

"Ever since I was a child I've collected things: pebbles, shells from the rocks in the Abruzzi, strands of wire, little screws."

— Lina Bo Bardi

What else can we do but carry within us the images of things inherited?

As architects, we learn to copy, reference, iterate. We sit within the many collective realities pre-existing us—faith, canon, institution, ideology, customs to be followed, rituals to be re-enacted. We make a commodity of precedent and hero of genius. We revere building forms, typology, the structure of the city. We are taught to cherish material and fetishise detail. To idolise something is to protect it, to put it on a pedestal, to place a fence around it.

Issue 03 of Paradise Journal is titled *Idols, Icons, and Other Precious Things*.

Both given and found, we look to idols as a collection of legacies, laden with glorification, for better or worse. Icons instil themselves as vignettes etched indelibly in our imaginations—both collective and personal—through nothing more than sheer persistence and repetition. Perhaps most generously, there are certain things that defy singular meaning, carried with us as something precious.

So; we give ourselves permission to sit and think slowly (a few days, months, another year?), and indulge in the figuration of Australia (and its architecture). Looking at the classification of its treasured and thorny entanglements—traditions, histories, legacies, mounds of stuff to be sorted—we see a taxonomy of influence emerge.

What can be understood from the chosen idol, the difficulty of the icon or the complex value of the things we deem precious?

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## Idols, Icons and Other Precious Things



Toona ciliata, red cedar



Antique dresser made from Huon pine

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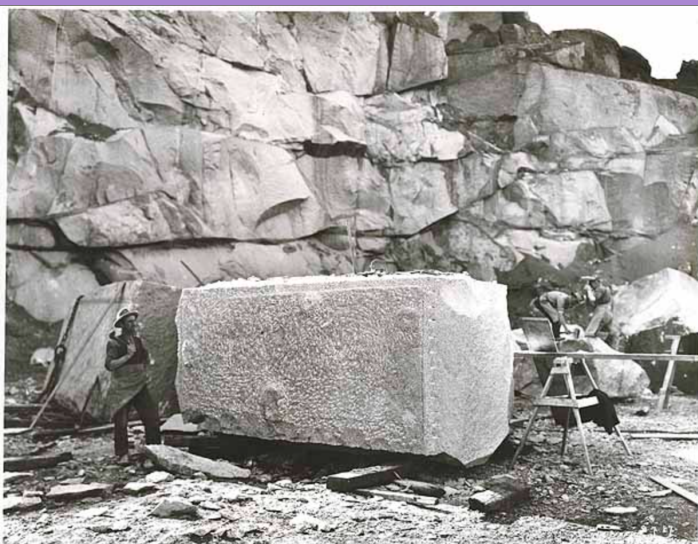
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Altar stone for Martin Place cenotaph, Moruya Quarry



Tracey Moffat, *Up In The Sky*, 1998



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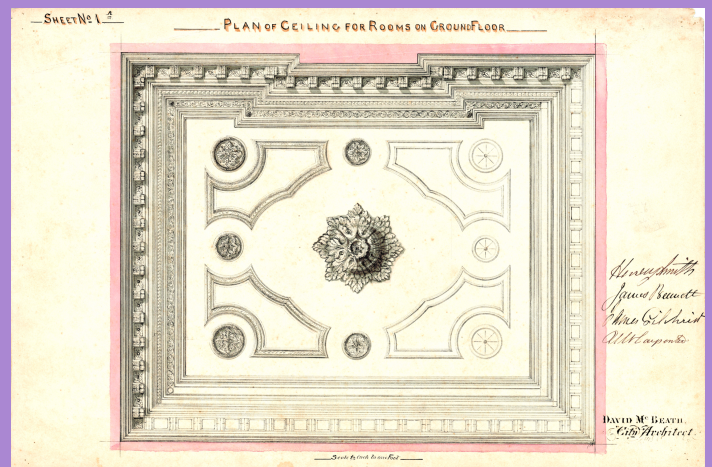
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Dank Lloyd Wright



RCP by David McBeath, City Architect

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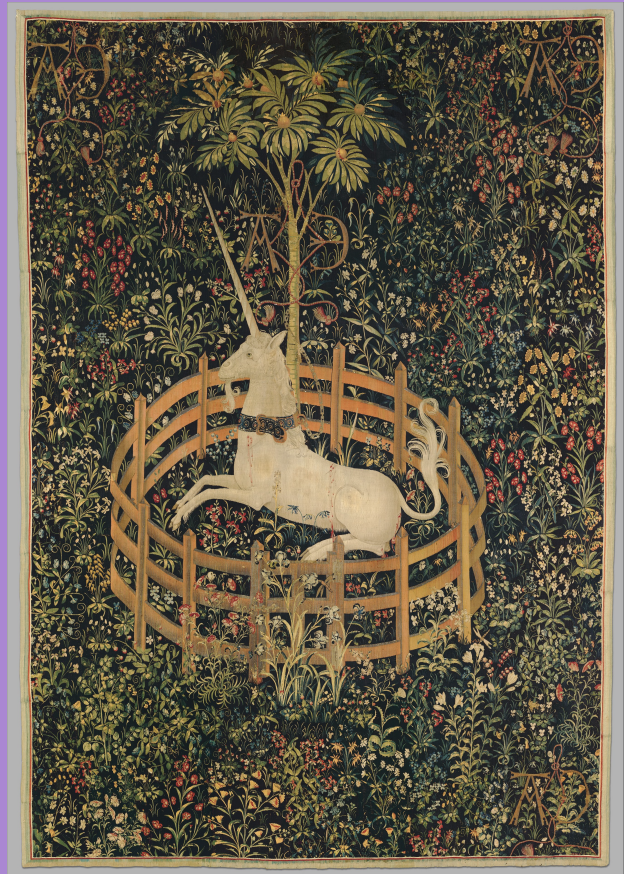
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John Gollings, *Kay Street House* by Peter Corrigan, 1982



The Unicorn Rests in a Garden (from the Unicorn Tapestries), 1495-1505