

Gledden Building

Address 723 Hay Street, Perth
Practice Harold Boas of Oldham Boas Ednie-Brown
Designed 1935 Completed 1938

History & Description *Gledden Building* was built for Robert Gledden, mining surveyor, property entrepreneur and philanthropist, who endowed the University of Western Australia with the Gledden Bequest. Harold Boas, a partner in the architectural practice of Oldham Boas Ednie- Brown, designed it. Amongst the artists who provided work for *Gledden Building* are George Pitt Morison (Gallery Curator), James Linton (Art Teacher), and George Benson, Clem Kennedy, and William Bennett (architect) together with Max Ebert (Herbert McClintock, artist) who were responsible for painting the friezes throughout the building.

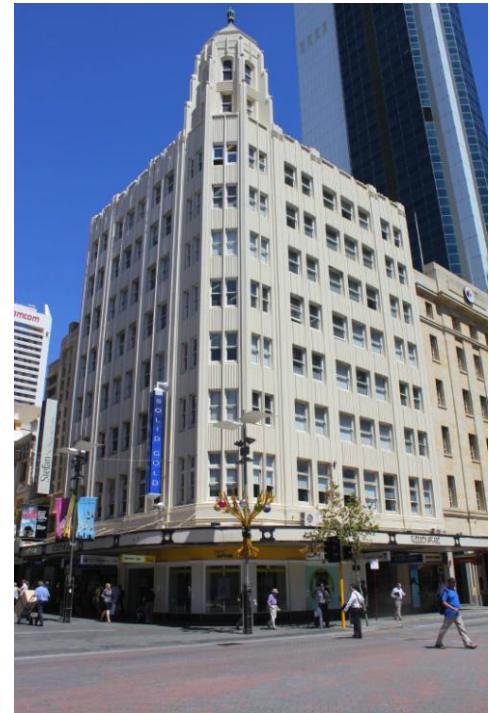
Gledden Building is an Inter-War Art Deco high-rise office building, and is unique in Perth. The articulated structural elements extruding upwards without interruption to the parapet, and the tower buttresses terminating in stylised design motifs, emphasise the verticality of the building. It is a consistent, cohesive and has a comprehensive range of Art Deco details. The integration of art and architecture demonstrates the contemporary appreciation of the civic value of public art. The artworks represent a unique example of Western Australian themes. In particular the depiction of aboriginals, their environment, myths and cultural beliefs in symbolic manner was, at the time, both innovative and challenging for the Perth community. The building was designed to be a landmark, and maintains its strong presence in the vistas along Hay and William Streets. It is the tallest building in the Hay Street retail precinct.

Statement of Significance *Gledden Building* is the only high-rise Inter-War Art Deco office building in Perth and is a rare and innovative combination of multiple functions within a city building, including basement restaurant, two level shopping arcade, and office accommodation and roof top lookout.

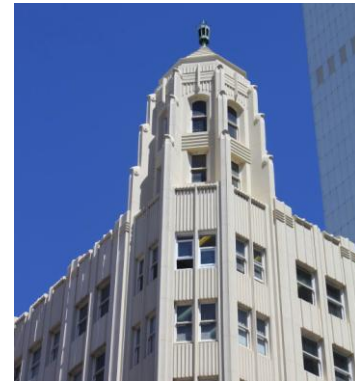
It is an exceptional example of the integration of art and architecture, and demonstrates a contemporary concern for the civic value of public art.

It is part of an important landmark group of buildings in the Inter-War Functionalist and Art Deco styles comprising *Devon House*, *Gledden Buildings* and *P&O Building* (fmr).

Criteria Applicable Insert Criteria (e.g. N1)



Philip Griffiths Architects 2010



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