

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R056

Name of Place: RG Menzies Building

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: Australian National University,
Block Section of

Listing Status:	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	Level of Significance:	Regional
Citation Revision No:	Category:	Educational
Citation Revision Date:	Style:	Late Modern

Date of Design:	Designer:	J Scarborough & Partners in association with Collard Clarke & Jackson
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Construction Period:	1961-66	Client/Owner/Lessee:
Date of Additions:		Builder:

Statement of Significance

The building is the main University Library. A strong architectural composition with functional zones clearly distinguished in the massing and elevations of the building by a change of materials. The distinctive elevation incorporating sculptures, metal panels by Lyndon Dadswell, is a good example of artwork integrated into the design of the building. The building is significantly sited in informally landscaped parkland.

Description

The building occupies a prominent, central position on the ANU campus. It has two major architectural elements; a lower ground and ground floor levels of robust concrete and masonry battered walls with horizontal rustication; a barrel and groin vaulted single level with glazed infill walls - this zone accommodates entry, serials, catalogue, reference, reading rooms and have book collection. The other element is a 3-storey block with a contrasting polished stone facing containing book stacks.

Condition and Integrity

Good.

Background/History

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

Other Information Sources