



Pat Pinder in 2004 (RAIA WA)

**Patrick Maurice Pinder** (1938-2023) was born 7 September 1938 at Broken Hill in New South Wales, son of baker Claude Jonathan Pinder and Hilma Augusta (nee Nystrum) Pinder. The couple married at Broken Hill in 1916, and had four earlier children, Thomas Wesley b.1917, Joan b.1918, Iris Barbara b.1921, and Claude John (Jack) b.1926. The significant age difference with his brothers and sisters meant that 'Pat' was truly the baby of the family, raised in a modest weatherboard-clad residence at 246 Chloride Street in Broken Hill.



Pat Pinder as a baby, with elder siblings Jack, Iris, Tom and Joan Pinder (Pinder family).

Pat attended the Convent of Mercy primary school at Broken Hill, and was then a boarder at Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park, South Australia. Although within the State of NSW, Broken Hill is 1150 km west of Sydney, and 500 km north-east of Adelaide, thus the town's inhabitants are often more closely aligned with SA's capital city. Pat went on to study architecture at the University of Adelaide, graduating in December 1963, and registering as an architect in SA during May of 1964. He commenced his architectural career at Hassell and McConnell in Adelaide during 1963. Hassell & McConnell became Hassell & Partners in 1970, and Pat eventually became a Director at Hassells.



Pat and Christine Pinder at the University of Adelaide Graduation Day in 1963 (Pinder family).

Pat Pinder's South Australian legacy includes the highly awarded Adelaide Festival Centre for which he was project architect working alongside future Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) Gold Medallist (in 2000) John Morphett. Colin Hassell had a strong influence on Pat's career, and another of his mentors, Jack McConnell, won the RAIA Gold Medal in 1970. The Festival Theatre opened in June 1973, with the remainder of the centre following soon after.



Adelaide Festival Centre on the Torrens River, pictured at night (Wikipedia 2024).

Pinder moved to Western Australia in 1977 to establish a Perth office for Hassell. In 1977 Pat was registered (no 851) with the Architects Board of Western Australia (ABWA) – he was then listed with Hassell & Partners at 33 Broadway in Nedlands. Pat directed extensive refurbishment and extension works that were completed in 1983 on the historic Albany Town Hall, at a cost of \$1 million. By 1984 he had resolved to stay in WA, and set up his own firm, Pinder Architects Pty Ltd, with offices in 1988 at 295 Rokeby Road Subiaco.

Some of the commercial projects undertaken by Pinder Architects from 1984 onward included the Headquarters for Stateships at North Fremantle, completed in 1986. The two storey office development at North Quay, Fremantle accommodated administration facilities for the Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission. Pat designed the building to take advantage of views to Fremantle Harbour and the Indian Ocean, while providing sun protection to windows of office areas. The selection of materials and colours for the building was strongly influenced by its oceanside location.



1986 Stateships Offices North Fremantle (Pinder family).

Pat Pinder was responsible for the ANZ Bank's relocation of its WA Head Office, incorporating a state-of-the-art ground floor banking chamber in Allendale Square at Perth; the ANZ Bank Regional Office at Osborne Park opened in 1986; and the ANZ Bank at Port Hedland completed in 1987.



1986 ANZ Bank Regional Office at Osborne Park (Pinder family).



1987 ANZ Bank at Wedge Street Port Hedland (Pinder family).

Pat Pinder was the director in charge and designer for a new TVW Channel 7 complex at Tuart Hill; and for the master planning and design of the Perth International Telecommunications Centre at Gnangara. The satellite monitoring, control and communication facility houses vital equipment for international communications in Western Australia. Another master planning and design project was the Scarborough Civic Centre, comprising four building elements (Library, Autumn Centre, Sports Centre and Community Centre) loosely surrounding an informal "Town Square".



Karratha Airport Terminal (Pinder family).

In regional areas, Pat undertook the Karratha Airport Terminal, and the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Airport Terminal (Stage 1), where the building was designed to reflect the character of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area. He was appointed as an independent architectural consultant to monitor the State Government's interest in the \$55 million Department of Land Administration Office project at Midland during documentation and construction in the early 1990s.

In late 1994 Pat Pinder merged his practice with that of Grayam Sandover (Sandover Architects) to form Sandover Pinder, other partners being Bob Murray and Michael Henderson. Pat took on the role of mentor to his expanded architectural staff, providing them with expert guidance and opportunity for professional growth. A number of his staff, such as Steve Hoffman, John Sullivan, Chris Oakley and Gordon Purvis, went on to become successful architectural practitioners in their own right. Amongst the other young architects under his tutelage were Peter Giangulio and David Karotkin (later to be Australian Institute of Architects national president 2014-2015), who both became partners on Pat's retirement.

One of Pat's later tasks was as the director in charge at Sandover Pinder in a joint venture with Peddle Thorpe for the Melbourne Underwater World project, located on the north bank of the Yarra River, and completed in 1999. Pat's business approach oft-repeated to his colleagues was straight to the point – "do a good job, make some money, and have fun".

Pat Pinder retired from practice in 2001. Beyond practice, Pat gave back to the profession in so many ways. He was a Chapter Councillor of the RAIA (WA), and its State President 2004-2005; an examiner for the ABWA architectural practice examinations; an assessor on the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia; a member of the Building Disputes Tribunal; a senior sessional member of the State Administrative Tribunal; a member of WA Builders' Registration Board; and a member of the City of South Perth Design Advisory Committee.

Pat was responsible for establishing and running the RAIA Practice of Architecture Learning Series program to assist graduates seeking registration as an architect. He also served as chair of the RAIA National Education Committee. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the profession, Pat was elevated to Life Fellow of the RAIA in 2006, and he was honoured with the prestigious Architects Board of Western Australia award in 2016. Additional information on Pat from the citation read at the award evening follows:

*Pat Pinder has been a member of the architectural profession for over 50 years and has, throughout that time, made a significant contribution to the profession, particularly in the field of architectural education. ... It is, however, Pat's contribution to the profession outside of his business endeavours that distinguishes him as someone who has advanced, and enhanced public confidence in, the architectural profession. ...*

*His commitment to architectural education continued with his involvement in revising the curriculum for the professional practice stream of the architecture program at Curtin University and participating as a teacher, and tutor, of that program for several years. ...*

*He has given his time freely to the profession in a variety of roles over a very long period and is a great mentor and ambassador for the architectural profession. As such, he is a very worthy recipient of the Architects Board Award for 2016.*

In family life, Pat Pinder married Christine Mary Rivers at Broken Hill in February 1961, and they had six children, all born at Adelaide. In the late 1980s Pat and Chris separated (they did not divorce), remaining friends up to Chris's death in 2014. Pat and his partner Sue Beale lived together from 1990 until her death in 2015, a great loss to Pat. Pat Pinder died 2 July 2023 at South Perth aged 84 years. A newspaper notice placed by family in *The West Australian* on 5 July 2023 records:

*PINDER - PATRICK MAURICE 07.09.1938 - 02.07.2023. Passed away in the home he had shared with his beloved Sue (dec).*

*Previously husband to Christine (dec). He is survived by their children: Susie, Tom, Stephen, Louise and Michael, and to remember Josie (dec). His loss is also felt by daughter-in-law Jacquie and his adored grandson Frank.*

*Dad was once a rugby player, motorcycle racer, yachtsman, and to the end, an MG and aero model enthusiast. He was an accomplished and well-respected architect and educator, and a friend to many.*

References:

'Music Examinations', *Barrier Miner*, 9 January 1947, p.4 (Pat at Convent of Mercy Broken Hill).

'A Profitable Partnership', *Business News*, 5 June 2001 (Pat retiring from Sandover Pinder).

John Taylor, citation for Architects Board of Western Australia award 2016.

Grayam Sandover, Eulogy for Pat Pinder, July 2023.

David Karotkin LFRAIA, 'Vale Pat Pinder LFRAIA, Australian Institute Of Architects (WA) Past President', [https://www.architecture.com.au/archives/news\\_media\\_articles/vale-pat-pinder-lfraia](https://www.architecture.com.au/archives/news_media_articles/vale-pat-pinder-lfraia)

'Albany Town Hall', <https://artsandculture.albany.wa.gov.au/venue-info/albany-town-hall.aspx>

Pers. comms. Susie (Elizabeth) Pinder, January-March 2024

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