

Raymond Jones (c.1946 Collingwood FC; 1970, Anderson & Murray frontispiece)

Raymond Alfredo Daniel Jones (1925-2022) was born 18 July 1925 at Geelong, Victoria. His mother was Mary Olive Jones and his father, Raymond (Ray) Randall Jones (1903-1978), represented Australia as a middleweight boxer at the 1924 Paris Olympics. Raymond junior had a brother Eugene, and was exposed to development at a young age, as his father was as a building surveyor at the Geelong Council, associated with architect Keith McKay and involved with the Eastern Beach project at Corio Bay in 1928. Raymond junior later recalled that a move to South Yarra in 1935 continued an idyllic youth, with the huge Fawkner Park within a drop kick from his home.

Still a seventeen-year old, Raymond enlisted with the Royal Australian Naval Reserve for Second World War (1939-1945) service as an 'ordinary seaman' from January 1943. His next of kin was listed as his father and mother, address 78 Park Street South Yarra, and his height given as 6 foot 1 inch. He initially went to the Navy training base *Cerberus* in Victoria, and then served on the cruiser *HMAS Australia* from July 1943 until May 1945. Fortunately, Raymond survived his war service. He was on board the *Australia* during the Battle for Leyte Gulf. On 20 October 1944, General MacArthur's Philippines invasion force, comprising some 550 ships and covered by Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet, arrived off Leyte Island in the central Philippines. The following morning the *Australia* was hit by a Japanese suicide aircraft. The ship's commanding officer, 29 other officers and ratings were killed or died of wounds, and a further 65 were injured.



Raymond Jones served 1943-1945 on the *HMAS Australia* (www.navy.gov.au/hmas-australia-ii)

By January 1945 *HMAS Australia* was back in action covering the Allied invasion of Luzon Island. Here she was subjected to repeated suicide attacks, and there was no doubt of the kamikaze nature of the Japanese planes. *Australia* was hit on 5, 6, 8 and 9 January, losing three officers and 41 ratings killed, and one officer and 68 ratings wounded. This was the ship's last action in the Second World War. After repairs in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) and Sydney, *Australia* sailed for the United Kingdom in May 1945 for a major refit. Raymond's war service record shows that he transferred to the Navy base *HMAS Penguin* in Sydney at this time, and hence to other bases and ships including *Cerberus* again, *Torrens*, *Leeuwin*, *Horsham*, and finally to *HMAS Lonsdale* at Port Melbourne - where he was demobilized in March 1946.

Raymond had played school football with CBC St Kevin's in East St Kilda, and went to the Collingwood Football Club's Victoria Park in 1943. Although enlisted, he found time to play a couple of reserves games for 'the Magpies' in 1943 – in the second of which he had his nose badly broken and didn't play seriously again until after the war ended. He played in the Victorian Football League in the 1946-1949 seasons, with varying success.

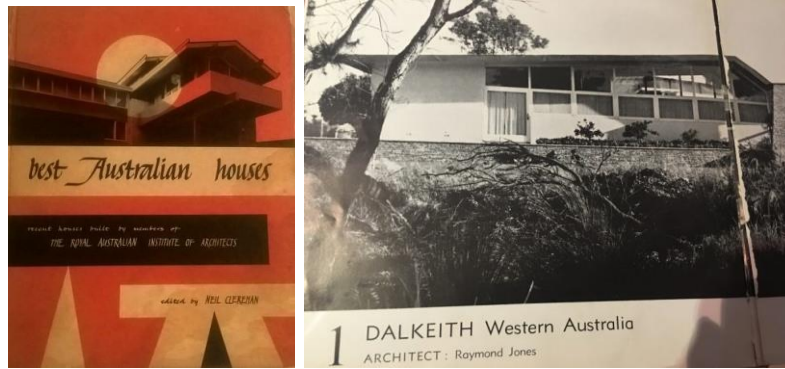
After the war, Raymond commenced a five-year architecture degree with the University of Melbourne. He was tutored by architects Robin Boyd, Roy Grounds, Russell Mockridge and Frederick Romberg. During his time at university and playing for Collingwood, he was given an opportunity to travel to Perth and play against East Fremantle in a pre-season match, establishing connections in Western Australia. After finishing his degree in 1951, Jones worked for leading

architects Yuncken, Freeman Brothers, Griffiths & Simpson, and registered as an architect in Victoria during August 1952. During this time he became a part of a design team which won a competition to design an Olympic stadium at Carlton. While there he met Fritz Kos, a draftsman from Austria. The two became friends and eventually both moved to Western Australia to continue their careers. Raymond was welcomed into the South Fremantle Football Club, and was a member of their 1953 West Australian Football League Premiership team.



1954 Jones House corner Haining Avenue and Charles Street Cottesloe, and from the east in 2023 (The Architect June 1956 p.23; John Taylor)

Jones started his own practice during September 1953, having registered with the Architects Board of Western Australia in March 1953 (no. 257), and was soon busy with projects – assisted by Fritz Kos. After working on many housing designs, Jones' own house at Haining Avenue in Cottesloe won a House of the Year award in 1955. Preceded by the residential work of only a few modernist architects such as Eric Leach (1919-2005), it was one of the early houses in Perth that treated internal and external areas as part of the same continuous space. His design for the Kiernan House in 1957 was included in the 1961 Melbourne University publication *Best Australian Houses*.



The 1961 book *Best Australian Houses*, edited by Neil Clerehan (1922-2017), showed 'recent houses built by members of the RAIA', and included his colleague Raymond Jones' design of the Kiernan House at Dalkeith (Dave Clerehan, www.footyalmanac.com.au/me-mr-jones)

Following his early modernist approaches, Jones's designs explored forms of a more expressionistic nature. Throughout his lifetime Jones pursued the development of houses as machines to live in, and he maintained a rigorous approach to climate responsiveness.

Jones was also noted for his many ecclesiastical projects, and completed a total of six churches for the Catholic Church. The first was the 1958 Church of the Holy Family at Como. In 1960, the Church of St Cecilia, in Kenmore Crescent Floreat, departed from the typical cruciform plan. Instead, St Cecilia's pentagonal form was based on a total of ten planes (five wall planes and five roof planes), which symbolized the Ten Commandments and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.



1960 Church of St Cecilia Floreat, 1962 Church of St Peter Bedford (Anderson & Murray, pp.58, 66).

In addition to churches Jones worked on commercial buildings, hospitals, primary schools and banks. In 1962 he won a competition for The University of Western Australia's University House, and from 1960 to 1966 he was appointed Fremantle City architect. During the 1950 and 1960s Raymond had an increased number of staff, ranging from young architects and students, which included Wallace

Greenham, Walter Hunter, Robert Hart, Ken Yewers, and Michael Patroni. From 1966 to 1967, Jones practiced in partnership with Montague Grant, going by the name Jones Grant Architects. Jones was also the primary architect for the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) during the 1970s, and designed several offices for the company, including a joint design for RAC headquarters in Perth with architects Cameron Chisholm & Nicol.



Fremantle Squash Courts (The Architect June 1960 p.20)

Jones' educational projects, particularly his work at a Preschool Centre in Stirling Highway, North Fremantle; New Day Nursery in High Street/Parry Street, Fremantle; and 'Winterfold Primary School', in Annie Street, Hamilton Hill, were designed to enable variable use, through the use of large internal and external centralized spaces.

His exploration of the relationship between space and environmental design culminates in his development of the 'Tetrakit' system. Working in the cyclonic areas of north-western Australia in the mid-1970s, Jones with the help of structural engineer George Katieva, devised prefabricated kit homes. Constructed of prefabricated frames and panels, the Tetrakit kit home would resist the strong wind pressures during a cyclone. Roofs and walls inclined at 15 degrees balanced the cyclonic winds loads placed on the building.



Jones House at Ainslie Road North Fremantle of 1971 (Raymond Jones)

Jones' interests and passions in ecological design continued, particularly through the use of skillion roofing and courtyard spaces, as well as passive ventilation and site orientation, as environmental design strategies. Jones was a lifelong critic of active heating and cooling systems, particularly mechanical air conditioning, and always strived to create buildings which rely on more passive systems.

Jones was still practicing as an architect in his eighties, and at 85 years of age was recognized by an exhibition of his work at the University of Western Australia in early 2011. Academics Simon Anderson and Andrew Murray interviewed Raymond and edited a comprehensive catalogue to accompany the display, with an essay by Anderson providing detailed analysis of the significance of Jones' architecture. Raymond retired around 5 years before his death.



Senior architects Raymond Jones, John White and Ian Brackenridge (seated, left to right) with UWA academics Geoffrey London (at rear) and Simon Anderson (lectern) at the launch of *An Unfinished Experiment in Living: Australian Houses 1950-65* (12 Dec 2017, John Taylor)

Raymond married Beatrice Hill at Perth in December 1950, and they had daughters Samantha and Amber. Ray Jones senior passed away in Melbourne on the morning of the second marriage of Raymond, to Sonja, on 14 February 1978. Ray had in previous years suffered a stroke.

Raymond Jones junior passed away 22 September 2022 aged 97 years, survived by Beatrice, Samantha, Amber and four grandchildren; Sonja and son Lincoln. At the time of his death, Raymond was the Collingwood Football Club's oldest past-player and he made an appearance at the 2021 Anzac Day match where he tossed the coin.

Jones is remembered as a prominent Australian Modernist architect. His work covered many building types, including residential, ecclesiastical, educational, commercial, and prefabricated kit buildings. His architectural works promoted passive environmental systems, and he became a leader in the implementation of sustainable design practices in Western Australia.

Jones' notable projects that are shown in the comprehensive 2011 Anderson & Murray review of Jones' work follow (a larger project list is included at the rear of the publication):

1952: Leonard House Glen Road, Malvern, Victoria

1952: RR Jones House Park Road, Park Orchards, Victoria

1953: Melbourne Olympic Stadium (Competition Entry), Yuncken, Freeman Brothers, Griffiths and Simpson (now known as Yuncken Freeman)

1953: Jones House, Haining Avenue, Cottesloe, Western Australia

1953: Williams Flats, Broome Street, Cottesloe, WA

1954: Ruse Flats, Kanimbla Road/Karella Street, Nedlands, WA

1954: O'Mahony House, Haining Avenue, Cottesloe, WA

1955: Preschool Centre and Community Hall, Stirling Hwy, North Fremantle, WA

1955: Boxhorn House, Shannon Street/Roscommon Road, Floreat, WA

1956: McMillan House, Allenby Road, Dalkeith, WA

1956: Powell House, Chester Street/Lloyd Street, South Fremantle, WA

1956: Kiernan House, Allenby Road, Dalkeith, WA

1957: Silbert House, Barcoo Avenue/Doonan Road, Nedlands, WA

1957: Ash House, Hammersley Street, Trigg, WA

1958: Gerrard House, Page Street, Attadale, WA

- 1959: Freedman House, Alyth Road, Floreat, WA
- 1959: Staff Club UWA (Competition Entry), The University of Western Australia
- 1960: Church of St Cecilia, Kenmore Crescent, Floreat, WA
- 1961: N&S Hubbard House, Nairn Rd, Applecross, WA
- 1962: Church of St Peter, Wood Street, Bedford, WA
- 1962: Lysaght Offices, Norma Road/McCoy Street, Myaree, WA
- 1962: Mingenew Court House, Moore Street/William Street, Mingenew, WA
- 1963: Rankine-Wilson House, The Boulevard, Floreat, WA
- 1963: V&B Hubbard House, Oceanic Drive, Floreat, WA
- 1964: Lisle House, Pindari Road, City Beach, WA
- 1964: WWF Point Peron Camp, Point Peron, WA
- 1964: Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Church, Flinders Street, Nollamara, WA
- 1965: 'New Day Nursery, High Street/Parry Street, Fremantle, WA
- 1966: Carbon Duplex, Point Walter Road/ Beach Street, Bicton, WA
- 1968: CIL Offices, Clontarf Road, Hamilton Hill, WA
- 1969: Premier Motors, Elder Street/ Hay Street, Perth, WA
- 1970: Winterfold Primary School, Annie Street, Hamilton Hill, WA
- 1971: Raymond Jones House, Ainslie Road, North Fremantle, WA
- 1972: Commonwealth Bank Cannington, Albany Highway, Cannington, WA
- 1974: Edwards House, Lobelia Drive/ Dryandra Crescent, Greenmount, WA
- 1976: Nulungu Chapel, Broome, WA
- 1976: Christian Community Village, Buckland Road, Jarrahdale, WA
- 1979: Parliament House (Competition Entry), Canberra, ACT
- 1980: Majestic Hotel (Competition Entry), Fraser Road, Applecross, WA
- 1981: Summers House, Brand Highway (near Eneabba, WA)
- 1981: Webse House, Jarrahdale Road, Jarrahdale, WA
- 1984: RAC Albany, Albany Hwy, Albany, WA
- 1988: Clunies Ross House, Brindal Close, Bicton, WA
- 1988/9: Tetrakit
- 1990: Brodwyn Graham House, Edina Court, Two Rocks, WA
- 1991: Cann & Hicks House, Sapho Place, Two Rocks, WA
- 1992: Desmond Sands Duplex, Haining Avenue, Cottesloe, WA
- 2008: Tschaplin Jones House, Pensioner Guard Road, North Fremantle, WA

References:

- 'Architects' Own Houses', *The Architect*, June 1956, pp.22-3 (Haining Avenue).
- Pitt Morison, Margaret; White, John Graham; *Western Towns and Buildings*, UWA Press, Crawley, 1979, pp.148, 150.
- Molyneux, Ian, *Looking Around Perth*, Wescolour Press, East Fremantle, 1981, pp.70, 72, 73.
- London, Geoffrey and Richards, Duncan; *Modern Houses: Architect-designed Houses in Western Australia from 1950 to 1965*, School of Architecture, UWA, 1997, pp.45, 94.
- Goldswain, Philip, 'Rear vision: St Cecilia's Church', *The Architect*, Spring 2000, pp.12-14.
- Anderson, Simon; Murray, Andrew, 'RAYMOND JONES Architectural Projects: Experiments in Space, Structure and Environmental Design: The Life and Architecture of Raymond Jones'. Vanguard Press, 2011.
- London, Geoffrey, 'Jones, Raymond', *Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, CUP, 2012, p.375.
- Murray, Andrew, "Brutal Beginnings: the New Brutalism and Western Australia in the 1950s", *The Journal of Architecture*, 2021 RIBA Enterprises, p.18.
- <https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-australia-ij> accessed 29 January 2023
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond_Jones_\(architect\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond_Jones_(architect)) accessed 29 January 2023
- <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-03-23/ahead-of-the-pack-in-architectural-thinking/2646700> accessed 29 January 2023
- <https://www.news.uwa.edu.au/archive/201103223401/arts-and-culture/pioneering-ecological-architect-celebrated//> accessed 29 January 2023
- <https://forever.collingwoodfc.com.au/players/ray-a-jones/> accessed 29 January 2023
- <https://www.collingwoodfc.com.au/news/1229062/vale-ray-jones> accessed 29 January 2023
- <https://architectureau.com/articles/raymond-jones-architectural-projects/> accessed 3 Feb 2023
- <https://www.footyalmanac.com.au/me-mr-jones/> accessed 3 Feb 2023
- <https://www.olympedia.org/athletes/5066> accessed 4 Feb 2023
- Pers. comms. Simon Anderson, Andrew Murray, and Lincoln Jones in February 2023.

Contributing author: John Taylor

Heritage Committee meeting approval date: 16 February 2023 Last updated: 16 February 2023

Citation details:

Taylor, Dr John J., 'Raymond Alfredo Daniel Jones (1925-2022)', *Western Australian Architect Biographies*, <http://www.taylorarchitects.com.au/Biographies.html> accessed DATE.