

Gus Kreitmayer married Isobel Goldstein at St George's Cathedral, Perth in July 1935 (*Daily News*, 18 July 1935, p.10; portrait photo c.1945 courtesy Meredith and Diana Creightmore)

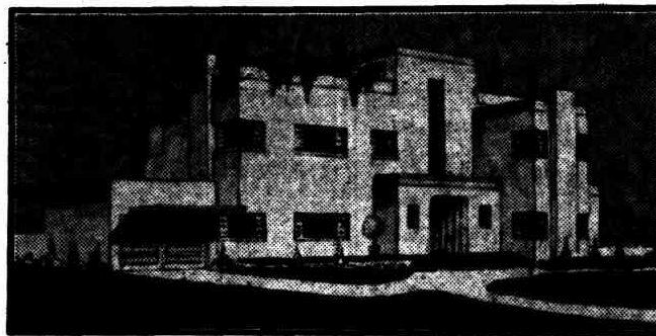
Augustus (Gus) Breadalbane Creightmore (Kreitmayer) (1910-1949) was born 27 June 1910 at Subiaco, the second son to parents Augustus Breadalbane and Janet Fraser Kreitmayer nee Dick, who had married at Perth in 1903. Gus' brother Maximilian Louis Kreitmayer was born at Bunbury in 1904. Joining an exodus of Victorians from the economically-depressed Melbourne of the 1890s, the boys' father was first active in the Western Australian goldfields, noted as a house and land agent at Boulder during 1897, but then travelling to the Klondike rush in north-west Canada seeking a livelihood, unfortunately again not meeting with financial success.

Gus senior eventually returned to WA, working as an hotelier at Cunderdin from 1902, and then with both tin-mining and hotels in the south-west at Greenbushes by 1903, Kirup, and finally Manjimup from 1912. With his parents having a house at Alvan Street in Mt Lawley by 1917, Max Kreitmayer studied for his leaving certificate at Christian Brothers College Perth in 1919, and it is likely that Gus junior also completed preparatory schooling in Perth. Gus' father continued to be listed in *Wises* directories as an hotelier at Manjimup until 1924. A.B. Kreitmayer senior died at Elsternwick, Melbourne during June 1924, suggesting a return to see family in Victoria at this time. Gus junior's Munich-born grandfather, Maximilian Ludwig Kreitmayer (1830–1906) had arrived in Australia in 1856, and been a celebrated waxworks proprietor in Melbourne, where his third wife continued to live until her death in 1934.

Gus Kreitmayer completed his school education at Melbourne Grammar School, and in 1980 his wife recalled that he had commenced initial architectural studies

with an architect named Ballantyne – perhaps either Cedric Heise Ballantyne (1876-1957) or J.F.W. (Fred) Ballantyne (1900-1988). Shipping records note that Gus arrived back in Western Australia on the *Katoomba*, disembarking at Fremantle in May 1928. He then served articles at architects Eales Cohen & Bennett in Perth. Gus appears to have been financially stable, perhaps with an income from the Manjimup Hotel that he inherited with Max. In early 1929 it was noted that ‘A.B. Kreitmayer, of Perth, has taken delivery of a special sports Austin Seven car, most attractively finished and lushly appointed’.

During his architectural apprenticeship Gus attended classes at Perth Technical School, and received private tuition from Strafford Strettle, George Allan, and A.G. Sloane. Upon completion of his articles he visited England and Europe, and was for six months an assistant at C.H. Valentine and Associates, theatre specialists of London. In November 1933, the ninth annual examinations conducted by the Architects Board of Western Australia were completed and it was announced that of five candidates, three had passed: Gus Kreitmayer, Zoie Bennett and George Alexander Rowe.



Perspective design of a residence in modernist style, to cost not more than £3,500. Drawn by Mr. A. B. Kreitmayer, it was awarded first prize last week in a competition conducted by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Western Australia.

‘A Modernist House’ - winner of a RIAWA competition (*The West Australian*, 26 May 1934, p.6).

Kreitmayer was registered as an architect (no.143) in Western Australia on 19 December 1933. Born in 1906, George Rowe (no.141) attended Guildford Grammar School, and had also completed his studies whilst with Eales, Cohen & Bennett, where he had a large part in the design of the notable residential building *Darjeeling* at Roleystone. Tender notices indicate that Rowe joined Kreitmayer in business from April 1936, working together through until 1941. With the disruption of the Second World War (1939-1945), Rowe moved to New South Wales and enlisted with the Royal Australian Engineers in 1943.

Kreitmayer married Isobel Goldstein in the Soldiers' Chapel at St George's Cathedral, Perth in July 1935. Isobel returned to their Hay Street, West Perth flat soon after the birth in April 1936 of twin daughters. At this time Gus was building their own residence at 33 McNeil Street Peppermint Grove, alongside another he had designed for Tom and Yvonne Argyle at 31 McNeil Street the previous year. Architectural historian Molyneux described Creightmore's house as 'one of the finest of the English vernacular revivalist essays of the period'.



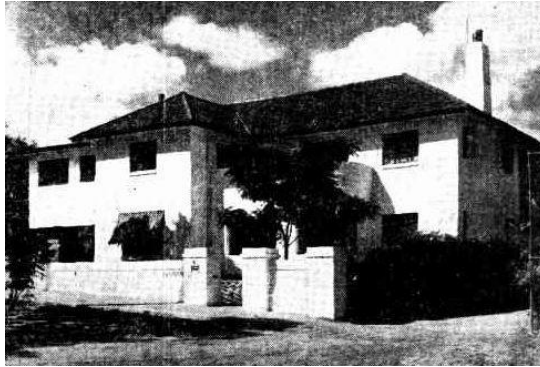
Kreitmayer designed 31 McNeil Street Peppermint Grove for Tom and Yvonne Argyle in 1935. With a carport in the front setback, the facade is now less pronounced. (John Taylor 2019).



Kreitmayer designed this house at 33 McNeil Street Peppermint Grove for his family in 1936. The skewed orientation continues to fascinate local residents. (Meredith & Diana Creightmore).

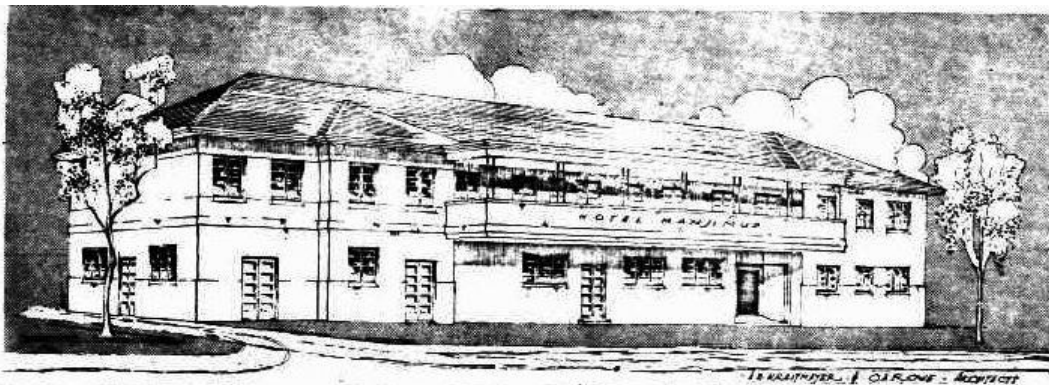
In January 1937 Max arrived back in WA after 12 years away, studying and working as a doctor in London and Vienna. Gus soon altered Max's recently bought Dr Wardell-Johnson house and practice at Beaufort Street in Highgate. Gus and Isobel were able to enjoy a novel respite in March 1937, as *The West Australian* newspaper noted their return via air travel from a brief holiday to Melbourne. With the onset of the Second World War imminent, and quite correctly anticipating anti-German sentiment in Australia, the Kreitmayer brothers were using the surname Creightmore as early as August 1938. Gus advertised by public notice that he had changed his name from Kreitmayer to Creightmore by deed poll on 31 March 1939.

Kreitmayer/Creightmore and Rowe were successful in securing many residential commissions in the late 1930s and early 1940s. With the advice of Creightmore's wife and daughters in 1980 and more recent internet checking, metropolitan residences at 33 Queenslea Drive Claremont (demolished c.1989), 20 View Street Peppermint Grove, 1 Goldsmith Road Claremont, 173 Wellington Street Mosman Park, and 52 Jutland Parade Dalkeith (demolished 2019) can be attributed to Kreitmayer/Creightmore.

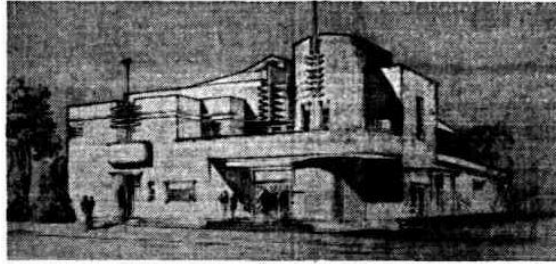


Two storey residence at Crawley designed by Kreitmayer & Rowe shown in a Wunderlich Tiles advertisement (*The West Australian*, 9 January 1937, p.6).

Other varying types of projects by the partnership included the Mosman Park Town Hall and attached cinema, the Manjimup Hotel (owned by Max and Gus), and the Chapel of St Michael and All Saints at Kobeelya Church of England Girls School in Katanning, dedicated in March 1939. Following tender notices, at sometime between April and October of 1941, Gus reverted to a sole practitioner. Unable to enlist for service in the Second World War due to poor health, and with building materials shortages prevalent in the following austere period, to provide an income for the family he ran a clothing factory in the Roe Street, Perth area.



Manjimup Hotel (*Manjimup Mail and Jardee-Pemberton-Northcliffe Press*, 18 Feb 1938, p.4).



Plan of the proposed new Mosman Park Town Hall, incorporating road board administrative offices, a picture theatre, etc., as it will appear after extensive reconstruction work to commence shortly. The successful tenderer for the work, which will cost about £4,975, was A. James and Co., and the architects are Messrs. Kreitmayer and Rowe.



Mosman Park Town Hall, now Camelot Cinema (*The West Australian*, 22 October 1938, p.4; Google 2019).



Chapel of St Michael and All Saints at Kobeelya, Katanning was designed in 1938 and dedicated in March 1939 (Kobeelya.com).



20 View Street Peppermint Grove, designed by Creightmore & Rowe for John Hale in the 1930s (John Taylor 2019)



Liddell residence, 48A View Street Peppermint Grove of 1940 (2018, www.realestate.com.au)

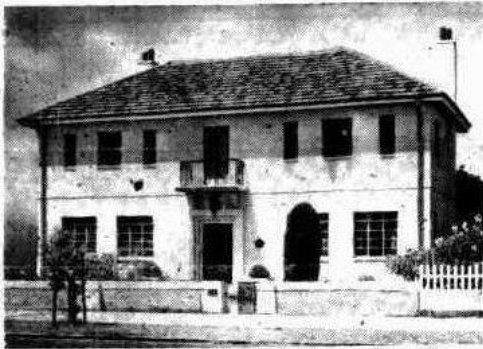
Unfortunately medical issues had arisen, Gus developed cancer, and travelled with Isobel to England in early 1949 seeking further medical treatment. The couple returned to Perth in October 1949 after six months away, in which time Gus underwent an operation. Aged just 39 years, Gus Creightmore died 23 December 1949 at St John of God Hospital, and was cremated at Karrakatta. He was survived by Isobel, who died at South Yarra in 1997, and daughters Meredith and Diana. Gus' brother Max lived to 68 years and died at Claremont in 1972. Creightmore had a short but influential career in Western Australia, cruelled by the global disruption of the Second World War and ill health. Were it not for these sad events, it is likely that he would have continued to produce fine architecture well into the 1950s and beyond.



Isobel Creightmore recorded in 1980 that her husband had designed a house at Florence Road Nedlands for C. Robertson in association with Howard Bonner. This is likely to be the house at 79 Florence Road Nedlands owned by W.C Robertson, although Wises Directories of the mid-1930s record another house at 83 Florence Road Nedlands that was owned by a Robertson. Significant changes have been made to the Inter-War residence at 79 Florence Road Nedlands. (b/w photo Molyneux, p.57, no.319; colour photo John Taylor 2019)



This house designed for William Crommelin at 33 Queenslea Drive in Claremont was demolished c.1989 for extensions to Bethesda Hospital (Molyneux, p.59, no.332).



Creightmore & Rowe designed residence at Bunbury, built for Dr. Jack Flynn - drawings are kept in the State Library of WA. Study of Landgate aerial photography reveals that a house at 13 Stirling Street Bunbury, hidden behind a commercial facade added c.2011, is likely to be this building. (*South Western Times*, 12 April 1940, p.6; Google 2019).



1 Goldsmith Road Claremont, designed for E.A. Lovegrove (John Taylor 2019).



Designed for Donald Chipper, 52 Jutland Parade Dalkeith was demolished in early 2019
(Google 2019)



Ian Molyneux suggests that 173 Wellington Street Mosman Park was designed by Creightmore, which may fit with an August 1938 Kreitmayer & Rowe tender notice (John Taylor 2019).

References:

- 'Female Candidate's Success', *The West Australian*, 25 November 1933, p.6 (passes exams).
- 'A Modernist House', *The West Australian*, 26 May 1934, p.6 (ABK winner RIAWA competition).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 19 February 1936, p.11 (ABK 2 storey residence Crawley).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 15 April 1936, p.21 (K&R attic residence Mosman Heights).
- 'Births', *Western Mail*, 23 April 1936, p.60 (birth of twin daughters).
- 'Mrs Kreitmayer', *Sunday Times*, 24 May 1936, p.1 (Isobel and twins return to Hay Street flat).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 10 Aug 1936, p.19 (K&R attic residence Hobbs Ave Nedlands).
- 'Manjimup Garage', *The West Australian*, 26 September 1936, p.11 (K&R service station).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 26 September 1936, p.27, (K&R brick residence at Mt Lawley).
- 'Recently arrived from England', *Sunday Times*, 27 June 1937, p.24 (Gus alters Max's recently bought Dr Wardell-Johnson house and practice at Highgate).
- The West Australian*, 4 Dec 1937, p.8 (K&R 2 shops/quarters Hay St, W. Perth for O.W. White).
- 'Mercurial Rise of Manjimup', *Manjimup Mail and Jardee-Pemberton-Northcliffe Press*, 18 February 1938, p.4 (K&R Manjimup Road Board Offices).
- 'A Premiere of Primary Production', *Manjimup Mail and Jardee-Pemberton-Northcliffe Press*, 18 February 1938, p.7 (K&R major works to Manjimup Hotel).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 3 August 1938 p.10 (K&R two storey residence Mosman Park).

'Licensing Notices', *The West Australian*, 30 August 1938, p.20 (Max and Gus Creightmore transferring Manjimup Hotel licence).

'Contract Let for Kobeelya Chapel', *Great Southern Herald*, 10 December 1938, p.5 (K&R chapel for Kobeelya Church of England Girls School Katanning).

'New Buildings for Manjimup', *Manjimup Mail and Jardee-Pemberton-Northcliffe Press*, 25 May 1939, p.1 (C&R Manjimup RSL club room and Road Board engineer residence).

'Public Notices', *The West Australian*, 5 April 1939, p.27 (change of name from Kreitmayer).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 26 June 1940, p.2 (C&R residence View St Peppermint Grove – Len and Jean Liddell residence at 48A View Street Peppermint Grove).

'Northam Shops', *The West Australian*, 8 Feb 1941, p.18 (C&R two brick shops Fitzgerald St).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 22 October 1941, p.2 (ABC 2 storey brick residence Nedlands).

'Deaths', *The West Australian*, 24 December 1949, p.22 (death and family).

Letter from Isobel Creightmore to Ian Molyneux dated 10 July 1980, and return letter from Ian Molyneux to Isobel Creightmore dated 15 July 1980, copies courtesy Meredith Creightmore.

Molyneux, Ian, *Looking Around Perth - A guide to the architecture of Perth and surrounding towns*, RAlA (WA), Wescolour Press, East Fremantle, 1981, pp.57, 59, 62.

Maximilian Ludwig (Max) Kreitmayer (1830–1906) – biography of Gus's grandfather - accessed 26 June 2019 at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/kreitmayer-maximilian-ludwig-max-13034>.

State Library of Western Australia, A.B. Kreitmayer & G.A. Rowe architectural plans, ACC 9622A: additions to Mosman Park Memorial Hall; residence at Manjimup for R. Locke Esq.; residence at Bunbury for Dr. J. Flynn; pews for chapel at Kobeelya.

National Archives of Australia: B883, NX170410 – Rowe, George Alexander.

Pers. comm. Meredith Creightmore 26 June 2019, 17 July 2019; Alison Lalanne 21 July 2019.

Pers. comm. Shannon Lovelady 19 September 2022, 26-27 June 2023.

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