



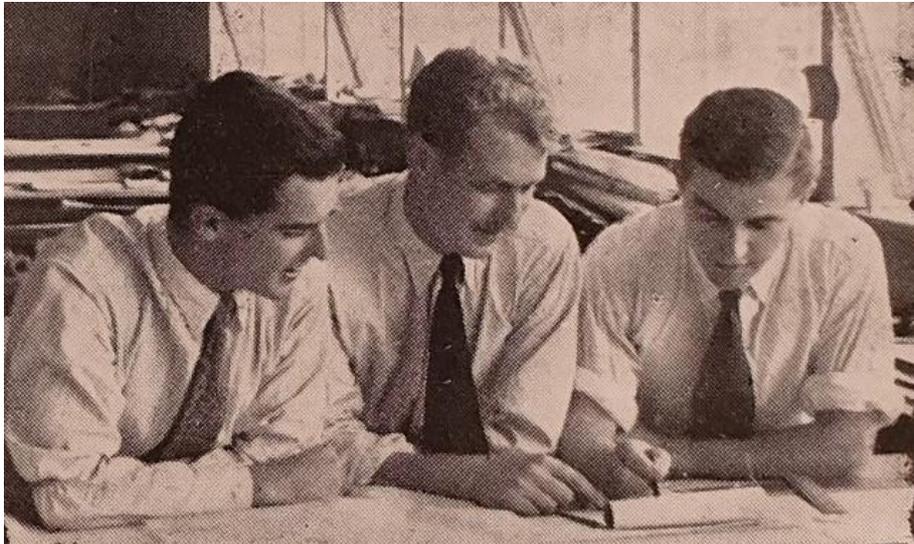
Eighteen year old Ken Rosenthal at his RAAF enlistment in 1941 (NAA: A9301, 415593)

**Kenneth George Rosenthal** (1923-2008) was born 14 October 1923 at Miss Harvey's Private Hospital in Bulwer Street, Perth. His parents were architect Samuel (1888-1967) and Minna Jean (nee Simpson) Rosenthal (1894-1971). Following First World War (1914-1918) service from 1915 at Gallipoli and on the Western Front, Samuel returned to WA in 1920 and was married to Jean at St Mary's Church West Perth in early 1923. The couple also had two daughters, Maxine Helen (b.1924) and Ann Yvonne (b.1928). When Ken was born in 1923, his parents were living at Barker Road in Subiaco, and when Ann arrived in 1928 they were at 233 Thomas Street Subiaco.

Ken attended Hale School in West Perth during 1936-1938, and commenced architecture as an articled student with his father in the period 1939-1940. With the lack of architectural work consequent to the outbreak of the Second World War (1939-1945), Samuel Rosenthal shelved his practice, and Ken joined Dalgety's Ltd as a junior clerk. Having attained his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, in November 1941 Ken enlisted for Royal Australian Air Force training, hence posted to Victor Harbour, Cunderdin, Perth, Geraldton, and Ascot Vale. Embarking at Melbourne in March 1943 for the United Kingdom, Rosenthal served as an airman-pilot until late 1945, finally returning to Perth to be discharged in January 1946.

Following his war service, Rosenthal was an articled student in the practice of F.G.B. Hawkins (1885-1956) during the period 1946-1950. This is a little surprising, as at this time the majority of the returned service personnel chose to enrol in the newly-formed Perth Technical College architectural course, largely

instigated by W.H. (Bill) Robertson. Employed in the Commonwealth Department of the Interior from the 1930s, in 1941 Robertson had been a signatory to Ken's good character for his enlistment, possibly as Samuel Rosenthal had also commenced working for the Commonwealth.



Ken Rosenthal in centre, with Don Collins at left and Peter Arney at right (*Phi*, 1950, p.8)

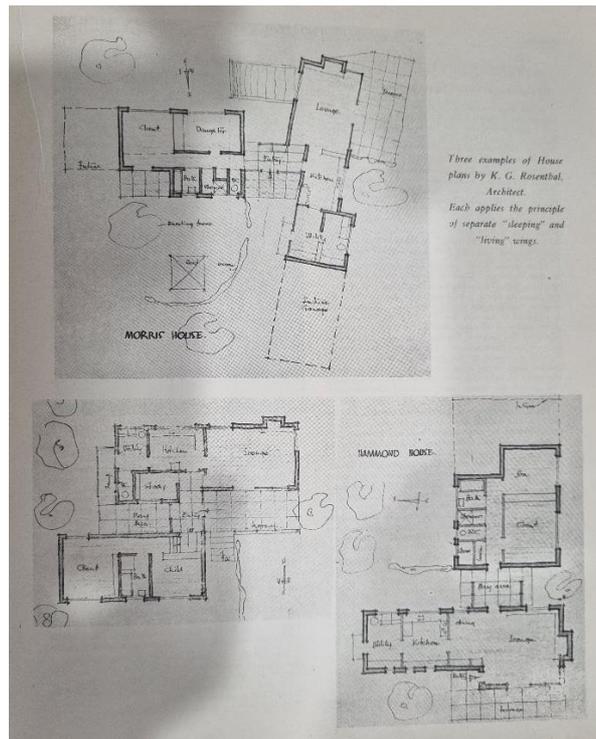
Ken Rosenthal was the President of the WA Architectural Students Association, organisers of the nineteenth annual T-Square Ball, held at the Embassy Ballroom in May 1949. He worked briefly for Oldham Boas Ednie-Brown architects, and after achieving registration (no.211) with the Architects Board of Western Australia in February 1950, at 26 years of age he commenced his sole practice at the South British Chambers, Barrack Street Perth in March 1950.



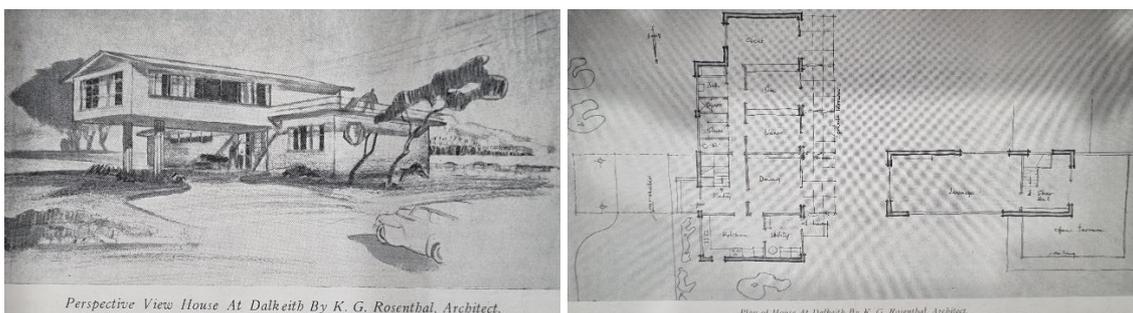
*PARTYGOERS to the Old Haleians function at the Wattle were Dorothy Sylvester, Blake Senior, Lesley Uren and popular young architect Ken Rosenthal.*

Ken Rosenthal at an Old Haleians function in 1950 (*Sunday Times*, 23 April 1950, p.10)

The young architect was soon busy with modern residential design work, calling tenders in April 1950 for a residence in Brittain Street at Como for G. Haddon, and in September 1950 for a residence on Canning Highway, South Perth. In February 1951, Ken had designed a brick and reinforced concrete residence at Overton Gardens in Cottesloe for W. Dermer. March 1951 tender notices confirm Rosenthal's design of two residences for lots 689 and 690 on Hillway in Nedlands, and in October 1952 for a residence at Oakdale Street, Floreat Park.



Three examples of house designs by Ken Rosenthal (*The Architect*, March 1951, p.15)



Ken Rosenthal's design for a house at Dalkeith (*The Architect*, June 1951, pp.20-21)

In June 1952 Ken was married to Rachel Erica Derry. Rachel (b.1925, nee Carey of White Peak Station) had previously married Geoffrey Brian Derry in 1947, and the couple had a daughter Tina in 1948. Ken and Rachel then had sons Peter in 1955 and Kim in 1958.

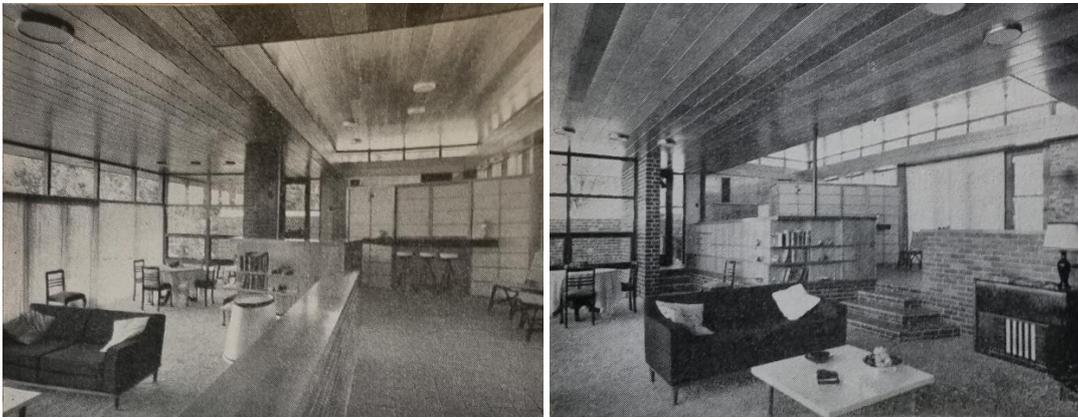


Ken and Rachel Rosenthal at their marriage in 1952 (*Western Mail*, 3 July 1952, p.35).

Continuing the residential focus of his practice, in 1953 Ken called tenders for residences at the corner of Wallcott and Bedford Streets in Mount Lawley, and on Lot 158 Mayfair Street, Mount Claremont. In the same year a broadening of capabilities was evidenced by his design of a showroom and administration building for the WA Industrial Sales and Service Co Ltd at Belmont, a Picture Garden and Shops on Albany Highway Victoria Park for Goldfields Pictures Ltd, and additions to the Bridgetown Club at Bridgetown. Projects in 1954 included a residence at Renwick Street South Perth, a brick warehouse at East Perth for John Sands Pty Ltd, and extensive additions to the Queens Hotel at Geraldton for J.T. Marsden. With the ongoing post-war development of Perth, Ken soon advertised for an architectural draftsman and a 'shorthand typiste' to assist in his office at 14 Esplanade Perth.

Rosenthal was a relatively well-known architect in Perth by this time, with press reporting on his work in a 'Perth Royal Show Supplement' of September 1956 under the heading: *LOW-COST HOME AGAIN OPEN FOR INSPECTION - The fact that beautiful homes are of vital interest to people from all walks of life was proved beyond doubt at last year's Royal Show. James Hardie & Coy. Pty. Ltd. will again open their "Fibrolite" asbestos-cement home for inspection this year. More than 20,000 people visited the home last year. ... This charming contemporary home was designed by Perth architect, Kenneth G. Rosenthal A.R.A.I.A., to prove that low cost and beauty, plus livability, can be combined by building with "Fibrolite" asbestos-cement building materials. ...*

*The roof, coloured a pleasing blue, certainly adds a note of modernity, the pitch is low and the whole home appears long and low following modern trends. ... In designing this home, Mr. Rosenthal has paid particular attention to cost, ease of erection and its suitability for this climate. ... Ceiling to floor glazing In living area gives large visual effect and the large eaves overhang protects the glass from the summer sun. ... The "Fibrolite" Royal Show Home possesses many features that will interest those who contemplate erecting new homes, particularly where cost is an important consideration. ... A free descriptive booklet, fully describing this home, and "Fibrolite" building materials, will be made available to all who inspect this home at the Royal Show.*



Interior of Innes House, Jutland Parade Dalkeith (*The Architect*, December 1958, p.32).

Ken noted in later years that his design of a house at Jutland Parade Dalkeith was a WA House of the Year award winner in 1959, and that he designed the Mount Claremont Hall for the Nedlands Council in 1959. With fellow returned air-serviceman Mervyn Parry (1913-2006), in 1959 Ken formed the partnership of Parry & Rosenthal, a firm that is still in existence. Although the business still undertook a large number of domestic commissions, the scale of work gradually broadened in a more commercial direction, and included the development of an award winning industrialised building system. Ken travelled to Japan in 1962 to study residential and hotel designs.

In 1963 Parry & Rosenthal produced the library and kindergarten at Haldane Street Mount Claremont, and the Rothmans of Pall Mall office-warehouse at Belmont, both further Modern Movement buildings. Other major buildings designed by the practice included Melville Senior High School, the Botany and Biology building at UWA, School of Engineering at WAIT (now Curtin University),

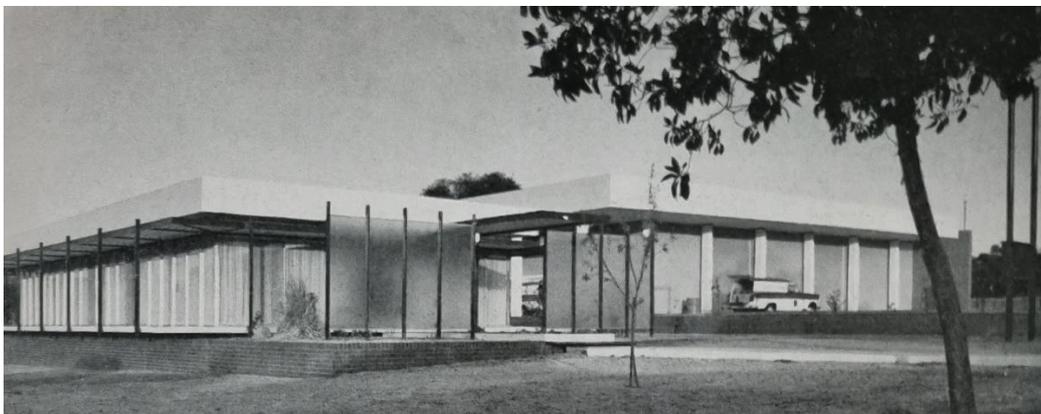
and the Travelodge Hotel. In 1970 Parry & Rosenthal's design of the James Hardie & Co factory at Rutland Avenue Welshpool received a RAI A award citation, and they were the recipient of the 1973 RAI A Bronze Medal for the Lake Karrinyup Country Club clubhouse, a project of which Ken was extremely proud.



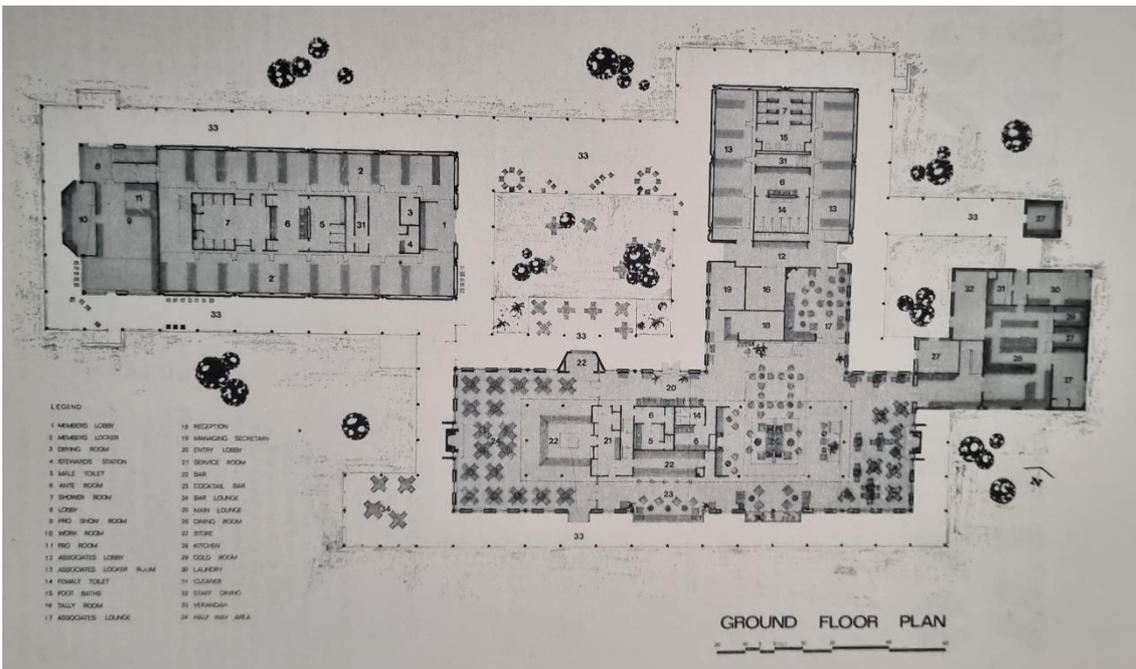
South elevation of Travelodge Terrace Road Perth (*The Architect*, March 1963, p.24)



Typical suite at Travelodge Terrace Road Perth (*The Architect*, March 1963, p.27)



Rothmans of Pall Mall, north-east corner Great Eastern Highway and St Kilda Road, Belmont  
(*The Architect*, December 1963, p.26)



New clubhouse for Lake Karrinyup Country Club (*The Architect*, 1974-1, p.26 photo, p.27 plan)

In community service spheres, Ken was President of the Apex Club Perth in 1960, and State vice-president of the Liberal Party of WA 1975-1977. He chaired the Civic Affairs committee of the WA Chamber of Commerce 1978-1979.

Ken Rosenthal died 13 August 2008 at Mosman Park, aged 84 years, and was survived by Rachel who passed away 7 January 2021 at Claremont, aged 95 years.

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 1951 WAN 12 February 1951, p.23 brick and reinforced concrete residence Overton Gardens Cottesloe for W. Dermer
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 5 March 1951, p.19 (residences lots 689, 690 Hillway Nedlands).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 18 October 1952, p.38 (residence Oakdale Street Floreat Park).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 2 May 1953, p.32 (Picture Garden, Shops, Albany Hwy Vic Park).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 1 August 1953, p.42 (additions to Bridgetown Club, residence cnr Wallcott St and Bedford St Mount Lawley).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 12 November 1953, p.35 (showroom and admin building for WA Industrial Sales and Service Co Ltd at Belmont).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 20 November 1953, p.38 (Lot 158 Mayfair St Mount Claremont).
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- 'New Clubhouse, Lake Karrynup Country Club', *The Architect*, 1974-1, pp.25-27.
- 'Townhouse Development, Mounts Bay Road Crawley', *The Architect*, 1979-4, pp.16-17.
- 'Directory of Architects and Buildings in WA 1945-96', questionnaire completed by Ken Rosenthal for Simon Anderson at UWA in 1996.
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Heritage Committee meeting approval date: 18 August 2022 Last updated: 18 August 2022

**Citation details:**

Taylor, Dr John J., 'Kenneth George Rosenthal (1923-2008)', *Western Australian Architect Biographies*, <http://www.taylorarchitects.com.au/Biographies.html> accessed DATE.