

ANZAC Memorial

Address

Hyde Park, Sydney, NSW, 2000

PracticeCharles Bruce Dellit
Sculptures by Raynor Hoff**Designed**

1932

Completed

1934

**History &
Description**

The Returned Services League of Australia planned a major memorial to the forces that fought in the Great War. In 1918 & in 1929 they held an architectural competition in which 117 entries were received. Bruce Dellit's winning entry stated that it was designed around the inspiration of Endurance, Courage & Sacrifice. The Anzac Memorial & the Pool of Reflection to its north form the focal point for Hyde Park South. The Memorial was designed as a sculptural monument being symmetrical on both axes with stepped massing clad in Bathurst granite. It incorporates traditional elements (buttresses, tall windows, high ceilings), but interprets them in an Art Deco style. Grand external staircases lead to the podium level and extend on the north & south sides of the building.

The memorial is adorned externally with many sculptures representing the various Australian armed forces & support units, the four large standing figures at the top of each corner of the building representing the Infantry, Navy, Air Force & Army Medical Corps. The Hall of Memory is located in the centre of the building & is circular in plan. The sculpture 'Sacrifice' in the Hall of Silence is visible in a well as if to hold the sculpture in its embrace. The floors at both levels are Ulum white marble. In the Hall of Silence, the marble is inlaid with a bronze flame that flares out from the centrally located sculpture. The ceiling of the Hall of Silence curves up toward the carved marble banister that defines the 'Well of Contemplation', a large circular opening in the centre of the shallow domed space. Located in the four 'corners' of the Hall of Memories are semi-circular 'Niches of Remembrance', each devoted to one of the major theatres of World War I in which Australians fought. It was designed with offices & clinics within the memorial structure to service the health, well-being & shared comradeship of returned services personnel, making it a living memorial. The sculptures are by Rayner Hoff.

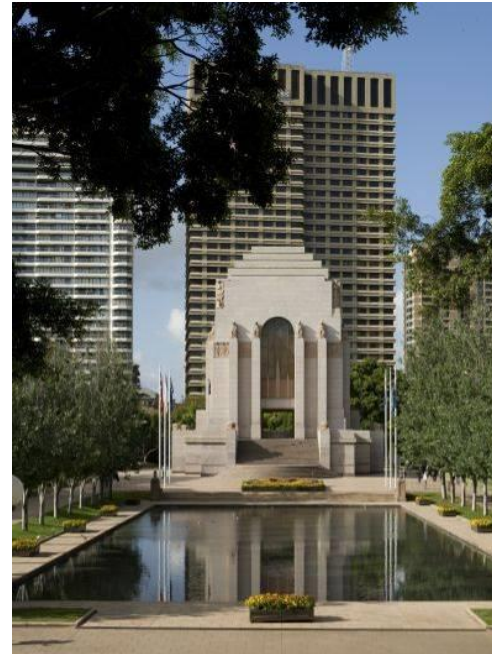
Dellit with a small number of colleagues pioneered the Art Deco style in Australia inspired by American skyscrapers & new technology, new materials combined with new uses for traditional materials. This is his most notable work.

**Statement of
Significance**

The ANZAC Memorial is an outstanding creative collaboration in the Art Deco style between architect Bruce Dellit & sculptor Rayner Hoff. Dellit was amongst a group of Sydney architects who pioneered the Art Deco style in Australia. It contains complex symbolic embellishments that reinforce & enhance the commemorative meanings of the building & is one of Australia's finest monument structures. Its landscape context in Hyde Park was purposefully designed by Dellit including the large Pool of Reflection lined by poplars. Dellit was amongst a group of architects who pioneered the Art Deco style in Australia & this is his finest work.

**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 special association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history



View from the north
(Source: NSW Government Architect's Office)



Hall of Remembrance
(Source: NSW Government Architect's Office)