A report tabled in the Legislative Assembly (Vic) by the Public Accounts Committee revealed that incredible bungling & inter-dept confusion caused extras amounting to £16,995 on an original contract price of £240,690 for the erection of five extra floors on the State Public Offices bldg in Queen St, Melb. Amongst the errors were the architect's nightmares of construction being erected over the bldg line & having to be torn down; a stair which when built was discovered to allow insufficient headroom; verbal site instructions (for an additional lift) unconfirmed officially until 7 months later; and general indecision over internal partitions as each dept endeavoured to grab extra space. The report is a classic illustration of Parkinson's Law & should become compulsory reading for all students of Prof Prac.

While committees sit in deliberation upon the roofing of the Flinders St railway yards & squares around the Melb Town Hall, a further proposal has been submitted to the MCC'cl by Mr A C Leith, of Leith & Bartlett Pty Ltd, archts, & Mr Malcolm Moore, consulting eng'rs. The most lavish & inclusive of all, this scheme would remove the Royal Melb Inst of Technology to Flinders St (over the railway) & place a new town hall on the north end of Swanston St (with the road passing below it), thus blocking the vista from the Shrine to the Carlton Brewery. The RSL have so far raised no objections.

New admin offices & pharmaceutical warehouse, for Merck, Sharp & Dohme Pty Ltd in South Granville, NSW, have been designed & are being constructed by Kell & Rigby Pty Ltd.

C-S Oct 1, 1961 showed the dignified south & east elevations of the new Vic State Savings Bank bldg in Swanston St, Melb. This photo shows the north & east. The north elevn is a pretty casual arch'I composition hopefully awaiting obliteration by an adjacent multi-storey bldg, but in the meantime displaying this banal parody on the bank's facilities. It is difficult to conceive why any institution should so wilfully deface its own property and the city sky-line with such a naively-conceived, crudely-executed & scale-less piece of advertising. In these sophisticated days, when the ad-men speak of "projecting a desirable company image through appropriate symbolism", the thumbs-down sign seems an unfriendly gesture to be associated with a banking house.
This is the new MLC bldg, Hobart; 6 storeys of offices, 2 floors of service tower, plus weather beacon. Constr—steel frame, ribbed r c floors; exterior clad in Sicilian Pearl Marble. Windows—alum double glazed with double hung sashes externally, sliding sashes internally, with venetian blinds in 9'' air-space. The bldg squats heavily over the relatively low ground floor, an effect which will be accentuated when a future 5 floors are added. Extra floor space for the first floor has been gained by the clumsy addition of a projecting bay. Cost £240,000 (not including beacon); Philp, Lighton, Floyd & Beattie, archts & str engrs; Costain, Hansen & Yuncken (Tas) Pty Ltd, bldr.

This is Macquarie House, Hobart; 6 storeys, ground floor coffee lounge & foyer; 1st to 5th floors—4 professional suites per floor. Constr—steel frame, r c slab floor, walls & panels, alum windows, glass enclosed lift tower. Simpler & better proportioned externally than the MLC bldg, its internal finishes are of lesser quality. The car park in front spoils the bldg's relationship to the rest of Macquarie St—a pedestrian fore-court would have been more sympathetic to the bldg & its environment. Cost £140,000. Bush, Haslock, Parkes, Shugg & Moon, archts; W R Morgan, str engr; D R Tait Pty Ltd, bldr.

A ruthless and precise articulation of structure, roof, glass & masonry distinguish the simple form of this factory for Descon at Brookvale, NSW.

A civic centre with 5 separate bldgs—town hall, council chambers, admin block, public library & rest rooms—and a 22,000 sq ft civic square has been planned for Campbelltown NSW. Construction of this 8 storey admin bldg will begin early next year. Davey, Brindley & Vickery, archts.

An £80,000 sports centre at Woodville SA will be opened by the Premier (Sir Thomas Playford) on Nov. 4. Bldgs include a main stadium to seat 5,000 spectators, a roller skating rink, indoor tennis, squash & basketball facilities, on a 28 acre sports reserve. The centre will also be headquarters for the SA Youth Clubs. Tolcher, Taylor & John Tulloch, archts; E F Marshall & Sons Ltd, bldrs.

£1m contract for the SA Teachers' College 13 storey bldg in Adelaide was awarded to A W Baulderstone Ltd. The bldg will be air-conditioned, house 1,400 students & contain a gymnasium and a 650-seat auditorium, complete with revolving stage. Public Bldgs Dept, archts.

Work has started on the St Georges Terrace site for this new admin block for the Perth City Ccl. This bldg, with its lively facade of T-shaped sun-shields, is the 1st stage of the Town Hall group of bldgs won in open competition Sept 1960 by J Howlett & D C R Bailey. The exterior will be completed & 3 floors fully equipped & occupied in time for the Empire Games, Nov 1962. The contract (£1½ m) carries a penalty clause of £1,000 per week for non-completion by the required date. Howlett & Bailey, archts; D H Fraser cons engr; W E Bassett & Ptnrs, mech engrs; J Hawkins & Son Pty Ltd, bldrs.
The Vic State Savings Bank served notice to quit on nine shopkeeper-tenants of its Elizabeth St (Melb) bldg, in order to gain expansion space. City c'clls & city retailers argued that the loss of small shops due to rebuilding & expansion of banks & insurance co's threatened the central retail trade. Suggestions that the Premier, Mr Bolte, should intervene brought the reply that no appropriate law existed. The entire situation, though magnified by self-interested parties, brought out the fact that without a detailed planning scheme, happen-chance development could ruin Melb's urban centre.

The first annual Home of the Year architectural award, instituted by the "W Australian" in conjunction with the RAIA (WA Chapter), was won by this 2-storey house in McCallum Crescent, Perth. The roof vaults are curved asbestos cement, on laminated batten framing, veranda columns are jarrah, & walls are brick, painted white. The house has noble proportions, a strong structural emphasis and a curious ladies-to-the-left, gents-to-the-right pair of entrance doors. The owner-archt is Ian Brackenridge, an associate of Cameron, Chisholm & Nicol. Second & third prizes were awarded to homes designed respectively by F G B Hawkins & Desmond Sands, and Forbes & Fitzhardinge.

Claims that the SA Brick Co brick making plant at Renown Park SA was Australia's 1st fully automatic plant (as reported in C-S No. 108—on the basis of information in bldg trade journals) are open to correction. Brick Industries Ltd (Melb) report installing in 1959 an oil fired kiln & except for stacking of bricks on to the trucks for burning, a completely automatic process.

One of the few Australian public bldgs to be destroyed by World War II, the Darwin Post Office, has at last a new home in this new £214,000 air-cond bldg, a clear-cut design eminently suited to its tropical location. Sun louvres are vitreous enamelled alum; spandrels—blue tiles; walls—white terrazzo & local grey cement bricks. Stone from the old post office has been used adjacent to the principal entrance & there is a Memorial Entrance Vestibule to commemorate the Postal Officers who lost their lives in the first air raid on the Australian mainland. Design by Archts & Engrs, Head Office, Dept of Works, Melb; supervision by Dept of Works, Darwin; working dwgs prepared on behalf of the Dept by Leslie M Perrott & Ptners, Melb. Hardcastle & Richards, str engrs; G Anderson & Assoc, elec engrs; Head Office, Dept of Works, mech engrs; A L & M Maddalozzo Ltd, bldr.

The 2 circular towers of this 9 storey apartment bldg—Kilburn Towers, Smedley's Point, Manly are reminiscent of the decks of a Sydney Harbour ferry. Unfortunately the nautical air is dispelled in close-up views, due to the elaborate decorative use of conc block. There are 64 units, each occupying a quadrant of a circular storey, & 2 penthouses. On the roof 2 parabolic forms shelter the lift mechanism, a master TV antenna & fire escape stairs. Constr—r c flat plate. William E Beck & Associates, archts; Taylor, Thomson & Whitting, str engrs; Davis Estates Pty Ltd, bldrs.

This photo of a study model of the new £3m 4 storey library for the Uni of WA shows a view from the northwest. The bldg will accommodate 800 readers & 240,000 volumes, & is sited south of Winthrop Hall to form one boundary of the Great Court, flanked to the west by the new physics bldgs & to the east by the proposed arts bldg. Construction is due to begin mid 1962. Cameron, Chisholm & Nicol, archts; Prof Gordon Stephenson, consulting archt.
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