Adaptive reuse examples

Railway goods shed

In late 2006, the aptly named Steam Exchange Brewery opened its very large doors in the newly renovated railway goods shed, nestled between the railway station and the wharf shed, at the Goolwa wharf.

This opening was the culmination of more than a year's hard work to convert the timber and iron building, originally constructed in 1879, for use as a brewery. The building had to be re-clad and cleaned (imagine over 125 years of dust and grime!), structural timbers replaced (cockatoos had taken their toll on one particular beam), glass and timber sliding doors constructed to reflect the original design (using the skills of the neighbouring Goolwa Wooden Boats), and a micro-brewery and bar facilities installed.

With the previous adaptation of the wharf shed, and now the goods shed, visitors to the Goolwa Wharf can experience a unique blending of the old with the new: paddle steamers and steam engines, boatbuilding and brewing.


Laneway

Originally a laneway between state heritage-listed Adelaide Arcade and Regent Theatre Façade, this striking modern retail development works beautifully – the pictures speak for themselves.

Norwood Baptist Hall

The Baptist Church on the Parade, Norwood had changed very little since it was built in 1869, however in 2006 two free-standing retail ‘pods’ dramatically changed the way the heritage building presented to the street.

The benefit is that the project included the meticulous restoration of the exterior stone walls and façade, and the replacement of the roof.

Although the treatment, in this case, was controversial, the premise for adaptive reuse remained the same: the idea that commercial stability can provide the incentive and funds for restoration and conservation work – for a
building that continues to be useful will continue to be looked after.

**Frome Street stables**

The restoration of the dilapidated stables at 147 Frome Street involved the careful conservation of remaining structures and reconstruction of a single storey south wing which had previously been demolished.

The adaptation was achieved by the enclosing previously open areas, and adding a compatible new wing to the north. The new wing was designed to match the proportions of the existing building, but uses of late 20th century technology.

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**Southwark Baptist Church and Hall, Phillips Street, Thebarton**

Both buildings have been saved from neglect and adapted successfully for different purposes.

The Former Southwark Baptist Church is now an artist’s studio and the former Church Hall is an office and studio for a builder and an architect.

The Artist’s studio uses the Church space without changing it significantly; the adaptation has been in its change of use.

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**State Records, Leigh Street**

The former Megaw and Hogg building (1895) in Leigh Street, Adelaide, is an excellent example of successful adaptive reuse.

Significant change was required to ensure the former auction rooms, originally a warehouse, would be able to meet the needs of its 21st century tenant, State Records. At the same time the integrity and heritage significance of the
state heritage-listed building needed to be retained.

Architectural firm Woodhead oversaw a contemporary upgrade which kept as much of the original fabric as possible; original ripple-iron ceilings were left exposed; inappropriate paint was removed from the sandstone, bluestone and brick masonry walls, and the basement was successfully conserved with remedial damp-proofing treatment.

The 1960s stairs were removed and replaced by a central void that opened up the spaces and allowed the full volume of the warehouse to be seen.

Externally a new glass façade and steel canopy were created to attract passersby and invite interest in the building.