



VIDHU GANDHI

PRINCIPAL, BUILT HERITAGE SPECIALIST

‘Heritage for me sits at the nexus of history(s) of cities and urban areas with their present and future realities.’

Vidhu is a heritage practitioner with over 20 years of experience of working on projects at the nexus of architecture, urban design, planning and heritage conservation. As a formally trained architectural professional with undergraduate degree in architecture and postgraduate degrees in sustainable development and heritage conservation, she is able to work collaboratively and effectively with architects, urban designers, landscape architects, engineers, builder and developers.

She believes in helping design professionals find design solutions that cater to the needs of clients while allowing for the heritage significance of items to be retained and celebrated. Her areas of expertise include providing design advice, preparing heritage impact assessments, conservation management plans, statement of environmental effects, and reports that cover a range of statutory planning requirements such as Section 60 applications, Clause 4.6 reports and Section 4.55 applications. As a practitioner with a PhD degree, she understands the value of balancing research with design thinking. Vidhu is also an academic with teaching and research experience across India and Australia.

BUILT HERITAGE EXPERIENCE

Principal, Built Heritage Specialist, Curio Projects

January 2023 – Present

As a Built Heritage specialist, Vidhu works on projects that range in scale from urban renewal precincts, to urban design and development projects, to individual buildings. She provides design advice and undertakes assessments, that seek to guide projects toward heritage appropriate resolutions.

Key clients include Infrastructure NSW, Create Infrastructure, City of Sydney, Transport for NSW Mirvac, LendLease, MostynCopper, Ethos Urban, and Western Sydney University.

National Technical Lead, Built Heritage, EMM Consulting 2022-2023

Developed built heritage capabilities at EMM. Worked on mining, infrastructure and Australian defence projects, providing design advice and assessment for national and state listed items. Key projects included Rasp Mine CMP, Broken Hill; HMAS Watson HIS building works; NSW Department of Education Northern Rivers Floods Recovery program – design and heritage advice.

Senior Heritage Advisor, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, Asia-Pacific, Sydney, Australia 2017-2019

Worked on a range of built and cultural heritage projects including the 2019

Heritage Study for Cumberland Council; Byron Bay Railway Station CMP; Balmain Leagues Club Precinct, Rozelle, Redevelopment Peer Review and Heritage Analysis; 600-638 Elizabeth Street, Redfern, Redevelopment Heritage Advice

Team Lead, Heritage and Urban Planning Policy, Jana Urban Space Foundation, Bangalore, India 2014- 2015

Worked on projects that dealt with heritage and urban planning issues in India. Co-authored two legislative bills including the Heritage Conservation Bill 2014, and Regional and Municipal Spatial Development Plan Bill 2014, for the Indian western state of Rajasthan.

Senior Heritage/Urban Planning Consultant, Cracknell & Lonergan Architects, Sydney, Australia
2010-2014

As the inhouse heritage and urban planning consultant worked closely with architects to develop heritage sensitive design outcomes. Extensive experience in dealing with City of Sydney, Inner West, Randwick and Woollahra Councils, and NSW Land and Environment Court.

Heritage Consultant, OCP Architects, Sydney, Australia,
2007-2009

Key projects: Section 170 Register for TfNSW; Boronia House, Mosman CMP; University of Sydney heritage conservation works.

Heritage Consultant, Grieve Gillett, Adelaide, Australia
2008

Key projects: Glenthonre Farm, Adelaide, CMP

Heritage Consultant, Swanbury Penglase Architects, Adelaide, Australia
2008

Yarrabee House, Adelaide, CMP
Old and New Parliament House, Adelaide, CMP

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Academic Dean of Postgraduate Studies, Associate Dean, School of Law, Environment and Planning, Srishti Institute of Art, Design & Technology, Bangalore, India,
2019-2022

Managed a multi-disciplinary cohort of 300 postgraduate students and 200 undergraduate students.

Academic Dean for Postgraduate Studies, Head of Program for Liberal Studies Principal Coordinator UNESCO Chair, Culture, Habitat, and Sustainable Development

Srishti Institute of Art, Design & Technology, Bangalore, India,
2015- 2017

Developed postgraduate and outreach programs for heritage conservation and management, under the umbrella of the UNESCO Chair for Culture, Habitat and Sustainable Development.

Faculty, Senior Research Associate, Challenging Racism: the anti-racism research project, School of Social Sciences, University of Western Sydney, Australia
2009-2010

Was part of the team that worked in *Challenging Racism: The Anti-racism research project* (a federal government funded project)

SELECTED PROJECTS

Mirvac, 2022-present, Harbourside redevelopment

Mirvac, 2022-present, South Eveleigh Precinct

Infrastructure NSW, 2022-present, Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal

Longhurst, 2023-present, Edgecliff Centre, Planning Proposal

TAFE NSW and Capital Insight Pty Limited, 2023-present, TAFE Liverpool Relocation, FBC

CBH Resources, 2022-2023, Rasp Mine, Heritage Conservation, Mine Rehabilitation

Department of Education, 2022-2023, Northern Rivers Flood Recovery Schools program

Department of Education, 2022-2023, Austral and Leppington Public Schools redevelopment

Cumberland Council, 2018-2019, Heritage Study

Inner West Council, 2018-2019, Peer Review, Balmain League Club Precinct redevelopment

Sydney Trains, 2018, Byron Bay Railway Station, CMP

Sydney Metro Authority, 2018, Crows Nest, Over Station Development

Cessnock City Council, 2017-2018, Poppethead Park, Kitchener, Heritage Management

Western Sydney University, 2017-2018, Bankstown Campus Redevelopment

Transport for New South Wales, 2017-2019, Stanmore and Hazelbrook Stations TAP works

TSA Management Pty Ltd and NSW Housing, 2009, Ryde, proposed redevelopment of NSW Housing properties

University of Adelaide, 2008, Glenthonre Farm, Adelaide, CMP

Department of Environment and Heritage, 2008, Old and New Parliament House, Adelaide, CMP

Mosman Council, 2008 Boroania House, CMP

EDUCATION

PhD, Urban and Regional Planning, University of New South Wales, Sydney, (Title of PhD: Aboriginal Australian heritage in the postcolonial city: sites of anti-colonial resistance and continuing presence), 2008

Master (Sustainable Development), Built Environment, University of New South Wales, Sydney, 2001

Bachelor of Architecture, TVB School of Habitat Studies, New Delhi, India, 1999

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Full International Member, Australia ICOMOS, 2017 -2022

Member, International Planning History Society, 2018-2023

Member, The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage, 2015-2022

REFEREES

Available upon request.