

Melbourne Exhibition Centre

Address Clarendon Street, South Melbourne 3205

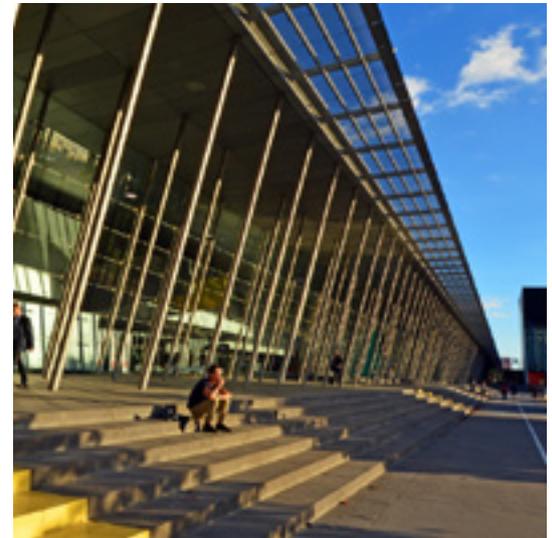
Practice Denton Corker Marshall

Designed 1993 **Completed** 1996

History & Description Built over and around the fragmentary beginnings of the new Museum of Victoria before its move to the Carlton Gardens, the collage-like array of forms, fins and planes of the Clarendon Street end of the Melbourne Exhibition Centre cleverly cloaks its unwanted skeleton. Colloquially known as 'Jeff's Shed', this sculptural (and internally chromatic) excitement is where the major lobby entry, auditorium and administration spaces are located.

The rest of the long, linear structure comprises a 30,000m² exhibition building containing a series of all-purpose large-span spaces gained by a clear structural system of giant curved steel girder trusses. With a cross-section that resembles a modern airport, parking underneath and multiple entry points along a linear circulation spine, the centre has Melbourne's Yarra River as its giant urban tarmac.

Facing the river is a very long public glazed concourse and a virtual forest of angled steel 'stick' columns. It is Melbourne's biggest urban verandah. (extract from Philip Goad, *Melbourne Architecture*, p229.

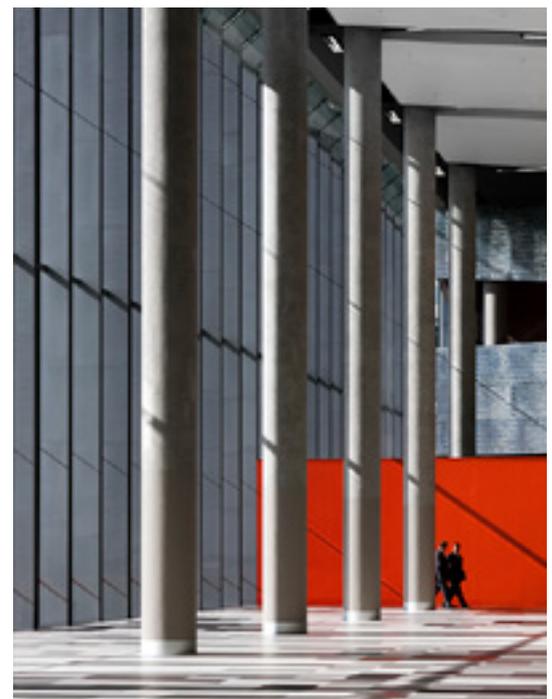


Exterior walkway and verandah, buildaustralia.com.au

Statement of Significance The Melbourne Exhibition Centre sits in the midst of a body of work by DCM that demonstrates an assured use of dynamic structural solutions to create an architecture that is both monumental and human in scale. Although the individual elements of angled blades, stick columns, cathedral scaled spaces and colour articulating form are motifs that are explored and reimagined in other works, the singularity of the hovering aerodynamic roof above what is essentially a large shed demonstrates that point where simply building has become poetry. The Melbourne Exhibition Centre was awarded the: 1996 RAIA National Sir Zelman Cowen Award for Public Buildings, 1996 RAIA Victorian Chapter – Sir Osborne McCutcheon Award for Commercial Architecture.

Level Local/ State/ National

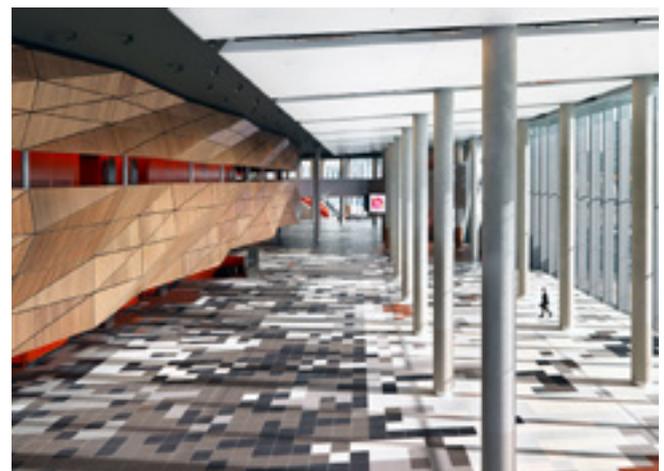
Criteria Applicable
 S2 Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.
 S3 Significant heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement.
 S6 Significant heritage value in demonstrating a high degree of technical achievement of a particular period.



Detail of the interior of the foyer, georgeapostolidis.com



Exterior walkway and canopy, brillianttouch.com.au



Interior of the Foyer, georgeapostolidis.com