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Between Duty and Design

The architect soldier Sir J. J. Talbot Hobbs

Sir J. J. Talbot Hobbs’ memorial is displayed prominently in the Perth CBD, yet few locals know about his architectural achievements within Perth and abroad.

John Taylor’s new historical account of the soldier-architect’s life, Between Duty and Design, seeks to return Hobbs’ life and achievements to the public.

The book is filled with illustrations and building plans and displays rich historical background of Perth’s architecture and war memorials designed by Hobbs.

Although he has been largely forgotten, Hobbs’ buildings are found across Perth, Fremantle and the state, making this volume essential reading for those interested in Western Australia’s architectural wealth.

It includes new knowledge of the architect’s upbringing and training, eliminating any misconceptions that Hobbs had no architectural training.

It is the first biography to focus on Hobbs’ architectural impact as well as his prominent position as Australia’s highest-ranking soldier in Europe after the First World War.

This biography seeks to put Sir J. J. Talbot Hobbs in his rightful place: a citizen of national importance.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John J. Taylor grew up in Perth, Western Australia. He studied architecture at the University of Western Australia and was awarded the prestigious E. G. Cohen Medal in his final year.

He established his own practice in 1990 and is now prominent in heritage conservation. Taylor was awarded the 2000 Heritage Conservation Award in WA for his work at St Brigid’s Convent, Northbridge.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, and a member of Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) and the National Trust of Australia.

Taylor’s previous book, Between Devotion and Design (2000), was about the work of John Cyril Hawes, an architect prominent internationally.