

THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS CITATION FOR LIFE FELLOWSHIP – CHARLES JUSTIN

In the 1980s, Charles Justin was a Director of one of a new generation of architectural practices. SJB Architects (Synman Justin Bialek) was a leader in combining practice with business and was very successful bringing a design aspect to commercial work. He became an interested participant in architectural discourse with a broad knowledge. He also became a respected authority amongst his peers and superiors.

As RAIA Victoria President from 1987 to 1988, Charles broke with the traditional style of the RAIA and brought a proactive approach to managing the Chapter. He has an open and friendly personal style and as a result of his manner, a broader group of architects became involved in the work of the Chapter, which gave it a diverse poly-cultural participation.

During Charles' Presidency, the Victorian Chapter introduced management practices through a corporate plan and strategy. He also introduced more contemporary professional development programs and the Australian Architecture Polemic series, to replace the then defunct International Series. The series became successful by focussing on Australian architects.

He is very supportive of new and emerging architects, giving practical and commercial advice to emerging practices. In 2000, he was the Founding Managing Director of Plus Architecture, an initiative for two architectural practices – SJB and Fender Katsalidis - to work together on selected projects in response to the challenge of achieving high quality design in commercial projects normally undertaken by larger corporate firms.

Charles leadership is extended through the role as President of the Jewish Museum of Australia.