



Torbreck: 182 Dornoch Terrace, Highgate Hill, Brisbane [promotional pamphlet], 1958-1960. Torbreck Home Units Ltd. [Call no. RBQ 728.31 TOR](tel:0772831313)

Aubrey Job was born in 1907 to a prominent Brisbane family. His mother Julie died in 1925, the same year he began work as an articled student to architect Arnold Brookes. He gained his qualification from Brisbane Central Technical College in 1929, establishing a practice with fellow architect Jim Collin, Job & Collin, Architects in Association.

Robert Froud, born in England in 1920, immigrated to Australia in 1927 settling in Adelaide before moving to Brisbane in 1934. At 16 years he began working as a junior in the office of George C. Wilson, then becoming an articled student with Mervyn Rylance. He gained his qualification at Brisbane Central Technical College in 1941 after which he enrolled in the new Diploma of Architecture course at the University of Queensland where he was taught some courses by Karl Langer. Froud was admitted to the Royal Australian Institute of Architects as an Associate member in 1946.

At the start of the Second World War Robert Froud was working with Frank Costello at the Brisbane City Council. Aubrey Job undertook his war service at the Department of Labour and National Service under Charles Fulton, where he met Robert Froud when the latter was sent to work with he and Fulton. After the War, Job, Collin and Fulton decided to work together in association and Robert Froud was enlisted as their draughtsman.

In 1954 Job and Froud established their own architectural practice A.H. Job and R.P. Froud Architects, eventually making their base at 52 High Street Toowong, where the practice stayed until merging with Thompson Adsett and Partners in 1986. Job set up an office in Noosa owing to a close association with Max Walker, the only real estate agent in the area who started sending them plenty of commissions. Froud continued to run the Toowong office. Over the 20 years from 1954-1974 they completed 318 projects, mainly one-off domestic dwellings but complemented by shopping centres, offices, school and hospital buildings, bowls clubs, civic centres and rural homesteads.

Their most well-known work Torbreck, a high-rise multi-block residential complex, was their least typical. Job supervised Torbreck's construction from 1957 to 1960 while Froud ran the drawing office, producing the detailed drawings he and Job would review. The 1960s and 1970s were particularly busy, perhaps due to the success of Torbreck, with many residential commissions in Brisbane and on the Sunshine Coast.

Job decided to retire in 1974 following a back injury sustained in a car accident in Italy. He died aged 95 years in 2002.

Froud decided to keep the business going until the work ran out and he could retire. More than ten years later, in 1986, he merged the practice with Thompson Adsett and Partner. He continued working part-time until for them until 1995, then for himself from his home office until his death in 2001.



Left: *Torbreck apartment building on Highgate Hill, Brisbane, c.1963.* [Negative no. 191463.](#)

Right: *Torbreck high-rise in Highgate Hill, Queensland, 2008.* Photograph by Andrea Higgins. [Image no. 29548-0001-0004.](#)

Collection resources

- [R122 R.P. Froud architectural plans 1920-2001](#)
This collection comprises 60 rolls of architectural plans from the practice Job & Froud, including plans and ephemera for Torbreck at Highgate Hill and the abandoned Torbreck Burleigh Heads development, as well as for residences in Queensland and Victoria and the Library building at MacGregor State High School.
- [3228 R.P. Froud records c.1930-2000](#)

This collection includes plans for a range of domestic and commercial buildings, mostly in Brisbane but also including one at Noosa Heads and at Biloela, as well as diaries, a card index and student papers belonging to Robert Froud.

- [27583 Brisbane residences architectural plans 1938-1988](#)
Includes one drawing for a residence at 388 Swann Road, St Lucia, prepared by Job & Collin in 1938 for Mrs C.W. Plumridge.
- [29548 Torbreck photographs and video 2008](#)
Detailed contemporary documentation of Torbreck units in Highgate Hill.
- **Images** of Job & Froud projects, as part of [6523 Royal Australian Institute of Architects photographs and plan 1950-1980](#):
 - Ferguson shops and dental surgery in Noosaville, Queensland, 1966 (image no. [6523-0001-0088](#))
 - Medical Centre in Ipswich, Queensland, 1966 (image no. [6523-0001-0281](#))
 - Seawah Holiday Flats at Noosa Heads, Queensland, 1966 (image no. [6523-0001-0082](#))
 - Foote residence in Ryans Road, St Lucia, Queensland, 1966 (image no. [6523-0001-0012](#))
 - View of the Torbreck garden block and high-rise tower in Highgate Hill, n.d. (image no. [6523-0001-0233](#))

State Library blogs

- [The emergence of flats and apartments in Brisbane – demoralising or civilising; sophisticated or simply a practical necessity](#) (2018)



Left: *Seawah Holiday Flats at Noosa Heads, Queensland [designed Job & Froud], 1966.*
[Image no. 6523-0001-0082](#)



Left: *Foote residence in Ryans Road, St Lucia, Queensland [designed Job & Froud], 1966.*
[Image no. 6523-0001-0012](#)