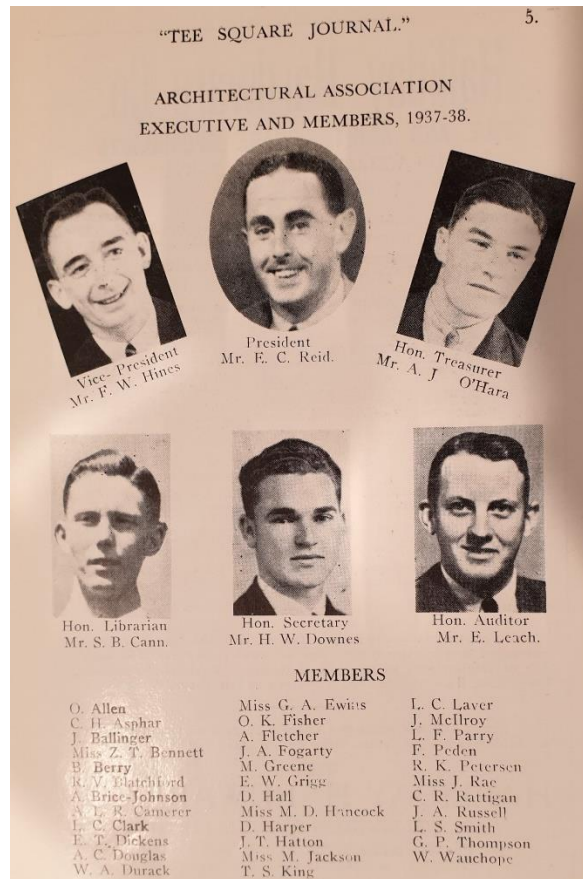




The Douglas family travelled from Scotland to WA in 1924 (courtesy Jenn Douglas)

**Allan Campbell Douglas** (1915-1992) was born 9 July 1915 at Glasgow in Scotland, and as a young boy arrived 1 June 1924 with his mother and siblings on the *SS Berrima* at the port of Fremantle, Western Australia. His parents William Gordon and Mary Fenwick (nee Cathro) Douglas had married in the parish of Mains and Strathmartine, near Dundee in 1909. William Douglas emigrated from Glasgow as a nominated settler and arrived at Fremantle 25 October 1923 on the *RMS Omar* - ahead of his wife and their five children John b.1910, James b.1911, Stewart b.1913, Allan b.1915 and Margaret b.1917. Another daughter Isobel was born in 1926. William worked as a boilermaker at the WA Government Railways' Midland workshops for many years.

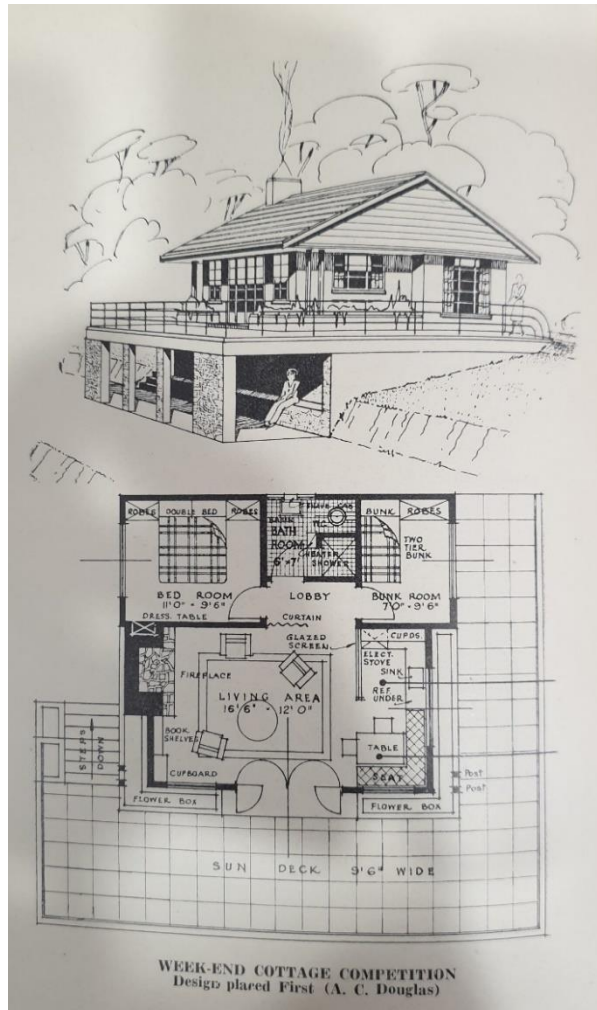
Allan achieved his Junior Certificate at Midland Junction State School, and Leaving Certificate at Perth Technical College (PTC). He attended the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Western Australia from 1933 to 1934, but had to end his studies for financial reasons. In 1935 he was employed by architect Reginald Summerhayes (1897-1965) as a draftsman, and became a member of the largely student body, the Architectural Association of WA. Allan commenced articles with Summerhayes in 1936, but these were terminated due to the outbreak of the Second World War (1939-1945). He then worked for Marshall Clifton (1903-1975) for six months, and for the Public Works Department (PWD) for six months in the period 1940 to 1941. Reg Summerhayes and Marshall Clifton acted as architects in association for the design of the Highway Hotel at Claremont, Civic Hotel at Inglewood and the Swanbourne Hotel, all built in 1940, so it is likely that Douglas was involved in the documentation for those projects.



Architectural Association WA Executive and Members 1937-38 (*Tee Square Journal*, 1937, p.5)

The architectural draftsman enlisted in the Australian Military Forces in August 1940 for Second World War (1939-1945) service as a surveyor, preparing emergency maps of huge areas of WA, and in March 1941 joined the Australian Imperial Forces, at that time living with his family at 151 Morrison Road in Midland Junction. Allan later joined the Allied Translator and Interpreter Section, and in May 1945 travelled from Brisbane to the important Allied base at the island of Morotai in Papua and New Guinea (now eastern Indonesia). Returning to Brisbane in November 1945, Allan and Olive Isabell Jackson (known as 'Jackie') were married on 1 December 1945.

Allan was officially discharged from the army 2 January 1946, and worked as a draftsman with the engineering department of the Brisbane City Council for six months. Returning to WA, Allan worked with his youthful colleague Robert Vivian Blatchford (1918-1989) from 1946. Bob Blatchford had registered as an architect in WA in 1943, set out in private practice from 1945, and was later to join with Allan in teaching architecture at the Western Australian Institute of Technology (WAIT) from 1969-1982.



Allan Douglas' winning design in a 'Week-end Cottage Competition' – PTC architecture student Geoffrey Summerhayes' design took second place (RAIA WA 1947 Exhibition Catalogue, n.p.)

W.H. (Bill) Robertson (1905-1953) founded the Perth Technical College (PTC) architecture course that was opened in 1946, with Robertson as head and Arnold Camerer (1915-1979) as a full-time lecturer. Allan Douglas and Margaret Pitt Morison (1900-1985) joined the staff of the course in 1948, and Allan was registered as an architect in WA by examination in February 1948 (no.186).

Allan and Jackie Douglas had three children, all born in WA - Lynette in 1947, Ross Alexander in 1950, and Jennifer Lee in 1957. With the joy of the growing children there was also the sadness of the passing of Allan's parents in the 1950s - William Douglas died in January 1952 at 151 Morrison Road in Midland Junction aged 65 years, and Mary Douglas in March 1959 aged 78 years. Allan and Jackie Douglas socialized occasionally with other PTC staff - particularly with Arnold and Gwen Camerer; Ron and Ivy Dyer - who were addressed as aunties and uncles by the Douglas children.

In the 1950s Allan and Jackie's home was at 12 Karoo Street, South Perth and from the 1960s to 1980s at 37 Drew Road Applecross. Described by former student Ian Dewar as 'very dry, laid back and casual', Allan was a lecturer and senior lecturer in the Department of Architecture at PTC from 1948 to 1967, and at WAIT from 1968 through to 1978, where he was Acting Head in 1975. Tony Wegener completed his studies at PTC in 1962, and 60 years later recalled that: *"He certainly had a profound effect on me. He actually challenged my cynicism about religion. He changed my life...and I have been forever grateful."* Don Newman, documenting his PTC class of the early 1960s, noted *"Another Studio 1 presence was the great reinforcer, Allan Douglas (stately Triumph motor car, cup of tea and unending cigarette ash). He seemed to have a kindred spirit in Tom Oakley (the biggest larrikin in the school), our librarian. The library was an imperfect haven from Maggie [M. Pitt Morison] when she was out for our blood."*

In late 1967 Allan Douglas produced a CV for WAIT that noted "During the period with the Department of Architecture I have had charge of all years at various times and have lectured in Design, Building Construction, Equipment and Specification Writing. ... During my period with the Technical Education Division, I have been responsible for the design of several houses, a block of flats and a motion picture theatre." Further research could assist to identify the location and timing of these buildings. In other capacities, Allan was a local examiner for the Royal Society of Health in the subject of Health Technology; an examiner in building construction for the Builders Registration Board of WA; an examiner for the Architects Board of Western Australia (ABWA); and he served in a number of capacities for the WA chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) – as a member of the Exhibition and Publicity Committee, of the Education Committee, and of the Board of Architectural Education.

From 1984 Allan appears in the non-practicing division on the ABWA register of architects, suggesting that he formally retired from practice at around 70 years of age. Allan and Jackie moved to Eaton in the mid-1980s, living at 33A Ennis Street in a duplex that they had built to share with close friends who lived in the other half of the building. Allan died at Eaton died 26 February 1992, aged 76 years. Jackie Douglas passed away at Salter Point 16 September 2006, aged 88 years.



Allan Douglas in later years (Jenn Douglas)

Making great contributions in his adopted homeland, and achieving success from an extremely modest upbringing, practitioner-academic Allan Douglas' long-serving and significant contributions to architectural education in WA and to the activities of the RAI A deserve greater recognition. His professional qualities were acknowledged by the conferring of the honorific titles ARAIA 1948, and as RAI A privileged member in 1991.

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NAA B883, WX27698; DOUGLAS ALLAN CAMPBELL : Service Number - WX27698 : DOB - 09 Jul 1915 : POB - GLASGOW UK : POE - MT LAWLEY WA : NOK - DOUGLAS MARY.

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