

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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Sidney Myer Music Bowl



B5107 Sidney Myer Music Bowl

Location

Kings Domain, Alexandra Avenue, SOUTH YARRA, MELBOURNE CITY

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

National

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1772

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 30, 2005

The Sidney Myer Music Bowl, designed by Barry Patten of Yuncken Freeman Architects and his assistant Angel Dimitroff in association with engineer Bill Irwin and completed in 1959, is architecturally, historically and socially significant at the state level as a unique "tensile" structure and as a major public cultural venue.

Architecturally, the Bowl is unique as the only large-scale cable-roofed structure and the only large-scale acoustic shell structure in Australia. It is an excellent example of post war Modernist preoccupations in Victoria with the direct relationship of form to function and of daring experiments with structure, employing advances in construction technology and surfacing materials. It was one of the earliest significant cable-roofed structures internationally.

This significance was recognised through receiving an award from the American Institute of Architects and by being described by noted critic Robin Boyd as one of the 'climatic buildings' of the period.

Both the architect Barry Patten, and the engineer Bill Irwin were significant post-war architects, involved in many of the most notable buildings from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Socially and historically, it is significant for its strong associations with the Myer family, the most prominent retailers in Victoria. It was a gift to the people of Melbourne from the family in memory of the founder, Sidney Myer and his son Kenneth was involved in the planning and construction.

The Sidney Myer Music Bowl was the first major purpose built outdoor performance venue to be built in Melbourne and is also important as the venue for a host of significant cultural events since it opened in 1959, especially the very popular annual event 'Carols by Candlelight'.

Classified: 22/02/1999

Hermes Number 64306

Property Number

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 data owner.

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