



GRAND GRAMMARIANS

ADRIANNE FISHER (82)

who is now based in the Netherlands, has forged a remarkable career in international architecture.

At School Adrienne was already going places. Head Girl, sporting captain, Junior Town Councillor, actor, assistant producer, set designer; Adrienne's diligence and creative flair were evident. She credits the entire Grammar community as strong influences.

"We were encouraged to do our best with no explicit limitations. Teachers, Headmasters, kids, parents, we knew everyone by name, giving a sense of confidence and belonging. Working together, we made things happen, developing self-sufficiency which continues as a positive influence."

Adrienne studied visual arts at Curtin University and ran a textile print studio from Fremantle Arts Centre before embarking on a career in Architecture. Studying at UWA and Melbourne University,

she worked in Melbourne before taking off for the Netherlands where she found architecture refreshingly engaging.

For 20 years Adrienne has been working at the Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) in Rotterdam, led by renowned architect Rem Koolhaas. Starting as junior architect and now as a Director, Adrienne's projects include the CCTV Headquarters in Beijing, Casa da Musica concert hall in Porto and Rothschilds' Bank Headquarters in London. Her current project takes her to Copenhagen weekly to lead a design team on the construction of the Blox project, which is central to the transformation of Copenhagen Harbour.

"Design, technical aspects and management are considered equally important. As project architect and manager, I coax a design into existence, managing it through to final construction in what is still a male dominated field. A mostly cool head is essential to keep a large group of architects, engineers and

consultants happily working. Relationships are crucial for me. There is a huge community of people, all with different takes and ambitions. The OMA office is a community of international staff, many coming and going over the years, while others like me stay longer."

It is having a full-time career and family that Adrienne sees as her most surprising achievement, thanks also to her partner. Happily living in their third country, Adrienne works in English, but they are all bilingual. Their children, Alexandra (11) and Sebastian (9) go to a local primary school and Alex will go to a local Dutch/English bilingual high school next year.

"I like living in Rotterdam because it is a city with a village quality. We ride bikes everywhere and everything is in reach in 10 minutes, schools, work, supermarkets, city centre, football club, and my sanity-maintaining allotment garden/summer house."

Mrs Margaret Paterson :: School Archivist

WORKING TOGETHER