WILLIAM RONALD RICHARDSON

President   November 1940 - December 1942

Born 3rd August 1890 at Balmain, William Richardson was schooled at Fort Street School in Sydney, long famous as a nursery for distinguished men. He served his articles under Alfred Allen while concurrently completing the course in architecture at the Sydney Technical College. In 1910 he furthered his architectural training by travel in England, Europe and the U.S.A. before returning to Sydney. While he was attending a town-planning conference in London in 1914 World War I began. Richardson joined the British Army and served in the Royal Fusiliers and the Royal Engineers for four years. He rose to the rank of captain and was Mentioned in Despatches. On his return to Australia in 1918 he entered into partnership with Leith C. McCredie, at the same time lecturing in the Department of Architecture at the University of Sydney.

Richardson first joined the Institute of Architects of New South Wales as a student in August 1907. Twelve years later in July 1919 he became an Associate, only to leave in dissatisfaction in June the next year to join the recently established New South Wales Architects' Association in which he became honorary secretary and a main support of its lively president, Alfred Hook. When that body amalgamated with the I.A.N.S.W. Richardson rejoined it in 1924. During the busy times immediately preceding and following the formation of the R.A.I.A.

Richardson was responsible for a great deal of the behind-the-scenes work in support of Professor Hook. On formation of the R.A.I.A. he became an Associate in 1930 and was elected a Fellow when that class was re-established in New South Wales the next year. Elected president of the New South Wales Chapter for two years in 1938, he became president of the R.A.I.A. in 1940. During his term of presidency Richardson rejoined the Army and served for two years. In 1935 he was elected Fellow of the R.I.B.A. and in 1956 a Life Fellow of the R.A.I.A.

During his active architectural career Richardson gave noted service to the profession in the teaching field over a long period, while his work as a practising architect is noted for its high standard.