

= Louis Laybourne Smith =

Louis Laybourne Smith CMG (1 April 1880 ? 13 September 1965) was an architect and educator in South Australia . Born in the Adelaide inner @-@ southern suburb of Unley , he became interested in engineering and architecture while in the goldfields of Western Australia and later studied mechanical engineering at the School of Mines , serving an apprenticeship under architect Edward Davies . After graduating he accepted a position as a lecturer at the school , and was responsible for developing the first formal architecture course in the State in 1904 . Between 1905 and 1914 , he served as registrar at the school before leaving to join his long @-@ time friend , Walter Bagot , at the architectural firm of Woods , Bagot and Jory . He remained with the firm until his death in 1965 , and over the years was involved in a number of significant projects , including the South Australian National War Memorial and the original Australian Mutual Provident building on King William Street .

Along with his teaching and professional duties , Laybourne Smith was a member of the South Australian Institute of Architects , the Federal Council of the Australian Institute of Architects , and the Australian Institute of Architects , as well as being on numerous committees and advising the State Government in the formation of both the State Building Act of 1923 and the 1939 Architects Act .

During his life Laybourne Smith received a number of awards and honours , including Life Fellowship to the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects , the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Gold Medal , and was named a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George . Today , the architectural school which he founded (now part of the University of South Australia) bears his name ? the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture .

= = Early life and education = =

Louis Laybourne Smith was born to Joseph and Annie Laybourne Smith on 1 April 1880 , in Unley , South Australia . His parents had emigrated to Australia so that his father could take up a post as a chemist with F.H. Faulding & Co . However , it appears that Joseph Laybourne Smith found dentistry more to his liking , for he went on to gain qualifications in the field through the Australian College of Dentistry . Both Laybourne Smith 's primary and secondary education were obtained at the nearby Windham and Way colleges ; his education was interrupted in the mid @-@ 1890s when his parents decided to move to the goldfields of Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia .

According to Laybourne Smith , he became interested in machinery while in the goldfields . His parents decided to direct him towards architecture , as it " was the nearest thing to white @-@ collar engineering work that they could think of " . He was articled to A. A. E. Dancker for a period before returning to Adelaide in 1898 . Laybourne Smith 's parents had intended for him to study architecture at the University of Adelaide , but there were no courses available at the time . As a result , Laybourne Smith undertook to complete a mechanical engineering course part @-@ time at the School of Mines , and (in order to pursue his interest in architecture) he was articled to Edward Davies from 1901 .

He proved to be an excellent student , winning scholarships in both his second and third years , and was the first person to finish the course within the proscribed four years . He completed his apprenticeship with Davies in 1904 , and was admitted as an Associate to the South Australian Institute of Architects , although the ongoing impact of the depression made finding work difficult . In spite of this , he found employment as a draftsman , initially with Ernest Bayer and later with John Quinton Bruce .

After graduating at the School of Mines , Laybourne Smith continued his studies at the University of Adelaide , completing a Bachelor of Science in 1911 . This was surrendered in 1914 for a Bachelor of Engineering .

= = Teaching career = =

In 1903 , Laybourne Smith was invited to lecture in mechanical engineering at the School of Mines ? a position which Page states that Laybourne Smith was " delighted " to accept . He was thereafter elected as the school 's registrar in 1905 , and continued in that post full @-@ time until 1914 , after which he ran the school part @-@ time until 1951 . Even then , Laybourne Smith 's involvement with the school did not end after Gavin Walkley took over , and he was still associated with the school when he died in 1965 .

While working at the school , Laybourne Smith initiated his own classes on architecture , gathering " a group of colleagues who instructed one another " in the field . After being approached in 1906 by the Council of the School of Mines , Laybourne Smith teamed with Walter Bagot to develop a new architecture course . The result was a three @-@ year part @-@ time Associate Diploma , although students were still expected to be articled to professional architects in order to gain more practical experience in the field . By 1916 the course was regarded as of sufficient quality to place its students " in the same rank as architectural students in other parts of the world " .

While the School of Mines no longer exists , the school of architecture founded by Laybourne Smith is now part of the University of South Australia , and since 1963 the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Building has borne his name as its founder .

= = Architectural career = =

Upon leaving his full @-@ time position at the School of Mines , Laybourne Smith acted as a " stand @-@ in " for Walter Bagot at Bagot 's architectural firm , Woods , Bagot and Jory , while Bagot was overseas . Edward Woods died in 1913 , and three years later Laybourne Smith became a full partner in the newly named Woods , Bagot , Jory & Laybourne Smith . Laybourne Smith was to remain with the firm until his death in 1965 .

Laybourne Smith 's friendship with Walter Bagot had spanned many years prior to the partnership , but their respective working methods was " so different that they seemed unlikely partners " . While Baggot was " notorious " for the attention he gave to minor details in designs , Laybourne Smith was described as being just as happy to develop a sketch and to pass it on to the draftsmen to " work up " (although it should be noted that this does not represent a lack of attention , as his designs were " sketched in tiny , neat detail ") . In spite of these differences , their respective strengths tended to balance one another : Bagot was a traditionalist in design , while Laybourne Smith brought an engineer 's knowledge and " ingenuity " to the partnership .

= = = Works = = =

Laybourne Smith 's first major work with Woods , Bagot & Jory was the refurbishment of the National Bank building on King William Street , and from there he graduated to work on a number of notable buildings within South Australia and interstate . Both the firm in general and Laybourne Smith in particular were traditionalists in their designs , to the point where Page reports that Laybourne Smith took as a compliment a description of one of his works in 1965 as " striped pants and all " . This traditionalism was particularly evident in their work for the University of Adelaide . Between 1910 and 1945 , the firm served as architects to the University of Adelaide , and Bagot strove towards congruity for the university . The result included a number of buildings that were designed by Laybourne Smith in a " Georgian revival " style , including the original heritage listed Student Union building and the main building of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute , which is also heritage listed and has been described as being " reminiscent of the great English country houses " . Similarly , Laybourne Smith applied traditional designs to a number of ecclesiastical projects . These include St Cuthbert 's Anglican Church in North Adelaide , which is heritage listed as an example of Gothic Revival architecture ; and the romanesque St. Dominic 's Chapel at the Cabra Dominican College in Cumberland Park .

His background in engineering was put to good use on a number of projects . In particular , the John Martins store on Rundle Street (now Rundle Mall) , was constructed by raising the top floor of the building on hydraulic jacks , building two new floors underneath while the remainder of the store

continued to operate normally . Another of Laybourne Smith 's buildings , the Australian Mutual Provident building on King William Street in Adelaide , was one of the first in the state to feature air conditioning , as this was considered to be quite an " innovative " addition in 1934 .

Other works by Laybourne Smith include the facade on the Balfours Cafe in Rundle Mall (heritage listed in part due to the innovative " building envelope " , which is " independent of the internal structure ") , the Repatriation General Hospital in Daw Park (developed by Laybourne Smith from sketch plans produced by Melbourne firm Stephenson & Turner) , and the South Australian National War Memorial . This last structure represents a collaboration between Laybourne Smith , Walter Bagot , and Sydney @-@ based sculptor Rayner Hoff . Although Walter Bagot produced the original design for the architectural competition in 1924 , his design was , (along with the other entrants) , deemed to be " unsuitable " . After the entries were destroyed by fire late that year , Laybourne Smith , working with artist Rayner Hoff , was able to redraw the design largely from memory in order to enter the subsequent 1926 competition . In doing so they built upon Bagot 's work , making the memorial " grander " in its scope ? and this proved to be sufficient for the firm to be awarded the commission .

= = Professional activities and associations = =

Although Laybourne Smith continued to be involved in teaching and architectural design , he was also involved in professional organisations and committees . He was admitted to the South Australian Institute of Architects (SAIA) as an associate in 1904 , made a fellow in 1907 , elected to the council in 1909 , and served two terms as President (1921 ? 1923 and 1935 ? 1937) . In all , Laybourne Smith served on the SAIA council for 50 years , from 1909 to 1959 .

Laybourne Smith played a significant role in the formation of a national body of architects . He was a founding member of the Federal Council of the Australian Institute of Architects , first proposed in 1914 and officially formed in 1915 , which served as a " first step " towards the formation of a national body . Between 1911 and 1922 , he served as president of this body . After the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) was formed (now known as the Australian Institute of Architects) , he served as a councillor for 11 years (between 1933 and 1944) , and as the President of the institute from 1937 to 1938 .

In addition to his role on the councils , Laybourne Smith was an adviser during the development of the State Building Act of 1923 , and he was largely responsible for the framing of the 1939 Architects Act , (which provided for the formal registration of architects in South Australia) . Because of his work on the State Building act , Laybourne Smith sat on the Board of Referees responsible for adjudicating disputes , and his position on the Architects Board of South Australia was a direct result of his involvement in the creation of the Architects Act .

= = Influence and awards = =

Louis Laybourne Smith is regarded as being one of the " key practitioners " of architecture in South Australia . In particular , he had a significant influence on the direction of architectural education in South Australia . His career spanned more than half a century , with much of it directly involved in education , and during that time he (and Walter Bagot) served as one of the " last links with the distant past of South Australian architecture " ? having known (either directly or indirectly) most of the architects of the colonial era , while being responsible for the training of many of those who were to follow .

Furthermore , he had a substantial impact on the development of architecture as a professional body through his involvement in the Architects Act of 1931 and the formation of a national body for architects . This political work also had a social dimension : his work on the Building Act Advisory Committee helped to highlight the low quality of the housing in the poorer areas of Adelaide , and this led to a change in how the public viewed what was acceptable as low @-@ income housing . The South Australian Housing Trust was a direct result of his actions , and led to the provision of low cost rental housing to working families in the state .

As well as having the architectural school named in his honour , in 1961 Laybourne Smith was awarded the Gold Medal by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects , and prior to that date , in 1948 , he was appointed as a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George . Two busts of his likeness have also been commissioned . One was by Rayner Hoff , with whom he had collaborated on the design for the South Australian National War Memorial , and is kept in the offices of Woods Bagot . The second was unveiled in 1961 , and was sculpted by South Australian artist John Dowie . It can be found at the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture at the University of South Australia .

Laybourne Smith was a Life Fellow with both the Royal Australian Institute of Architects , (awarded in 1944) , and a Fellow (1939) and Life Fellow (1944) of the Royal Institute of British Architects .

= = Personal life = =

Described as a " dapper young man with a moustache waxed into long points " , he made for a " dynamic figure with a penetrating voice " , and was noted for riding his Douglas motorcycle through the 1920s and 30s in his khaki overalls as he traveled between his professional practice , teaching duties and home life . On the home front , Louis Laybourne Smith married Frances Maude Davies , the daughter of Edward Davies to whom he had been articled , on 9 April 1903 . They had three daughters and a son , Gordon Laybourne Smith , who ultimately followed his father into architecture .

Laybourne Smith " consistently overworked " ; architecture was said to be both his profession and his obsession . When his firm announced a retirement scheme he declared that he had no intention of retiring , and such proved to be the case ? he died at his desk on 13 September 1965 at the age of 85 .