

Applications are called for the  
DAVID SAUNDERS FOUNDER'S GRANT

Aim:

The aim of the David Saunders Founder's Grant is to foster new research in architectural history and theory. Applications can be made to apply for funds to assist with such things as fieldwork, archival costs and reproduction costs in preparation for publication. The award cannot be used to fund conference travel or registration or the hiring of research assistants. The Grant amount is AUD\$4000.

Eligibility:

Applicants are required to be financial members of SAHANZ at the time of submission and to maintain their membership during the period of the award.

Applicants are required to be emergent or early career researchers, including postgraduate students, recent graduates and those in the first few years of full-time academic employment.

Applicants must be resident in Australia or New Zealand or, if resident elsewhere, must be proposing to use the Grant to undertake research on or of relevance to the architectural history of Australia or New Zealand.

Submission and Award Conditions:

1. Project proposals must include an outline of the project, budget and its justification; proposed outcomes; and a brief CV (See Application requirements below).
2. The awarding of the Grant is decided by the Committee of SAHANZ.
3. Grant monies will be made available within two months at the announcement of the Grant.
4. The funded research should be able to be completed in one year from the date of the award announcement. Outcomes from research are expected within two years of the award.
5. At completion of the research, Grantees are required to report on the acquittal of the Grant against actual expenses, and on the status of the outcomes (i.e. the publication/s). The report template is available [here](#).
6. SAHANZ reserves the right to have first option to publish part or all of the research results in *Fabrications*.
7. Note: The David Saunders Founder's Grant does not support indirect cost recovery or university overhead costs.

Criteria:

1. The demonstrated ability of the applicant relative to their career stage.
2. The likely significance of the research.
3. Evidence that the proposed project is achievable with this grant (i.e. not dependent upon securing additional funds).
4. The likely quality and impact of the proposed outcomes.

Submission date:

Monday 6 July 2026

Address all submissions to:

The Secretary of Society of Architectural Historians, Australia & New Zealand

E-mail application to [secretary@sahanz.net](mailto:secretary@sahanz.net)

Announcement of award:

An announcement will be made in the Society's newsletter and acknowledged at the next SAHANZ conference.

Guidelines for DAVID SAUNDERS FOUNDER'S GRANT Application:

Please submit your application as a Microsoft Word document or PDF attached to an email to the Secretary of SAHANZ. Make your application under the headings below.

APPLICANT'S NAME

APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATION (if applicable)

SAHANZ MEMBERSHIP STATUS

ADDRESS

Ph:

Email:

PROJECT TITLE

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

300 words max.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Including timetable through to outcomes (600 words max).

PROPOSED BUDGET (allowable items are travel, archival costs, fees and charges related to research or publication, sundry maintenance, but not equipment, research assistants or salary replacement).

Show estimated total costs for project and amounts requested from the Saunders Grant and any other granting agencies to which applications are or will be made for this project.

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

300 words max. Explain and justify the major expenses.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

How will the research be communicated to the scholarly community?

How will the Grant assist your career development as a researcher in Architectural History?

REFEREES

Give the names and contact details (including email) for two (only) referees who are familiar with your work and this project.

CV

A maximum of two pages.

## David Saunders

David Saunders was instrumental in forming SAHANZ and as foundation President he registered SAHANZ as an incorporated association in South Australia on 12 September 1985. David Saunders was Professor of Architecture at the University of Adelaide and also President of SAHANZ when he died in Adelaide in September 1986.

Educated at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and at the University of Melbourne where he also later completed his Masters degree on the architecture of nineteenth-century Melbourne architect Joseph Reed, David Saunders was a Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne where he remained from 1956 to 1968. In that time, he became the first academic in Victoria to specialise in Australian architectural history. Saunders was also editor of the pithy and incisive architecture broadsheet *Cross Section*, taking over from Robin Boyd as editor in 1955 before passing this task onto Neville Quarry in 1961. Saunders was also an architect and in 1962 he designed his own house in Parkville after his return from the United Kingdom as part of a Nuffield Fellowship. The exposed materials and strident honesty of this post-war interpretation of the terrace house startled many and paralleled interstate experiments in English New Brutalism.

In 1968 Saunders moved with his family to Sydney where he took up the position of Senior Lecturer at the Power Institute of Fine Arts at the University of Sydney. In 1977 he was then appointed to the Chair of Architecture at the University of Adelaide where he played a decisive role in redirecting that School's curriculum.

Saunders' contribution to architectural history in Australia was substantial. He was the author of several texts on Australian architecture including the important *Historic Buildings of Victoria* (1966). He gave substantial service to the National Trust and the South Australian Heritage Committee. He was also the first Australian President of ICOMOS, the international professional conservation organisation.

As Judith Brine observed of David Saunders in his obituary in 1986: 'His career was one of dedicated service to the conviction that Australian art and architectural history was of great importance and interest. He not only demonstrated its academic potential in his own work but... provided the tools for others to work in the same field. His contribution as a teacher in training others, several of whom in their turn are now also eminent architectural historians, cannot be overestimated'.