

# Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

**RSTCA No:** R028

**Name of Place:** Canberra Olympic Pool

**Other/Former Names:**

**Address/Location:** Allara Street CANBERRA CITY 2601

Block 1 Section 37 of City

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Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	May 1984	Level of Significance:	Regional
Citation Revision No:	6	Category:	Social/ Recreational
Citation Revision Date:	May 1985	Style:	Modern

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Date of Design:	1953/54	Designer:	
Construction Period:	1955-56	Client/Owner/Lessee:	
Date of Additions:		Builder:	

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## Statement of Significance

Buildings and structures are integrated with the immediate landscaped park environment. It is an example of appropriate planning and layout for an exposed and isolated site. Bright and colourful details form an integral part of the building (the present colour scheme is not the original). Clean, simple structures with well-integrated and expressed details, which contribute to an appropriate overall design for its recreational function. The reinforced concrete diving tower is an impressive design. Won the 1955 Sir John Sulman Award, RAIA NSW Chapter.

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## Description

- \* Site consists of three pools, the main pool of 50 metres (55 yards); the children's pool of 18.29metres (60"), and the diving pool with a depth of 4.87metres (16").
  - \* Each pool is a reinforced concrete tank faced with glazed tiles, with starting blocks and lanes defined by contrasting colours.
  - \* The buildings, comprising changing rooms and club rooms, filtration plant and workshop, are grouped about the north to south-west section of the site. A close-boarded fence protects the pool from the prevailing winds.
  - \* Colour originally of duck-egg blue, with white criss-cross pattern.
  - \* British influence (Festival of Britain) apparent.
  - \* Diving tower of international standard, reinforced concrete design, impressive in stature.
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## Condition and Integrity

Good. Kiosk building added.

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## Background/History

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### Analysis against the Criteria specified in Schedule 2 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991

*(i) a place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure or representing a new achievement of its time*

*(ii) a place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group*

*(iii) a place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger or being lost, or is of exceptional interest*

*(iv) a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations*

*(v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type*

*(vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class*

*(vii) a place which has strong or special associations with person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history*

*(xi) a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site*

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## **References**

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## **Other Information Sources**