

Protecting our past will leave a lasting legacy

There has been plenty of discussion about heritage and the built environment, especially about how we define, protect and enjoy heritage as Perth becomes a denser city.

Some believe the introduction of new planning schemes – such as Subiaco's LPS5, a blueprint for greater density close to train stations – will override existing heritage protections, while others worry that new heritage protection will usher in additional costs and extra red tape.

But did you know that in

ing stems from a lack of understandable, accessible communication from government. This creates a hot-bed of concern and misinformation in the community.

It's important to investigate which heritage list applies to your property or street, via the InHerit online database or your local council website.

Then determine the associated requirements and/or restrictions.

For example, state heritage listings may stipulate you can't demolish a building, but you can often apply for grants to restore elements, such as roofs.

If your house is deemed to have local significance, it will be identified on your council's municipal inventory or heritage list, which identifies qualities that may have enticed you to the property in the first place, such as ornate period details, the way it sits in a tree-lined street, or that a famous citizen lived there previously.

These local graded listings also have different

architect's brief WITH SUZIE HUNT



the Subiaco council area, up to 10 older homes are demolished each year?

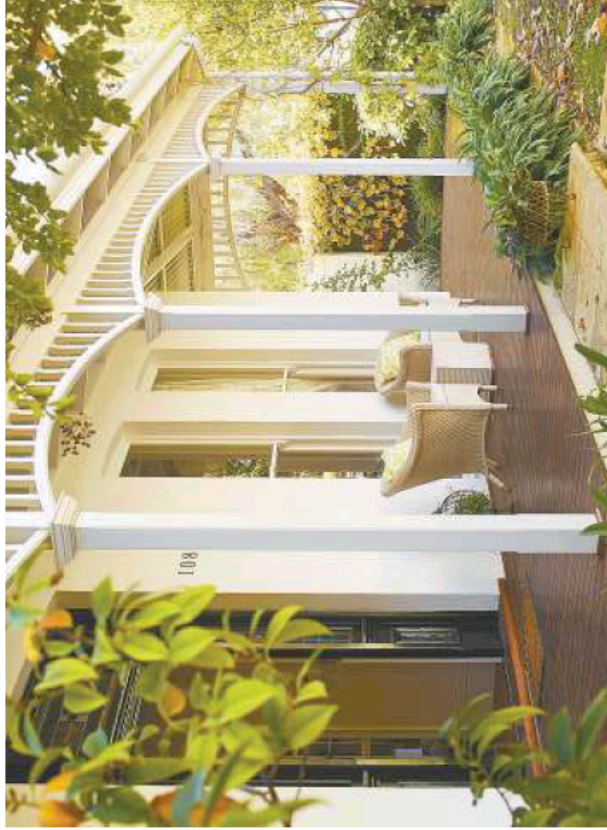
As an architect who has worked with heritage buildings for most of my 30-year career, this statistic reinforces the need to identify and protect the cultural heritage values that make this area so desirable.

I believe much of the angst about heritage list-

So, what is heritage?

A heritage building or location possesses architectural, aesthetic, historic or cultural values, or a combination of these, and there is a hierarchy of listings:

- **World and national heritage listings**, such as Fremantle Prison and the Burrup Peninsula.
- **State Heritage Office listings**, governed by the new Heritage Bill 2018, which Heritage Minister David Templeman described as "transparent and simple to operate legislation that reflects best practice in the recognition and protection of heritage places."
- **Local government listings**, which are broken down into grades of significance.



■ Up to 10 older-style houses are demolished each year in the Subiaco council area, says architect Suzanne Hunt, who renovated this early 1900s character home at 108 Heytesbury Road, Subiaco.

requirements that range from simply providing the council with photos of the original house before demolition, through to ensuring that any new additions respect the original building.

Lastly, if your entire street is recommended for heritage protection, as Lawler Street in Subiaco recently was (a move that was defeated by protests from residents), those controls define and protect the special qualities of a collection of places not an individual house.

So a homeowner's recent assertion that a street listing would lead to higher insurance premiums and "fortuitous bureaucracy" is simply not true.

If the topic of heritage still seems confusing, I recommend working with an architect who has heritage experience. Together you can achieve a beautiful outcome that is good for your family and your community.

After all, whatever we do today will be the heritage of tomorrow. Let's leave a positive legacy.



■ **Suzanne Hunt is the WA President of the Australian Institute of Architects.**