

Storey Hall, RMIT University

Address 344-346 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000
 Practice Ashton Raggatt McDougall & Allom Lovell in assoc.
 Designed 1992 Completed 1995

History & Description RMIT's brief for Storey Hall called for the creation of an international standard exhibition and auditorium facility: one which could make a significant contribution to architectural theory and practice, and to the present and future identity of RMIT, its technological importance and leadership potential in Australia and the Asian Pacific region.

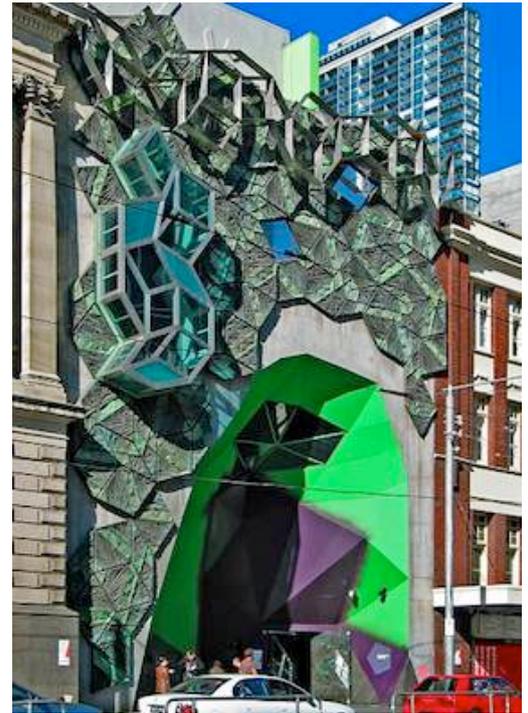
The complex includes two multi-purpose theatres: the basement lecture theatre in the annex, and the 750 seat auditorium in the existing building, with a proscenium arch stage, flat main floor and tiered seating on the balcony. Both theatres are designed to cater for very different functions ranging from conferences and one-off guest lectures to events such as rock bands and dinner dances, while still accommodating general lectures for academic courses. Additionally the original 1887 building accommodates a world-class exhibition space and art gallery, foyers and seminar rooms and cafe. The new annex building adjoining provides foyers and circulation space, services, kitchen and conference rooms on the top floor.

Goad describes the building as 'a tour-de-force of cerebral architecture and formal virtuosity'. Subliminal references abound. Green being the dominant colour refers to the Hibernian Catholic community that built the original 1887 hall. Devotional fragments of much loved Melbourne monuments are scattered throughout the building. Roger Penrose's deliberations on the pentagon are given free expressionistic range on the auditorium's ceiling.

Statement of Significance Storey Hall represents a remarkable accomplishment in the architecture of embodied meaning. In 1996 it won the RAIA (Vic Chapter) Victorian Architecture Medal and RAIA National Award for Interiors.

Storey Hall is arguably both the most recognised and important example of the noted practice of Ashton Raggatt McDougall. This still remains their signature building, the one everyone remembers them by. Subsequent major commissions have included the National Museum, Canberra, the Melbourne Recital Hall and alterations to the Shrine undercroft.

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.
 N5 - Having a significant association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history.



Annex building



Foyer area



Main auditorium



Swanston Street facade