

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R055H

Name of Place: ANZAC Memorial Chapel of St Paul

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: Robert Campbell Road DUNTROON ACT 2600

Block Section of

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	RNE
Date of Listing:		Level of Significance:	Territory
Citation Revision No:	3	Category:	Religious
Citation Revision Date:	November 03	Style:	Ecclesiastical

Date of Design:	1964	Designer:	Fowell Mansfield & Maclurcan
Construction Period:	1965-66	Client/Owner/Lessee:	RMC
Date of Additions:	1986	Builder:	Royal Australian Engineers

Statement of Significance

The ANZAC Memorial Chapel of St Paul is the symbolic focus of the Christian ministry to the Australian Defence Force and is important for its associations with the development of the Royal Military College.

It is architecturally significant for the high quality of its design and as a good example of the Late Twentieth-Century Ecclesiastical style. Key features of the style displayed by the building include: a radical plan shape; unbroken straight lines emphasising verticality; the tall narthex and spire reminiscent of a tower; glazing with vertically- proportioned panes; clerestory windows; and plain wall surfaces.

The ANZAC Memorial Chapel of St Paul displays a rare approach to the divisions which exist in the Christian religion in Australia. Within the one building are two chapels, one for the Catholic faith and one for the Anglican and other Protestant denominations. Single-denomination churches are common and there are some examples of non-denominational chapels, but this chapel provides a third type of approach which is rare in Australia.

Description

This Late Twentieth-Century Ecclesiastical style chapel is a steel portal framed brick building with a copper and tiled roof, and features extensive use of timberwork. The Chapel has two chapels within it, for Catholic and Anglican and other Protestant denominations services. It is entered from a central, tower-like hexagonal narthex which has clerestory lighting and is crowned by a slender spire and cross. There is a cloisters-like courtyard at the rear of the building. The bagged and white-painted brick walls of the long horizontal chapels are articulated by regular vertical fenestration and contrast with the glazed narthex.

The Anglican/Protestant chapel seats 550 and includes a side chapel. The Catholic chapel seats 350. The basic features of the interiors of the two chapels are the same and include white-painted rendered walls, timber ceilings, parquet floors, clerestory lighting and timber pews. Each nave has gallery seating and a pipe organ. The crucifix for the Catholic nave is the work of the prominent sculptor Tom Bass. The Stations of the Cross were carved in lindenwood in Italy by Giuseppe Runggaldier. The ANZAC Memorial Chapel features carved-timber regimental badges mounted on the pews, coats of arms and badges displayed in the narthex, and a number of sets of colours, including flags of the RMC, are laid up in the narthex. The rear wings contain offices for

the chaplains. In 1986 a meeting room was added to the building in a manner sympathetic with its design.

Key features of the Late Twentieth-Century Ecclesiastical style displayed by the building include: a radical plan shape; unbroken straight lines emphasising verticality; the tall narthex and spire reminiscent of a tower; glazing with vertical proportions; clerestory windows; and plain wall surfaces.¹ The ANZAC Memorial Chapel sits in an attractive parkland setting of lawn and trees within the Royal Military College campus at Duntroon.

Condition and Integrity

The ANZAC Memorial Chapel is in good condition and is highly intact. A meeting room was added to the building in 1986.

Background/History

See General Background to Royal Military College Precinct. Church services have been conducted at the Royal Military College since its establishment. In the early years services were held in temporary places of worship such as classrooms. In 1958 the then Commandant decided on the need for permanent chapels and established a committee for this purpose. The architectural firm of Fowell, Mansfield, Jarvis and Maclurcan was invited to provide sketch plans. In 1963 a national appeal was established to raise funds for the chapels. The appeal raised funds from private sources, the churches and the Commonwealth Government. Detailed plans were prepared by the architects in 1964 and construction began in 1965. The Royal Australian Engineers undertook the works and the building was completed in 1966. The ANZAC Memorial Chapel is the first Australian Army chapel to contain two naves for separate worship and is considered the focus of the Christian ministry to the Australian Defence Force.²

Analysis against the Criteria specified in Schedule 2 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991

(i) a place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure or representing a new achievement of its time

(ii) a place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group

(iii) a place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger or being lost, or is of exceptional interest

(iv) a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations

(v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type

(vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class

(vii) a place which has strong or special associations with person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history

(xi) a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site

References

1. Richard Apperly, Robert Irving, Peter Reynolds. *Identifying Australian Architecture - Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*. Angus and Robertson, 1989.
 2. *Royal Military College ANZAC Memorial Chapel*. Brochure.1987.
 3. Alan J. Mortlock & Bernice Anderson. *Undiscovered Canberra*. ANU Press,1978.
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Other Information Sources