

## Paul McGillick

### A Rear View Mirror

Looking back, I realise I've always followed my nose. No Plan. I must have a very good guardian angel because somehow it's always turned out for the best. My career spans writing about the visual arts, architecture and design (as well as publishing roles in those areas), writing and production in radio and television, and academic teaching and research in linguistics and language teacher training. Here is a summary of my diverse journey.

My first degree was in Far Eastern history at the University of Western Australia (1969), after which I returned to my home city of Sydney. Then followed a stint of school teaching before becoming director of the **Institute of Contemporary Art** in Sydney in the mid-1970s.

Then I returned to academe, completing a post-graduate diploma in Teaching English as a Foreign Language at the University of Sydney (1978). This sparked an interest in linguistics. Inspired by the presence of the eminent linguist, Michael Halliday (foundation Professor of Linguistics at the University of Sydney), I completed a Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics in 1982 - my thesis was on the language of Henry Green in his novel *Party Going*. While all this was going on, I had become a lecturer on the TEFL Programme at the University of Sydney, eventually heading up the programme.

### A Double Life

All the while - nearly 20 years - I lived a double life. From 1986 to 2002 I was Visual and Performing Arts Critic for the *Australian Financial Review*. At the same time I was writing (and sometimes also producing) radio drama and features for ABC Radio. In the mid-1990s I was Series Editor and a producer/presenter on SBS TV's arts show, *Imagine* as well as writing books and essays on the visual arts and the theatre. When this ended, I worked briefly for ABC TV making arts programmes. I managed to fit in a PhD on ritual in 20th Century theatre, focussing on the work of Australian playwright, Jack Hibberd. Post-Sydney University I taught in undergraduate and post-graduate visual arts and design programmes at the University of New South Wales School of Fine Arts.

### Architecture Enters the Picture

Then architecture entered the picture. I edited *Monument* magazine (twice!) before, in 2002, becoming Editorial Director at *Indesign Media*. Here, over more than 12 years, I edited *Indesign* magazine and was founding editor of architecture, art and design magazine, *Habitus* (covering the Indo-Pacific region), in 2009 - and collecting a Master in Architecture degree along the way (my thesis was on the Australian architect, Harold Smith) from the University of New South Wales in the process - just to prove I knew what I was talking about. And so as not to waste my television experience, I made a number of videos on architecture and the visual arts.