

“HERITAGE?” is a polemic on Melbourne’s poor track record concerning the demolition of buildings of high design quality.

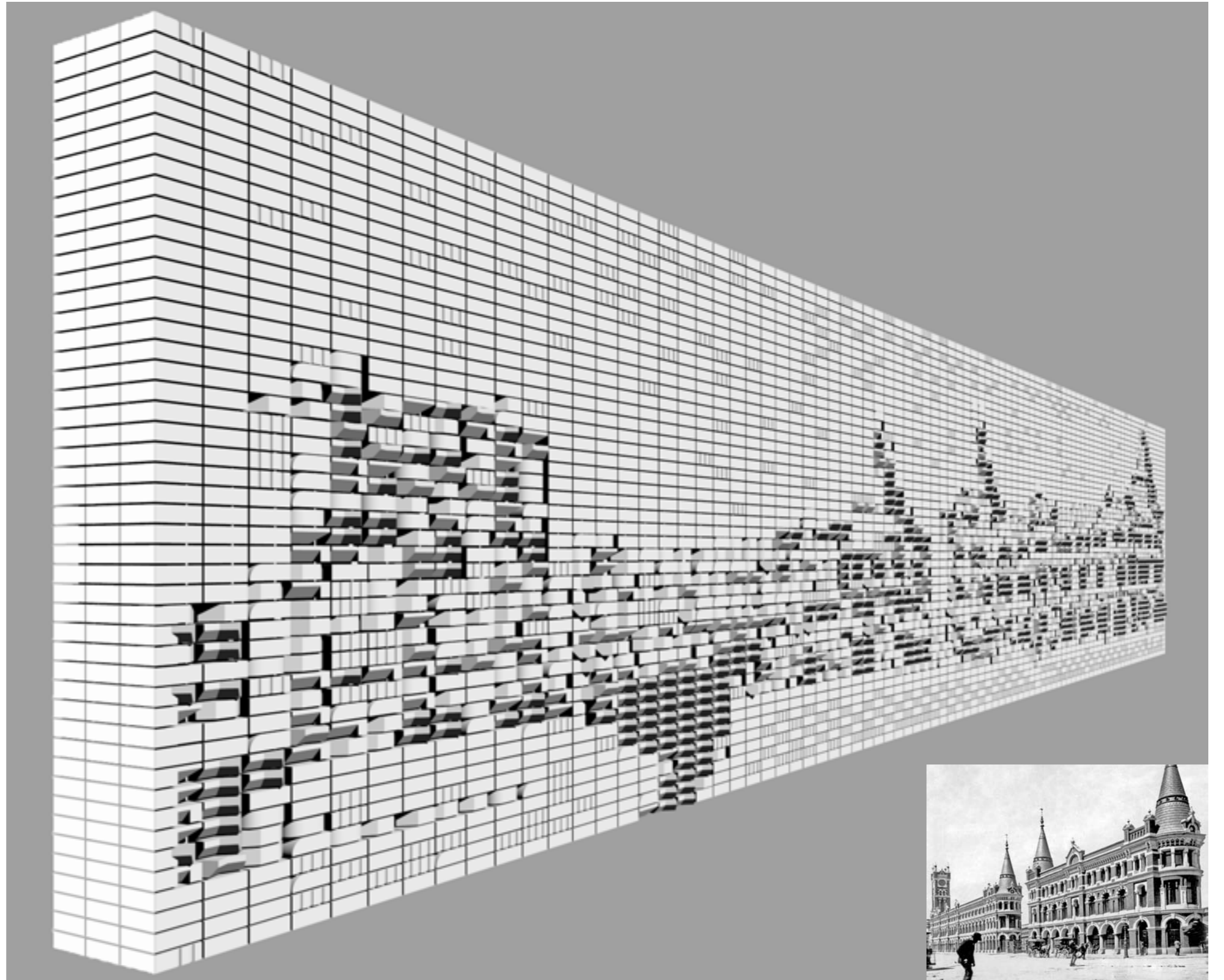
Located under the railway bridge at the junction of Spencer and Flinders Streets, this urban intervention makes reference to the eclectic late 19th-century brick buildings that occupied the adjacent land until their demolition by Whelan the Wrecker.

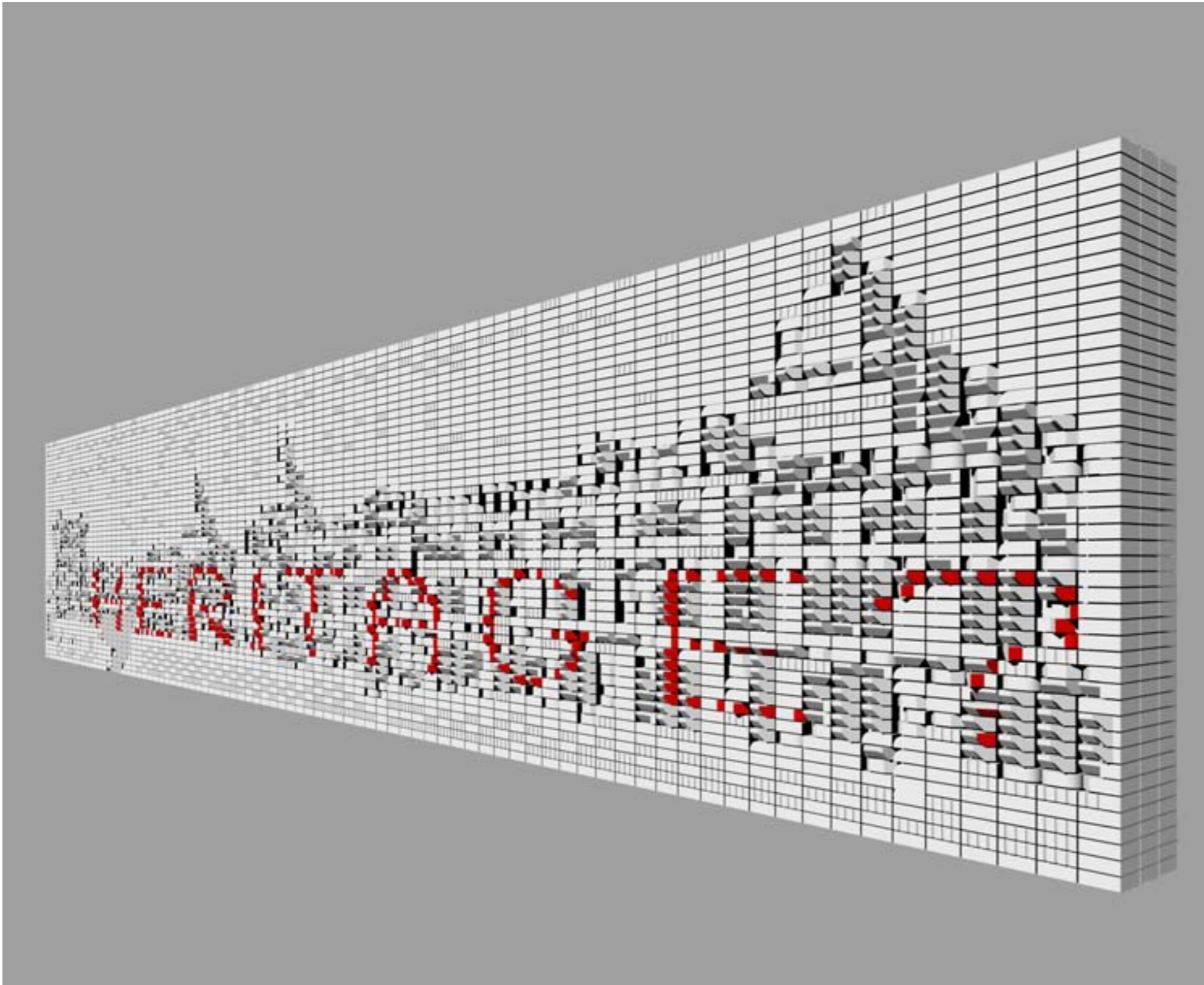
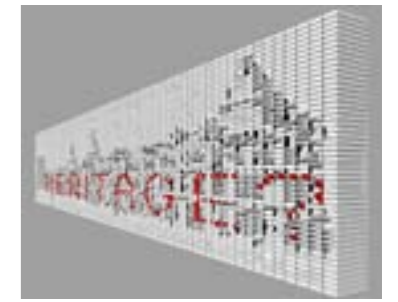
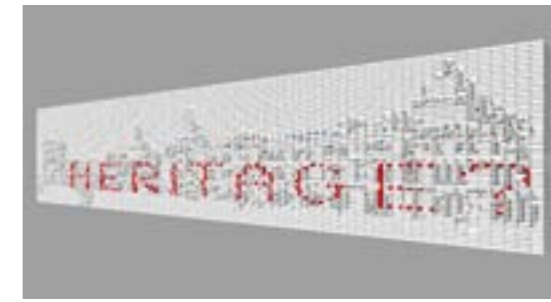
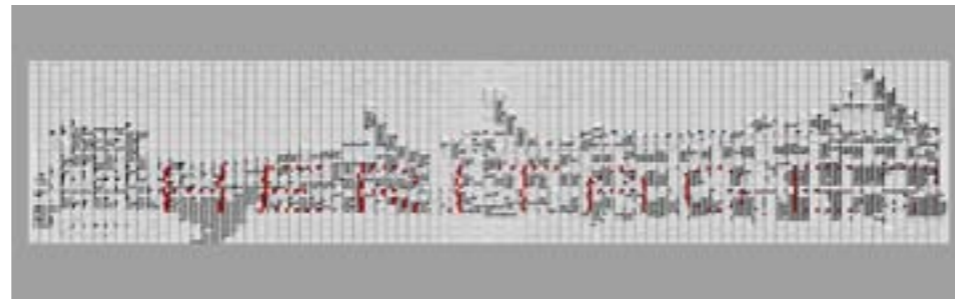
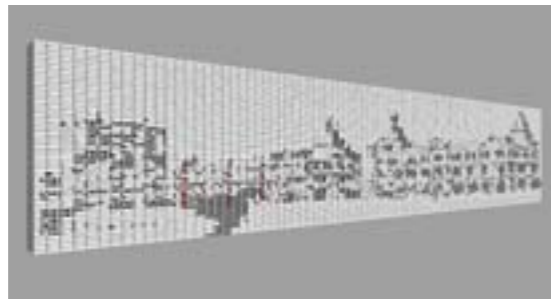
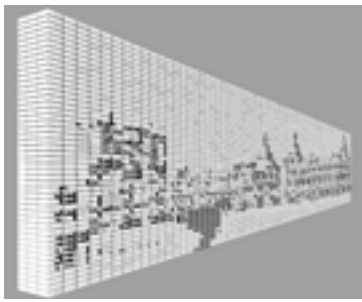
In acknowledgement of the site’s history, a range of standard brick shapes are assembled to form a pixelated representation of the former landmark.

*right: North-West view of the wall*

*below left: the design in context*

*below right: the former Melbourne Fish Markets*





A pedestrian, motorist or tram passenger traversing the site experiences the transition between the image of the markets and the other half of the wall's message; the word "Heritage?"

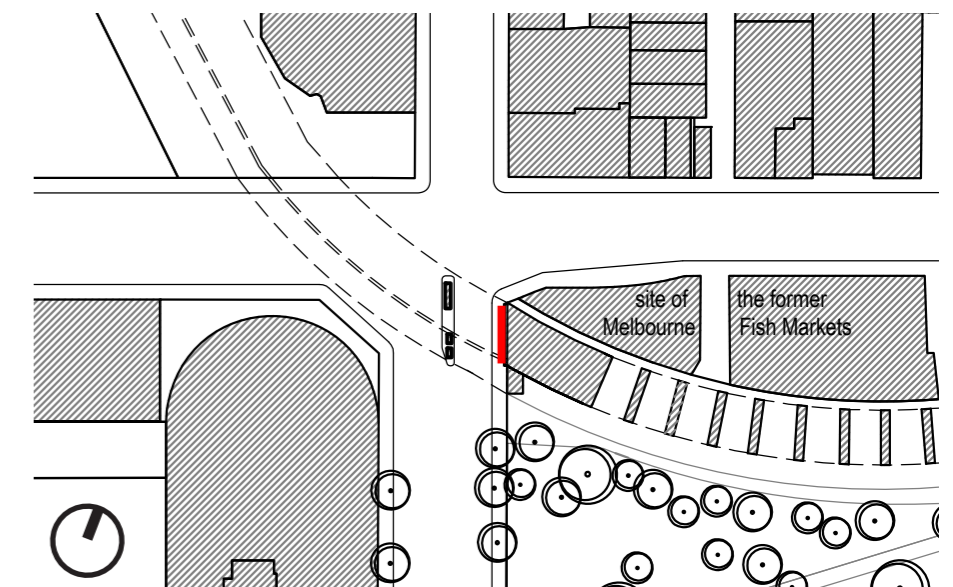
Attitudes have shifted towards the preservation of our built heritage. The National Trust of Victoria was founded in 1956 in direct response to the destruction rampant at the time. Furthermore, there are now few inner Melbourne areas to which a heritage overlay does not apply.

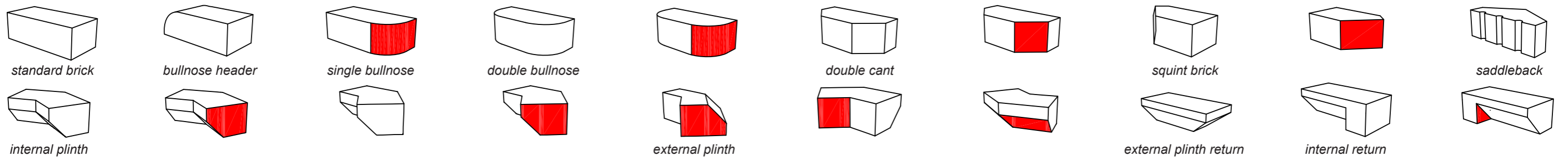
However, Melbourne still has some way to go, as statutory authorities do not always recognise the heritage value of buildings and urban art, particularly modern examples. Lack of public awareness often contributes to the ease with which a building can be silently expunged.

*above: transition between image and text*

*left: South-West view of the wall*

*below: location plan, 1:2500*





This urban element therefore seeks to inform and engage the passer-by. Gaps in the wall left over by the chamfered or rounded bricks that form the image of the markets are also peep-holes onto a photographic exhibition of local buildings that have either been demolished or risk demolition.

This cautionary pictorial tale urges the public to stand up against the repetition of past mistakes, in order to safeguard the future of our largely brick-based architectural heritage.

above: range of brick shapes used

right: the photographic collection (wall shown translucent for clarity)

below: photograph of the former Federal Coffee Palace seen through an aperture in the wall

