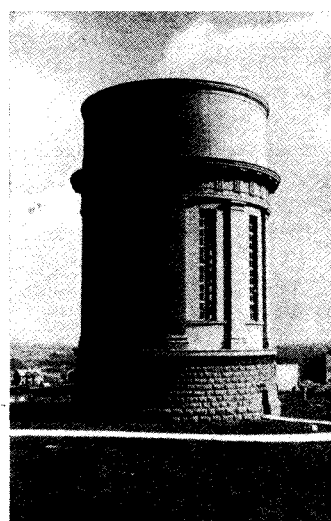


Coleambally, NSW, designed by George Clarke of Clarke Gazzard Pty. Ltd. The town, set in a flat plain in an irrigation area, lacked a visual focal point, symbolising community. The water tower, painted with a silver reflectant aluminium paint, reflects the shimmering colours at the top of the sky, and below of the changing browns and greens of the trees and grass. The bottom section of the tower contains a community hall.

The design approach was to create height and elegance in the water tower, at the same time keeping costs down. The result is a series of steel rings, prefabricated and welded together in situ, which was only 30% more expensive than the conventional flat squat tanks.



Bailey Hill, Luton, UK. Courtesy: Lee Valley Water Co., Herts, UK.



Warbreck, Blackpool, UK. Courtesy: Fylde Water Board. Photo from brochure prepared by G. & T. Earle Ltd., Hull.

BETTER



Norton, UK. Courtesy: Liverpool Water Supply Unit, Liverpool Corp., City Engineers Dept., Bootle, Merseyside. Norton Tower is a massive masonry structure of Roman Doric design, built of local sandstone. The inscription, large enough to read from ground level, translates: "This water, derived from the sources of the Severn, is brought to the City of Liverpool, a distance of 80 miles, through the mountains and plains of Wales and the intervening country, at the cost of the municipality, in the year of our Lord 1892".

# ARCHI TEXTS

## THE CHIPS ARE DOWN

The Standing Committee on Social Environment has been asked by The Senate to investigate and report on "The impact on the Australian environment of the current woodchip industry programme".

The development of a woodchip industry programme would have significant implications for the Australian forests and those who derive a living and income from them. Five Japanese companies have formed a consortium with several Australian companies to export woodchips from Brisbane, Iluka, Coffs Harbour and Newcastle.

Environmentalists are already expressing concern about ecological and other consequences of such a programme. Committees were formed in seven NSW country towns in mid-February to oppose the establishment of a woodchipping industry on the North Coast of NSW.

Adverse effects of the programme of clearfelling forests are the decline of soil fertility through leaching of nutrients and erosion of soil surface; siltation occurs in water courses, rivers and lakes; floral and fauna species are depleted and there is loss of scenic and recreational facilities.

Those to gain from woodchipping and pulpwood mills will be: the Japanese industries; lucrative shipping contracts; a small number of local companies and the Forestry Commission who favour establishment of the woodpulp plants.

Senator Keefe, Chairman of the Committee on Social Environment — Woodchip Industry — is currently inviting written submissions from all interested persons and organizations who feel they can assist in the enquiry to ensure as wide a range of views as possible are presented to the Committee for consideration.

The Committee expects to commence public hearings during the second half of this year and people who have presented submissions may be invited to give evidence.

Information concerning the presentation of submissions is available from The Secretary, Standing Committee on Social Environment, The Senate, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600. Telephone: 72 6113 or 72 6737.

## HARMONY

Many families would like to be able to look after their aged parents. It is not always possible to provide accommodation suitable, enabling the elderly to obtain close attention and care from their families while still leading an independent life. The home-owner, in order to cater for aged relatives, often encounters difficulty when plans for alterations and additions are presented to local council and service authorities.

The Victorian Housing Commission is making provision for "Granny Flats", to enable families to have their parents living with them without the expense of moving house or initiating the costly and often illegal renovations necessary to make this possible.

These flats are movable, easily transportable and assembled on site in partition form. The Housing Commission hires a flat to the owner of the house requiring accommodation for grandparents or in-laws. Those eligible are couples, both on an age or repatriation pension.

The units are to be designed by architects who are aware of the technical and sociological problems involved. The total area is 35m<sup>2</sup> with full service facilities and easily removed to another site when no longer required.

Under the hiring agreement the Commission erect the unit ready for occupation, maintain it in good repair and remove it, clearing the site after disconnecting the services, all at the Commission's expense.

It is the owners responsibility to maintain the necessary building and service permits and pay the weekly rent. (\$9.45 for a couple a week, \$6.70 for a single surviving occupant.)

This Building Programme will be assessed when the number of interested applicants is known. The first of the "Granny Flats" will be ready for occupancy this month.

State Housing Commission opinion on this programme differs

both in community attitude to housing the aged and local council ordinances. In Victoria ordinances were altered to cater for these 'backyard' flats, in NSW such construction remains illegal.

The trend in NSW appears to be towards self-contained blocks of units, where aged people have the opportunity of independence and privacy and are able to enjoy the company of others of their own age, making new friends and therefore participating in community activities more easily. The 'backyard' environment tends to be a little restricting and may be far from easy access to shops, transport and so on. 7,700 blocks of units have already been completed and 1,600 are under construction, reports the NSW Minister for Housing and Co-operative Societies.

Perhaps Victoria will lead the way in re-establishing the family circle which includes all generations living in harmony.

## URBAN PLANNING MEDAL

The NSW Division of the Royal Australian Planning Institute awarded the 1974 Sidney Luker Memorial Medal to Mr. George Clarke for his notable contribution to the science and practice of town and regional planning in Australia during the period 1972-74.

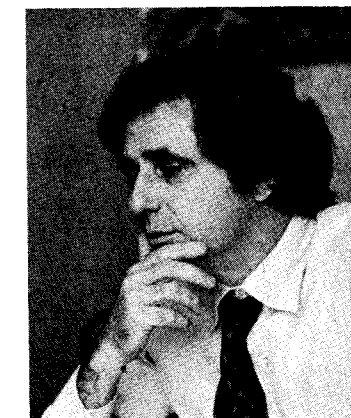


Photo courtesy Australian Consolidated Press.

Mr. Clarke has practised urban and regional planning for 20 years. His professional activity began in 1954 with the Cumberland County Council, Sydney's then regional planning authority. After further work and study overseas he commenced an independent professional practice in Sydney of a comprehensive character not previously attempted in Australia.

As a notable urban planner his work has been consistently innovative: he was among the first planning practitioners to bring public participation into the planning process. George Clarke finds town planning exciting and says that the biggest challenge is to derive new ways of communicating through Commonwealth, State and local governments and 'local interest groups'. This attitude is evident in the study his consultant firm—Urban Systems Corporation undertook with the City of Adelaide Plan. The plan is based upon active community participation at all stages of planning and implementing the changes to the City of Adelaide.

## CONSERVATION STUDY

Comments and information are requested to assist the Adelaide Residents Society in undertaking a detailed conservation study of the City of Adelaide.

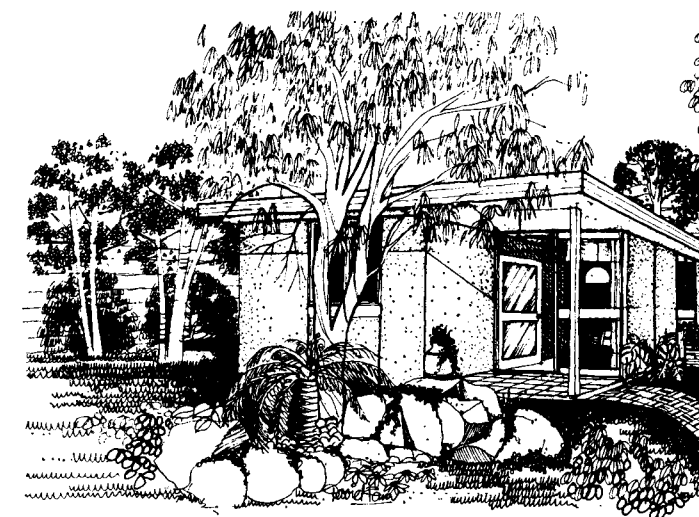
The study, funded by DURD, is undertaken as part of the policy of the Australian Government to protect the National Estate under the SA National Estate Programme, covering aspects of the physical and non-physical environment.

Members able to assist in the production of documented photographic records of the environment and/or provide information on historical, social and anecdotal aspects of the City of Adelaide, should contact The Adelaide Residents Society, Conservation Study, 13a Marion Street, Adelaide, SA 5001.

## A KIND OF ORGANIC MOUNTAIN

Australian architect, Terry Fitsialos, at present working in Toronto, has sent AA details of his Lorne Park Water Purification Plant in Ontario, which won a Canadian Institute of Architects' Award for Design Excellence in 1974.

Traditionally, water filtration plants, like factory and warehousing spaces, are buildings of vast dimensions and ugly proportions, contributing to visual pollution in factory-zoned areas. This design solution took the opportunity of showing how factories can fit into the environment. As local residents have for some time used the undeveloped 34 hectare site adjacent to Lake Ontario as a park, the architects proposed that the land remain as a park and that the water plant be a totally unobtrusive 'non-building' in the form of a simple mountain con-



Artist's impression of "Granny Flat" (one of many designs under consideration by the Housing Commission)

