

ICI HOUSE



ICI HOUSE SOHE 2008



ici house nicholson street
east Melbourne front view



ICI House Nicholson Street
East Melbourne Front
Elevation



ICI House Nicholson Street
East Melbourne Foyer Joie
De Vivre



ICI House Nicholson Street
East Melbourne Garden
Entrance



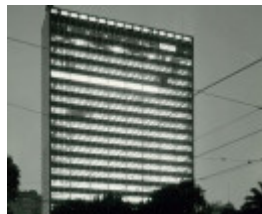
ICI House Nicholson Street
East Melbourne Garden
Entrance



ICI Interior 1958.jpg



ICI HOUSE July 2016



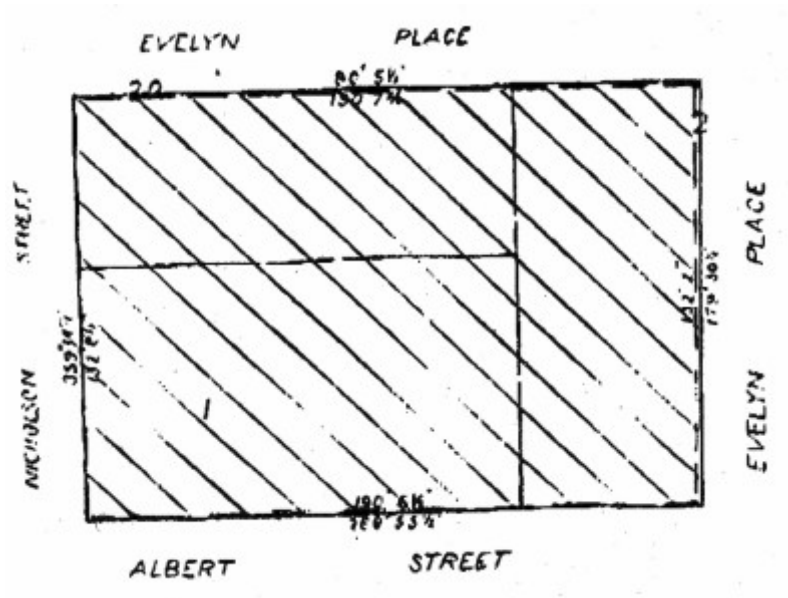
ICI House Wolfgang Sievers
1958.JPG



ICI Architects Drawing For ICI
House Source BSM.JPG



ICI House - An Interior Office
1958 Photo by Wolfgang
Sievers.JPG



ici house nicholson street east Melbourne plan

Location

1-4 NICHOLSON STREET AND 510-532 ALBERT STREET EAST MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0786

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO165

VHR Registration

March 21, 1990

Amendment to Registration

September 18, 2003

Heritage Listing

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 25, 2003

What is Significant?

ICI House on the corner of Albert and Nicholson streets East Melbourne, designed by Bates Smart McCutcheon. From its completion in November 1958 until 1961, ICI House was the tallest building in Australia. At 84m it broke the 40.2m Victorian height restriction by 43.6m and set a new precedent in height controls in the city of Melbourne. Its height, combined with its position on the eastern hill of the central business district, terminating the axis of Lonsdale Street, made the building a landmark.

The building is an open plan concrete encased steel framed structure elevated on pilotis over what was originally an open undercroft. The main body of the building is clad with framed glazed curtain walling. The floors of the building are of precast concrete flat panels. The building is comprised of 19 stories, including the ground floor and two floors below ground. The service core is separated from the main glass clad body of the building and is clad in precast concrete panel curtain walling. While curtain walling had previously been used to a small degree on facades in Melbourne, its use on ICI House was especially important in that the whole main body of the building is clad with it.

The building's main entry is now off Albert Street through a foyer that was sympathetically remodelled in 1989 by the original architects. This originally was the secondary entrance whereas the main entrance was through the landscaped garden entered off Nicholson St. The garden, its water feature and fountain, all of which remain intact, were the result of a collaboration between the architects, landscape architect John Stevens and sculptor Gerald Lewers whose fountain sculpture is an intrinsic feature of the garden. The provision of the garden assisted with the breaking of the height limit.

How is it Significant?

ICI House, 1 Nicholson St, East Melbourne is of architectural significance to the state of Victoria

Why is it Significant?

ICI House is of architectural significance due to its considerable advancements in local construction techniques. These include the framed glazed curtain walls and innovative use of concrete, including precast reinforced units in structural members and flooring. The division of the glazed office space from the solidly clad service tower predates similar developments overseas.

ICI House was a major architectural statement which contributed to Melbourne's position as a participant in innovative world architecture in the 1950s. Its design follows continued developments in international style modernism and draws its influence from buildings such as The Ministry of Education and Health, Rio De Janeiro by Niemeyer and Costa, 1937-43; Lever House, New York by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, 1952 and The United Nations Secretariat, New York by Wallace Harrison, 1953.

ICI House is also of architectural significance as it was a landmark in the planning of the city of Melbourne. The building was more than double the previous height restriction enforced in Victoria and the design was permitted under the uniform building regulations because the site coverage was examined as a percentage of the total site area. This led to plot ratio determinations for city sites and the eventual redefinition of the central Melbourne skyline.

The garden (along with its component parts ie: the Lewers fountain and the water feature) is of significance due to its role in determining the plot ratio that allowed the breaking of the height limit as well as defining the original formal entry to the building.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

Exemptions:

Exteriors

* The erection of any communication mast or fixtures, unenclosed plant and equipment, new safety railings and window cleaning equipment within an envelope not exceeding 6 metres above the roof level of ICI House and being set back a minimum of 2 metres from all wall edges of the building.

Interiors

*Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.

*Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible coverings.

*Refurbishment of toilets/kitchens including removal, installation of sanitary fixtures and associated mirrors, wall and floor coverings.

* Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring.

*Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors.

Garden

* Any horticultural maintenance works within the garden that do not affect the shape, scale and layout of the garden.

Construction dates 1958,
Architect/Designer McCutcheon, Sir Osborne,
Heritage Act Categories Registered place,
Other Names ICI Building, ORICA HOUSE,
Hermes Number 391
Property Number

History

Associated People: Bates, Smart & McCutcheon;

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that Heritage Register Number 786 in the category described as a Heritage place is now described as:

ICI House, 1D4 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Melbourne City Council.

EXTENT:

All the building known as ICI House located at 1 Nicholson Street and 50 Albert Street, East Melbourne and all the land, including the garden landscaping and fountain described as Certificate of Title Volume 8164, Folio 806.

Dated 11 September 2003

RAY TONKIN
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 38 18 September 2003 2458]

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>