
Former Royal Insurance Group Building



B6854 Royal Insurance Building

Location

430-444 Collins Street,, MELBOURNE VIC 3000 - Property No B6854

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

State

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 12, 2007

The Royal Insurance Group Building, designed by Yuncken Freeman Architects, and completed in 1965, is of architectural, aesthetic and historical importance at the State level.

Architecturally and aesthetically, it is one of the most elegant of Melbourne's post war skyscrapers. The pre-cast concrete cladding panels are executed in a sombre black polished granite, relieved by vertical ribs which provide a restrained yet textured skin to the large box-like volume. The small set back from the street and the position on the corner of a lane allow the building to appear free-standing, aloof from but not dominating the surrounding Collins Street commercial development. The ground and first floor are clad in larger versions of the panels, lending a lightness and transparency at ground level, the mass of the main building hovering above.

Historically, Royal Insurance was the most accomplished of the early pre-cast concrete clad office blocks, leading the field away from the light-weight curtain wall facades in Melbourne of the previous seven years. It was also the first notable central city office block by the firm of Yuncken Freeman and was a prelude to a number of important black modernist commercial designs by the firm (heavily influenced by the work of US firm Skidmore Owings &

Merrill), and who were also responsible for a number of the city's best skyscrapers, most importantly BHP House. The Royal Insurance Group Building, designed by Yuncken Freeman Architects, and completed in 1965, is of architectural, aesthetic and historical importance at the State level.

Classified: 26/06/07

Hermes Number 64740

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 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/>