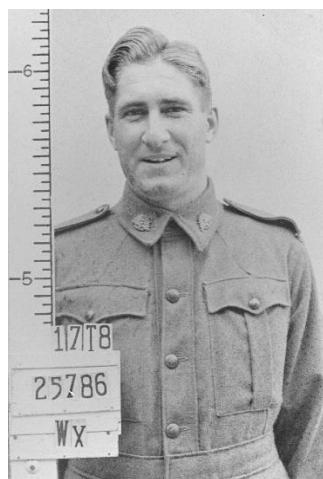


Ian Molyneux c.1997 (Claire Molyneux)

Ian Bruce Molyneux (1943-2025) was born 6 December 1943 at Devonleigh Hospital, Anstey Street in Cottesloe to parents Donald and 'Billie' (nee Astley Florence Haynes) Molyneux, who had married at Perth in 1940. Ian's sister Helen had been born in 1941, and his brother Robert was born in 1947. When he enlisted for Second World War (1939-1945) service in 1940, Midland Junction-born Don (1914-1993) and Kelmscott-born Billie (1917-2012) were living at Kathleen Street Cottesloe, adjacent to Don's parents.

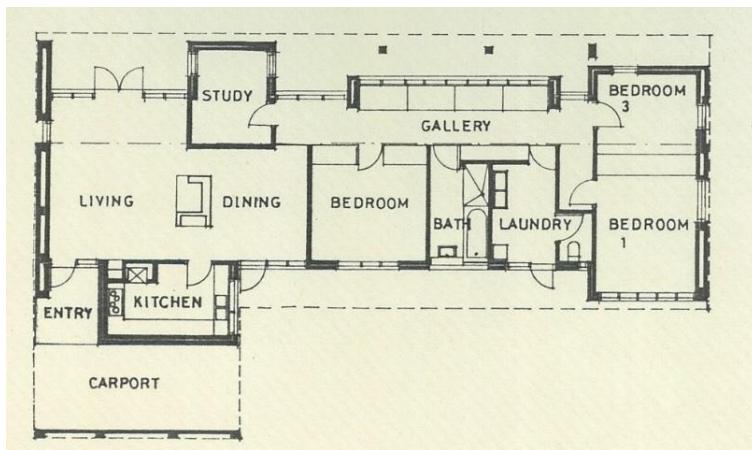
Initially based in WA, Don Molyneux was fortunate not to have to serve in high-risk front-line units, and by 1943 he moved to South Australia to join the 69th Australian Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Battery. In 1944 Don relocated with the battery to cover airfields in the Northern Territory, and with the turn of the war it was disbanded in 1945. By mid-1945 Don was posted from Sydney to Morotai and Labuan in Indonesia, and his family was finally relieved from worry when he was demobilized in January 1946.



Donald Molyneux c.1942 (NAA B883, WX25786)

Ian received his initial education at Swanbourne Primary School, and then John Curtin High School at Fremantle. He obtained a cadetship in the Architectural Division at the WA Public Works Department (PWD), gaining employment while also studying architecture at the Perth Technical College (PTC) from 1961 to 1965. At that time the City of Perth's building stock was still primarily of the Federation (c.1890-c.1914) and Inter-War (c.1915-c.1940) styles, with Post-War Modernism rapidly becoming apparent in newer commercial developments. At PTC, Ian enjoyed the tutorship of renowned academics Margaret Pitt Morison (1900-1985) and John White (1927-2020).

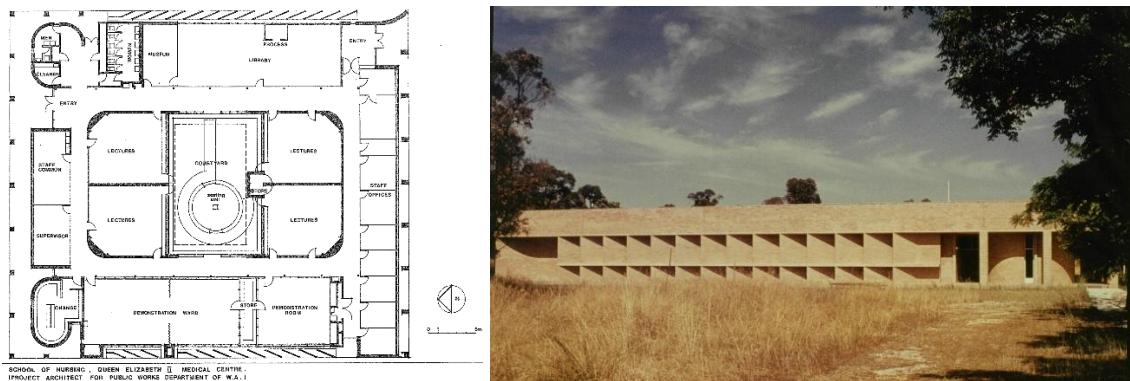
Molyneux attained his Associateship in Architecture, after being awarded the W.A. Nelson Prize in 1964, followed by both the E.G. Cohen Medal and the W.H. Robertson Travel Grant in 1965. In December 1965 Ian was registered with the Architects Board of Western Australia (ABWA reg no 489), at that time he was residing at 69 Cottesloe Avenue (now part of Curtin Avenue) in Cottesloe. Active in student affairs, Ian was an integral member of the organising committee, led by Graham Harler (ABWA reg no 456), for the famous Australian Architecture Students' Convention held in Perth in May of 1966 – hosting notable speakers such as Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983).



Ian's first built house design, for N. Walsh at Raeburn Road Roleystone in 1966 (*The Architect*, June 1985, p.34); and c.1967 pretending to preach at a church in Holland (Claire Molyneux).

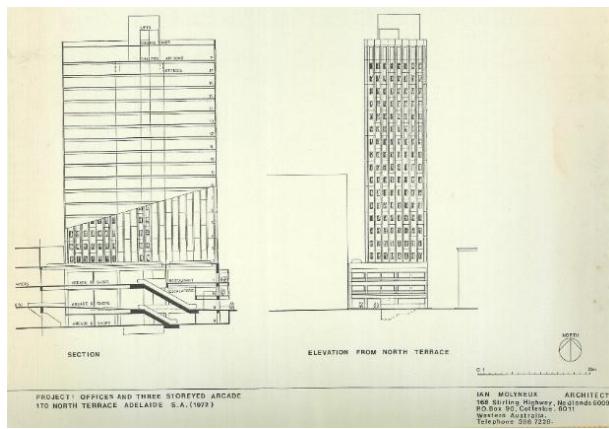
Marrying high school sweetheart Kaye Glover, and then taking leave of the PWD from later in 1966 to 1969, with the minor assistance of the Robertson Travel Grant the couple travelled throughout Europe. They settled in England during this time and Ian was employed by the cantankerous Erno Goldfinger as project architect on a housing scheme for the Greater London Council. Finding

Goldfinger 'a pain in the bum', Molyneux resigned and was then employed by T.P. Bennett & Son, Architects and Planners, London, as project architect for the British Linen Bank head office at Glasgow, a redevelopment scheme in central London, and the central area redevelopment in Manchester. Ian and Kaye's first child, Ivan Timothy was born at London in 1967, and daughter Claire born in 1969 following their return to WA.



1968 School of Nursing at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital – plan and elevation (Claire Molyneux).

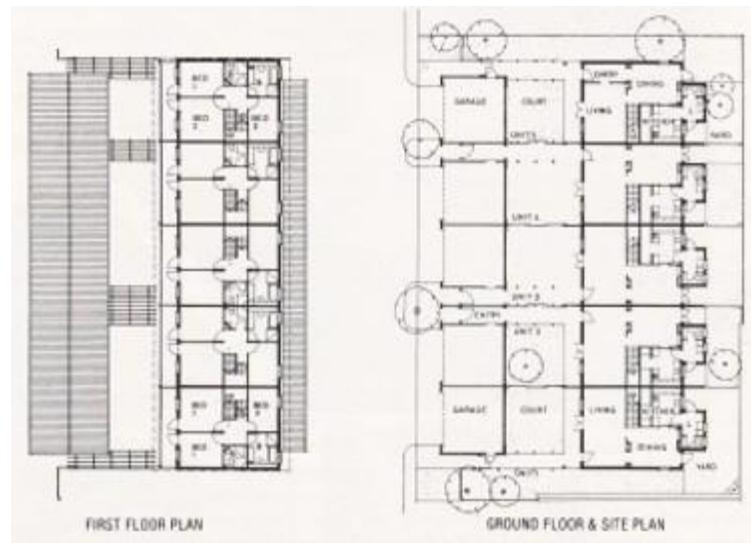
Back in Perth, to discharge the terms of Ian's cadetship he again worked for a period with the PWD, and he was the project architect for the School of Nursing at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (Q Block) built in 1968 to support the hospital based nurse training program. Moving into private practice, Ian joined as an associate of architects R.J. Ferguson and Associates from 1969-1971, working with his good friend Robin Kornweibel (ABWA reg no 412).



Unbuilt 1972 design for offices and arcade at 170 North Terrace Adelaide, the site of the extant and since 1986 heritage-listed Shell House (Claire Molyneux).

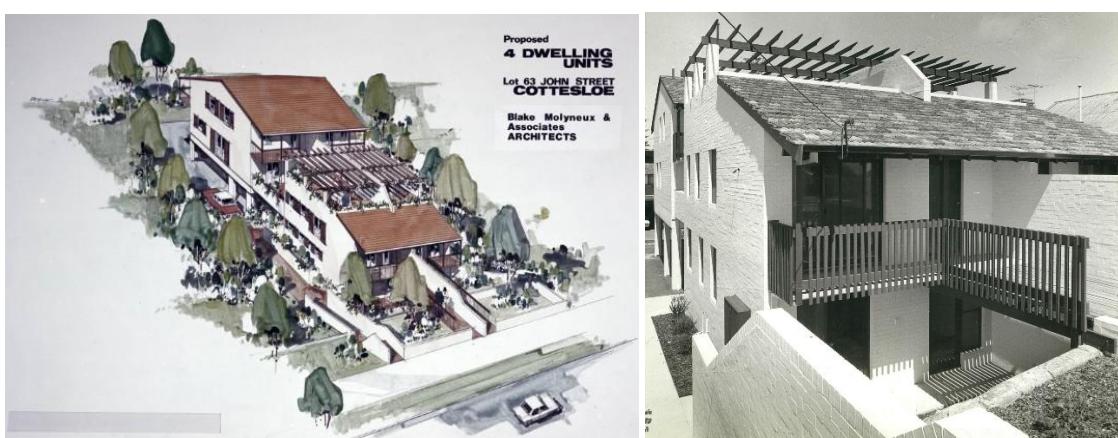
Molyneux then received a call from Graham Harler, who had a large multi-storey hotel project in South Australia, inviting Ian to open an office in Adelaide. Ian's initial office address was at Harler Reid & Partners, on the second floor of Shell

House in North Terrace at Adelaide, at which in 1972 he produced a design for an office tower over an arcade. Once it had been established that the Harler project was not going to be built, Ian stayed in Adelaide practicing in his own name until 1974, designing a half-dozen buildings that he was quite proud of.



Terrace housing at Francis Street North Adelaide of 1973 (*The Architect*, Summer 1989, p.9.)

Ian and Kaye decided to return with their young children from Adelaide to WA, and he joined with John Blake (ABWA reg no 401) as Blake Molyneux & Associates Architects until 1977. The WA State Records Office has note of some of the Blake-Molyneux design work for government agencies in the mid-1970s - a Resource Centre at Kensington Primary School; a Resource Centre at South Terrace Primary School; and a Library for North Inglewood Primary School. The partnership was also responsible for the design of four residential units at 5 John Street Cottesloe, built in 1977.

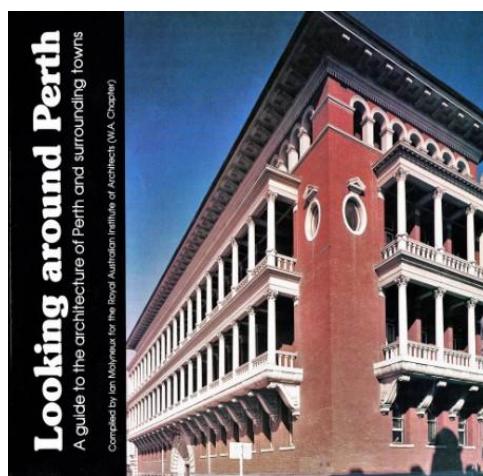


'Proposed 4 dwelling units, Lot 63 John Street, Cottesloe', Blake Molyneux and Associates Architects, 1 December 1976 (SLWA 348271PD); 5 John Street photo (Claire Molyneux).

Ian and Kaye parted in the later 1970s, and while living separately in Cottesloe the Molyneux family suffered the tragedy of losing Ivan, who passed away after being hit by a car in October 1978, aged just 11 years. In 1978-1979 Ian renovated a weatherboard cottage in John Street Cottesloe with interior designer and partner Judith Lamb, after which the couple moved into units that Ian designed c.1982 at 154 Marine Parade Cottesloe, and where they were married. After that they lived at locations in Fremantle before separating around 1996.

From 1979 until 1982, Ian joined in a partnership with Ken Adam (ABWA reg no 455) and Robin Kornweibel as 'Adam, Kornweibel and Molyneux, Architects and Town Planners' in order to carry out a number of major projects, whilst maintaining his sole architectural separate practice – renamed Ian Molyneux and Associates in 1983 with the admission of Fred W. Robinson as an associate.

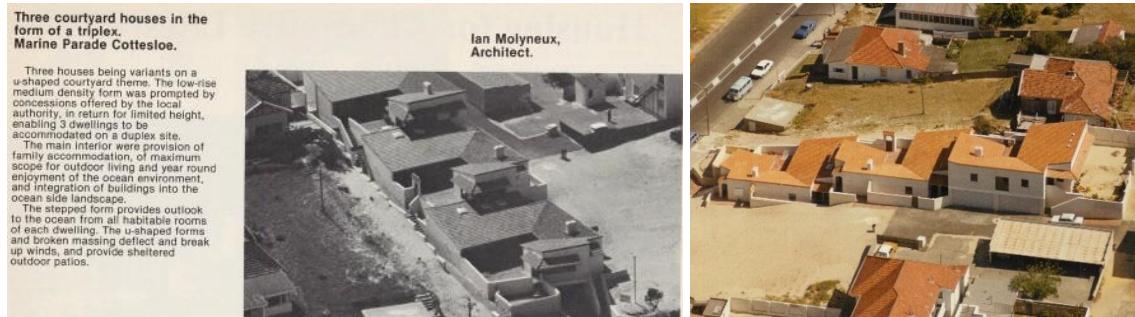
Ian was a member of the National Trust of Australia (WA) Built Environment Committee from 1975-1984. He completed the Bunbury National Estate Study (1978) for the Australian Heritage Commission, and was engaged by the City of Subiaco to prepare a report on the heritage significance of the city's buildings. His Survey of the National Estate in Subiaco (1985), resulted in the conservation of hundreds of buildings which remain standing today and which give Subiaco its unique character.



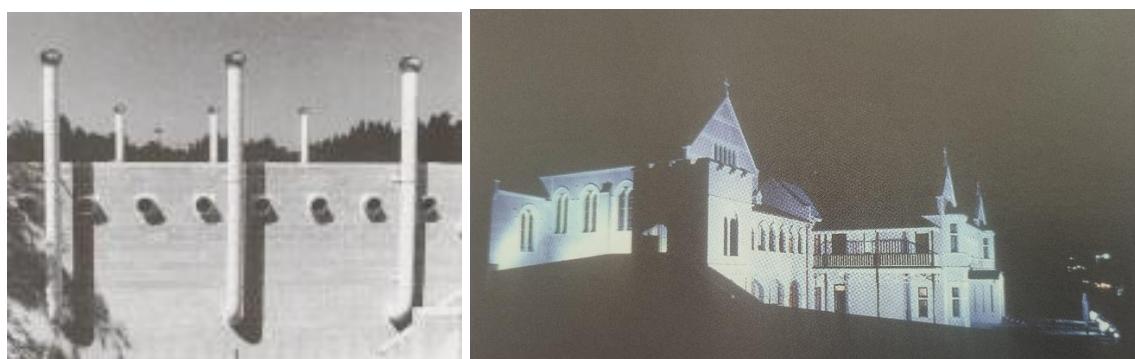
'Looking Around Perth: A Guide to the Architecture of Perth and Surrounding Towns' of 1981.

Ian's interest in the built heritage of Western Australia was presented through numerous articles in *The Architect* from 1970 through to the early 1990s. He contributed chapters to the books 'Historic Homesteads of Australia' and 'Western Towns and Buildings', and was the author of 'Looking Around Perth: A

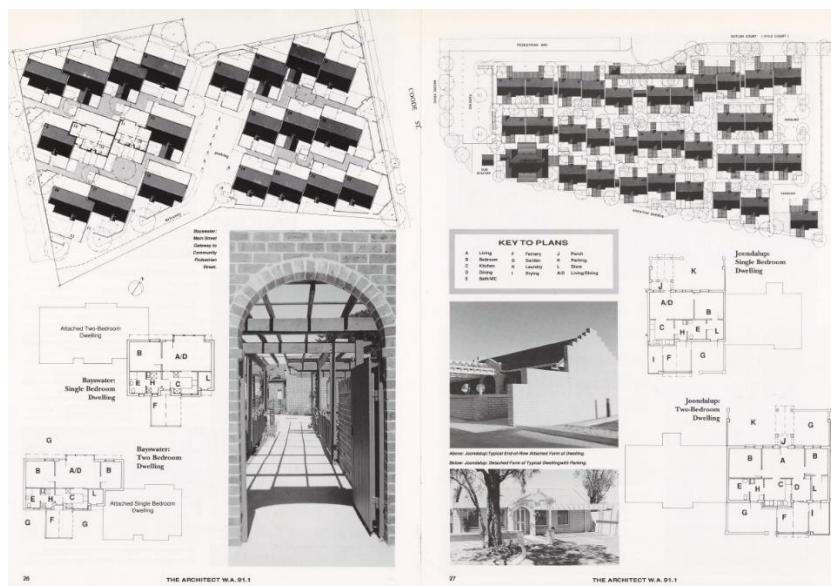
Guide to the Architecture of Perth and Surrounding Towns', published in 1981. This landmark work documented Perth's architectural evolution from early settlement through to the modern movement of the 1970s. It was the first comprehensive record of architecture of the region and continues to serve as a reference, even for buildings that have since been lost.



Aerial view from the north-west of triplex development at 154 Marine Parade Cottesloe (*The Architect*, June 1982, p.19); and aerial view from south side (Claire Molyneux).



Diverse works: Flammable Goods Store QEII Medical Centre Nedlands (*The Architect*, Spring 1987, p.45); Bunbury Arts Complex in former Convent of Mercy (*On Site*, p.84).



Bayswater and Joondalup Aged Persons Housing (*The Architect*, Autumn 1991, pp.26-27).

After the unexpected resignation of inaugural chair Dr Tom Stannage, Ian was appointed in August 1991 as second chair of the Heritage Council of Western Australia (HCWA), and played a pivotal role in shaping heritage practices during its formative years. Under his leadership, HCWA introduced key initiatives, including the State Government's municipal inventory support program, which established a register of heritage places and provided conservation incentive grants. His tenure helped define cultural heritage values and standards that remain integral today, following the enactment of the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*. Ian was also a Member of the Aboriginal Cultural Materials Committee of the Museum of Western Australia from 1993-1994.

After stepping down from HCWA in 1994, Ian was Heritage Planner in the Strategic Planning Unit at the City of Fremantle from 1996-1999. In the 1999 ABWA list, Ian was noted as living at 24 Jarrad Street Cottesloe – the former home of Australian Prime Minister John Curtin; where he produced a 1998 conservation planning document that assisted State and Federal government agencies in their eventual acquisition and development of the nationally significant property, in the care of the National Trust of WA since 2002.

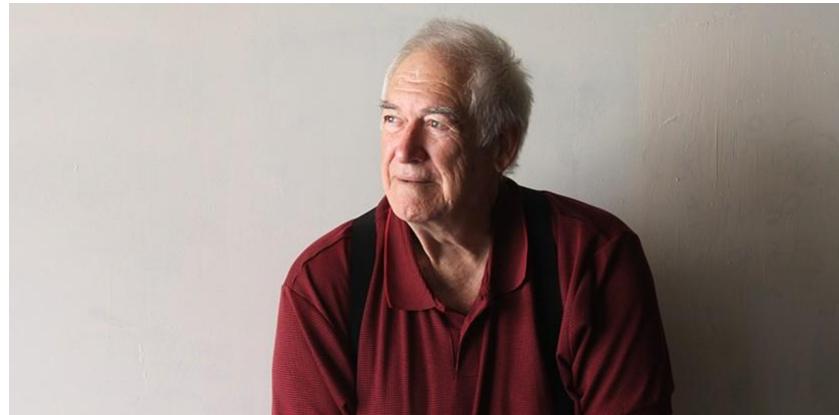
Ian relocated to Balingup with a new partner Sally Darling at the end of the 1990s, and returned to private practice, completing projects across Fremantle, Bridgetown, Donnybrook, and Balingup. At Balingup, he built a new residence using two redundant army barracks buildings that were transported from Northam and connected to form a rural homestead.



Balingup homestead: the two buildings joined; new roofing under way (Claire Molyneux).

Some of Ian's restoration projects of interest in the later stages of his career included 'Ferndale' at Balingup, 'Forrest Homestead' (boyhood home of Lord John Forrest) at Picton from 2002-2016, and the Uniting Church at Donnybrook (conversion to Council Chambers) in 2017. Amongst these conservation

developments, he designed eight luxury dwellings at Trigg in 2008, and an open-air concert venue for the Visitor Centre in Pemberton during 2013.



Ian Molyneux in 2017 (David Bell, <https://perthvoiceinteractive.com/2017/03/02/not-so-grand-designs/>)

In 2019 Ian was persuaded to enter the Federal Government elections as a WA Party candidate for the seat of Forrest, an unsuccessful process that he remembered with bemusement. In a 2023 interview, Ian stated (despite his memory beginning to slip) that felt his architectural career highlights were the Gray Surgical building at Bentley, and the Rockingham Community Centre.



2000s Gray Surgical Building, cnr Brodie-Hall Drive and Sarich Way Bentley (Google 2025).



2000s Rockingham Community Centre, cnr Civic Boulevard and Ako Lane (*On Site*, p.86, 88).

Claire Molyneux organised an exhibition of her father's paintings at The Grove Library in late 2021. The 'Ian Molyneux A Retrospective' exhibition was opened by his colleague and good friend Ken Adam. Ian's health deteriorated in his later years and he passed away in care at North Fremantle on 1 December 2025, survived by daughter Claire, and brother Robert in Sydney. Ian's father Donald had died in January 1993 at Mount Claremont aged 78 years, and his mother Billie passed away in May 2012 at Mount Claremont aged 94.

Ian's 50-year career encompassed architectural design, heritage assessments, conservation plans, restoration works and written contributions to numerous journals, books, and encyclopedias (many of these documents have been copied into the State Library of WA). His private architectural practice was complemented by his skilful photography, paintings, and drawings, capturing the essence of the WA places that he loved.

Over the years, Ian was active in the WA Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) as a Chapter Councillor, Vice President and Senior Vice President, and was also an examiner of potential registrants for ABWA from 1981-2002. His professional qualities were acknowledged by the conferring of the honorific titles Associate of the RAIA in 1965, and Fellow of the RAIA in 1976.

Ian Molyneux is one of the more notable individuals of the 120-plus architects who graduated from PTC between 1950 and 1967, when the course was transferred to the Western Australian Institute of Technology. He leaves an enduring legacy in WA's built environment. His life, community service, writing, artwork, and extensive portfolio of architectural projects would make a fine subject for research at tertiary level.

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- 'Deaths', *The West Australian*, 11 November 1950, p.38 (Amy Molyneux, mother of Don + 8).
- 'Editorial', *The Architect*, September 1966, p.36 (ASA Convention May 1966).
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Elizabeth Ure, 'Ian Molyneaux [sic]', *On Site*, Vol 1, Issue 1, Dublin, Ireland, pp.75-92, c.2001.

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Heritage Committee review: 18 December 2025 Last updated: 28 December 2025

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