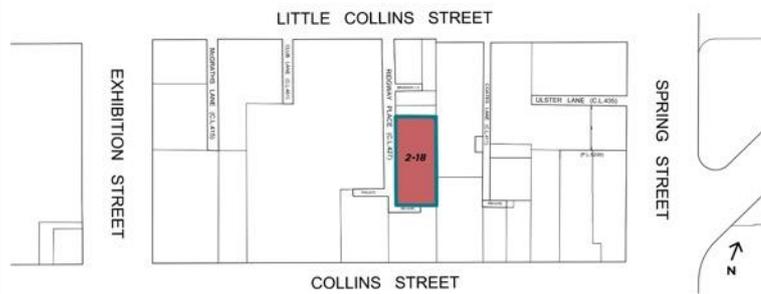


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Heritage Place: Lyceum Club



PS ref no: HO1285



What is significant?

The Lyceum Club at 2-18 Ridgeway Place, Melbourne, designed by architect Ellison Harvie and completed in 1959.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The building's original external form, materials and detailing; and
- The building's continuous use as a women's club.

How it is significant?

The Lyceum Club at 2-18 Ridgeway Place is of local historic, social and associative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

Historically, the Lyceum Club is significant as a purpose-built club house, designed by and for women. Importantly, the 1957 building commission and all subsequent alterations and additions, have involved local women architects from the original design and construction by Ellison Harvie, to subsequent work by Hilary Lewis, Jessie Madsen, Berenice Harris, Cunningham & Keddie and KTA (Kerstin Thompson Architects). Other notable local women professionals who have contributed to the design of the building include artists Anne Montgomery (mural painting) and Bee Taplin (textiles), interior decorator Joyce Godfrey (club rooms and lounge), and landscape designer Millie Gibson. This tradition of continuous and almost exclusively female design input on the one project, over a sustained period has few precedents (National Trust 2005). (Criterion A)

Historically, the Lyceum Club is significant as the largest and most important club for professional women in Victoria. Having been formally established in Melbourne in 1912 to provide a place of retreat, meeting and discussion for professional and retired women, it is significant for its pioneering role in furthering the status of women within the professional sphere dominated by men at the time. As a result of bequests and member donations, the Lyceum Club houses an important collection of furniture, artwork and reference books (National Trust 2005). (Criterion A)

The Lyceum Club is of social significance for its strong and enduring association with the organisation and its membership. The building reflects the aspirations and needs of the organisation in providing and sustaining a place of social congregation and intellectual exchange amongst professional women. (Criterion G)

The Lyceum Club is significant for its association with its designer, architect Ellison Harvie. Harvie, as a member of the Club and a partner in the firm of Stephenson & Turner, was the first woman to gain a Diploma of Architectural Design from the Architectural Atelier in 1938, and the first Australian woman to be nominated as a Fellow of the RIBA in 1949. Her work at Stephenson & Turner contributed to the design of numerous major hospitals in Sydney and Melbourne, including the Royal Melbourne Hospital in 1942. (Criterion H)

The Lyceum Club is associated with many highly regarded women including the first president, Pattie Deakin and many of its early members were among the first female professionals in their particular fields including Dr Constance Ellis (medicine), Christian Jollie Smith (law), and Marion Mahoney Griffin (architecture) (National Trust 2005). (Criterion H)

Primary source

Hoddle Grid Heritage Review (Context & GJM Heritage, 2020)