

Law School

Address University of Western Australia, Crawley

Practice R J Ferguson & Associates and Professor Gordon Stephenson

Designed 1965 Completed 1967

History & description The Law School was one of four buildings constructed immediately after Stephenson's appointment as Consultant Architect to the University. Each was by a different architect, and each demonstrated compatibility with the original character of the campus.

The Law School was 'modern' in that it was simple, straightforward and virtually timeless, yet it showed respect for traditional values and sensible methods of construction. The School deliberately sought sympathy with the elements and character of the Hackett Memorial Buildings. The School design had the deliberate intention to be free of passing fashions and achieve merit by contributing to the success of the total campus, which was to be developed as an ensemble of individual buildings and groups forming around a handsome series of spaces and gardens, for which the University has become renowned. This policy provided flexibility of uses and extension of character in an environment of accelerating change.

The School was constructed in two stages. As in a Renaissance palazzo, it is entered through a gated courtyard, a sanctuary from the campus beyond. Its vocabulary is cream 'off-form' concrete walls, projecting shading balconies and an easily worn, form defining terra cotta tiled roof.

The Law School was the recipient of the RIAA Bronze medal award in 1969

Statement of Significance The Law School was a trailblazer in re-establishing the original and esteemed character of the Hackett Memorial Buildings, in a modern vernacular style. The Law School became the exemplar of the Perth Regional Style in the 1960s and 1970s..

The Law School marked the rebirth of the University of Western Australia campus as it grew to become one of the finest university campuses in the country. The lessons from this period of the University's development established precedents for the Murdoch University campus and Curtin University of Technology Bentley campus.

The Law School established R J Ferguson as one of the important architectural practitioners in Western Australia during the latter third of the twentieth century. From 1985 onwards Ferguson was Consultant Architect to the University of Western Australia.

Criteria Applicable

1. Significant Heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design.
2. Significant Heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.
3. Significant Heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement.
4. Having significant monumental and symbolic heritage value to the development of architecture and the history of architecture.
5. Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history.

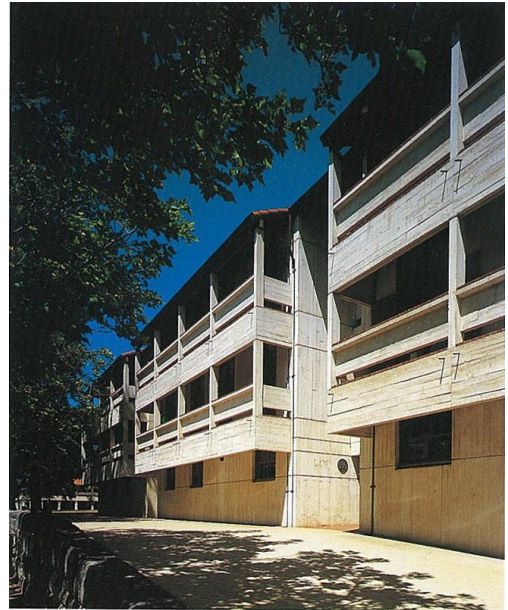
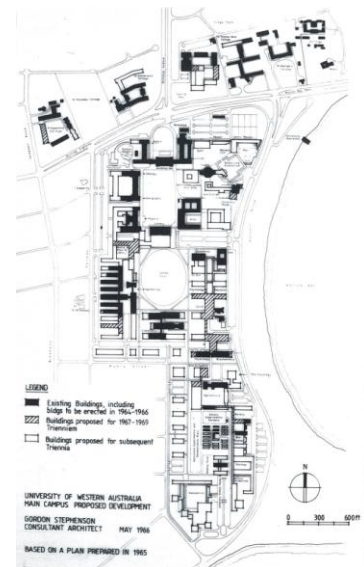


Photo: Patrick Bingham Hall



Professor Gordon Stephenson's UWA 1965 Plan



NearMap



Photo: Solomon Mitchell