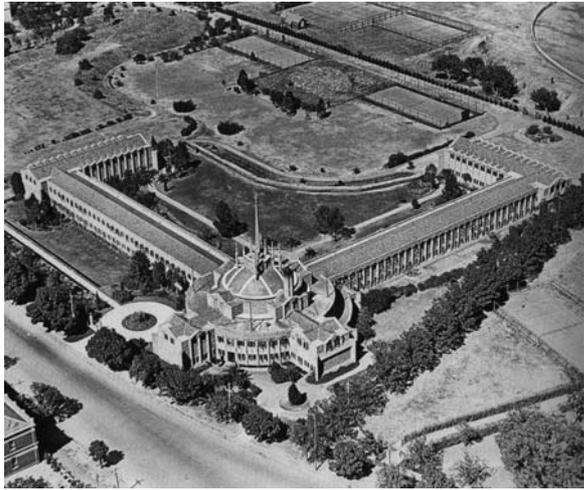


## Architectural Heritage: RAIA REPORT FORMAT

This report follows the UIA format with some additional fields and full details that will be referred to from UIA.

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State	ACT	VIC
Postcode	2604	3010
Date:	1 August 2000	
Latest Update:	25 September 2000	
Status:		
Project ID:	Newman College, Melbourne	
Image:		

### NEWMAN COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

**NOTE:**

This document presents details of heritage buildings developed for Internet searches. An indexing form on the internet allows the on-line submission of this information. This document is intended to let anyone who is willing to participate forward the RAIA information about buildings to be added to the system without using the Web.

**Importance of the criteria** column lets you to point at the particularly importance of one or several elements of description of the building. You can here indicate (decreasing order A,B,C,D,E, ie International, National, State, Regional, Local) whether an element of description appears to you as decisive in its selection for the index.

Name of the Criteria	Importance of the criteria	Your Building
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Name of the Criteria	Importance of the criteria	Your Building
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**TABLE n° 1 : DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING / SITE**

<b>MODULE 1 : IDENTITY OF THE BUILDING / SITE</b>		
Current name		Newman College
Previous or other name(s)		Roman Catholic College
Present owner		Roman Catholic Trusts Corporation
Status of the owner		
Materials and techniques		Reinforced concrete construction with dressed stone masonry finish externally, and hard plaster internally. The ribbed refectory dome was constructed of reinforced concrete and hollow terracotta blocks between two 'skins' for the domes segments between the exposed ribs. The dome exterior and floor surfaces were originally finished in terracotta tiles.
Description		Two 2 storeyed residential wings, extend at right angles from a central domed refectory. The access galleries of the residential wings terminated in a classroom and library block at the Southern end, and recreational facilities at the western end. Two spur wings project from the central domed building, a senior common room to the east and kitchens to the north.
Year of project design		July 1915
Year of beginning of construction		April 1916
Year of end of construction		March 1918
Initial Design (if differs from description)		The L-shaped element of residential wings and domed refectory was realised from a larger scheme. Two such L-shaped elements were envisioned to be symmetrically disposed about a central free-standing chapel building. The other domed structure was to be a college library. A free standing chapel was to be the centre for the whole composition, but fund raising was insufficient to construct the Archbishop Carr Memorial Chapel until the 1930's. In the initial construction the block at the western end of the L housed an indoor swimming pool and a billiard room, but study / bedrooms were built over the swimming pool in the 1960s. The block at the southern end of the L housed on the upper level a temporary chapel and a laboratory. A competition for the Chapel was conducted in May 1936, awarded to the resubmission of the original 1915 Griffin design, but the College Council chose a Gothic Revival design by competitot, WP Conolly, in association with Payne & Dale, architects, constructed 1938 – 1942. After the completion of the new chapel, the library was moved from the eastern spur wing to the spaces of the temporary chapel and the laboratory. The eastern spur wing

		became the senior common room, and the billiards room in the western block became the junior common room. The original matron's quarters and an infirmary in rooms around the dome at the upper level were vacated for rooms for Jesuit priests running the college.
Changes to initial changes		Since 1918 there have been several changes including copper sheet cladding over the terracotta tiles of the dome exterior, ca1935; sandstone replacement in sections with synthetic stone, new copper flashing details to walls and parapets, and the fleche and finials to the dome reconstructed in precast concrete ca1990.
Documentation and References		<p>Johnson, Donald Leslie <b><i>Australian Architecture 1901 – 1951 Sources of Modernism</i></b> Sydney University Press 1980.</p> <p>Johnson, Donald Leslie <b><i>The Architecture of Walter Burley Griffin</i></b> MacMillian Melbourne 1977. Pp 75–79</p> <p>Mahony, Marion and Walter Burley Griffin, Edited by Anne Watson <b><i>Beyond Architecture</i></b> Powerhouse Publishing Sydney 1998</p> <p>Turnbull, Jeff and Navaretti, Peter (Editors), <b><i>The Griffins in Australia and India</i></b>, Miegunyah Press, Melbourne, 1998. Pp52-60 and 122-6; (chapel) pp 127-8; (furniture) pp146-9; (landscape) pp135.</p>

<b>MODULE 2 : BUILDING / SITE LOCALISATION</b>		
Postal Address: street, n°		887 Swanston Street
Postal Address: town/suburb		Parkville
Postal Address: Postal code		3010
Urban centre/city		Melbourne
Local Government area		Melbourne City Council
Region (State)		Victoria
Country		Australia
Regional Context (eg Coastal, urban, rural)		Suburban Melbourne
Continent		Australia
Urban context (ex: Port, new town, etc...)		Part of a University Complex near Melbourne CBD

<b>MODULE 3 : AUTHORS</b>		
<b>Project Design:</b>		
Name, first name, (dates), job, country of origin	A	Griffin, Walter Burley, 1876-1937, was commissioned in July 1915 by the Executive Committee of the Provisional College Council for a new Roman Catholic College.
Information on the author / the team		Newman College was realised by the Office of Walter Burley Griffin, Architect and Landscape

		Architect of Sydney, Melbourne and Chicago. August Andrew Fritsch chosen by the Provisional College Council in July 1915 to be associated with Griffins' office, but he took on very few responsibilities. The principal architects involved in the project were Griffin, his wife Marion Mahony Griffin (see Marion Lucy Mahony) and Griffins' brother-in-law, Roy Alstan Lippincott. (Griffin b. Chicago, November 1876, d. February 1937. Marion Lucy Mahony b. February 1871, d August 1961, Chicago).
<b>Engineering:</b>		
Name, first name, (dates), job, country of origin		Walter Burley Griffin
Information on the author / the team		The engineering appears to have been carried out by Walter Burley Griffin, who had obtained his qualification in architecture in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Illinois, Champaign, USA, 1895 – 99
<b>Construction:</b>		
Name, first name, (dates), job, country of origin		Bart Moriarty
Information on the author / the team		Bart Moriarty, a Roman Catholic architect in Ballarat, pressured by the Coadjutor Archbishop Dr Daniel Mannix, agreed to construct the college, using sub-contractors.
<b>Contracting Authority:</b>		
Name, first name, (dates), job, country of origin		Executive Committee of the Provisional College Council for a new Roman Catholic College.
Information on the author / the team		The members of the College Requirements sub-committee of the above executive were Dr Daniel Mannix, William Bowditch (convenor), Dr Thomas Bride, Morgan Jageurs and Dr Leo Kenny.

<b>MODULE 4 : TYPOLOGY</b>		
Type (single building/complex)		Cloistered double-winged two storeyed university residential college forming an inner court.
Initial use		University, Residential College
Present use		Residential College
Planned use)		Residential College
Architectural Style	C	Chicago Influence

<b>MODULE 5 : EVALUATION (Analysis of significance)</b>		
<b>Background</b>		
		<p>The brief for the college was liberal, equitable and general in the accommodation required. The first sketch plans appeared in August 1915. The scheme responded imaginatively to the brief, providing a study plus bedroom suite for each student, standard</p> <p>furniture issue to each student and a circular non-hierarchal refectory, without a high table. A billiards room and a swimming pool for recreation were provided as well as a library, laboratories and classrooms.</p> <p>The major aims for the college design were for a modern expression and for well built sunlit and airy spaces. Griffin intended that some details such as the panels on the refectory dome would provide a reminiscence of the Gothic in Italy and Spain. The suites of rooms for each of the college men and the undifferentiated dining room space would provide for the freedoms of democratic life. (<i>J. Turnbull in Beyond Architecture p113</i>)</p>
<b>Technical</b>		
Comments	B	The reinforced concrete construction was a combination of Chicago practice and new French engineering ideas.
<b>Social</b>		
Comments	B	Griffin embodied Herbert Spencer's notions of community and free individual association in the program for Newman College. The refectory in the centre, the classroom and chapel block at one end, and the recreational block at the other end, were the communal nodes where individual student could be stimulated by intellectual camaraderie. The circular furniture of the refectory, and the standard furniture issue for each student's double-roomed unit expressed the Griffins' passions for democracy and equity. The provision of two rooms per student, a study and a bedroom, a study and a bedroom, accessed by stairways that connected four such double units on each of the two floors was the most recent trend in American residential college buildings. The cloistered galleries that connected the stairways was inspired by American residential architecture, as well as by European Gothic monasteries and Oriental temples.
<b>Aesthetic</b>		
Comments	A	Like Richardson and Sullivan before him, Griffin chose idea patterns and elements from many diverse sources for his imaginative architectural amalgamations. The expression of gravity and weight unified his designs. Smooth surfaced column elements emerge dynamically from a rough battered base, an organic metaphor for the new growing out of the old. Griffin felt that the relationship between the building and its landscape was Japanese in character. The dome was technology, modern yet Byzantine and Buddhist. Horizontality and weight

		were employed, contrasting with the vertical lightness of the domes fleches and finials.
<b>Contextual</b>		
Comments	A	Griffin was opening up the courtyard formed by the two residential wings toward the University's open sporting fields and building towers beyond. The street side to Swanston Street [formerly Madeleine Street in this part of Parkville] appears as a robust refuge from the profane world.
<b>Historical</b>		
Comments	A	Newman College included the latest planning structural and aesthetic ideas, yet Griffin associated the forms of its elements to ancient procedures. This eclectic practice was part of 19 <sup>th</sup> Century American Culture and Architectural theory. The Griffins worked in the Studio of Frank Lloyd Wright, Marion from 1895 – 1909, and Walter from 1901 – 1906, and together they helped create the Prairie School legend., Despite Wright's later claims, the Griffins did influence the characteristics of the Prairie School style. The design of Griffins' Newman College reflects the Griffin's enthusiasm for the architecture of HH Richardson and George Robinson Dean and the principles of Louis Sullivan, the Griffins' acknowledged mentor.
<b>Originality</b>		
Comments	B	The design of Newman College owed specifically very little to Wright's work. The Griffins created their own distinctive architecture. Newman College is a new and vital amalgam of ancient, medieval, Oriental, American and modern elements, in the context of the Prairie School of Chicago.

<b>AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE</b>		

**TABLE n° 2: STATE OF BUILDING / SITE**

<b>MODULE 1 : ANALYSIS OF CURRENT STATE</b>		
Building Condition		Reasonable
Evaluation of danger (decreasing order A,B,C,D,E)	A	Age
Nature of danger		
Comments		The building is well maintained.

<b>MODULE 2 : PROTECTION</b>		
Current Heritage Listing		Melbourne City Council, Heritage Register
Administrative level of protection (Statutory or Non-Statutory)		Statutory
Authority / Institution providing listing		Melbourne City Council
Registration Reference		---
Planned restoration		---
Current Heritage Listing		Classified in Community Register (National Trust)
Administrative level of protection (Statutory or Non-Statutory)		Non-Statutory
Authority / Institution providing listing		National Trust of Australia (VIC)
Registration Reference		---
Planned restoration		---
Current Heritage Listing		RAIA National Register of Twentieth Century Architecture
Administrative level of protection (Statutory or Non-Statutory)		Non-Statutory
Authority / Institution providing listing		Royal Australian Institute of Architects
Registration Reference		(TBA)
Planned restoration		---
Current Heritage Listing		Australian Government Heritage Register (Register of the National Estate)
Administrative level of protection (Statutory or Non-Statutory)		Statutory
Authority / Institution providing listing		Australian Heritage Commission
Registration Reference		Database Number: 004983 File Number: 2/11/033/0017
Planned restoration		---
Current Heritage Listing		Victorian State Government, Heritage Register
Administrative level of protection (Statutory or Non-Statutory)		Statutory
Authority / Institution providing listing		Victorian State Government
Registration Reference		---
Planned restoration		---

**TABLE n° 3 : CHARACTERISATION OF THE BUILDING / SITE  
 (Significance of the building under the Stated Criteria)**

<b>Categories of Criteria</b>		
<b>MODULE 1 : PERIOD OF DESIGN / CONSTRUCTION</b>		
Outstanding national importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design.	A	Newman College was contrary to modern architecture of its day.  Newman College has been an integral part of the University of Melbourne since it opened in 1918.
<b>MODULE 2 : FORMAL ARCHITECTURAL VALUE</b>		
Outstanding national importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.	A	The expression of mass unifies this design as it did for Griffins other work. Smooth surfaces emerge from rough bases creating an unusual and organic form. The relationship between the building and the landscape is evocative of Japanese character and reinforce an aesthetic appeal. The strong horizontal forms contrast with the vertical lightness of the dome fleche and finials. There is also a Renaissance character with the rusticated base and smooth stone above.
<b>MODULE 3 : RELATION TO THE LOCATION</b>		
Outstanding national importance in establishing a high degree of creative achievement.	A	The building on the garden side relates to its University surrounds and opens up the inner courts to the sports field beyond but on the street side of the building, it retains a strong presence as if acting on a barrier to Swanston Street and the outside world.
<b>MODULE 4 : MONUMENTAL OR SYMBOLICAL SIGNIFICANCE</b>		
Having outstanding monumental and symbolic importance to the development of architecture and the history of architecture.	A	The original plan is referred to as Palladian with two large rotunda with dining and library at the two ends, student rooms at 90° extend outwards from the rotundas and the chapel in the centre (Johnson 1977 p75). The building is successful from three distinct aspects – materials, light and spaces.
<b>MODULE 5 : ATYPICITY</b>		
Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of outstanding importance to our history.	B	Walter Burley Griffin is an architect of world renown with outstanding works in USA, Australia and India. As winner of the International competition to design Canberra he is of international fame. Newman College represents one of his finest buildings in Australia and the world with strong sculptural form, concrete construction with a rustication contrasting with smooth stone finish and symbolic details.
<b>MODULE 6 : CONSTRUCTION / STRUCTURE</b>		
Outstanding national importance in demonstrating a high degree of technical achievement of a particular period.	B	The reinforced concrete dome was one of the earliest and largest domes at the time and the only one of its type ever built.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- A Newman College is one of the best examples of the Architecture of Walter Burley Griffin in Australia. Griffin is an architect of world renown with outstanding examples of planning (eg Canberra) and architecture in three continents.

The college has a strong and evocative form, which opens up to the University sports ovals but is shielded from the outside environment of the street.

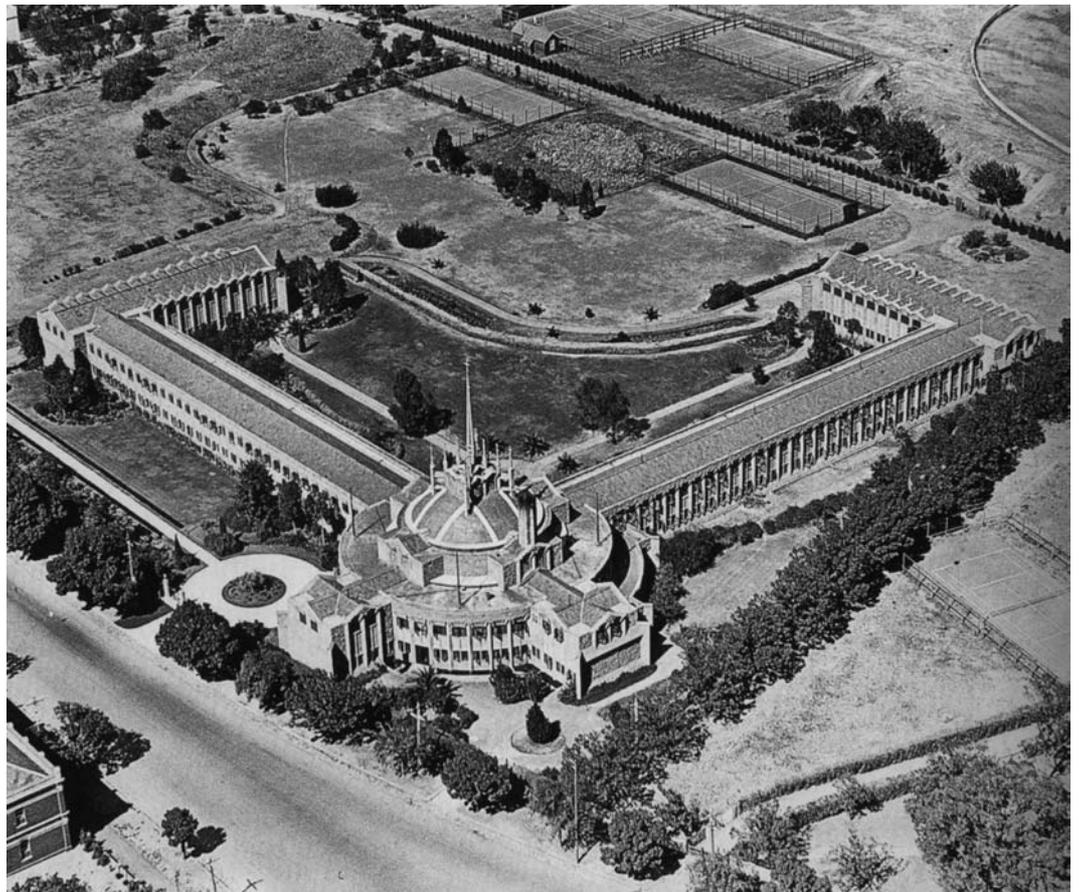
It has innovative use of stone finish to a concrete construction. The structural form of the reinforced concrete dome was one of the earliest and largest domes at the time and the only dome of its type ever built.

The creative use of a rough stone base and smooth masses above in long pavilions blend organically and harmoniously to an unusual extent with the park landscape. The building has a strong geometric sculptural form.

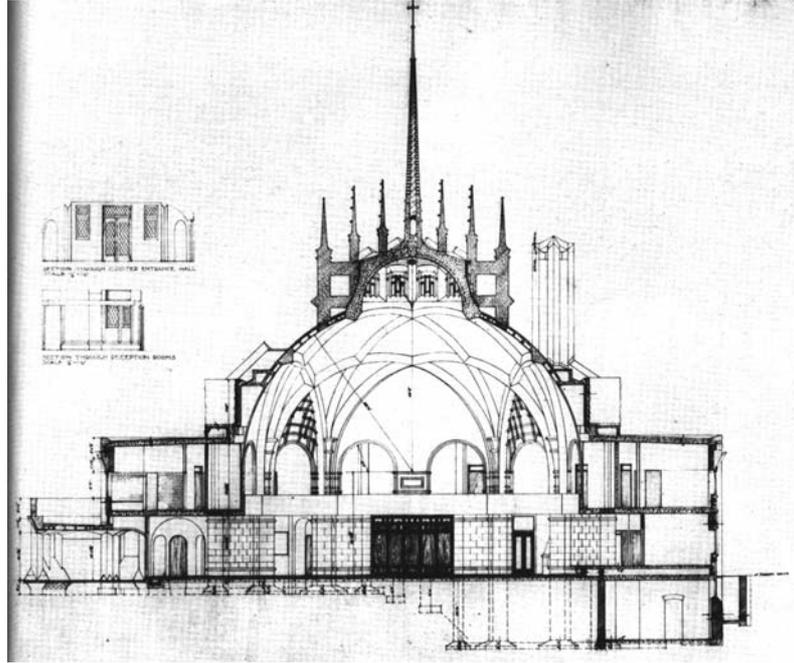
The overall design of Newman College is a quality design of outstanding merit and beauty.

### IMAGE and PLAN

Image:

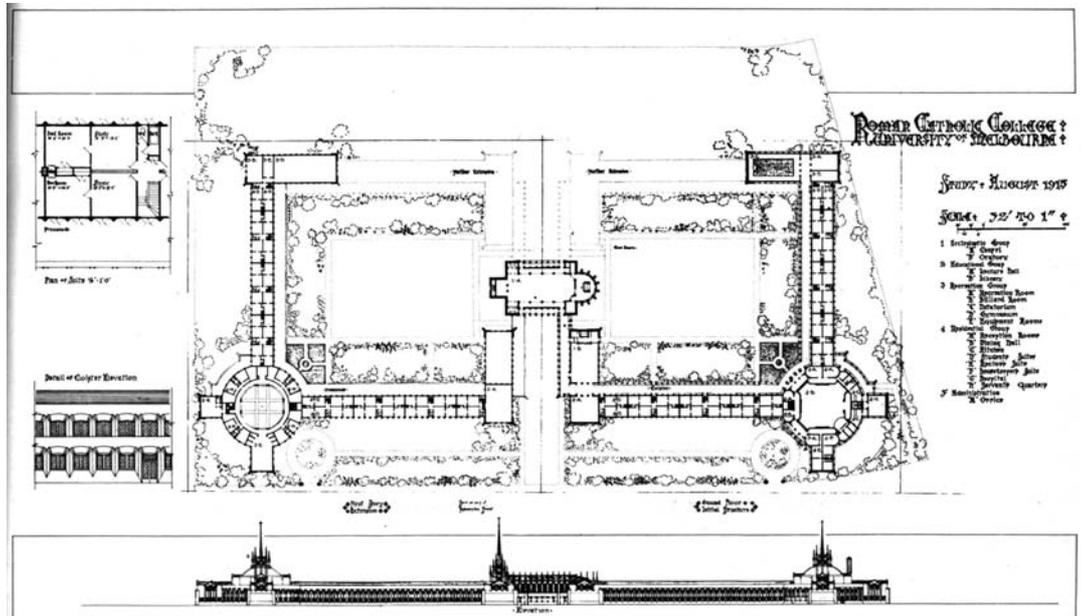


Newman College, Melbourne  
from *Beyond Architecture: Marion Mahony and Walter Burley Griffin* 1998  
Powerhouse Publishing Page 102



Newman College, Melbourne  
from *The Architecture of Walter Burley Griffin* 1977  
The MacMillian Company of Australia Pty Ltd, Page 77

Plan



Plan of Newman College, Melbourne  
from *The Architecture of Walter Burley Griffin* 1977  
The MacMillian Company of Australia Pty Ltd, Page 75