

# University of Technology Sydney Kuring-gai Campus (former William Balmain Teacher's College & then Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education)

Address 100 Eton Road, Lindfield, NSW, 2070

Practice NSW Government Architects Branch

Designed 1967 (Stage 1-1968, Stage 2-1972, Stage 3-1974, Stage 4-1977, Stage 5-1984, Stage 6-1985) Completed 1985

## History & Description

UTS Kuring-gai Campus, surrounded to the south, east & west by the Lane Cove National Park, consists of 46 acres of native bushland with sandstone outcropping steeply contoured down to the Lane Cove River to the southwest. The design integrated the strong built form with the natural landscape stepping down five levels with departments housed on individual levels. Stage 2 included the addition of the main entry; assembly hall; student's union; extra staff & administration offices & lecture spaces. Set out along a central circulation spine to form a community of close connections between teachers & students, the college was all contained within the one building with natural light introduced through highlights & light shafts. The design took advantage of its elevated site with views & vistas over the national park & beyond, including from roof terraces. Sports facilities are located to the north on higher ground & car parks respect the topography of the site with a dense surrounding of trees. The first intake of students was in 1971.

Designed by the NSW Government Architects Branch (the four Government Architects during the period were Edward Herbert Farmer, Geoffrey Phillip Webber, Charles Percy Weatherburn & John Whyte and Thomson) the site was planned by Allan Correy, the project architect was David Turner & the landscape architect was Bruce Mackenzie. The building is visually strong, dramatic & heavily articulated in both internal & external form constructed in off-form insitu-concrete. Its interaction with the natural landscape surrounds is well detailed. The location of trees influenced the layout while modifications were made to allow for rock outcrops, such as the curved library ramp.

Turner came from England; influenced by late 1950s & 1960s British architecture of off-form insitu-concrete & rough brickwork. This aesthetic was in turn influenced by the architecture of Le Corbusier & Alvar Aalto in Europe. The design may also have been influenced Scarborough College, University of Toronto, Canada, 1964-66 by the notable Australian architect John Andrews which was set on a wooded raised site & planned with internal circulation at varying levels in a robust off-form concrete aesthetic. The Kuring-gai CAE was awarded The Sulman Award in 1978.

## Statement of Significance

The University of Technology Sydney Kuring-gai Campus is a significant example of modern architecture with planning of strong shapes, boldly composed & expressed in off-form insitu-concrete integrated into the natural landscape. This is combined with landscaped terraces & repetitive vertical fins & long horizontal hoods for sun shading. The natural bushland setting is distinctive of the architectural philosophy at the time in Sydney & is an approach that was innovative at that time in Australia.

## Criteria Applicable

**N1.** Significant heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design  
**N2.** Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics



View from the south C1974.  
Source: Max Dupain



Interior double height circulation space. Source: Max Dupain



Bolt forms expressed in off-form insitu concrete.  
Source: Max Dupain