

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R075

Name of Place: Canberra Grammar School Chapel

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: Monaro Crescent RED HILL 2603

Block 1 Section 6 of Red Hill

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	1984	Level of Significance:	Local
Citation Revision No:	2	Category:	Religious
Citation Revision Date:	July 1989	Style:	Ecclesiastical

Date of Design:	1963	Designer:	Roy Simpson of Yuncken Freeman & Partners
Construction Period:	1964-65, dedicated 8 August 1965	Client/Owner/Lessee:	
Date of Additions:		Builder:	

Statement of Significance

A simple chapel designed in the modern style by a significant architect, Roy Simpson of Yuncken Freeman and Partners. The elegant circular form of the building is emphasised by the surrounding landscape, and contrasts with the original building of Gothic Revival style. The contrast of form and the siting of the building create a landmark in the school grounds, a focal point emphasising the differing function of the buildings as a place of worship. The use of similar materials allows the building to harmonise with the original buildings. The Chapel building and landscaping relate to the axis of the main oval.

Description

The Chapel is of circular design, and seats 320 close to the alter. Internally the circular facebrick wall undulates for acoustic purposes. The entry doors are flanked by two vestries, one containing stairs leading to the choir. Either side of the freestanding altar, two staircases lead to a crypt chapel on the lower ground floor, the design of the building taking advantage of the sloping site and allowing entry to both chapels from the ground level. The walls are of loadbearing brickwork. The metal deck roof is constructed of steel trusses. A clerestory window encircles the chapel. The ceiling and eaves of the building slope upwards at the perimeter, and the roof appears to float. The ceiling, an interesting design, is conical in shape at the centre, accentuated by radiating timber battens. The brick floor is a pattern of concentric circles around the dedication stone. The windows, small slits in the walls and above the entry doors are stained glass. The building is detailed simply and well. A portable font of beaten copper, and candlesticks, were designed by South Australian sculptor Votire Marek. Cruets are the work of Canberra sculptor Henry Le Grande. External landscaping is integrated with the form of the building.

Condition and Integrity

Excellent

Background/History

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

References

Other Information Sources