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# Former Olympic Swimming Stadium



B4635 Olympic Swimming Stadium

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## Location

10 - 30 Olympic Boulevard, MELBOURNE VIC 3000 - Property No B4635

## Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

## Level of significance

National

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1977

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 20, 2007

The Olympic Swimming Stadium, designed by Kevin Borland, John and Phyllis Murphy and Peter McIntyre, with engineer Bill Irwin, and completed in 1956, is of historical, social and architectural importance at the National level.

Historically and socially, the Olympic Pool has National significance as the major architectural monument built specifically for the Olympic Games held in Melbourne in 1956. The games brought Australia, and particularly Melbourne, international attention not seen for at least 60 years and they are credited with stimulating Melbourne's development from a conservative Anglophile outpost into a lively, multicultural metropolis. It was

hailed as an architectural triumph at the time, widely enjoyed for its dramatic expression, and has been used and enjoyed by generations of Melburnians, both as a pool and as an entertainment venue.

Architecturally, aesthetically and technically, the Olympic Pool is considered one of the most prized contributions to modern architecture in Australia. The innovative and striking structure, involving steep sloping lattice-girder sides supporting a light trussed roof, held in tension by external cables, epitomises the bold structural / functional experiments that are seen as characteristic of Melbourne's radical post-war architectural scene. The dramatic structure was strongly expressed, with end elevations entirely of glass, and the sloping walls reaching towards the sky seemingly unsupported. The Olympic Pool impressed a generation of architects, and retains a high level of significance despite additions and alterations of 1980-82 by Borland Brown, which unfortunately removed the original function and greatly obscured the structural clarity and transparency of the design.

Classified: 06/03/1980

Revised: 06/08/2001

The ceramic 'Olympic Pylon' by Arthur Boyd, erected as part of the development, is separately classified.

File Note: Transformed into an Entertainment Centre - August, 1981

Other Names      Olympic Pool, Olympic Park Swimming Pool, Lexus Centre, Melbourne Sports & Entertainment Centre,

Hermes  
Number            65676

Property  
Number

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*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/>*