

Hackett Memorial Buildings

Address University of Western Australia, Crawley

Practice Alsop & Sayce

Designed 1927 Completed 1931

History & Description Hackett Memorial Buildings form the major ceremonial complex of UWA, and were the result of a limited international competition determined in August 1927. The winners of the competition were Rodney Alsop and Conrad Sayce who submitted variations of the same design. Alsop and Sayce then formed a practice.

Originally designed as a U of buildings enclosing a formal (Whitfield) court, its centrepiece was the tall Winthrop Hall, standing on an open undercroft, marked by an Italian campanile. Gate houses were to two storey parallel wings for Administration and Student Union to the east and west of Winthrop Hall. Subsequently the Student Union was reduced to a single storey in scale and its gate house removed.

In April 1932 Alsop declared: 'Renaissance is the only definite term that can be given to the style of the Hackett Buildings – and the Renaissance began in Italy . . . it was found necessary to return to the fountain head, and develop directly from the early Renaissance of the sunny climate of Italy, where mass and form count more than the applied detail . . .'

The details included dressings of Donnybrook stone to relieve the cushion faced limestone walls, 'Venetian' mosaic inserts and 'winged beast' friezes from Persepolis.

Alsop developed a strong Mediterranean style which is admirably expressed in his work on the Crawley campus and several houses designed for the suburbs of Perth. His brief, productive period in Perth formed the basis of the regional style that developed in the 1930s.

Hackett Memorial Buildings were awarded the Royal Institute of British Architects triennial Bronze Medal in 1932.

Statement of Significance Hackett Memorial Buildings, featuring Winthrop Hall, form an architecturally distinguished major entry and ceremonial complex to the University of Western Australia, which integrate the formally landscaped Whitfield Court and the tropical rain forest of the Great Court. These first buildings and landscaped spaces set the pattern, style and standard of the distinguished architectural and landscape vocabulary of the University until the post World War II period

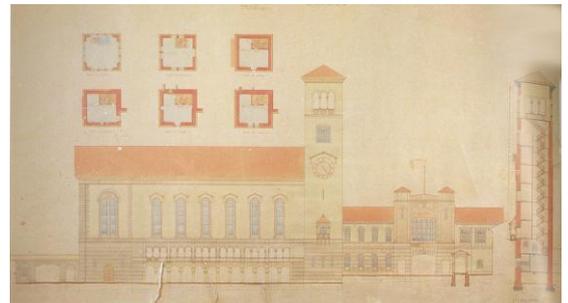
Hackett Memorial Buildings are an outstanding example of the InterWar Romanesque style and form one of the finest architectural statements in Australia, at the entry to one of the handsome university campuses in Australia.

Criteria Applicable

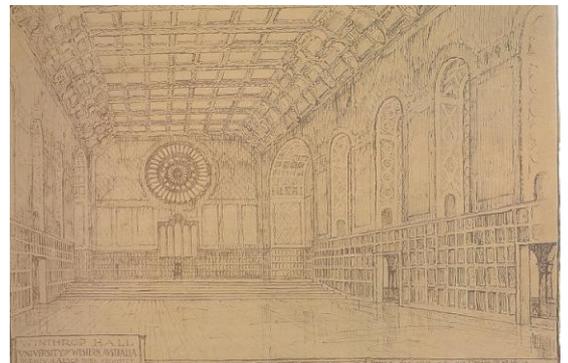
1. Significant Heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design.
2. Significant Heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.
3. Significant Heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement.
4. Having significant monumental and symbolic heritage value to the development of architecture and the history of architecture.
5. Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history.



Photo: Patrick Bingham Hall



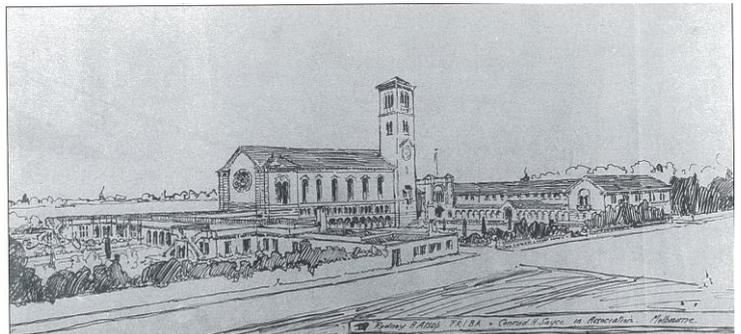
Winthrop Hall, North elevation to Court of Honour, By Rodney Alsop 1928



Perspective Interior Winthrop Hall, by Rodney Alsop 1928



NearMap



Rodney Alsop Perspective c. 1928