

Brambuk Cultural Centre

Address 277 Grampians Road, Halls Gap 3381

Practice Gregory Burgess Pty Ltd

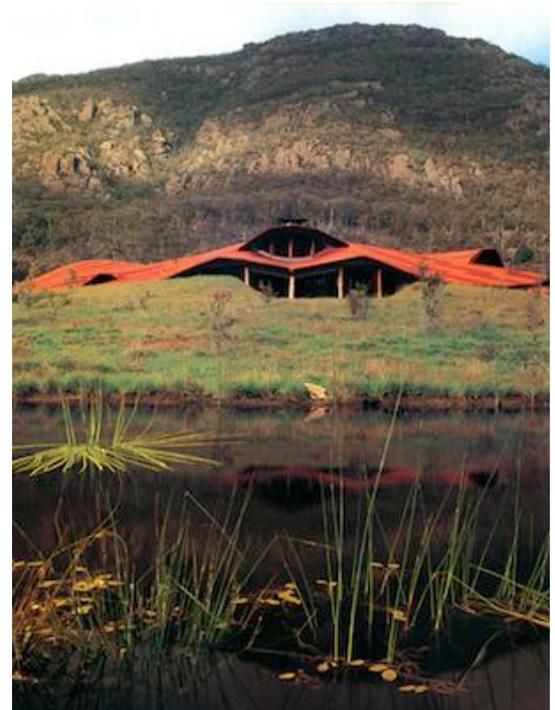
Designed 1988

Completed 1989

History & Description The Brambuk Cultural Centre was conceived as an information and interpretation centre for the Grampians National Park with a special emphasis on the aboriginal culture of the local area.

Kim Dovey in *Architecture Australia* discussed the source of the design: "The design has sources in both the traditional Aboriginal shelter (stone circles of the western district) and in Aboriginal art. The plan is formed out of five rough circles which represent the five Koori community groups which constitute the client, but the internal divisions are functional and not social. The work is strongly archetypal, with the plan centered on a large hearth in the foyer, a kind of axis mundi. A helical pathway leads to a workshop and restaurant with eye-shaped windows framing glimpses of the mountains as one rises... The plan is strongly oriented to two outdoor spaces which it embraces; an entry courtyard and a meeting area with fire pit."

The building can be seen in many ways. The undulating two toned corrugated steel roof as the wings of a bird or the reflection of the mountains nearby. It has also been suggested that the roofline simulates a currawong in full flight, with the apex window at the front being its beak. The curving ramp through the central interior represents eels which were once a staple food for the Koori communities in the region.



The mountains reflected in the roof shapes John Gollings

Brambuk is an important example of the work of the distinguished architect Greg Burgess who was awarded the RAI A Gold medal in 2004.

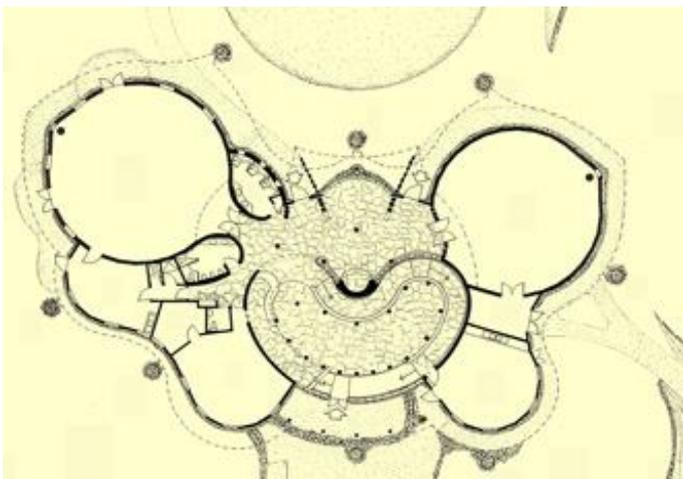
Statement of Significance The Brambuk Cultural Centre is an important and a rare example of fluid organic architecture in the manner of the american architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Bruce Goff but rendered in a totally rustic style. It was recognised for its design excellence by winning the RAI A National Award for Public Buildings in 1990.

The complex demonstrates many outstanding original design qualities. These qualities include the curved free form shapes, the use of stone, timber and corrugated steel and their relationship to Aboriginal notions of shelter.

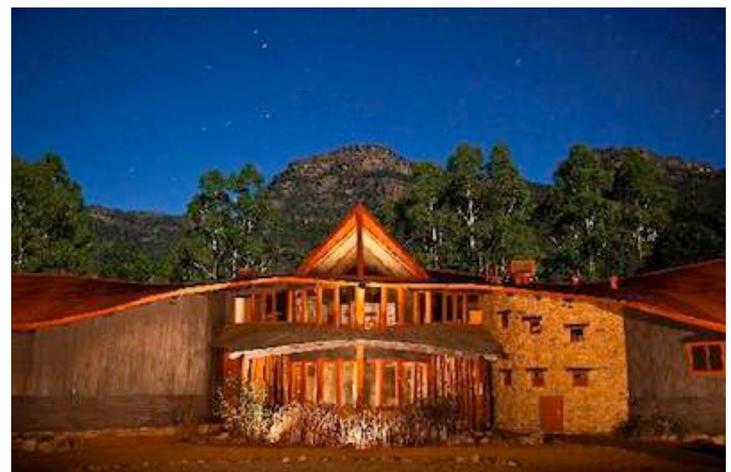


Photo by Robert Hutchinson 2008 [flickr]

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.
N3 - Significant heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement.



Architect's drawing showing organic spatial layout



Rear Elevation, photo by Brambuk CC