

Shrine of Remembrance

Address Burdwood Drive, South Yarra 3141

Practice Hudson & Wardrop

Designed 1923

Completed 1934

History & Description The building of the Shrine of Remembrance was a commemoration of an appalling sacrifice of life in war and an assertion of the nobility of the cause for which so many died. Its huge scale reflects the anguish of the community in that period, and the memorial has continuing significance for subsequent generations to the present day.

Its design arose from a world wide competition won in 1923 by two Melbourne architects and ex-servicemen, Philip Burgoyne Hudson (1887-1952) and James Hastie Wardrop (1891-1975). Both had studied under D'Ebro and each was a recipient of the Silver Medal of the RAI. The design, said to be based on the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, also reflects the contemporary revival architecture of the late 1920s as seen in other such examples which are strongly Neo-Greco in style. However the Shrine, being closer in function to the ancient prototypes, expresses this style more fully both in its external monumental form and in the superb detail of its bronze metalwork.

The Domain Hill site, comprising a low hill on the axis of Swanston Street and embraced by a bend of St Kilda Road, gives the Shrine prominence and visibility from all directions. The Shrine is set in a direct line with Swanston Street and is the most dominant of the three long vistas in Melbourne. The vista is considerably enhanced by the surrounding open parks which place the Shrine in isolation from other buildings and from the French boulevard style of the tree plantings in St. Kilda Road. (extracts from AHD# 14953)

Statement of Significance The Shrine of Remembrance is of significance as a large and imposing memorial building with a distinctive classically derived design which draws on symbolic Greek sources to evoke the notion of 'the nobility of sacrifice' in time of war, and incorporates carefully considered architectural refinements to correct optical illusions. It is important for its prominent siting; strong axiality; the use of its surrounding parkland as a landscape of memory; the unusual emphasis placed on the interior space; the ray of light in the sanctuary and the array of major sculptural works, executed by a number of accomplished sculptors.

Designed as the national monument to Australia's fallen during WW1 it has been the focus of the largest ANZAC Day marches in the nation since its completion and is the visible symbol of that event.

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

N4 - Significant monumental and symbolic heritage value to the development of architecture and its history.



North Portico [John Collins, SLV]



Interior 1936 [Rose Stereograph Co, SLV]



1934 Dedication [Shirley Jones Collection, SLV]



North Elevation 1936 [Shirley Jones Collection, SLV]