

# Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

**RSTCA No:** R031

**Name of Place:** Canberra School of Music

**Other/Former Names:**

**Address/Location:** Childers Street, CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Block 3 Section 28 of City

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Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	-
Date of Listing:	1984	Level of Significance:	National
Citation Revision No:	1	Category:	Educational
Citation Revision Date:	November 1986	Style:	Late Modern/Brutalist

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Date of Design:	1976	Designer:	Daryl Jackson, Evan Walker (John Wilson, Bill Ryan) for NCDC
Construction Period:	-	Client/Owner/Lessee:	Department of Education
Date of Additions:	-	Builder:	Dowsett Constructions P/L & Project Co-ordination

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## Statement of Significance

The Building was designed by prominent Australian architects Daryl Jackson and Evan Walker for NCDC. The building is Late Modern in style and forms part of Jackson/Walker's significant concrete architecture, similar to the work of Paul Rudolph and Le Corbusier. The emphasis placed upon the internal stairs (for sculptural effect) and the number of changes of level are characteristics of their style of architecture. The building solves its functional and siting problems significantly, with its internal acoustic requirements and the noise levels of its site, the building is oriented inward with limited glazing to the exterior. The building is of particular social importance in Canberra providing a concert hall of 1500 seats and is considered one of the best performance spaces in Canberra.

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## Description

The Building is a six level building, oriented inwardly to the core of the site, with the public and administration areas wrapped around a more acoustically sensitive performing and teaching areas as a barrier against noise. In vertical relationship of areas also, the spaces which tend to generate greater noise problems are located on levels 5 and 6, and it was originally anticipated that there would be significant external traffic noise from an arterial road never built. Daryl Jackson describes the design ... "The School's boldness of form is due to figurative metaphors, to create architectural presence."<sup>1</sup> The building has white off-form concrete walls, concrete framing and floors with white concrete blockwork infill and no large areas of glazing, apart from glazing to the external circulation routes around the 1500 seat auditorium, and a metal deck roof. There is a sculpture by Norma Redpath adjacent to the entry.

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## Condition and Integrity

Good.

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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