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Planning Institute of Australia 2012-2013 Oral History Project

GRAHAM MOSELEY

Date of birth	1939
Address/contact details	See permission form
Date/s of interview	19/12/12
Place of interview	Adelaide
Length of interview	1:54:51
Name of interviewer	Mary Hutchison
Interviewer contact details	Mary.hutchison@anu.edu.au
Signed permission form	Yes (includes photos)
Photographs of interviewee	Provided by interviewer
Other documentation supplied	No
Recording equipment	Marantz recorder, Rode mic (stereo), WAV file, 48khz



HMSS 0359 Planning Institute of Australia 2012-13 Oral History Project

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BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Graham Moseley was born in 1939 in Mallala, South Australia where his father was a motor mechanic. In about 1941 the family moved to Adelaide where Graham completed his schooling at Unley High School. He matriculated at the age of 15 and initially planned to take up a position as a trainee draftsman with the South Australian Railways. However, a Commonwealth Scholarship enabled him to enrol in civil engineering at Adelaide University (1955). During his studies he took up a cadetship with the Commonwealth Department of Works. He completed the civil engineering course in 1961 and was then employed as an engineer at the Department of Works. In 1962 he began a Master's in Town Planning at Adelaide University – a newly established course run by Hans Westerman. When Westerman moved to the National Capital Development Commission in Canberra he encouraged Graham to consider work at the NCDC. In 1965 Graham won a position at the NCDC and moved to Canberra with his wife and first child – then a six-month old baby. Graham worked on neighbourhood design and district planning during his career at NCDC. His positions in the Planning Division included Section Head with responsibilities for structure, outline, statutory and detailed residential area planning, and, from 1979 to 1988, Director of District Planning. A highlight was the opportunity to develop a design approach to the planning of movement corridors, drawing on his master's thesis discussion of the dimension of time in urban design. Another was inaugurating the ACT's participation in the federal-state Joint Venture for More Affordable Housing and its flow through to the Australian Model Code for Residential Development. When NCDC was winding up in 1988 Graham took a redundancy and began a long and satisfying period of work as an individual consultant. During this time he worked with a variety of larger consultancies, predominantly on development-related private and local government projects. Many of these were for the ACT Government. Graham is a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia. During his interview Graham emphasises the importance for him of the hands-on creative work of planning. He prefers a drawing board to a computer. He also highlights the experience of responding to the landscape and refers to the spiritual dimension of this engagement. Graham married in 1962 and has three children. All three eventually moved to Adelaide which prompted Graham and Jan to return there after 47 years in Canberra.

TIMED SUMMARY: GRAHAM MOSELEY

Interview: 19/12/12

Session #1

time	subjects	proper names
0:00:00	Introduction. Birth and family background in country South Australia. Impact of Depression and Second World War. Move to Adelaide.	Mallala, Yankalilla, Pinaroo, Spalding, Parkside Primary School, Unley High School
0:04:44	Influences of church and family. Early career interests. Artistic skills in family. Enrolment in engineering at Adelaide	Commonwealth Scholarship



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	University.	
0:09:20	Career opportunities. Experience of University study. Cadetship with Commonwealth Department of Works	Colombo Plan, Grenfell Street
0:14:20	All male-world of engineering. Attraction of new Master of Town Planning course at Adelaide University. Fellow students.	Hans Westerman
0:18:45	Approach of course. Crystallisation of own interests in physical planning as a creative activity. Recruited by Hans Westerman to NCDC 1965.	Statutory Planning
0:22:59	Work in Roads and Aerodromes section at Department of Works. Marriage and move to Canberra.	Tindal, Katherine, Alice Springs, Port Pirie, Woomera Rocket Range, Hillman Minx, Acton Hotel, O'Connor, Downer, Aranda
0:27:09	End of session	

Interview: 19/12/12

Session #2

time	subjects	Proper names
0:00:00	Neighbourhood Design section NCDC; colleagues. First neighbourhood plan; responding to natural environment as part of planning process.	Jack Venn, Oskar Pumpurs, Belconnen
0:04:50	Personal meaning of this approach. Principles of neighbourhood planning. Approval and development process. Comprehensive nature of work at design stage. Halcyon days of NCDC	Scullin, T&G Building, Hobart Place, Peter Harrison, Department of Interior
0:09:50	Role in design of northern and Weston Creek suburbs. Changes in management and philosophy of neighbourhood design	Latham, Holder, Duffy, Higgins, McKellar, Flynn, Giralang, Tuggeranong Charnwood, Radburn, Neil Jessup
0:11:30	Key figures at NCDC 1960s. Spirit of building Canberra. Canberra in 1960s	John Overall, Menzies
0:14:19	Political and personnel changes 1970s and modifications of approach to neighbourhood design in response to social and economic changes. Community Health Centres. Questioning of car-driven planning. Wybalena Grove Co-operative Housing.	Whitlam, Labor Government, Voorhees and Associates, Y Plan, Macquarie, Tuggeranong Parkway, Cook, Majura Road, Mt Ainslie
0:18:38	Division between employment and residential areas	Bruce, West Murrumbidgee






	impacting on idea of self-contained districts. Other impacts on development of outline plan.	
0:20:57	Impact of slow-down in Canberra's growth late 1970s in context of large scale plans for growth. Planning for leisure	Borrie report, Macarthur, Yass, Gooromon Ponds, Murrumbateman, Goulburn
0:23:27	NCDC 1970s. Extension of national capital concept to include all of ACT. Definition of Areas of Special National Concern. Controls for development on approach routes.	National Capital Open Space System, Keith Storey, George Seddon, Richard Gray, Holford and Partners, Yarralumla, Monaro Shires
0:26:35	Weakness of advocacy for the National Capital as belonging to Australia from later 1970s	Centenary of Canberra, Robyn Archer
0:29:19	Opportunity to plan and design Ginninderra Arterial Corridor as part of Master's thesis exploring dimension of time and motion in planning. 1960s and 70s period of NCDC; value of support and interest from key figures, multidisciplinary approach	
0:34:20	Focus on physical planning throughout NCDC career. Particular interest in landscape. Issue of working with Area Agents. District development over time.	Gungahlin
0:39:17	End of session	

Interview: 19/12/12

Session #3

time	subjects	proper names
0:00:00	1970s-80s NCDC changes in managing urban planning. Greater involvement of community players and emergence of local government interests	'Razor Gang', ACT Advisory Council, Tony Powell
0:03:46	Difficulties for staff in adjusting to new approaches. Increasing role of Department of Territories. Challenges to role of NCDC.	
0:07:28	Seconded to work on submission to government review of NCDC. Influence of Jill Lang on NCDC attitudes to social equity.	(Block Report)
0:11:20	Women and migrants employed at NCDC	Margaret Hendry, Richard Clough
0:13:26	End of session	




Interview: 19/12/12**Session #4**

time	subjects	Proper names
0:00:00	Options at termination of NCDC. Decision to take redundancy	
0:02:00	Beginning of consultancy work 1988-2005. Use of drawing board rather than computer. Enjoyment of return to hands-on work.	MBA Land, Landco, Ron Bell and Associates, Robina, Wagga Wagga City Council.
0:05:57	End of session (chain saw)	

Interview: 19/12/12**Session #5**

0:00:00	Consultancy work in ACT and further afield. Examples of work. Particular experiences.	Tuggeranong, Gungahlin, Yass Valley Council
0:05:30	Impact of experience at NCDC with Joint Venture for More Affordable Housing. Efficient design and use of services. General approach to design and consultants by local government, including ACT Government	Green Streets, Albert Shire
0:10:45	Satisfaction of work at NCDC. Importance of physical planning coming to fruition. Recognition as Fellow of Planning Institute of Australia.	
0:15:17	Colleagues at NCDC. Memorable characters including Oskar Pumpurs (reference to copy of material sent out in competition for original design of Canberra held by him)	Clive Price, Max Nicholls, Ron Badger, David Daverin, West Belconnmen, Kinhill, Peter Harrison, Trevor (Gibson), Jack Venn
0:20:31	Further characters; Richard Clough. Particular bent as engineer planner.	
0:22:40	Experience of bringing up a family in and living in Canberra. Planning since self-government. Reflection on own interests and planning career.	Belconnen Community Service
0:29:02	End of session	