



Swanbury Penglase

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@swanburypenglase
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Looking back with Steve Penglase

Architecture is such a richly diverse profession, with many different aspects to it, and there are many different reasons why people are drawn to it (so to speak).

Architecture was the perfect choice for me because as well as offering plenty of opportunities in design and overseeing construction outcomes, it held great potential for development of a business that can bring real value to people's lives.

For me, it was also a love of craftsmanship. Woodwork was one of my strengths at school and I consistently excelled at it because I loved working with my hands and it also involved problem solving and practical outcomes.

Sadly, craftsmanship plays a much lesser role in architecture than it once did, however the art of problem solving remains essential to every project from the tiniest detail to the grand sweep of a master plan.

Very early on in my architectural working life, I realised it was difficult to find a firm that offered opportunities for real advancement and senior roles and leadership.

One of the most fortuitous events for me was meeting Eric Swanbury, who would become my business partner and co-founder. We are naturally opposite in many ways, which is the perfect recipe for an effective business partnership. Throughout the whole journey, Eric has been an unfailing sounding board and reality checker for me.

A central principle that we both held to from the very beginning is the value of relationships; inevitably disagreements will arise from time to time in any joint venture and I have always found that by far the most effective way of dealing with them is amicable negotiation from a position of mutual respect.

#95 As some of our readers will already know, the Swanbury Penglase team said farewell to founding partner Steve Penglase, who felt the time was right to embark on a new life chapter (for the most part!)

Steve's positive impact on the office is hard to overstate, having been a great mentor to many and a wealth of knowledge. We wish him all the best and no doubt will see him from time to time as he drops in to oversee some continuing projects and suppress his itch to dabble in some office maintenance.

The other wonderful aspect of relationships is the power of collaboration; probably the greatest enjoyment for me has come from sitting down with colleagues and working together on projects.

On a broader scale, collaboration for me is also central in all our dealings beyond the walls of the office, whether it be clients, contractors, consultants, suppliers or other architects. Collaboration magnifies capabilities beyond just the sum of the people on the team. It also leads to enduring friendships and has been the key to growth of the office from humble beginnings back in 1989 to the substantial firm it is today.

One of the other great satisfactions for me has been crafting the environments in which the firm works. In 1994 we moved out of rented accommodation into our first building; a refurbished warehouse on Wright St. In 2006 we developed a new building for ourselves in Gilbert St, and from there in 2019 developed a third building just two blocks down the road. Each one provided us with a great place to work as well as advertising our skills and values.

Beyond our own work, other architects' work is always inspiring, and one that I have always found particularly so is Norman Foster. In Australia the work of John Wardle never fails to impress.

It's been an enormous privilege working as an architect and having had the opportunity to establish Swanbury Penglase. I'm delighted with the leadership team that's now in control and also the talented people in the firm including those with ambitions to join the leadership team to further develop and sustain the practice well into the future.

-Steve Penglase

Sitednotes



Current Gilbert St Office



Me in the 1990s



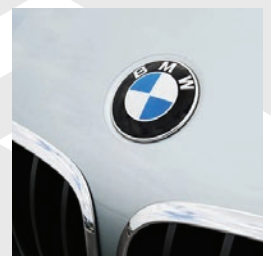
SP Office 2006



21 years of Swanbury Penglase



Wright St Office 199





Enterprise Hub



Enterprise Hub



Enterprise Hub team
Photo: Daniel Marks



Nathan's canyon swing



Christmas in July



Laisa and Matt

Staff Notes



Name: Tom Reynolds

Position: Graduate of Architecture

Current projects: Blackfriars, The Anchorage, Pearl Stage 8 and Adelaide Worker's Homes

What inspires you? Mostly sports people - Patrick Cripps, Nedd Brockmann, Adam Goodes.

Design idols: Jonathan Zawada, Colonel William Light, Constant Nieuwenhuys

Design you wished you could take credit for: 83 Pirie St. Adelaide - lovely podium

Long Museum West Bund / Shanghai / Atelier Deshaus

Best thing about living in Adelaide: Best Wine regions in the world & Colonel William Light's perfect city grid.

Fav eatery: Sofia (ADL), Bar Margaux (MLB), Dôme Café (WA)

Fantasy (or next) holiday destination: NZ South Island

First favourite song as a kid: JET - Get Born - whole album.

Currently listening to: Berlioz, Baxter Dury, Peter Cat Recording Co.

Growing up you thought you would be: Better at football

Most treasured possession: C Grade football premierships, a Hamish and Andy 'Token of no value'

Life motto: To get to the rainbow, you've gotta put up with the rain. - Dolly Parton, 'philosopher'

Superpower: The drumming ability of the great Aaron Fox

Memorable SP (Swanbury Penglase) moment: Celebrating SP's 35th Birthday on my own 30th Birthday... To the day!

Office News

Although we are rapidly approaching the business end of the year, there is no shortage of exciting updates to share. We are delighted to share our success at this year's Australian Institute of Architects, SA Chapter Awards. Swanbury Penglase received the David Saunders Award for Heritage Architecture in recognition of the recently completed Enterprise Hub at UniSA. The jury described the project as 'an exemplar of adaptive reuse...' and praised the new elements that were interwoven throughout, without detracting from the building's history. Congratulations to all the team on their hard efforts!

Back in June, a farewell drinks event for Steve Penglase was held in the office. It was a great evening, with Steve sharing some of his career observations from over the years. He spoke about how his strong working relationship with Eric Swanbury had been one of the underpinning factors of the firm's success.

The office social calendar has been busy as usual, with a wide offering of activities. The annual Corporate Cup walking and running event is underway for 2024. This year we have two teams entered in the Most Improved Category: the Revit Runners and the Swans & Penguins. Well done to those who have been getting out and keeping active.

In footy tipping news, which is open to staff and their family members, Interior Designer Vlad Kaleytnik topped the leaderboard this time around.

Our annual Christmas in July event was held resulting in plenty of festive sweaters to be seen in the office and another chance for staff to prove themselves in the bowling and laser tag night. Despite some fierce challengers, Architect Aaron Fox managed to hold on to his bowling trophy, while Architect Marty Frost was crowned the new laser tag champion.

We would like to welcome new Landscape Architect, Laisa Pavanelli to the team! Congratulations also to Laisa, who recently married her partner Matt, in the Adelaide Hills. We wish them a happy married life together.

Meanwhile, Architect Nathan McEwen set off for an adventure of New Zealand, visiting locations such as Christchurch, Hanmer Springs, Franz Joseph Glacier and Lake Ohau. He was even brave enough to have a go at the Shotover Canyon Swing (a 60 metre free fall), which is just out of Queenstown.

Director Matt Raven headed off on an outback 4WD adventure across the Simpson Desert in July. Covering 7 days and 1100+ sand dunes the highlight was conquering Big Red (the highest dune) and finishing at Birdsville without major incident

Finally, we are proud to announce two promotions within our team. Congratulations to Landscape Architect and Project Director Nick Pearson, who has been elevated to Associate Director and Heritage Architect Dr. Susan Lustrì, who has been appointed as an Associate.



Simpson Desert



Poeppel Corner

SWANBURY PENGLASE

