

ANU School of Music (Canberra School of Music)

Address

Childers Street, Canberra City, ACT,
2601

Practice

Daryl Jackson Evan Walker Architects
Pty Ltd (Canberra School of Art)

Designed

1974 Completed 1976

**History &
Description**

The ANU School of Music, located adjacent to the ANU campus & Civic, was designed to be viewed from all sides. Originally planned as the Canberra School of Music & to house a 1500 seat concert hall, Llewellyn Hall, it is a bold sculptural composition which uses contrasting cubic & curved forms to create a play of light & shade across its surfaces. The building, constructed in off-form reinforced concrete with some concrete blockwork infill, is raised on a podium & entered either via a ramp from the south or internal & external stairs from the north. The cubic form of the central hall is surrounded by circulation spaces & is separated from the music teaching rooms & offices, all to achieve acoustic isolation from exterior traffic noise. The logic of the building can be seen internally in the pulling apart & the freeing of the hall structure, introducing light from above to create high-lit surfaces & deep shadows below. Extensive areas of glazing are shaded by the cantilver of the top storey. The foyer spaces, to the west, are behind a wall of glass allowing views towards the ANU campus from within & views of patrons at night from outside. Llewellyn Hall was refurbished in 2008.

The ANU School of Music is considered by the profession to be an important building in Jackson's career. Jackson was awarded the RAIAGold Medal in 1987.

**Statement of
Significance**

The ANU School of Music is a significant example of a building designed in the combined Late Twentieth-Century Brutalist & Late Twentieth-Century International styles of architecture by one of Australia's notable architects. The open setting is distinctive of the planning intentions at the time in Canberra. The setting & the architecture combine to produce a building of integrity, illustrative of modern architecture. It demonstrates a theme of modern architecture with planning of strong shapes, boldly composed & expressed in off-form concrete. This is combined with cantilevering forms & extensive glazing. This approach was innovative at that time in Australia

**Criteria
Applicable**

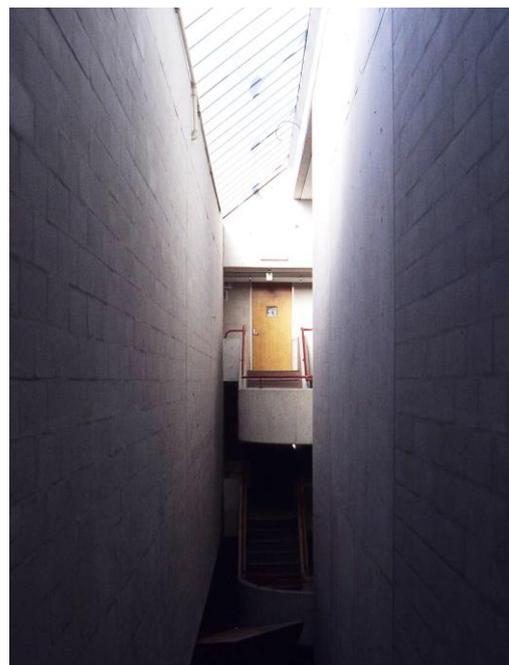
N1. Significant heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design.
N3. Significant heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement.



School of Music with Norma Redpath's sculpture *Extended Column* in the foreground (Photo: Graeme Trickett c.2010)



School of Music (Photo: Graeme Trickett c.2010)



Interior circulation within separation space of theatre from adjoining rooms (Photo: Graeme Trickett c.2002)