

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R057

Name of Place: Research School of Biological Sciences

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: Australian National University, Sullivans Creek Road ACTON 2601
Block 1 Section 39 of Acton (1)

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	1984	Level of Significance:	Local
Citation Revision No:	1	Category:	Educational
Citation Revision Date:	1991	Style:	International

Date of Design:		Designer:	Hely and Horne
Construction Period:	1970-72	Client/Owner/Lessee:	
Date of Additions:	1992	Builder:	

Statement of Significance

A strong, confident architectural composition with well proportioned elements, restrained detailing and limited range of materials - brick, concrete and glass - which are followed through to the interior spaces. The central atrium space, rising through the full height of the building, provides a generous arrival point, a clear statement of the circulation system, and a well lit, inviting and pleasant space for occupants.

Description

A three storey building constructed of red brick and in-situ concrete consisting of a central entry and vertical circulation space; unequal side wings with a strong horizontal banded composition of continuous glazing, brick (ground floor) and concrete (upper floors) spandrels and fascias. The generous internal atrium space contains common room facilities at ground level; stepped ramps to upper levels with bridge connections to wings containing laboratories and offices with saw tooth south light roof glazing over the whole area. Foundation stone laid by Rt. Hon. Nigel Bowen, Minister for Education and Science, 14 November 1970; and opened by the Governor General Sir Paul Hasluck, 10 November 1977.

Condition and Integrity

Good. The Robertson Lecture Theatre built in 1992 is well integrated with the building.

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