

# ‘Fremantle is one of those relatively few towns in Australia which still relates to its natural environment’

George Seddon & Barbara Haddy | *Looking at an Old Suburb, A Walking Guide to Four Blocks of Fremantle*, 2000

## Shadow Space / Penhale & Winter

Cities built from the physical matter of their landscape feel deeply connected to place and evoke a strong material and atmospheric presence. Many of Fremantle’s most beloved and enduring structures were built from locally quarried limestone and the compact city centre is still bound to the east by a continuous limestone ridge.

The characteristic weight, texture and weathering of this material is present in our public buildings (Fremantle Arts Centre, Shipwreck Museum, Fremantle Prison), historic houses (Samson House, Lenaville) and heritage terraces (Henderson St, Holdsworth St).

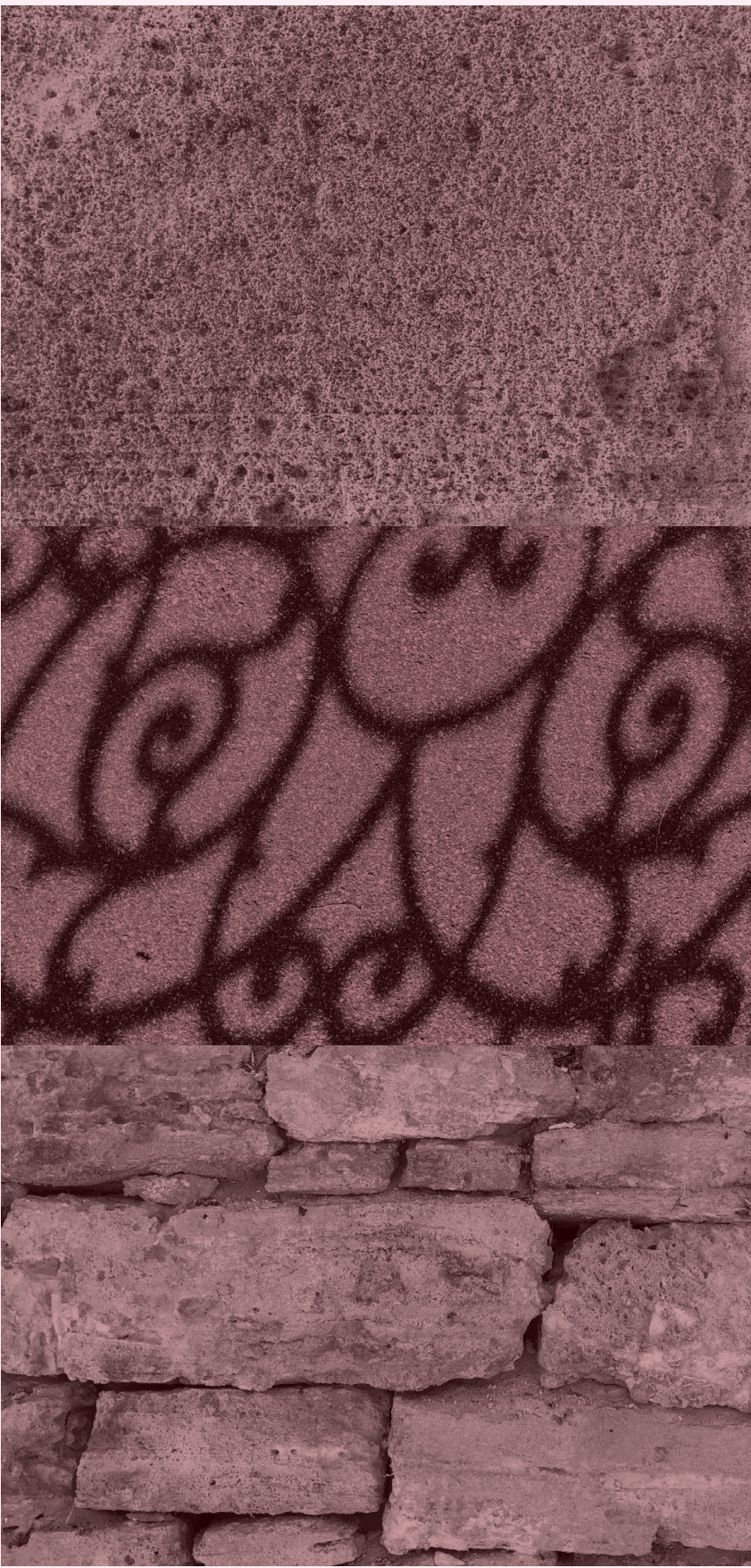
In juxtaposition to the utility and mass of this heavy outer shell is a lightweight decorative playfulness found towards the building’s public edge. The verandah is a shadow space that mediates and tempers the transition from private inner realm to public exterior. Richly patterned and layered they often exhibit a delicate tracery of filigree ironwork, ornamental timber molding, colorful leadlight and decorative plasterwork and pointing.

Our installation in Gallery 03 observes and abstracts this material dichotomy while establishing a strong site-specific relationship to the space of the gallery. A new architectural element - at once roof and wall - is inserted into the gallery where it leans into and is supported by the building’s historic limestone fabric. This painted lightweight element creates two new and distinct spaces; an internalised room, at once the gallery we recognise and know but now made strange, and an immersive space at the edge.

The internalised room acknowledges and maintains two key characteristics of the existing gallery space, its impressive height and the robust presence of its dormant hearth. The altered volume of the room captures and holds while the dialogue between fireplace and architectural intervention resounds across the space.

Open at either end the room behind allows users to slip into and out of a darkly shadowed zone at the building’s edge. Space is compressed and the singular use of colour on all surfaces (floor / wall / ceiling) produces an intense and immersive experience. The sounds, smell and light of the city are allowed to enter this space through the revealing and opening-up of windows long hidden away.

The intimacy, shadowy patternwork and in-between quality of this space is evocative of the lightweight transitional realm of the verandah while also recalling other spaces within Fremantle Arts Centre itself, a place of long corridors, secret doors and dark rooms.



**Penhale & Winter** is the architectural practice of Drew Penhale and Shane Winter. The duo operate from a studio in Fremantle’s West End and combine design consultancy with teaching. They have a strong interest in exploring the intersection of architecture and art and regularly participate in competitions. Their entry *Agora* (with Kieran Murnane) won a national competition to design the Architectural Commission for the 2019 Sydney Design Festival.

## Shadow Space

Penhale & Winter’s installation ‘Shadow Space’ in Gallery 3 explores the way design shapes our experience of Fremantle as a city and contributes to our sense of place.

The work draws attention to Fremantle’s strong visible connection to the limestone ridge upon which it stands and the overlayed design elements that add richness and character to our urban environment.

Through a spatial and sensory experience, ‘Shadow Space’ immerses the visitor in a juxtaposition of scale, volume, texture, light and colour. Visitors are invited to extend the experience beyond the galley and out into to the city itself, where the themes of ‘Shadow Space’ can be observed and explored in surrounding streets using Drew Penhale’s provided examples as a leaping off point.

GALLERY 3 / SHADOW SPACE

OBJECT  
SPACE  
PLACE

DESIGN  
FREO



# OBJECT SPACE PLACE

## How does design contribute to sense of place and shape our urban experience?

As an extension of the installation in Gallery 03, we invite audiences to use Penhale & Winter's work as a leaping off point to go out into the city. The map features 16 sites that inform 'Shadow Space'. However any walk around Fremantle is an opportunity to observe the city through a design lens. Where do you experience delight, serenity, whimsy, welcome? What places are hostile? Does the urban form encourage you to linger? What delineates public and private? And what does the built fabric tell us about what we value as a community? From fine details to streetscapes, between man-made and nature, we invite you to contribute to this project by posting your images on Instagram or Facebook using the hashtag #designfreo\_place.



**1**  
**Samson House**  
**61 Ellen Street**  
A historic limestone residence in an extensive garden setting. The deep verandah wraps the house with a tent-like quality. The shifting verandah experience commences 'in the garden' near the back and transitions to an 'above garden' elevated prospect towards the main entry and civic edge.



**2**  
**Ellen Street Landscape**  
A section of street with topographic and architectural drama. The lower section of road is a drive through the limestone ridge exposing a weathered matrix of stone, repairs, sand and vegetation. The upper-level street is an engaging mix of old and new homes with a catalogue of verandah treatments.



**3**  
**Girton Lane East Entry**  
With a well-defined edge of limestone and red-brick, the laneway entry is softened by greenery and compact multi-level verandah spaces that address both lane and street. The laneway proper is an informal and joyful jumble of fences, bins, garages and houses and still accommodates the old Grammar School lavatory.



**4**  
**Girton Lane West Entry**  
A renovated limestone cottage with a noteworthy L-shaped verandah which directly connects to the laneway via a low-level, weathered limestone wall. The open verandah and the extension of the roof plane invites lane-users to sit and linger at the edge.



**5**  
**241 High Street Nested Structure**  
A simple unadorned verandah is nestled between symmetrical wings of limestone structure, united by window awnings on each side. The building reads as a continuation of the scooping limestone wall giving the property a strong material presence and integrity.



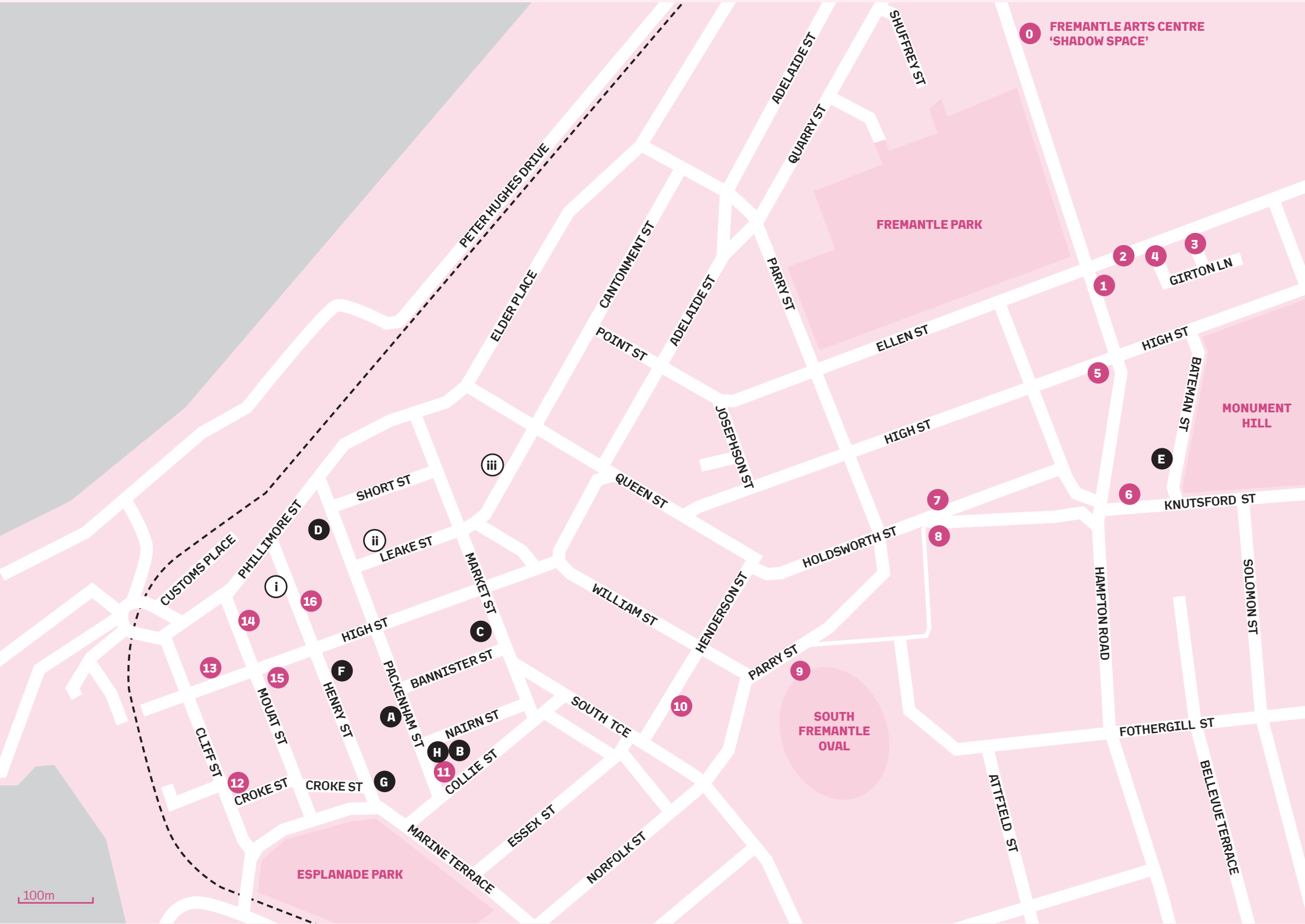
**6**  
**14 Knutsford Street Ridge House**  
A worker's cottage of limestone rubble that appears to rise up out of physical matter of the ridge. Raised well above street level the lightweight bull nosed verandah provides immediate prospect over the street and long views over the city to the ocean. The diagonal crossbars of the verandah railing are increasingly scarce.



**7**  
**18 - 30 Holdsworth Street Terraces**  
A series of seven, single-storey terrace houses step up and accentuate the slope of the limestone ridge on which they are located. The decorated front elevations and nested verandahs provide a filigree and playful edge in direct contrast to the imposing solidity of the prison wall opposite.



**8**  
**Knutsford Street Prison Wall**  
The northern section of prison wall commences as a dissection of the limestone ridge before rising to maximum height at the intersection of Knutsford and Holdsworth Streets. The opening out of the street and the dialogue between prison wall and decorated heritage terrace creates an intense heritage moment.



**9**  
**Victoria Pavilion South Fremantle Oval**  
The prospect, deep-frame and decorative scrollwork on the balustrade and gable end give this heritage grandstand the feel of an oversize, tent-like verandah. Solid timber columns, exposed trusses and bleachers sit over a heavy masonry base. Stairs and a narrow alley lead to a darkened underworld of rooms and spaces beneath.



**10**  
**17 Henderson Street Terraces**  
The materiality, repetition and length of facade lends both whimsy and gravitas to this enduring urban artefact. Simple upper and lower-level verandahs and a low limestone wall allow for multiple levels of civic engagement. The gentle curve and lift of the lower-level verandah skirt has a softening effect on the heavy limestone structure.



**11**  
**8 Collie Street Corner Building**  
Multiple shading devices embellish this building, enlivening the street. A bullnose awning wraps the corner and a shaded entry court speaks of distant places. A decorative balcony reorients back to Fremantle. Hovering above Collie Street, a tensioned fabric screen completes the dynamic set.



**12**  
**Tannock Hall 44 Cliff Street**  
A contemporary structure of limestone blockwork and green glass commands this corner site. The blunt solidity and simplicity of form recollects early colonial structures like the adjacent Commissariat building and Fremantle's woolstores. An operable glass structure on Cliff Street provides decorative relief and sun shading.



**13**  
**18 High Street In Between Garden**  
Offering a break in the order of street and facade this narrow garden provides a moment of green and shaded relief in the hardscape of the West End. Gated but usually accessible, a formal and room-like rose garden frames the view to a more private and deeply shaded space beyond.



**14**  
**5 Muat Street Laneway**  
A crevice-like space framed at low level by pillow-faced limestone conceals a miscellany of building requirements and services. Painted pipework snakes over and around and the elements and colours create a collage that delights the eye. A gate of bright yellow entices entry.



**15**  
**25 High Street Verandah Filigree**  
Wrapping two faces of a once prominent corner pub, this intricately ornamented verandah stands proud of building's mass. The rhythm and combination of elements, colours and shadows exudes an extroverted confidence, while the generosity and richness of the verandah provides for a spilling out onto the public edge.



**16**  
**Henry Street Garage Limestone Wall**  
A limestone rubble side-wall of a heritage building now largely enclosed on the inside of a garage. The roof of the garage sits back from the wall's edge enabling this mundane scene to transform at certain times of the day into an unexpectedly beautiful encounter with material, texture and colour.

### spaceagency

spaceagency architects feature in the Main Gallery as part of *Object, Space, Place*. Over thirty years of practice the studio has completed many projects in Fremantle, mostly within existing building stock. Some of these projects are marked on the map.

#### Hospitality

- A** Bread in Common / 43 Pakenham Street
- B** Strange Company / 5 Nairn Street
- C** Ronnie Nights / 75 Market Street
- D** Republic of Fremantle / 3 Pakenham Street

#### Single residential

- E** Bateman St.
- 11** Collie St

#### Multi residential

- F** 32 Henry St
- G** 54 Henry St
- H** Corner Pakenham & Nairn St

### AC4CA

Running concurrently to *Object, Space, Place* is *Watch this space!*, an exhibition of 15 screenprints drawn from the Australian Centre for Concrete Art (AC4CA) print folios published in 2004 and 2011. The AC4CA was initiated in 2001 by gallerist and academic Julian Goddard and a group of artists living and practicing in Fremantle. Three of these artworks can be seen in Fremantle's West End.

- i** Jan van der Ploeg / 2010 / -32.054, 115.743 / Henry Street
- ii** John Nixon / 2009 / -32.054, 115.745 / Leake Street
- iii** David Tremlett / 2010 / -32.053, 115.746 / Cantonment Street

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