

APPENDIX M – EXTRACT FROM PHILIP GOAD, MELBOURNE ARCHITECTURE



1A E6

354 Former AMP Tower & St James Building

527–555 Bourke Street and
111–141 William Street, Melbourne; 1965–69
Skidmore Owings & Merrill (San Francisco) in
association with Bates Smart & McCutcheon;
Clement Meadmore ('Awakening')

GC, V, A

The AMP Tower and St James Building are important indicators of the shift towards monumental tower and urban plaza design in the mid-1960s. The tower's design is believed to have been partially inspired by Eero Saarinen's CBS Tower, New York (1962–64). The vertical lines of the tower of russet-coloured reconstituted granite panels contrast boldly with the splayed and angled colonnade of the St James Building, which forms an L-shaped arcade of shops on two sides of the tower plaza. A further counterpoint is expatriate Australian Clement Meadmore's 'massive bent box of Cor-ten steel', 'Awakening'. The AMP Tower and St James Building remain in almost flawless condition, and are a rare example in Melbourne of a public space enclosed by a tower and perimeter block.