



## MEDIA RELEASE

7 August 2013

### ***The Griffins' Canberra: 100 years Symposium***

**When:** Friday 16 August 2013, 12.45pm for 1.00pm until 4.30pm

**Where:** The Shine Dome, Australian Academy of Science, Gordon Street, Canberra

**International guest speakers from the USA, Germany and Australia** will examine the Griffin Ideas about architecture, landscape and planning, their American architectural designs, review the cultural impact of the Griffins on Australia during their lifetimes and beyond, and give a 21<sup>st</sup> century international perspective on the urbanism of the Griffin plan for Canberra.

The Walter Burley Griffin Society is hosting the half-day symposium to celebrate the centenary of the arrival of Walter Burley Griffin in Australia in August 1913 a year after winning the international competition for Australia's national capital.

With funding from an Australian Government *Your Community Heritage Grant*, the Society has been able to organise three excellent speakers who are leading Griffin experts. They are Professor Emeritus Paul Kruty from the University of Illinois, Chicago who is one of the leading experts in America on the work of the Prairie School architects; Professor Dr Karl F. Fischer from the University of Kassel, Germany (2009 – 2012) who as an urban planner has been involved with research and publications on Canberra for almost 40 years, including his book *Canberra – Myths and Models*; Professor James Weirick from the Faculty of the Built Environment at the University of New South Wales, who is actively engaged in issues of contemporary urbanism throughout Australia as an educator, critic, and commentator.

Professor Weirick, who is also the President of the Walter Burley Griffin Society, describes Canberra as "One of the greatest planned cities of the world, and the shortcomings of Canberra today would have been skilfully resolved if the Griffins' original winning plan had been implemented".

The speakers will be available for interviews afterwards and possibly beforehand by appointment.

**Tickets:** \$85 (includes afternoon tea); WBGS Members \$75; Students \$30

**Bookings:** <http://www.trybooking.com/CHQR>

**Further information:** The Secretary Kerry McKillop,  
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