



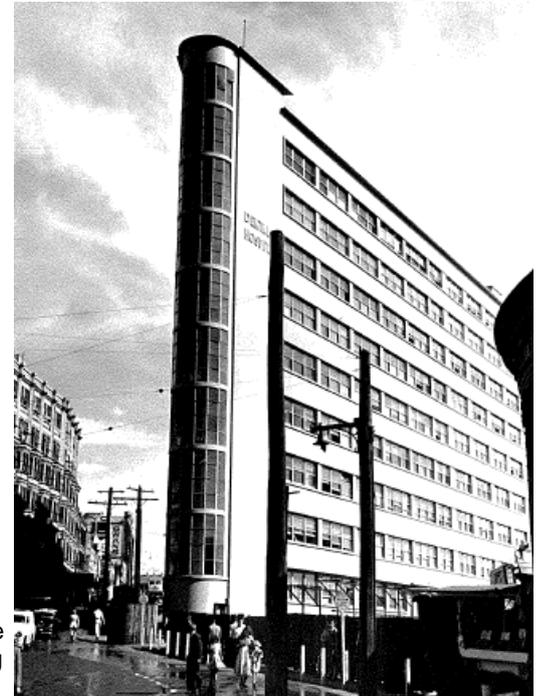
Sydney Dental Hospital (former United Dental Hospital)

Address 2-28 Chalmers Street, Surry Hills, NSW, 2010

Practice Stephenson, Meldrum & Turner (Stephenson & Turner after 1937)

Designed 1936, Completed 1938

History & Description The nine-storey wedged shaped Sydney Dental Hospital, addresses the intersection of Chalmers, Elizabeth and Foveaux Streets, Surry Hills adjacent to Central Station. The "Flat-Iron" form establishes the building as a landmark in the southern end of the city. The two streets & the lane facades were composed of horizontal bands of timber framed glazing, articulated by continuous protruding surrounds, & rendered brick bands giving the building a streamlined form. Steel framed glazing was used for the full height curved end stair & the full height narrow openings. A central corridor to each level extends through the building, with rooms on both sides, & terminates dramatically at the north end in the fully glazed curved stairwell; establishing a strong vertical emphasis to the acute street corner. Internally the concrete frame structure was expressed with large free standing columns. The building was a major addition to & incorporated a dental hospital built on the site in C-1910. The present hospital was constructed over phases that are difficult to distinguish in the facade. It was seven storeys as constructed in 1936 with the structure designed to take two additional floors which were added in 1948. The interior of the hospital has been altered substantially with little significant fabric remaining. Externally the building retains its design integrity, & prominent landmark & streetscape qualities.



View from the north west adjacent to Central Station
Source: Stephenson & Turner

Arthur Stephenson travelled to Europe & America in 1932-33 to study hospital design. On his return to Australia his design language changed, exemplified in the Mercy Hospital, Melbourne, 1935. The Sydney Dental Hospital was designed prior to the King George V Memorial Hospital & shows the development in Stephenson design philosophy.

Stephenson was awarded the RIBA Gold Medal & knighted in 1954, & the RAIA Gold Medal in 1964. He was honoured by the American Institute of Architects & a number of hospital bodies in the US for his innovations & achievements.

(Refer NSW SHR database #2424325; Shaw, *Sir Arthur Stephenson: Australian Architect*, 1987; and www.sydneymachines.com: *Machines* for Healing)

Statement of Significance Sydney Dental Hospital is an excellent example of the Inter-War functionalist style of architecture with its simple shape & clean lines of horizontal glazing. Designed by one of Australia's notable architects the skilful use of a wedge shaped corner site established its landmark qualities & gave it streetscape prominence. The glazed semi-circular stairwell gives vertical emphasis at the street corner & contrasts with the strong horizontal bands in the facades.



Interior c.1940
Source: Stephenson & Turner

Criteria Applicable **N1.** Significant heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design