2.7 Stage One, 1971

As early as September 1967, Minister for Education Charles Cutler announced that sketch plans for the new college had been completed. The following announcement was carried in the *Western Suburbs News Mail* on 28 September 1967:

> *The new college at Chatswood, on a site located on Eton Road and adjacent to the Commonwealth Film Laboratories, will replace the Balmain Teachers' College. It will be called the William Balmain Teachers' College to retain its association with Balmain. Construction on the 55 acre site will have a split level design and will retain as much of the natural beauty of the trees, shrubs and rock as possible. Construction will be an integrated complex of buildings varying from one to four storeys. Accommodation and facilities will include lecturing facilities, libraries, playing fields and off street parking.*[65]

On 13 December 1968, *The Sydney Morning Herald* carried an announcement by the Minister for Education that a contract had been let to build Stage One of the project. He said that the contract was the biggest ever approved by the Education Department. Stage One was to consist of lecture rooms and facilities, a library, an art-craft centre, TV studios, playing fields and temporary administration and students' union facilities.

The June 1971 edition of *Architecture in Australia* recorded the project team members, all of whom worked closely with the design architect to achieve the final outcome:

- Architect: E H Farmer, Government Architect,
- Project Design Architect: David Turner.
- Contract Documentation: Allen Jack & Cottier.
- Structural Engineer: Taylor Thompson & Whitting.
- Mechanical and Electrical Engineer: D Rudd & Partners.
- Acoustic Consultants: Carr & Wilkinson.
- Landscape Architect: B Mackenzie and Associates.
- Quantity Surveyors: Nethercote & de Rome.

The use of external consultants to document public building designed with the Government Architect's Branch was common practice at the time. It continued into the late 20th century. All of the consultant firms engaged in this project were highly respected in their respective fields at the time. In a personal comment to the author, David Turner noted that he selected Allen Jack and Cottier as the Documentation Architect because he was impressed with their work and was confident that they could execute his design intent. Keith Cottier was the lead architect and worked with David to develop the characteristic sun-screen system of concrete hoods and blades. Geoff Markham was the project Structural Engineer. The selection of off-form concrete as the primary external finish for the main parts of the campus was facilitated by the presence in Sydney of a large number of skilled Italian form workers. David expressed his confidence in their ability to achieve a fine quality surface finish. As it transpired, only one section had to be pulled down and redone, more the result of poor concrete compaction than poor form work.

E A Watts Pty Ltd built Stage One, under contract from the Public Works Department. The cost was $3.4 million. They were later chosen to build Stage Two at a cost of $1.8 million.

In the initial stages, funding was liberally provided by the Government, on a scale previously unseen in the educational fields. Consequently, there were few brakes on expenditure and on the new campus, subject departments were brought together in separate areas so that everyone working on one subject was on the one floor. Special amenities included art and craft studios and workshops, music rooms, tape recorder bays, a typing room, mapping room and a one-way observation room where children could be studied. The resources Centre which consisted of the library and the audio-visual department was generously equipped. The library had a shelf capacity of 70,000 books, a large general reading area and rooms for private study and group discussion. The audio-visual centre had television facilities for

[65] *Western Suburbs News Mail*, 28 September 1967.

demonstration of teaching techniques and for use in the creative arts. Art works, sculptures by Ken Unsworth and Persian carpets were purchased for the college.

Overall, policy changes resulted in some wastage of money, such as the expenses incurred for the establishment of laboratory and astronomy towers, unused until the early 1990s when Optus was permitted to install transmitters on the tower. In practical terms, however, much of the work was admirable, in that staff typically had individual offices, the corridors were generous in dimension and much of the desired equipment was built to the exact specifications outlined by the staff. Aesthetically, colour schemes within and without the College were intended to interact with the bushland setting and off-form concrete.
Bruce Mackenzie noted that:

> *Within the spacious foyer, made park-like with its lurid green carpet, students responded accordingly and lounged about in groups as if on grass. It was a pleasing sight*.

Before construction work commenced the construction area was clearly marked out on site and all the trees labelled as either 'to be removed" or preserved. Access routes and open areas had been carefully planned on the basis of vegetation that was worthy of being preserved. Just before construction commenced, a severe bushfire razed most of the site, and destroyed the vast majority of the vegetation.

Such a tragedy in landscape terms did not hinder Mackenzie's plans for the project.

> *The devastating wildfire which raged at the very time of the clearing and site preparation could have defeated the concept, but as has always been the case, the resilience and regenerating power of a natural environment, especially that of the Hawkesbury Sandstone, was irrepressible. From scorched earth to finished Stage 1, from devastation to burgeoning luxuriance, the landscape recovered impressively.*
>
> *In early stages, (after the big fire) advising the builders that the scorched earth on the other side of the no-go fence was sacrosanct, raised some querulous expressions. But on the approved side of the construction fence it was gratifying to see later a large booted-foot hesitate and avoid crushing a bright little emerging Boronia, Banksia or Grevillea….From many points within the finished building complex, veteran specimens of a primeval nature were caused to survive the building process and be able to add intriguing detail just metres from window and doorway.*[66]

His approach to the Kuring-gai site was typical of his general work practice, enhanced through prior experience on diverse landscape and conservation projects. The campus site was, Mackenzie believed, distinctive for three reasons:

> a) *Each of the two stages in the development was of massive proportions and roads, carparks, sports fields and ancillary buildings indicated a large site cover.*
> b) *Although only say 8km from the Sydney CBD in a straight line, the example of dense unspoiled Hawkesbury Sandstone flora was truly exceptional. The site also offered massive surface rock formations over a flattened ridgeline leading down to the Lane Cove River.*
> c) *Bringing together the two situations of proposed extensive built structure and the site qualities described above raised the prospect for me of an environmental calamity.*
>
> *Unknowing of just how well the combination of disparate elements was eventually to turn out, I set about, reluctantly, to install the conservation techniques [used on residential display homes sites]. A pre-emptive outline plan of building perimeters, roads, car parks, sports fields etc plus access and other attendant requirements was devised. This outline was surveyed on site and delineated with a man-proof wire mesh fence. A contractor was engaged to clear within the complex fenced shape so that tenderers on this multi-million dollar construction job would be presented with a cleared, fenced and committed building site.*
>
> *Contract documents prescribed the conditions that applied to access and preservation requirements. Needless to say the process was extremely unorthodox but with the full co-operation of David Turner the NSW Public Works Department's project architect, the programme was formally accepted and acted upon. Another trick was to have the contractor*

[66] Mackenzie, "An Exploration in Landscape Architecture," September 1999.

> *install a 600mm thick blanket of site fill material over selected sandstone surfaces, one large enough to become a substantial storage and access area. The contract demanded, also, a removal of the fill blanket at project end, by machine, by shovel, by rake, broom and fire hose – in that order. The outcome was very satisfying using this sequential method previously trialled successfully on the rock faces of the Peacock Point park.*
>
> *The test and proof of the validity of the conservation policy and the justification of its initial nuisance value with some associated cost, was borne out clearly when an almost impossible juxtaposition of wild nature and new, bulky, sophisticated concrete and glass envelopes, was finally revealed*[67]*.*

It had been envisaged that Stage One would be finished and the college ready for occupation in 1970. However, although construction began in 1969, action by local residents and Kuring-gai Council protesting about the expected traffic, the need for off street parking and damage done to roads by construction vehicles, delayed the building process. In early 1970 the Council decided to put weight limits on vehicles using Eton and Abingdon Roads because the Department of Education had refused to share costs of road repairs and improvements. Council inspectors stopped vehicles containing building materials at the entry to the college site. This veto almost stopped construction, and was only lifted when the State Government agreed to meet part of the cost of road strengthening and improvements. Local complaints about parking and access continued to plague the college during the building period and beyond. In July 1970 the Government contributed $16,000 to the Kuring-gai Council towards the reconstruction, kerbing and guttering of Eton Road.

An aerial photo taken in 1970 shows a large portion of the centre of the site largely cleared of bushland, ready to accept the oval, tennis courts and parking area at the north western corner of the overall site. Stage One is nearing completion, with a large section of bushland retained within the area that was soon to be used for Stage Two. The main lower or eastern car parking area was constructed, as was the bus turning circle. The area of bushland that was to become the main north eastern carparking area remained undisturbed.

Aerial photo 1970

[67] Mackenzie “An exploration in Landscape Architecture,” September 1999.

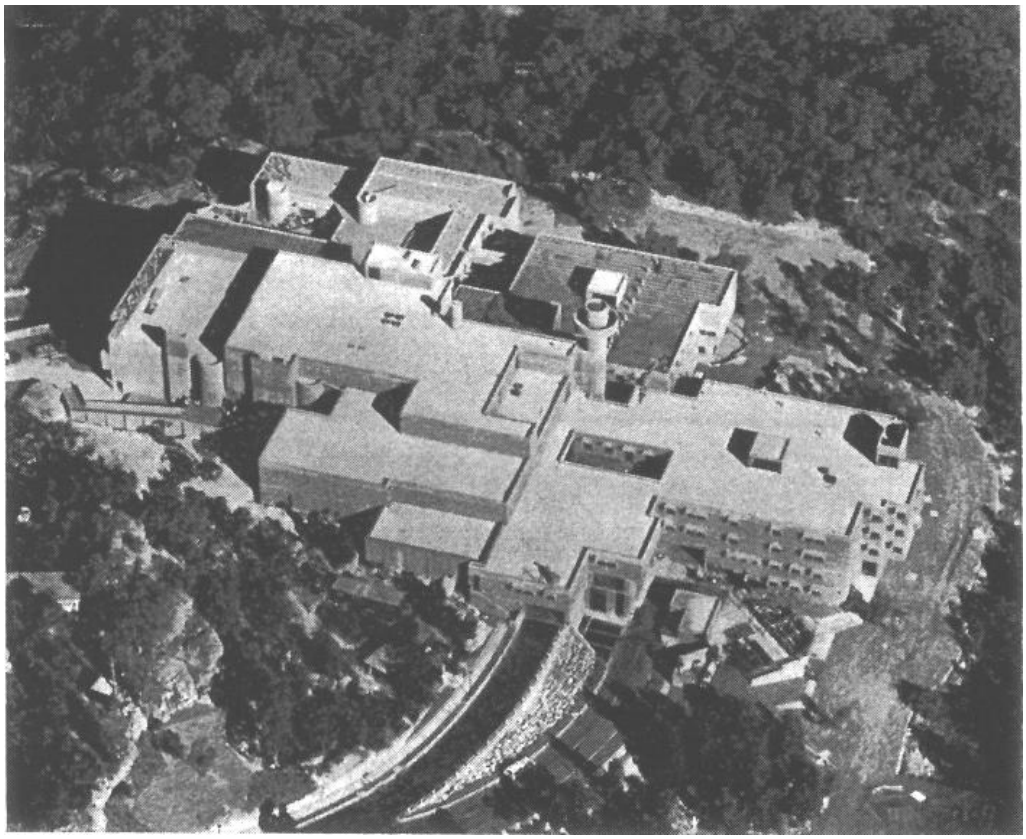
A Report by the Student Representative Council, clearly exhilarated at the prospect of the new campus, wrote in early 1971 that students found it:

> *Hard to imagine the students in a huge concrete and brick mass near Fuller's Bridge, but finally the time is approaching… The new college is so big that old [Balmain Teachers' College] will fit into the science lab*![68]

Overcrowding at the Balmain College in Smith Street had by this stage reached crisis point. While the new institution was viewed as a way around this problem, delays in construction prevented students from relocating when anticipated. The Secretary of the Balmain Branch of the Teachers' College Lecturers Association (TCLA) noted that:

> *The belief that a teachers' college is no more than a glorified high school has been current for a long time, but the building of William Balmain Teachers' College at Lindfield with the use of Commonwealth money has changed all that. It has proved very expensive, it has been in some respects very well equipped and it has taken a very long time to reach the stage at which students can begin to occupy it. It was supposed to have been opened at the beginning of last year. The delay has been unfortunate….*[69]

Students began to occupy the campus in 1971 due to the overcrowding on the original Balmain College site, despite the construction works still uncompleted. This echoed the early days of operation of the original Balmain Teachers' College, which had also seen its first students studying amidst the construction works and debris. Relocation was imperative given that in 1971 about 900 students were crammed into Balmain, which had been designed for 200 students and could at best accommodate 400. In consequence, Stage One of the Lindfield campus commenced classes in mid 1971 with a skeleton staff. The library was not opened to the students until six weeks before end-of-year exams.



Aerial Photograph of the completed William Balmain Teachers' College, Stage One
Stage Two was soon to be erected in the left of this photograph

[68] Cited in Turley, *To Enlighten Them Our Task*, p.146.
[69] *Ibid*.

By the completion of Stage One, the College had received favourable reviews for its design. *Stateworks* had noted approvingly in September 1971 that:

> *The College is constructed on split levels, giving a fortress like appearance in its setting of 55 acres of fine bush-land, steeply contoured to the Lane Cove River. The project introduces a bold concept in teacher college design, with emphasis on compactness. The design ingeniously brings together the widely varied activities of the college under the one roof, allowing a free flow of students from one area to another through central circulation spaces. The exterior design features off-the-form and pre-cast concrete, with small turrets concealing external spiral stairways, tiny courtyards, and elevated concrete bridges linking the various sections. The design concept is based on the activity zones of the college, with the central zone incorporating the library, students' union, assembly hall, lecture theatres and associated tutorial spaces….*
>
> *A striking feature of the interior design is the bright green carpet which forms an effective contrast with the natural concrete and brick finishes of the internal walls. The bright carpet gives a feeling of light and cheerfulness, important to students working within the college environment….*
>
> *The bushland settling of the college extends to the very edges of the buildings, and students have immediate access to recreation areas to provide relief from the pressures of the curriculum.*[70]

The success of the design of the Kuring-gai campus earned a Merit Award from the RAIA NSW Chapter for Commercial and Public Buildings in 1972, and an Honourable Mention in 1973 in Japan.

South east view of the newly completed Library by Max Dupain
Note the new planting

[70] *Stateworks*, September 1971.

View into the new Library
Max Dupain

Densely planted roof terraces over Stage One teaching areas
Max Dupain

Typical Teaching area
Max Dupain

Careful protection placed around natural landscape during construction works
Bruce Mackenzie

Natural bushland immediately visible outside windows. Protected but visually accessible.
Bruce Mackenzie

Battered slope and natural rock retaining wall to Oval, with concrete wall for future Gymnasium
Bruce Mackenzie

2.8 Stage Two, 1972

The construction of Stage Two followed almost immediately on the completion of Stage One, with the expectation that Stage Three would be hard on its heels. Stage Two added an Assembly Hall, Students' Union, offices and more lecture rooms. It was anticipated that the Stage Two construction phase would complete the Lindfield College, to be used by 900 students, bringing the total Government commitment for teachers' colleges at Lindfield, Goulburn and Newcastle to $15.5 million.

Although money had been freely available for Stage One, about half way through Stage Two there was a change in the Federal Government and the Whitlam Government decided that cutbacks in Stage Two were necessary. Money had been allocated for art works, a fountain and an organ in the hall, but these were cut out and the concrete roof of the Gymnasium, eventually built as Stage Three, was replaced with a cheaper medium. Stage Two, reaching completion in 1972, comprised the Assembly Hall, Students Union, Administrative Offices and additional lecture rooms.

On 1st July 1973 it was announced that the College would become autonomously governed and multi-purpose, in a clear departure from its hitherto existing role as a teacher training college. By 1974, the William Balmain College had become the Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education, despite opposition from Greenhalgh, who felt that teachers' colleges needed to retain their identity as separate institutions rather than being absorbed into the multi-purpose Colleges of Advanced Education. The name change also served to identify the college with its location and its surrounding community. During initial consideration of the scheme he argued that:

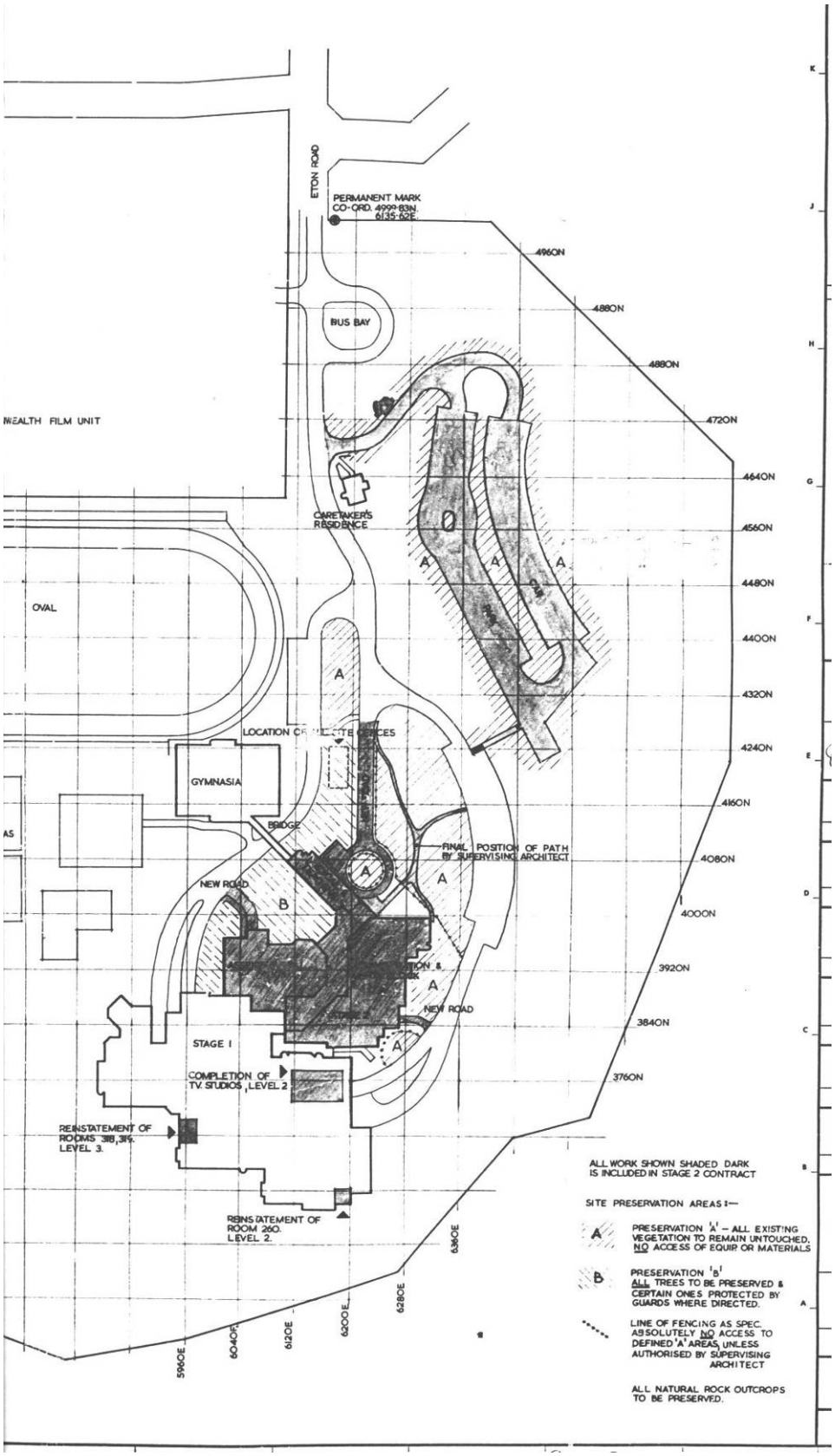
> *Teachers colleges, formerly so called, as single-purpose institutions, were more effective over past years, than other institutions which turn out teachers. Yet teachers colleges are being modified. Some should at least be kept as single purpose institutions on the old style…. I suggest that most careful considerations be made before this College at least be made multi-purpose…. The building was planned for one purpose. Just for once see how it works to complete a project, planned for, and see whether it justifies itself.*[71]

Greenhalgh's protests were in vain, and in September 1971 all New South Wales Teachers' Colleges were technically made Colleges of Advanced Education, with incorporation projected in 1974. When the College became a corporate body in 1974, it was no longer tied to the Public Works Department and was able to choose its own architect. Turner was chosen to design the additions to the college over a twenty-year period, providing a rare degree of continuity in the design. This relationship was maintained until 1992, when the amalgamation of the CAE with UTS allowed for the appointment of another architect.

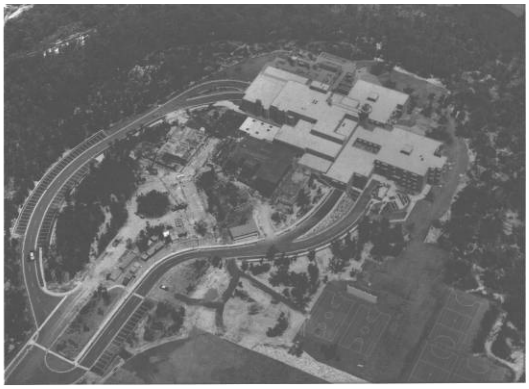
1974 was also the year in which teacher training courses were conducted within the School of Teacher Education. In addition, the College expanded with the establishment of a School of Financial and Administrative Studies. These were added to the already existing Library and Information Studies and the Practical Legal Training, based at the College of Law at St. Leonard's.

In June 1975 the College submitted a Development Application to Council for Stage Four. However, Council decided to delay approval until they had seen plans for an alternative access from Lady Game Drive to the campus, to service both students and staff as well as facilitate construction of Stage Four and projected future development of the site. The issue of alternative access was not to be resolved until the mid 1990s, when approval for such an access road was finally granted. This approval eventually lapsed.

[71] Principal Greenhalgh, 1972 Annual Report, cited in *Enlighten Them our Task*, p.153.



Extract from Landscape Protection drawing for Stage Two
Department of Public Works



Construction of Stage Two, Kuring-gai College

The main pedestrian spine linking teaching, staff and student areas.
Max Dupain

The main student cafeteria
Max Dupain

The main teaching auditorium
Max Dupain

2.9 Stage Three, 1976

David Turner's association with the college continued over an unusually long period. He had left the Public Works Department by the time Stage Three, which comprised the Gymnasium and additional teaching spaces, was completed. He did the design and documentation of Stage Three but had no direct involvement with the construction. In total, the Stage 3 Gymnasium block cost $1.2 million.

An aerial photo taken in 1978 shows the college in a largely completed form, lacking only the infill section of Stage Four and the western extension, known as Stage Five. The north western and north eastern car parking areas are functioning, although the south eastern car park has yet to be constructed. The main oval and associated tennis courts are well established and the enhanced landscape character around the buildings and external works is gaining a stronghold. There are a few major trees identifiable in the north western carpark, and the nearby child care facilities are in place.

In November 1976 the College applied for Commonwealth funding to cover costs of the alternative access road. In addition, 1976 saw the establishment of the School of Library and Information Studies; the following year the College of Law at St. Leonards affiliated with KCAE and became the School of Practical Legal Training within the academic structure of Kuring-gai College.

The Gymnasium

2.9.1 Sulman Award for Architecture

In 1978 the by then Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education was awarded the Sulman Award by the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

The Jury Comments published at the time of the award stated:

> *Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education is a visually strong and dramatic structure, heavily articulated in both internal and external form.*
>
> *The landscaping, which is an important element of the building design contributes greatly to its close integration with the site, especially along the Millwood Avenue approach.*
>
> *Strength of expression is retained in the detailed consideration of the building elements. The off-form concrete which predominates is expertly handled in design and construction.*
>
> *The quality of the design concept is evident as one enters the central spine of the building which is its circulation space, its internal street.*
>
> *It is here evident that this building is the first in Australia to come to grips successfully with the essence of a college as a close collection of teachers and students – a social entity.*
>
> *All the functions of the college are drawn together by this street, which offers spaces of great variety of scale and character, inviting its users to enjoy them in passing through, in lingering and in relaxing.*
>
> *The building invites and rewards exploration. It does not reveal its variety and complexity at once but continues to offer surprise and stimulation to the user.*
>
> *Individual spaces, in particular the library and the main auditorium exemplify the care in detailed design which maintains the building's consistency of character.*
>
> *The building capitalises on its location with views, vistas, light shafts and roof decks. It is here that the detailed consideration of landscape design makes its most significant contribution to its success.*
>
> *Choice of materials and integration of services have been carried out with great care so that maintenance is minimised. Colour is introduced in material and finishes which by nature are renewable. The use of colours complements and emphasises the quality of the beautifully modulated and studied spatial relationship.*
>
> *There is a strong sense that there has been effective and continuous control and co-ordination of the design and construction process.*
>
> *The building has been in use for some time – its quality as a piece of social architecture, accessible to the community is best evidenced in the enjoyment and enthusiasm it engenders in its users.*[72]

Due to the timing of the Sulman Award in 1978 and the progressive construction of the building complex, it has not been established definitively exactly what are the sections of the complex that were actually recognised with the Award. Stages One and Two had been completed by the time of the RAIA Merit Award in 1973, while the Gymnasium was erected in the years before the Sulman Award.

Equally, it cannot be assumed that as the Sulman Award was given in 1978, those sections of the complex that were subsequently erected are automatically recognised by default.

The complex also won the 1978 Horticulture Award of Merit.

[72] NSW Awards 1978, in *Architecture in Australia*, 1978-9,p.20

1978 Aerial photograph of Kuring-gai College site
Note the car park to the south east of the Library has not been constructed

2.10 Stage Four, 1980

David Turner recollected that he was involved with the design of the Dining Terraces in 1977. Stage Four also comprised a small structure that linked the northern extension of Stage Two with the Greenhalgh Theatre, as well as more lecture rooms and a staff office wing.

Other changes to the site in this period related to car parking at the campus: in 1979 development consent was given for an 120 space extension to the north western car park, and in 1983 another 32 car spaces were approved. The layout of the north western carpark was carefully undertaken to protect the main trees.

The need to expand the original college complex emerged in the late 1970s, with a variety of locations being explored for new buildings. This was the first of a number of times that the issue was faced. In a memo prepared in the late 1970s, Bruce Mackenzie reviewed the likely impact on the landscape context that might arise from the various options then under consideration.

> *The main issue for response from a landscape viewpoint, in the face of proposals for expansion, is the question of ability to accommodate the additional structures and facilities without finally ensuring the destruction of the visual and physical qualities of the site. This issue affects the well-being of the College population, of the community in residence within its visual domain and the large numbers of people in transit along the river valley floor.*[73]

The memo examined options for a new building to the south east of the main complex, to the south west, on the edge of the plateau, on the recently completed north west carpark, and on the space occupied by the oval, which would then need to be relocated. He also examined the options being explored for additional car parking areas and for the long running issue regarding the access road from Lady Game Drive. His conclusion clearly illustrates the dilemmas that faced the College in the late 1970s, dilemmas that were responded to in the late 1980s and are again on the table for careful examination as future directions for the campus are under consideration:

> *The whole prospect of expansion of the College presents continuing difficulties in almost all aspects when considered from the viewpoint of environmental impact. The basic premise of the validity of expansion must be measured against these important concepts if the community's interests are to be respected.*
>
> *If the need to develop the expanded College function becomes inevitable for other reasons, then the requirements of integration with and preservation of existing site qualities will be very demanding and major compromise will be unavoidable.*[74]

It is apparent that these comments were taken into account with the planning for Stage 4, which was eventually located on the north western edge of the Stage 2 footprint and enclosed a small courtyard that contained what Bruce Mackenzie later described as a small section of virgin bushland. This indent in the original composition of Stage 2 had been a significant design feature, allowing this special section of landscape to "penetrate" into the architectural arrangement and enhance the character of the new public foyer.

Further expansion of the campus was heralded by the introduction of nursing programs in 1985, and the establishment of the School of Nursing in 1986. This was an outcome of State Government initiatives to move nursing education out of hospitals and into colleges of advanced education. The School of Leisure, Tourism and Community Studies was also established in 1986, the College having offered programs in this area since 1979.

In about 1987 the function of the Building Committee, which had been set up many years earlier by Dr Ken Doyle, Secretary of the College, and on which either David Turner or his associate Juoko Keppo has participated on a relatively continuous basis, was replaced by a

[73] Mackenzie & Associates, Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education – Proposed Expansion of College: Landscape Report (Preliminary Draft), p.1.
[74] *Ibid*.

Building Manager. Subsequent minor alterations, such as wheel chair ramps, were installed without David's direct involvement or comment. David lived in England between 1978 and 1986, during which time Juoko Keppo maintained the professional relationship with the College.

A separate development saw the construction of an elevated building above the walkway that connected across to the Gymnasium, to provide computer teaching areas. This walkway had originally been intended to be fitted with a barrel vaulted roof for weather protection, but initial funding had forced the deletion of this item. The subsequent construction of the elevated building provided this protection.

The elevated building over the Walkway to Stage 3

2.11 Stage Five, 1988

The design of what became known as Stage Five commenced in 1984, with the appointment of David Turner as architect for additional lecture rooms and offices. This four storey section was also to provide additional teaching facilities as well as accommodation for the Student Union. The Director of the Department of Planning and Environment approved the DA in December 1985.

With Stage 5, the decision was taken to again expand the original footprint rather than opt for a separate building envelope. Although the south western location was favoured, the new wing was closely connected back to the original circulation spine, bringing it directly within the architectural frame of Stage 1.

In 1984 Kuring-gai College submitted a Development Application to Council for Stage Five.

The problems regarding access to the College were again raised by Council. The issue was summarised in a report by Engineers, Taylor Thomson Whitting:

> *Since the initial planning of Stage 4 in 1975, Kuring-gai Municipal Council has been requesting KCAE to provide additional on-site car parking and a direct access road to Lady Game Drive. The Stage 5 application heightened this pressure which stems from regular complaints from residents, mainly in Eton Road, Austral Avenue and Grosvenor Road, concerning loss of residential amenity due to the volume and time distribution of College traffic and overflow parking on the street. To assist in the orderly flow of campus traffic from Grosvenor Road into Austral Avenue, Kuring-gai Council has, in 1989, installed a roundabout at the intersection of Grosvenor Road and Austral Avenue. Due to limitations in road reserve width, the geometry of this is sub-optimal.*[75]

Stage Five, located to the east of Stage One

[75] Proposed Access Road for the Kuring-gai Campus of the University of Technology, Attachment F: Background Fact Sheet, p.ii.

Council reserved their decision until a consensus had been reached about the alternative access to the site from Lady Game Drive. By March 1985 a plan for a new access road was also submitted to Council, but four months later Council deemed an alternative access road unnecessary, focussing instead on traffic conditions relating to Eton Road. Kuring-gai College lodged an appeal to the Land and Environment Court in October 1985, with the Minister for Planning generally approving construction of Stage Five without commitment given the problem of the access road.

In August 1985, Kuring-gai College again lodged a Development Application to Council for the construction of an access road on the south-western side of the campus. Kuring-gai Municipal Council eventually agreed to the concept on principle, providing the Lane Cove River State Recreation Area approved of the road crossing twenty metres of their land between Lady Game Drive and the campus boundary. While this proposal was eventually rejected in 1992, an attempt was made to find a compromise, with Council and interest groups such as the Lane Cove Recreation Area, National Parks and Wildlife Service, etc, together with local environmental groups, recommending the development of a modified southern access route to the campus. As part of this arrangement, NPWS eventually gave approval for the lodgement of the Development Application by UTS.

These discussions about college expansion intersected with the introduction of new policies on higher education, brought into being by the Commonwealth government. These new policies resulted in a further transformation from the College of Advanced Education, into an amalgamation with the University of Technology, Sydney. This was brought about on grounds that "in general, larger institutions offer a number of educational and related benefits."[76]

2.12 Subsequent Works, 1990

In May 1990 DA 2517/90 for a new 40 place Child Care Centre was approved by Kuring-gai Council. An amended application (DA 01442/90) was lodged in September 1990 and approved in October. The single storey child care centre, designed by David Turner was erected to the north-west of the main oval. It was extended in 1996-98, with Howard Tanner as the Architect.

Other DAs lodged in 1990 were for an access road (DA 2562/90) and an extension to the car park (DA 2490/90). The car park extension was approved in 1991 and the access roadway in 1993.

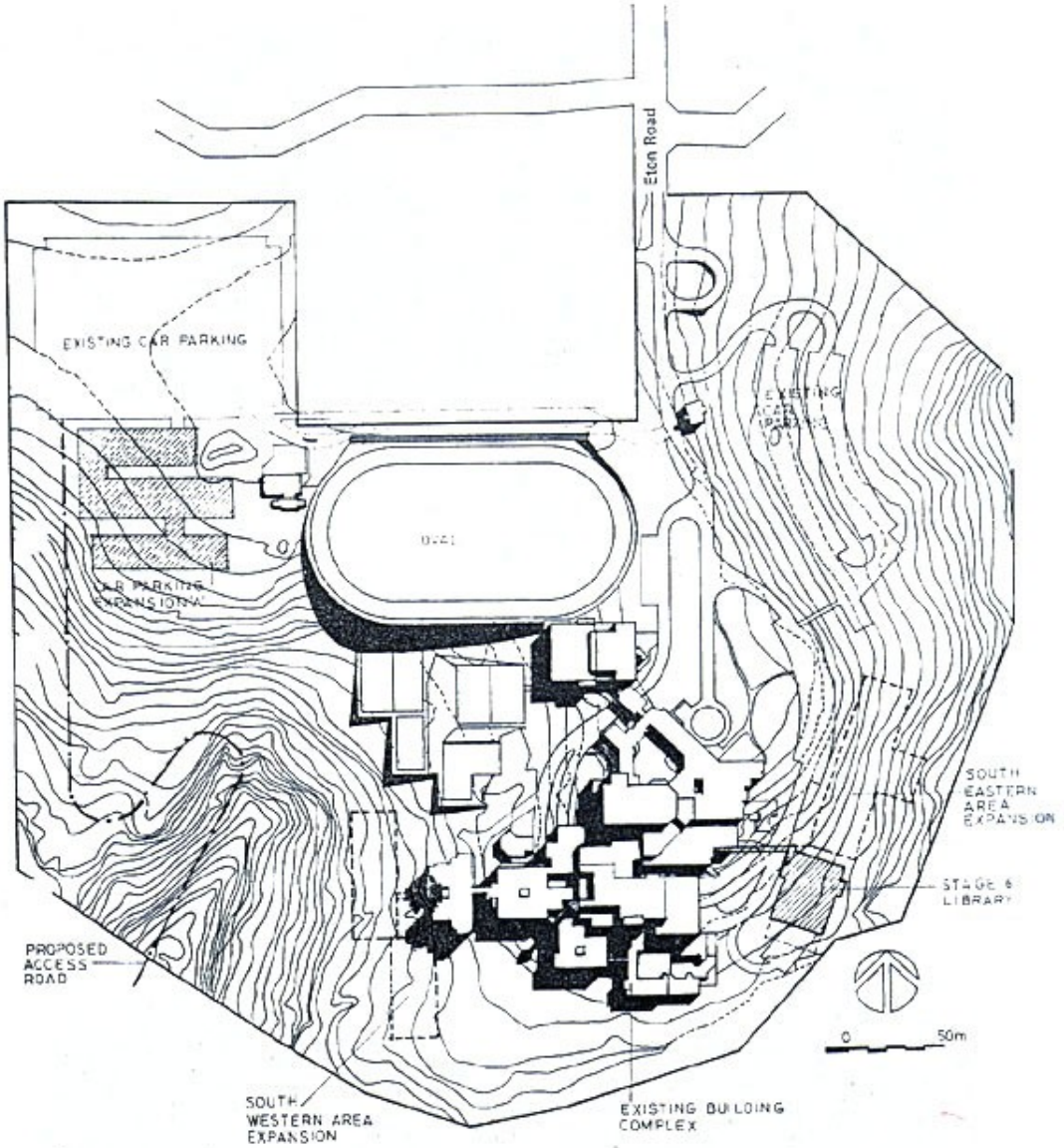
A 1989 site plan drawing, held in UTS archives, indicated that there was active consideration being given to future expansion of the College buildings. Four potential new building footprints were being explored, each as an extension of the original concept, with free standing wings connected by walkways back to the main complex. In this way the buildings would continue to be contained within the landscape, rather than dominating it.

The four opportunities were:

- Directly to the west of Stage Five
- To the south-west of Stage Five
- To the east of the original Stage One main entry
- On the eastern slopes below the main car park

David Turner also commented, in March 2004, that there was active consideration being given to the construction of student housing on the flat section at the north western corner of the site. He prepared sketches for these in 1989.

[76] Turley, *To Enlighten Them Our Task*, p.179.



UTS · KURING · GAI	DAVID DON TURNER ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS			
SITE MASTER PLAN	date 6-89	project no 89117	drawing no 1	revision

2.13 UTS Initial Upgrading, 1989-95

In 1989, the then Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education was amalgamated into the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). This process completed the long term transition of the campus from a centre of teacher education to a multi disciplinary tertiary facility. A considerable effort was expended over the next few years to integrate the new campus with the existing campuses at Gore Hill and Haymarket. The original William Balmain College at Kuring-gai was planned for the equivalent of 900 students. By 1990, with the new UTS, there were some 3,790 students in either part time or full time study. Staff numbers had reached over 370.

There was a relatively seamless continuation of senior management in this transition, with the former principal of the CAE, Tony Blake, becoming the Vice Chancellor. His deputy also transferred into the UTS management team. Many of the teaching and administration staff at Kuring-gai also stayed with the new organisation.

Two major streams of work were instituted by the new organisation to bring the Kuring-gai facilities up to requirements. Stream A works prepared the general campus; Stream B works would then consolidate the campus to suit new requirements. The campus would now accommodate faculties of Business and IT as well as an expanded Education role. Planning commenced to accommodate Nursing on the campus. David Turner's office was commissioned by the UTS Architect's Office for some of these alteration works. That Office was responsible for other minor works at this time.

A report titled "1993 Higher Education Building Program, Initial Submission", was prepared by UTS for the provision of a new Library, as the first major planning response to the growing student numbers. It projected needs based on expected student numbers in 1995 and noted that there had been no major capital works allocation for the campus from the Commonwealth Government for about ten years. The original Library was now totally inadequate for the demands placed on it.

The initial proposal, discussed in this report, was for the erection of a new free standing Library to the east of the current complex, linked back by service bridges in much the same way that the Gymnasium was linked to the northern section of the complex. The existing Library space would then be converted for offices and teaching space.

> *The new Library building is to be constructed over an existing car park with service access, deliveries and all vehicular access at the car park level. Four floors of library, including all associated offices and service areas, are to be constructed above. The Library has northern, eastern and southern aspects with the western wall protected by existing buildings.*
>
> *Access to the Library for students will be from a bridge connecting to the concourse over existing service roads. The building will be constructed in materials which are compatible with the existing buildings and of quality suitable to the needs of the users, and similar to those materials in the existing building.*[77]

The report referred back to, and included a copy of the 1989 Site Master Plan prepared by David Don Turner Associates Architects, a copy of which is included in section 2.5 of this study. This reference confirms that there was an expectation within the various management regimes that there would need to be an on-going expansion of the facilities to cater for increasing student numbers. It also confirms that the original architectural concepts for the site were still considered valid in the early 1990s as a framework for continued growth.

The report argued that:

[77] Initial Submission for New Library for Kuring-gai Campus, 91/305 Pt1, Accession 94/36 Box 19.

> *It is not possible to improve the Library accommodation at the Kuring-gai campus by renovating and/or extending the existing library. The University is confident that the most cost effective and appropriate solution is the construction of a new building as proposed.*[78]

In a personal comment, in March 2004, David Turner indicated that his preference was not to expand the Library into the basement areas of Stage 1, as this would have required the relocation of the carparking from that area out into the landscape.

Interestingly the report also referred again to the problem of access:

> *Development and approval for the Library or any future constructions on the Kuring-gai campus will be dependent on construction of an alternative access. It will be necessary to link with the development of the Library the construction of a road from Lady Game Drive to the north western corner of the site so that development approval of the Library will be obtained.*[79]

It is apparent from subsequent developments that the concept for a new building to accommodate the Library was not achieved. It has not been revealed whether the reason for this was funding or that, upon further investigation, it was found that sufficient space could be identified within the existing building for an expanded Library. The additional space was the majority of the original basement level car parking.

Photo contemporary building with expanded Library at the lower level.

[78] *Ibid*.
[79] *Ibid*.

When UTS decided to move forward with the architectural design for the Library it called for competitive bids from a number of architectural practices. This reflected a new direction for public agencies in the early 1990s, where long standing relationships with the NSW Government Architect's Office were broken and design services could be arranged with external providers. From the late 1980s fee tendering progressively became normal practice for architects and other consultants, particularly on public sector projects. Many offices that had formed long standing professional relationships with their clients suddenly found themselves competing for further work, in a climate where due diligence processes required a transparent level of competition for each new project. As a major public institution UTS was required to comply with this new government policy. Although David Turner strongly indicated his willingness to continue providing architectural services to the campus, he was not selected for this project. He was clearly disappointed that he, as the original architect would not be involved in the on-going work. In his email, dated 10 November 2003, to the RAIA David noted that:

> *I resigned shortly afterwards from any further work, stating that I would be very happy to help if there was ever going to be any restoration work required.*

DA 3659/93 was lodged in June 1993 and approved in December. The project architects were Stephenson and Turner. The revised program comprised infilling the Level 3 car park under the existing Library, with new glazing to the east elevation. The north-west car park on Level 3 was reduced in size and the car entry from the east blocked off. New air conditioning was mounted above level 5, and various internal refurbishments carried out.

Also undertaken at this time was a new pre-fabricated, boat shed near the Child Care Centre (DA 3572/93).

In May 1993 the Development Application for the alternative access route was submitted to both Council and to the NPWS for comment and approval, with the University agreeing with Council requests to limit traffic entering from Eton Road following the completion of the proposed access road, as well as to enter into a conservation agreement for an area of the campus. In August, Council elected to approve the Application providing certain conditions were met, but NPWS did not approve of a Review of Environmental Factors, and demanded an Environmental Impact Statement.

Approval was eventually granted for an access road from Lady Game Drive in 1998. Concerns remained however within NPWS, with regard to traffic and engineering issues and among environmental groups. The approval lapsed in 2003.

2.14 Major Reorganisation, 1996

By 1995, an audit by UTS staff had identified considerable amounts of vacant space within the buildings, with 30% recorded as idle.

As an outcome of this audit, a large scale internal reorganisation was carried out at Kuring-gai to create new teaching spaces and facilitate a new academic and administrative structure. This was a further step in the integration of the UTS Haymarket, Kuring-gai CAE and ITATE operations. The plan was to create three major concentrations of use within the existing buildings.

The works were required to be undertaken during the 12 week summer vacation at the end of 1995. The tight programme was of such concern to the UTS project managers that they broke the works into three packages for separate building organisations to undertake. The project architects for the this work were Brewster Hjorth.

In essence the project comprised the following:

- Relocation of the Nursing Faculty from Gore Hill into the western section of the complex.
- Consolidation of the Business Faculty into the north east section of the complex, including on the level above the Gymnasium.
- Consolidation of the Education Faculty into the south eastern section of the complex.

In addition, the Student Union moved from its main location in Stage 5 to its current location. It was to be expanded in 1998 with the construction of the mezzanine floor. The majority of the senior administration were relocated back to the Haymarket campus.

Remaining works were largely confined to the internal sections of the buildings and had little effect on the internal corridors or main public spaces. The internal alterations, which were sympathetic to the existing structure, were estimated at $3.5 million, and included new partitioning, upgraded communications, fire alarms, air conditioning, services and features such as lighting.

The following year, 1996, a telecommunications facility was added, along with a Telstra mobile phone base.

An extension was added to the Child Care Centre, designed by Howard Tanner, in 1996-98.

A series of other works were also carried out on the campus site in the last years of the century. These included progressive upgrading for building code compliance, re-roofing of some 60% of the roof membranes, smoke detectors, exit and emergency lighting, new seats and carpets in the main auditorium.

Aerial view taken c.2001 showing the completed structure

2.15 Operational Review by UTS, 2003

In 2003 UTS decided to undertake a major review of the Kuring-gai campus, as part of its general review of operations and accommodation.

CRI Australia Pty Ltd was commissioned to prepare a planning study to investigate options for the future of the property, including its potential rezoning and the development of an accompanying Indicative Development Scheme. This investigation will be taken into account by UTS during the overall review. This Heritage Assessment and Conservation Strategy is part of that research.

In November 2003 Kuring-gai Council passed the following resolution:

> *That Council prepare a Heritage Assessment on the UTS Lindfield site and if merited prepare and exhibit a Draft LEP to include the property as a heritage item in Schedule 7 of the Kuring-gai Planning Scheme Ordinance. That Council also prepare a heritage inventory sheet and seek nomination for the UTS Lindfield site on the NSW State Heritage Register*.

In late February 2004 Council commissioned City Plan Heritage and Chris Betteridge, Landscape Consultant to prepare an independent heritage assessment. There was an expectation that it would be completed by the end of April. At the time of writing this Report (May 2004) it is understood that the Council commissioned review has yet to be completed.

While this Report and that commissioned by Council may vary in their content, they should be read together in order to develop a balanced understanding of the heritage significance of the site.

3.0 Description

3.1 The Context of the Site

The Kuring-gai Site is located on a ridgeline set above the Lane Cove River, and partially surrounded by bushland that is part of the eastern extremity of the Land Cove National Park. The eastern, southern and western edges of the site that fall into the valleys above the Lane Cove River and comprise heavily wooded bushland. To the north of the site lie the established residential areas at the end of Eton Road and its associated road network. A rectangular parcel of Commonwealth land, occupied by Film Australia, lies between the Campus and the adjoining houses.

The site is approximately 20.8 hectares in size and houses a variety of buildings, parking areas and outdoor recreation areas and playing fields. When viewed across the valley from the main roads and residential areas to the south, the Campus building complex confidently presents a strong built imagery on its ridge top site above the natural bushland.

An institutional college which revels in its plateau bushland setting…. The off-form concrete buildings are strewn along a circulation path like a pedestrian street through a linear village. To reduce bulk, the buildings are stepped and staggered over a number of levels like a naturally occurring craggy rock outcrop, with terraces interspersed to break down the mass. Concepts were ruggedness, extendibility, and a commitment to the native landscape.[80]

The Campus currently houses a range of university activities including nursing, leisure and tourism, teaching and law. The whole site was originally master planned by David Turner and Bruce Mackenzie, as part of the Public Works design team. The buildings were located on ridge top with natural outcrops of sandstone. The site adjoins the Lane Cove National Park on three sides. Part of the site is currently natural bushland and topographically steep, limiting its development potential.

3.2 The Building Complex

In "To Enlighten Them Our Task", Turley described the completed college building:

> *The mysterious and fortress-like bulk of the concrete building crouches on top of the rocky plateau and is staggered over five levels. Jennifer Taylor, Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Sydney, observed: 'The parts of the building read as small, related segments at close range, but from a distance the whole has an heroic presence'.*[81]

In *Australian Architecture Since 1960*, Professor Jennifer Taylor described the College buildings:

> *This is a rangy complex related along a generous circulation spine that edges the crest of a hill. The building is set in a bushland site surrounded by a State park. In its siting, planning organisation and rugged use of off-form concrete, it can be compared to Andrews' Scarborough College, Ontario, 1963. The site planning … is sensitive with the building located on a rocky plateau so as to preserve as much of the fine natural vegetation as possible. The building is staggered over five levels and its craggy forms are visually tied to the setting. Its bulk is broken up by raised terraces and small units such as sun hoods that interrupt the planes of the façade. But it is the unified statement of buildings and landscape that gives the building its conviction. The landscaping by Bruce Mackenzie brings the bushland up to, around and through the architecture…* [82]

[80] Graham Jahn, *Sydney Architecture*, p.180.
[81] Turley, *To Enlighten Them Our Task,* p.140.
[82] Taylor, *Australian Architecture Since 1960*, p.48.