Project Manager—Client: Penrith Lakes Development Corporation, 2012–2014.

10–14 Hunter Street, Sydney, Conservation Management Plan and Heritage Impact Statement—Project Manager—Client: Joshua Farkash & Associates Pty Ltd, 2014.

East Balmain Foreshore, Conservation Management Plan—Client: Leichhardt City Council (for Design 5 Architects), 2005.

Coombing Park, Carcoar, Conservation Management Plan for cattle station, mines, smelter and railway—Private client (for Design 5 Architects), 2002.

Wivenhoe Estate, Camden, Conservation Management Plan—Client: Sisters of the Good Samaritan (for Design 5 Architects), 1995–2000.

Landscape Management Plans

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain, Sydney, Heritage Assessment—Client: Cox Richardson for Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, 2013, 2018–present.

Taronga Zoo, Mosman, Landscape Management Plan—Client: Zoological Parks Board of NSW (for Design 5 Architects), 2006.

The Meeting Place Precinct, Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell, Heritage Assessment—Client: Department of Environment and Heritage, Australian Government (for Design 5 Architects), 2005–2006.

Condition Surveys

Tongatapu Post Cyclone Damage Assessment, Tonga—Project Manager—Client: Tonga Ministry of Tourism, Culture Division, Tonga, 2018.

Parramatta Gaol, Parramatta, Condition Survey—Client: NSW Aboriginal Land Council, 2014.

Austral Brickworks, Eastwood, Condition Survey—Client: AV Jennings Pty Ltd, 2014.

The Abbey, Glebe, Condition Survey—Client: Abacus Property Development, 2013–2014.

Private House, Darling Point, Dilapidation Report—Client: WT Malouf, 2012.

Campbell's Stores, The Rocks, Condition Survey and Heritage Advice—Client: Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (for Design 5 Architects), 2005–2010.

Conservation Works

Wivenhoe, Camden, Conservation of House and Garden—Client: Sisters of the Good Samaritan (for Design 5 Architects), 2000–2003.

St Philip's Anglican Church, Church Hill, Sydney, Stone and Roof Repairs—Client: St Philip's Parish Council (for Design 5 Architects), 1993–1996.

Adaptive Re-use

Taronga Zoo, Mosman, Upper Entrance Building, Refurbishment—Client: Taronga Conservation Society Australia (for Design 5 Architects), 2009–2010.

Trocadero, Newtown, Adaptive Re-use—Client: Fuel VFX (for Design 5 Architects), 2007–2010.

Industry Involvement

Employment

Principal, GML Heritage, 2019–Present.

Senior Associate, GML Heritage, 2017–Present.

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

Teacher, 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.

Honorary Positions

Joint Australia and New Zealand ICOMOS Working Group on Cultural Heritage Risk Preparedness (Convenor), 2017–present.
ICOMOS–ICORP (International Council on Monuments and Sites, International Committee on Risk Preparedness), 2015–Present.

Australia ICOMOS, National Scientific Committee on Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change, 2013–Present.

Blue Shield Australia, Australia ICOMOS representative, 2016–Present.

ICOMOS Heritage Expert, UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Missions to Assess the State of Conservation of the World Heritage Property of the Kathmandu Valley following the Ghoroka Earthquake, 2015–2018.

Director, Emergency Architects Australia, 2012–2013.

ACFID (Australian Council for International Development) Shelter Reference Group, 2012–2013.

Member, Ku-ring-gai Council Heritage Advisory Committee, 2000–2004.

Professional Affiliations

Australian Institute of Architects.

Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites).

Living Future Institute, Australia.

Maintenance Plans

Immigration Detention Centre, Villawood—Maintenance Plan for Nissen Huts—Client: Peter Hunt Architect, 2015.

Boiler House, former Lidcombe Hospital Site, Maintenance Plan—Project Manager—Client: Redband, 2014.

Sustainable Design

Two terrace houses, Millers Point, Conservation, Alteration and Additions, Passive Solar Design—Client: Private (for Design 5 Architects), 2009–2010.

House, Wahroonga, Alterations and Additions, Environmentally Sustainable Design—Client: Private (for Design 5 Architects), 2002–2006.

Teaching

Education and Development Officer, Nepal Village Sanitation and Reconstruction Studios for Healthabitat and CHDS Nepal, 2014 and 2016.

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

Professional Mentor, the Global Studio, Bhopal, India, University of Sydney and Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, 2012.

Presentations and Conference Papers

'What has Happened to My Heritage? Recovery in Christchurch and Kathmandu', Australia and New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference, Gold Coast, 2017.

'Sustaining Heritage Through Disaster: The Importance of Intangible Values: From Nepal to New Zealand and Australia', The Peoples Ground Conference, Australia ICOMOS, 2016.

'Rebuilding Nepal: Traditional and Modern Approaches, Building or Diminishing Resilience', 6th International Building Resilience Conference, University of Auckland, New Zealand, 2016.

'Sustaining Heritage: Viewing Heritage Through a Sustainability Lens', Fabric Conference, Australia ICOMOS, Adelaide, 2015.

'Disaster Planning and Recovery for Cultural Heritage', Sydney Talk Series, Australia ICOMOS, DOCOMOMO and Australian Institute of Architects, Sydney, 2015.

'Disaster Risk Management for Cultural Heritage: The Rocks, Sydney, Australia', 5th International Building Resilience Conference, University of Newcastle, Newcastle, 2015.

'From Roller Skates to Super Heroes: The Many Lives of the Trocadero', Unmaking Waste Conference, University of South Australia, Adelaide, 2015.

Publications

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

Disaster Risk Management

Safety Hazard Scoping Study, Kingston and Arthur's Vale Heritage Area, Norfolk Island—Project Manager—Client: Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, 2017–2018.

HMAS Penguin and Chowder Bay, Bushfire Mitigation for Heritage Buildings—Client: WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff, 2015.

The Rocks Precinct, Disaster Risk Management Planning—Client: Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (for R-DMUCH), 2014–2015.

Ranongga, Solomon Islands, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, Post Tsunami Recovery—Client: Keigold Community, Ranongga (for Emergency Architects Australia), 2011.

Awards

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

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

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

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

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

Specialist Training

UNESCO ITC Disaster Risk Management for Cultural Heritage, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, 2014.

Capacity Development Across Cultures, Australian Red Cross, 2013.

International Humanitarian Action Training, Australian Red Cross, 2012.

Health Issues in Humanitarian Emergencies, Department of Public Health, University of Sydney, 2011.

Conservation of Traditional Buildings, University of Canberra, 2003.