

Architects

Walter Burley & Marion Griffin



Grand sites

Canberra today

"It is a grand site for a city"

When the Australian Government held an international competition to produce a design for Canberra **WALTER BURLEY & MARION GRIFFIN** produced the winning design from 137 other entries. They then came to Australia to oversee development. Their remarkable architectural partnership produced over 250 project designs.

The Griffins settled in Castlecrag where 15 houses were built to their designs.

Walter Burley Griffin was an architect, landscape architect and planner inspired by ideals of equity and democracy and a passionate regard for nature. In 1900, as a recent architectural graduate Walter Burley Griffin, inspired by Louis Sullivan, resolved to create his own kind of modern architecture independent of past styles. When Griffin entered the design field, nature was to be his great source of inspiration. The young architect worked for Frank Lloyd Wright, and we have a sense that his work at that time was suffused with the 'Spirit of Nature' in the great tradition of the American transcendentalists, Emerson and Thoreau. This was combined with a search for pure form—a geometric, abstract ideal—inspired by the patterns of nature. This love of nature was evident not only in his and Marion Mahony Griffin's work, but also in their lives. (Weirick, in a talk to Castlecrag Conservation Society, 1997.)