

Statement of Significance: RMIT Building 94, 23-37 Cardigan Street, Carlton (November, 2021)

Heritage Place:	RMIT Building 94	PS ref no:	HO1390
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What is significant?

RMIT Building 94, at 23-27 Cardigan Street, Carlton, constructed in 1994-6, is significant.

How is it significant?

RMIT Building 94, at 23-27 Cardigan Street, Carlton, is of local aesthetic significance.

Why is it significant?

RMIT Building 94, at 23-27 Cardigan Street, Carlton, is of aesthetic significance (Criterion E). The building was designed by architect Allan Powell in association with Pels Innes Nielson Kosloff, and was constructed in 1994- 96 to accommodate RMIT's School of Design. It was one of the first wave of new and architecturally distinguished buildings commissioned by the (then) Dean of Architecture at RMIT, Leon Van Schaik. The Dean, in the early 1990s, was influential in the appointment of architects for new buildings at RMIT, and particularly championed progressive architects whose projects, and award-winning buildings, helped to transform the institute's campuses. Building 94 was one such building, winning the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Victorian Chapter Merit Award in the Institutional Buildings (New) category in 1996.

The building is significant for its compositionally diverse façade, and for Powell's skilful use of striking materials and colour and deft treatment of the four principal masses of the building which front Cardigan Street. The latter include the 'hovering' mosaic tiled forms, separated by the intersecting stair which rises up into the building; the bold blue-green cube at the southern end, elegantly poised on a single cylindrical column; the angling northern bay, supported by tilted black glass columns; and the blue-green glass main horizontal volume bisected by long strip windows and concrete sun visors. Powell's fondness for mass, colour and shadow is clearly on display in Building 94, a project which allowed the architect to explore these interests at a large scale.

More broadly, the building is also of aesthetic significance for being reflective of the built form changes in Carlton in the later twentieth century, when contemporary architects were responsible for some celebrated new developments which, in turn, challenged the typical building form and character of the suburb.

This document is an incorporated document in the Melbourne Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

Primary source

Carlton Heritage Review (Lovell Chen, 2021)