Gordon Stephenson and Campus Planning in Australia

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University planning and design became part of British architect-planner Gordon Stephenson’s repertoire in the early 1950s. Over subsequent decades he contributed to the redevelopment of existing, and the planning of new, campuses in Canada, Ireland, Singapore and Australia. In his autobiography, On a Human Scale: a life in city design (Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1992), Stephenson devoted a chapter to university design and, reflecting on the standing of this professional specialisation in his career, he remarked that it had given him ‘a great deal of pleasure’. Drawing on published and primary archival sources, this paper surveys Stephenson’s work in the realm of campus planning and design in Australia, where he left his mark on universities in Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland. The discussion identifies the political and academic context, the individuals, and the planning paradigms and ideas that helped shape his philosophies and plans. It draws on specific university planning projects across time to illustrate the application of his ideas and to assess his contributions.

KEY WORDS: Gordon Stephenson, campus planning, Radburn.