



Tony Brand (*The Architect*, Autumn 1999, p.11)

John Anthony [Tony] Guy Brand (1932-2025) was born 23 June 1932 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaya - now Malaysia. Tony was the first child to parents Guy Meldrum and Corona Hilda (nee Graydon) Brand. Guy Brand was an Englishman (born London 1901) with business interests in Malaya, and in December 1941 the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor during the Second World War (1939-1945) signalled the commencement of enormous disruption throughout South-East Asia. When Japanese forces drove south through Malaya early in 1942, Tony, his mother, sister Corinne, and brother Peter boarded the merchant ship *Centaur* in Singapore and voyaged to Fremantle. Converted to an Australian hospital ship, the *Centaur* was sunk by the Japanese in May 1943. Tony's father, a Major in the Federated Malay States volunteer force, was captured and taken to the notorious Changi prison camp at Singapore. After Changi, Guy worked on the dreaded Thai-Burma railway. Unlike many, he was fortunate to survive the internment and consequent trials. When the family settled in WA, Guy continued to work as a merchant locally and interstate.

Tony had attended primary school in Malaya, and then Hale School in West Perth from 1942. Tony's final year at Hale was 1948, the year he turned 16. He went back to Malaya to work for a year before returning to Perth in 1950. A youthful Tony, joining the Public Works Department (PWD) as a cadet in 1950, remembered Sydney Davis (1920-1994), Harold Menzies (1922-2003), and Raymond Moran (1922-2015) as contributors to his formation as an architect, assisting with advice on drafting and other initial skills. Tony recalled in later years that Davis, whom he described as 'the first openly gay architect in WA', was harassed at the PWD and elsewhere – behavior that Tony found unsettling.

Tony entered into the relatively new School of Architecture course at Perth Technical College (PTC) in 1950, and was heavily involved with the affairs of the Architectural Students Association (ASA), including organising T-Square Balls, participating in sports events, acting as Secretary of the ASA in 1953 and Public Relations Convenor in 1954. The course at PTC was under the directorship of Senior Bolland from mid-1954 following the untimely death of course-founder William H. Robertson (1905-1953). Bolland applied a more definite emphasis on design in course teaching than his predecessor, and this was reflected in Tony's life-long design strengths.



Architecture students football match, half time at Perth oval, about 1953 (Bill Weedon).

Local periodical *The Architect* recorded in December 1954 that the first prize in a student design competition for Hale School had been won by Tony Brand, Gus Ferguson (1931-2024) and Bill Weedon (1931-). Tony completed his studies at PTC in 1955, and his graduating class included a number of architects who would also become well-known in WA – Lionel Bates, Gus Ferguson, Garry Leighton, Gene Mapp, Noel Ryan and Bill Weedon.

During November of 1953, *The West Australian* newspaper recorded that: 'Mr and Mrs Charles Green of 2 Altona Street West Perth wish to announce the engagement of their only daughter Barbara, to Anthony, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Guy Brand, of Perth, formerly Malaya'. In 1955 Tony and Barbara Ann Green were married, the couple went on to have two children - Caroline and Michael. Tony and 'Barb' had met, both aged 15, at Hale School's joint dancing classes with St Mary's Anglican Girls' School.



Fourth year PTC architecture student Tony Brand at left, his fiancée Barbara Green, Lynn Jackson and Peter Bruechle – pictured at the Palace Hotel in Perth before attending the 1954 T-Square Ball at the Embassy Ballroom. Structural engineer Bruechle married Lynn, sister of Tony's fellow student Brian Jackson (1931-2019) in 1957. Tony and Peter remained life-long friends. (*Daily News*, 19 May 1954, p.17).



Former Methodist Church at 13 Murray Street Bayswater of 1955 (Google Maps 2025).

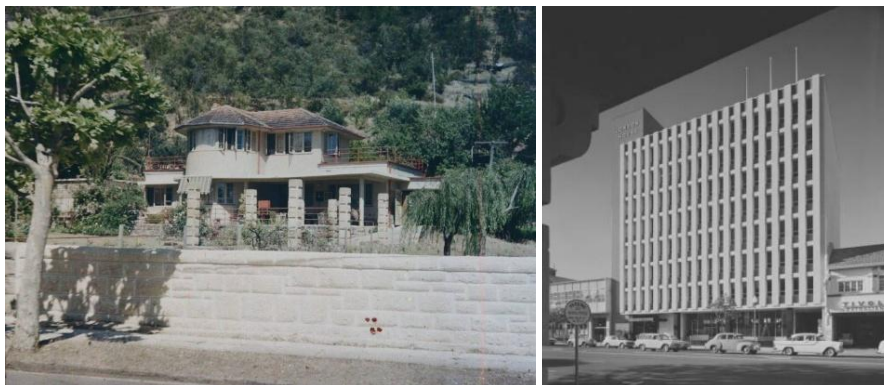
Heritage Council of WA records note that the Bayswater Methodist Church was designed by student architect John Anthony Guy Brand in 1955. Tony worked for a period at the established Perth architectural firm Forbes & Fitzhardinge, where he completed (working with Bill Barton) an experimental concrete dome for the Tawarri café on the Swan River foreshore at Dalkeith, and registered as an architect with the Architects Board of Western Australia (no. 295) in July 1956.



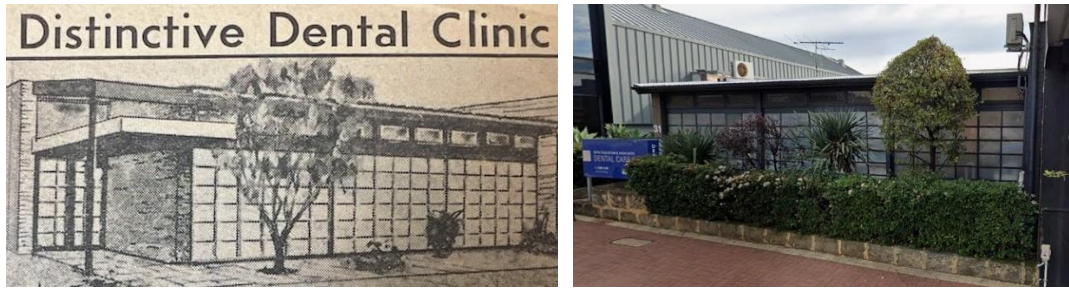
Tawarri Reception Centre at Dalkeith, shown in 1969 (SLWA 113154PD).

Tony's time at the prominent Melbourne architectural practice of Bates Smart & McCutcheon (BS&M) in 1956 was assisted by the W.H. Robertson Memorial Travel Grant. He was involved with feasibilities for Law Chambers, Prudential Building, and in preparation of documents for BS&M's own offices. With the Olympic Games held in Melbourne late in the year, it was an exciting time for the newly-married couple. The Brands returned to Perth in 1957, at this time Barbara was pregnant, and Tony established his own solo practice in the same year.

Brand initially ran his firm out of a room shared with prominent architect Marshall Clifton (1903-1975) in a former Claude De Bernales-owned Inter-War design home overlooking the Swan River on Mounts Bay Road, before they both moved separately to the Post-War International style London House at 214 St Georges Terrace, Perth. Tony's move reflects a sentiment of younger architects in WA from the 1950s, where the existing building stock predominantly designed in Federation (c.1890-1915) and Inter-War (c.1915-1940) styles were regarded as lacking the crisp Modernist idiom, especially preferred by graduates of PTC.



Tony Brand Architect's first office locations: former De Bernales home on Mounts Bay Road (SLWA 092050PD); and London House at 214 St Georges Terrace Perth (SLWA 340559PD).



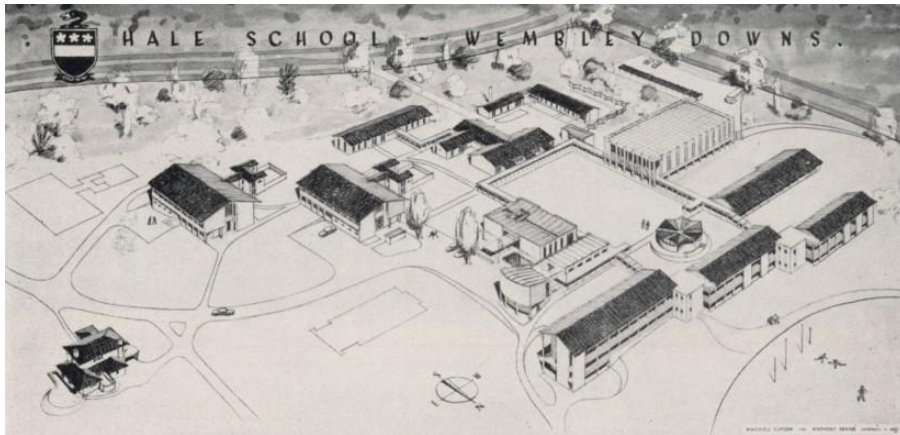
Dental Surgery at 31 Stirling Highway Nedlands designed by Tony Brand (newspaper clipping n.d., probably from *The West Australian*, Tony Brand/Romesh Goonewardene; Google 2025)

Tony's projects in the later 1950s were of a smaller scale, primarily domestic but also with some commercial work. Returning to Perth in 1960 from a lengthy overseas tour, Gus Ferguson soon joined the practice of his PTC colleague Brand. They teamed up informally with Bill Weedon to produce an entry for the new Perth Town Hall national competition, receiving third place in later 1960. Academic Andrew Murray notes that Brand and Ferguson's breakthrough building was the Hale School Memorial Hall of 1961, '*the first use of off-form concrete as a total and complete finish in Australia, ...*' The partnership was expanded with the joining of Antoni Solarski (1920-1975) in 1961, and continued until 1963.

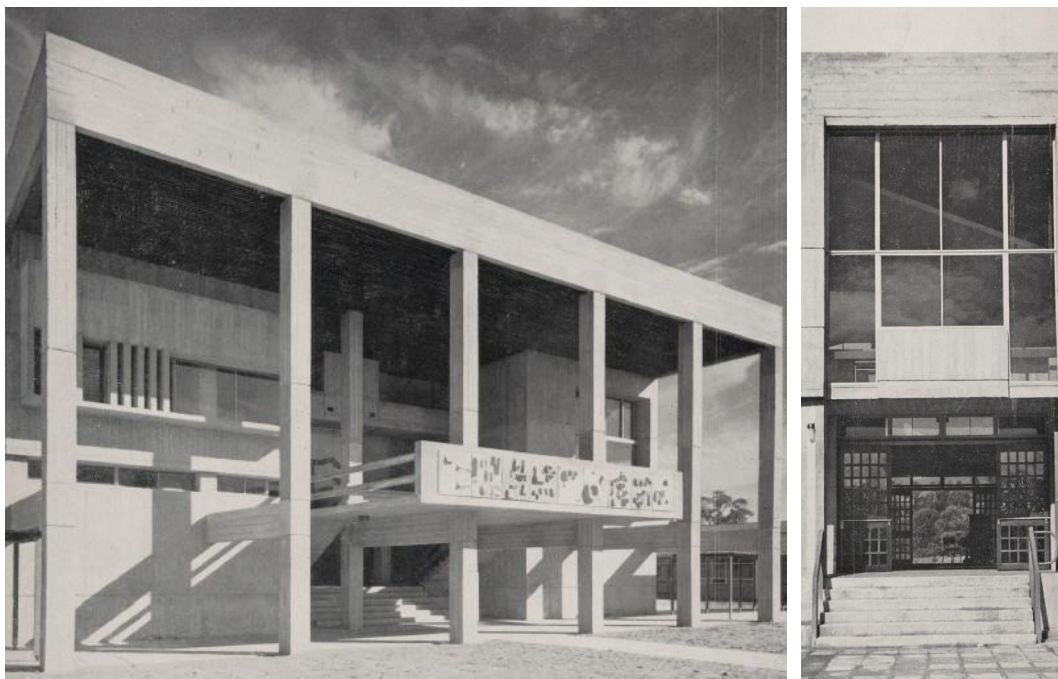
The young firm of Brand, Ferguson & Solarski was engaged to undertake the Memorial Hall project at a new Hale School site in Wembley Downs [in association with Marshall Clifton, to reassure a conservative school board], and it was subsequently awarded a Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Bronze Medal (WA), and Building of the Year by *Architecture and Arts* magazine. Although the initial Hale School new campus and hall design had been completed by Tony, he later acknowledged that the detailed design of the completed Memorial Hall was primarily Ferguson's work.



Early Hale School Memorial Hall sketch, Anthony Brand, 1959 (Fig. 14 in Murray, 2018, p.51).

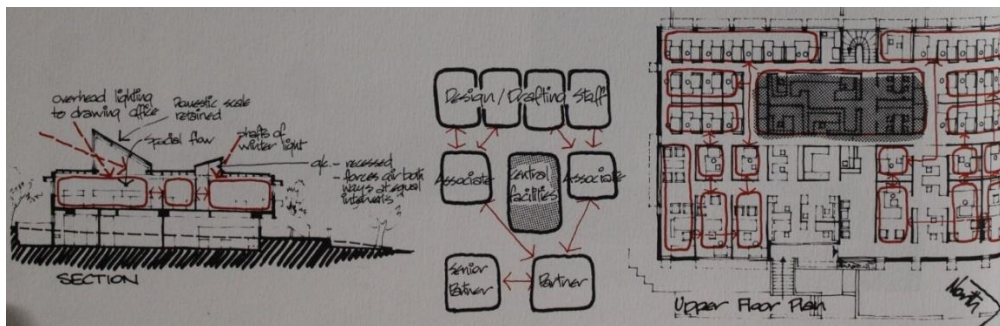


'Hale School Wembley Downs' aerial view, Marshall Clifton and Anthony Brand Architects in Association (*The Architect*, March 1960, p.19).



Hale School Memorial Hall of 1961 (*The Architect*, September 1962, pp.26-27).

Following a downturn in the economy, the Brand, Ferguson & Solarski practice struggled to find work, and the partners separated. Tony Brand was approached by Forbes & Fitzhardinge (F&F) to return as a partner, which he accepted, and he re-joined the large practice in 1964. With ongoing business success, and documentation-staff numbers growing steadily in the 1960s, F&F designed their own premises at 1 Ord Street West Perth and moved there in 1967. Tony notes in a CV that he was the partner in charge for this project, 'designed to integrate with the residential neighborhood and internally provide a studio atmosphere'. In 1969 the project was awarded a WA chapter Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) design award.



1967 Forbes & Fitzhardinge Offices at 1 Ord Street, West Perth (1971 photo Fritz Kos, SLWA160055PD; section and upper floor plan F&F Brochure 1975, p.2).

Facing across Langley Park to Perth Water, Tony's 1967 design of the two-storey off-form concrete Freemasons Hall lives on in the memory of many who passed-by on busy Riverside Drive from 1969 up until its demolition in 2002. The ground floor level had an open underground parking area at one end, with a grand stairway up to the first floor backed by fretwork of ritual images, and the interior comprising the Freemason's ceremonial hall and offices was capped with a strikingly heavy horizontal fascia element at the top of the building.

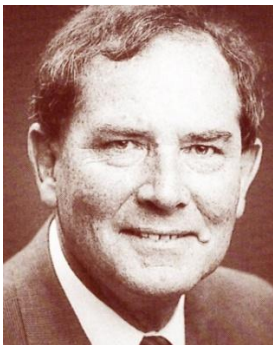


Freemasons Hall for the Grand Lodge of WA at Terrace Drive Perth (SLWA b3898986).

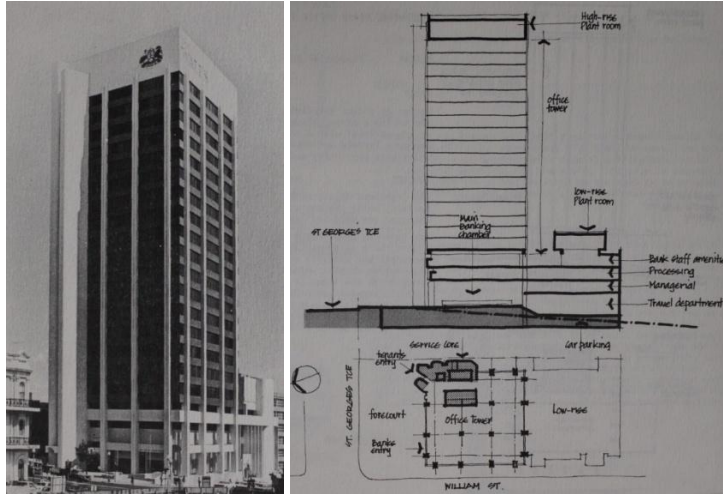


Freemasons Hall for the Grand Lodge of WA (The Architect, March 1969, p.57).

A large office project by the F&F practice was the Wales Centre on the south-east corner of St George's Terrace and William Street in Perth, built 1968-70. By 1969 the partners at F&F were Bill Forbes, John Fitzhardinge, Bill Barton, Bill Fitzhardinge, Gres Cohen, and Tony Brand. In 1970 Tony won the Clay Brick Award for the design of the robust Davies House at Mount Helena. The economical and linear planned house looks north across a valley; the walls are clinker brickwork, floors of jarrah board and brick, with ceilings showing the reverse side of plasterboard sheets between exposed rough sawn jarrah rafters.



Tony Brand pictured with the 1970 Clay Brick award-winning Davies House at Mount Helena (Booklet for 21st Anniversary Clay Brick Awards, 1987, p.19).



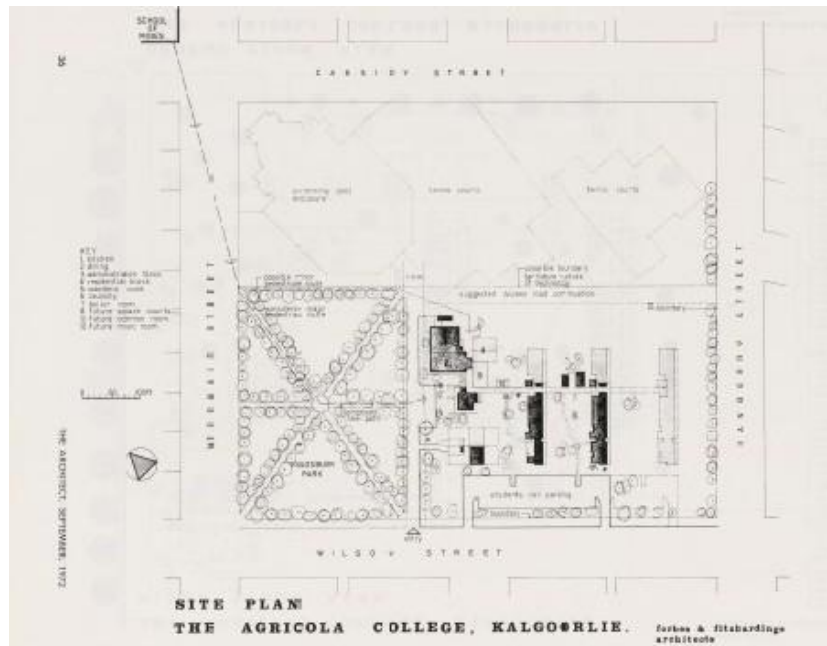
1968-70 Wales Centre St George's Terrace Perth (F&F brochure 1975, pp.8-9).



1970 Floreat Beach Kiosk, one of three off form concrete kiosks (Fabric Quarterly 09 2017).

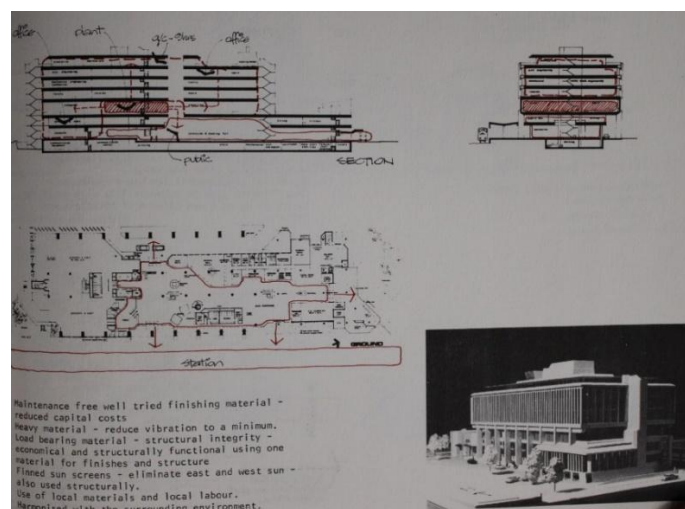
Bill Fitzhardinge had grown tired of the machinations of a large architectural practice by 1974, and he 'retired' to set up his own small office. F&F hence announced a new partnership effective from 1 July 1974, with six partners John Fitzhardinge, Bill Barton, Gres Cohen, Tony Brand, Mike Fitzhardinge, Lindsay Waller; and five associates Peter Wilks, Graeme Paynter, Anthony Cobley, Bruce Fell-Smith, and Graham Bedford.

With a large staff working across many complex projects, attribution of F&F design work in the 1970s and 1980s to singular persons would be unrealistic, but other projects in this time which Tony claimed as senior designer of the practice included the Agricola College at Kalgoorlie, Music Building of the UWA Crawley Campus, and the West Australian Government Railways Perth Terminal in 1974. In 1975 John Fitzhardinge had retired to a consultant role, and Graeme Paynter had been elevated to a partner at the business. Graham Bedford, D. Haldon Hodge and John Wood were associates at F&F.



Site Plan for Agricola College Kalgoorlie - awarded a 1971 RAIA (WA) design award (*The Architect*, September 1972, p.36).

Award-winning projects that Tony noted in his CV included the Excellence in Concrete Award for Vlamingh Memorial (1975 citation); a 1976 RAIA (WA) design award for the Two Rocks Town Centre; and a 1977 RAIA (WA) design award specific for Public Spaces of the WA Government Railways (Westrail) Centre.



1974 West Australian Government Railways Perth Terminal (F&F Brochure, 1975, p.33).

Tony served as a Town of Cottesloe Councillor from 1970-77, chairing the building and planning committee for four years. Moving on from F&F, in January 1981 Tony joined in a partnership with Sydney Deykin (1935-2024) and Douglas Hay (1935-2006), practicing as Brand Deykin & Hay Architects, and the trio continued in business together until June 1992.



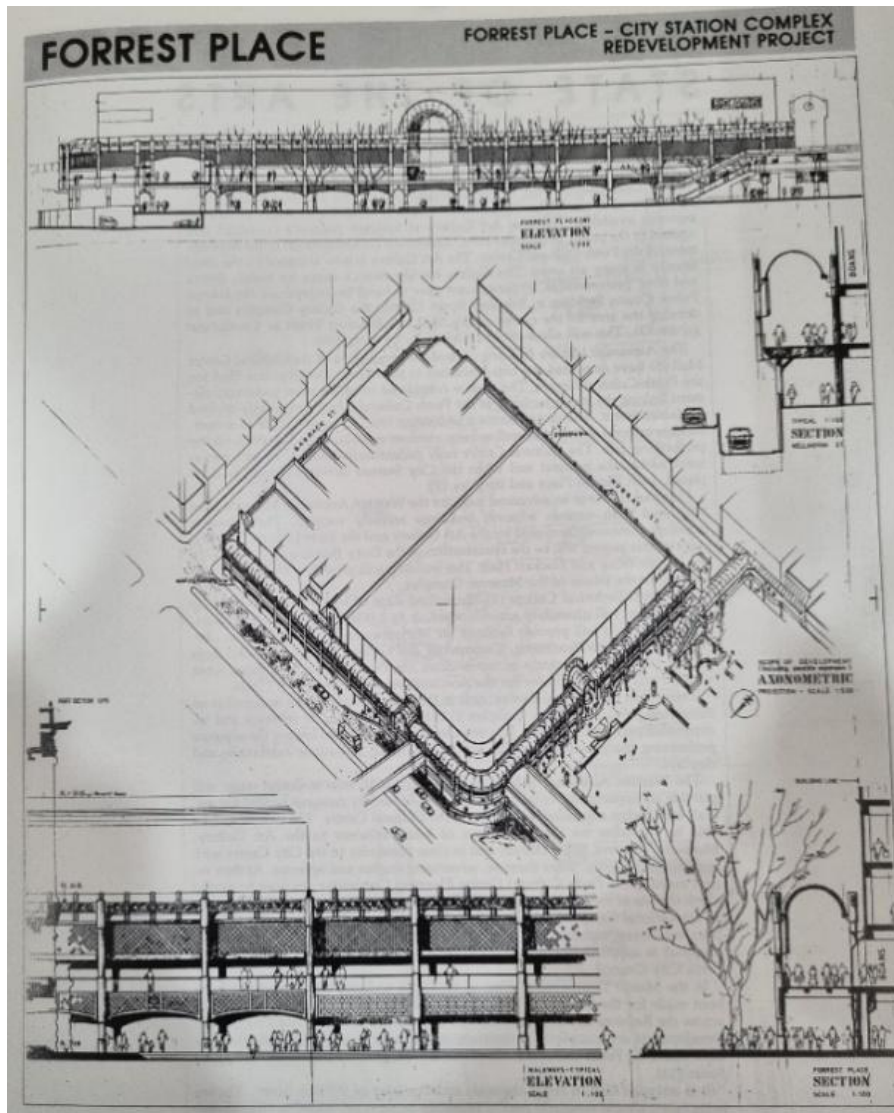
The Weld Club, Barrack Street Perth (Conservation Plan, John Taylor Architect, 2002).

One of Tony's most personal projects was the redevelopment of The Weld Club at Perth. In 1985, years of pondering by the Club culminated in the decision to undertake a major change to the property. This involved the construction of a modern multi-storey office building on the north-western portion of the Club's landholding. The Club granted a lease of the land for a minimum term of 99 years and in return received exclusive use of a billiards room, five fully furnished luxury hotel-type rooms and a larger dining room, rebuilt for improved aspect and greater appeal and use. A carpark was replaced with landscaped terraces and a new underground carpark was constructed for the Club. Architects for the project were Peddle Thorp & Walker of Sydney in association with Brand Deykin & Hay. The project served the requirements of the Club, which were: to preserve the Club building, retain large areas of landscaped gardens, provide for space, sunlight and air to Club premises, maintain carparking to Club requirements, and to improve Club facilities. Both Brand and Deykin were long-term members of the Club, and able to enjoy the benefits of the improvements for many years.



Hedland College (*The Architect*, June 1983, p.24); and John XXIII College, built from 1986 (Ian Hocking, *Perth - The Building Challenge*, 1987, p.56).

Brand Deykin & Hay designed the South Hedland College, which won a 1985 RAAI award, and from 1986 developed the new John XXIII College campus at Mount Claremont. Tony's design work for the Forrest Place Perth City Station Complex Redevelopment, also of 1986, was another complex project that reflected the larger scale of jobs undertaken by the practice in these boom years.



Forrest Place Perth City Station Complex Redevelopment (*The Architect*, 86-1, p.17).

Tony's professional qualities were acknowledged by the RAAI's conferring of the honorific titles Associate in 1956, Fellow in 1970, and Life Fellow in the 1990s. Tony was honoured with the State's most prestigious single architects' award, the Architects Board of WA Award in 1988, granted to recognise special endeavours outside of normal business practices. Further recognition of his fabulous career occurred in 1990 when Tony was made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to architecture, particularly in the field of planning.

In 1992 Brand left practice to go into consulting and became involved in dispute resolution and served as Chairman of the Residential Codes Advisory Committee, and a member of the competition and awards committee for the RAIA (WA). In later years Tony continued to assist with many, many community service organisations, also with arbitrations and mediations; but his most rewarding architectural projects in a long professional resume remained as single domestic commissions. A list of houses that Tony designed and noted in his CV includes: Topham House, Mosman Park; Dowland House, Swanbourne; Jones House, Swanbourne; Fischer House, Augusta; Bird House, Nornalup; Fenny House, Albany; Ipp House, Mandurah; Lill House, Claremont; Blain House, 44B View St Peppermint Grove; and Anderson House, Cottesloe.

Tony's son Michael had died of illness in 2017. After 67 years of marriage, Tony lost wife Barb aged 90 years in February 2023; and after passing his final years at St Louis in Claremont, Tony Brand died 15 August 2025 aged 93 years, survived by daughter Caroline.



Tony Brand in front of the Hale School Memorial Hall (AIA WA newsletter 26 August 2025).

Always presenting as a forthright individual, Tony Brand is amongst the most notable of the more than 120 Western Australian architects who graduated from PTC between 1950 and 1967, when the course was transferred to the Western Australian Institute of Technology. Tony's significant and locally distinctive design portfolio, particularly in the commercial and tertiary education sectors, forms a large portion of highly valued architecture in the State from the later Twentieth Century. The great value of Brand's body of work will undoubtedly be further recognised, adding to a broader understanding of the diverse nature of Twentieth Century architecture in Australia.

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