

# Australian National University

## Acton Campus — Site Inventory



Study Item/ Area	Chancelry Buildings
Acton Campus Precinct	ELLERY Precinct
Building Nos. & Names	10 (Chancelry, Stage 1), 10A (Chancelry, Stage 2A), 10B (Chancelry, Stage 2B), 10C (Chancelry, Stage 2C), 10T1 (CEDAM/RSDC Temporary Building)

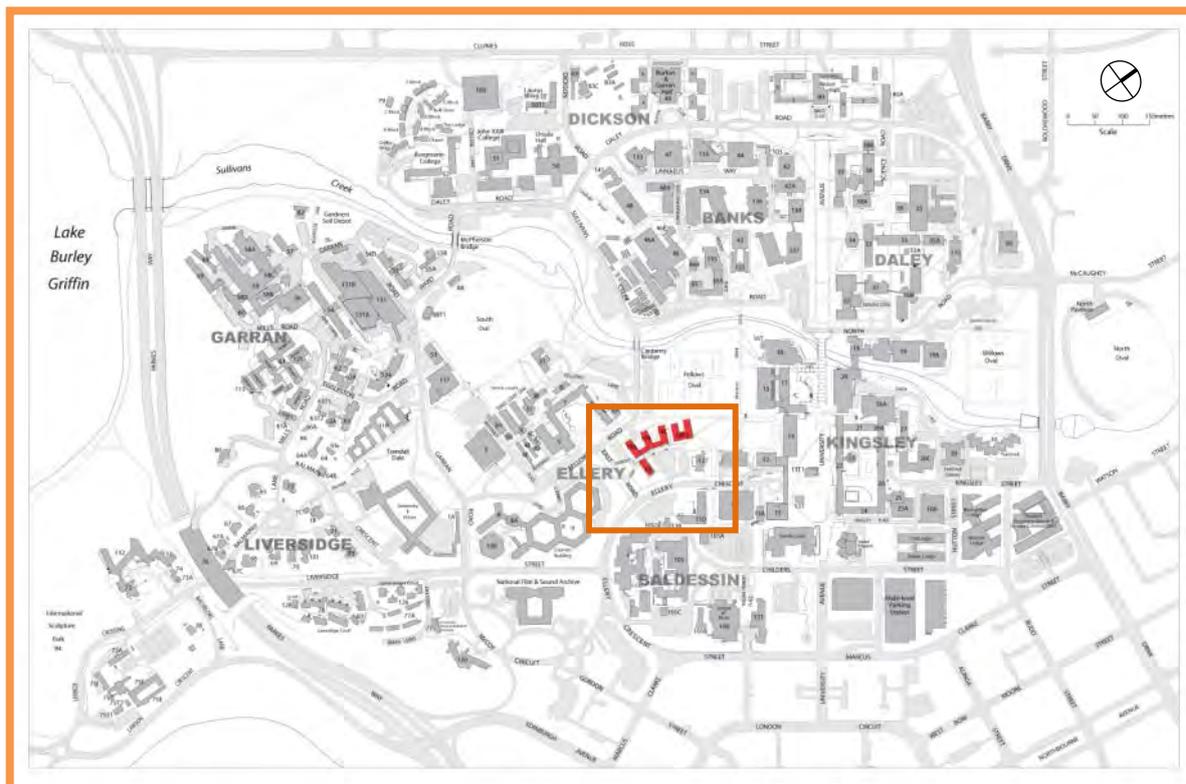


Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking	Chancelry Buildings— <b>Moderate</b> —Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage Listing
Heritage Listing	The Chancelry Buildings are not individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).
Condition—Date	The condition noted here is at November 2011. The extant buildings and trees of the Chancelry area continue to be well maintained for office accommodation and are in reasonable condition.
Relevant Documentation	There is no relevant documentation for these buildings.

### Context of the Buildings

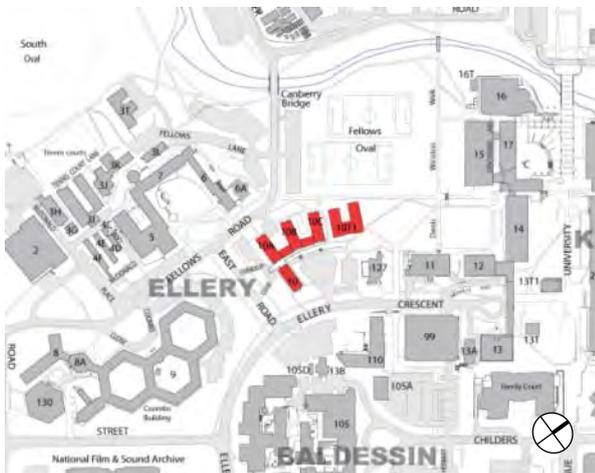


Figure 2: The Chancelry buildings in relation to Fellows Oval and the HC Coombs Building.

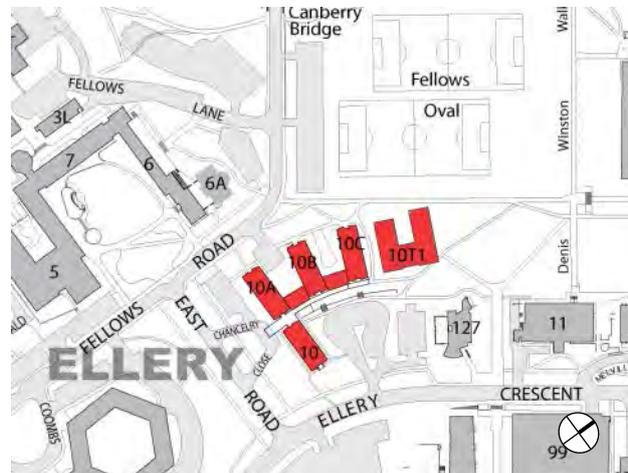


Figure 3: Configuration of the Chancelry buildings demonstrating the evolution of the building.

### Brief Historical Overview

The Chancelry complex was built to serve as the main administration centre of the Australian National University (ANU). Original administrative facilities were provided in the Old Administration Area, located across Fellows Road to the southwest of the Chancelry Buildings. The Chancelry Buildings, consisting of a main tower and three wings curving to the west, were designed to create a positive impression for visiting dignitaries and prospective staff and students.

Construction of the Chancelry Tower commenced in 1963, with subsequent 'stages' built in four separate phases; Stage 2A in 1966, Stage 2B in 1968 and 2C in 1996. Roy Simpson of Yuncken Freeman Architects Pty Ltd (and ANU Site Planner from 1968) designed all four stages and supervised the construction of the main Chancelry Tower. Stage 2A (Building 10A) was supervised by Anthony Cooper and Associates and built by ACT Builders Ltd, who completed the building in 1966. WE Bassett & Partners Architectural firm supervised the construction of Building 2B (Building 10B), built by Simmie & Co Pty Ltd in 1968. Architect Robert Peck vonHartel Trethowen supervised the erection of the final stage (Building 10C), and construction was conducted by Building Coordination (Australia) Pty Ltd. The building was completed in 1964 by Concrete Constructions Ltd, and officially opened by Sir Leslie Martin, Chairman of the Australian Universities Commission on September 10 of that year.

An Examination Hall was originally included in the plans for the complex. (Though this was replaced with Melville Hall further to the north.) The Centre for Educational Development and Academic Methods/Research Student Development Centre (CEDAM/RSDC) transportable building, situated to the north of the complex, where the original Examination Hall would have been built in, was erected 2009-2010.

The Council Suite in the Chancelry tower, known as the RC Mills Room, is of particular significance. The room has served as the meeting place for the University Council and other important ANU bodies. The RC Mills Council Room provides seating for 50 people, with Tasmanian blackwood used for the false ceiling, shelving, moulding, doorframes and linings. The room was named in honour of Richard Charles Mills, an eminent Professor of Economics and Chairman of the University's Interim Council, who played a leading role in the establishment of the University.

The ground floor meeting room was named in honour of Ross A Hohnen, first Registrar and Secretary of the ANU. Hohnen created and guided the professional administration of the ANU during its formative years and period of vigorous growth and was known affectionately as 'Mr ANU'.

The majority of ANU's administrative sections were originally housed in the Chancelry complex, such as the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar, the Accounts Section, Housing, Staff and general clerical sections, such as Central Records, Duplicating and IT services. The building is currently occupied by present Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Young, the offices of the ANU Reporter, the Communications and External Liaisons Office, the University Council and Academic Boards Secretariat, the Employment Office, the University Legal Office, the Research Office, Finance and Business Services, Investment Office, the National Australia Bank and the Staff Development and Training Office.

In 1974 and again in 1994 students stormed the Chancelry Tower and occupied the RC Mills Room to protest against planned increases in student fees. Each occupation lasted over three days and brought the University and the protest to national attention.

The furnishings of the Chancelry Tower, particularly the RC Mills Council Room were designed by the Design Section of the ANU, headed by DF Wrigley (a protégé of Fred Ward) the University Designer and Sir Arthur Winston, Chair of Town and Country Planning at the University of Sydney. Sir Keith Hancock, Professor of History at the Institute of Advanced Studies, was also asked to participate in the design of the Council Room due to his experience refurbishing his 18<sup>th</sup> century house in Russell Square, London.

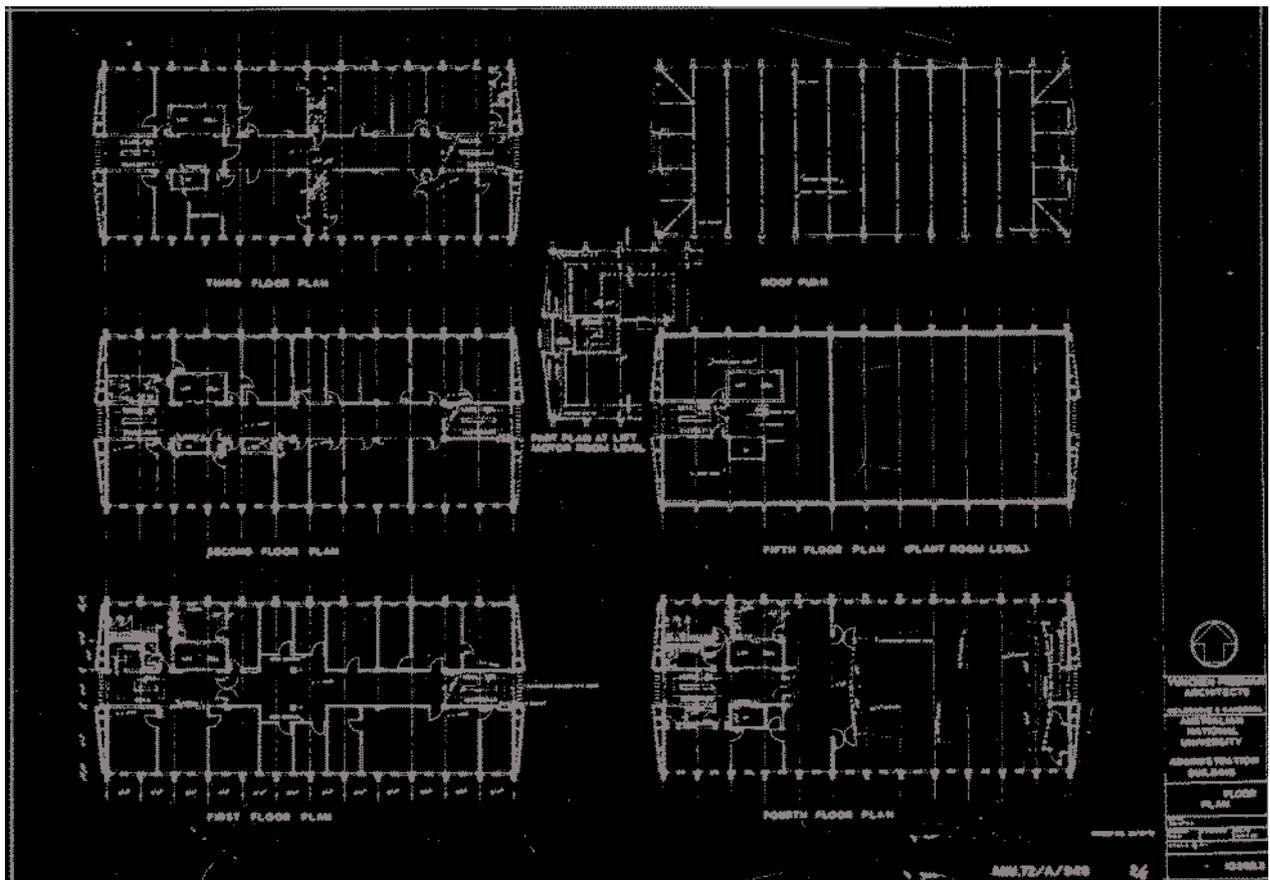


Figure 4: The original plan of the Chancelry Tower Building of the University, prepared by Yuncken Freeman Architects in July 1962.

### Description of the Chancelry Buildings

#### Buildings

##### *Building 10*

The main Chancelry 'Tower' is a rectangular building of five storeys to '...reflect the dignity commensurate with its purpose' (R. Simpson, 1962). The Vice-Chancellor Sir Leonard Huxley (1960-1967) believed the administration of the University should be centrally situated in relation to the School of General Studies and the Institute of Advanced Studies, at the expense of other proposed buildings in the area such as the Law School, Oriental Studies and the General Studies Library.

Designed and supervised by Mr Roy Simpson and Mr Balcombe Griffiths of Yuncken Freeman Architects Pty Ltd in 1962, the building is a framed reinforced concrete structure with flat slab floors supported at the external walls on closely spaced concrete columns to minimise internal columns. External elevations are in brick with load bearing walls strengthened by external concrete piers with a 'bush-hammered' finish. The 30,000 'Santan' facing bricks were supplied by Autobric Industries Ltd. Steel roof trusses designed to give a vaulted ceiling in the Council Room on the top floor have a maximum height of seventeen feet and are covered by sloping battens of Tasmanian Blackwood. The horseshoe shaped table that dominates the interior of the room is a frame of

Australian Black Bean topped with Indian Palisander.

Fenestrations were dramatically reduced from earlier designs, and are of double hung metal sashes and frames, finished with 'SunFilter' horizontal louvers on the western facing windows of anodized finish and copper colour to harmonize with the sheet copper roof with standing seams. The Chancelry Tower is the only building in the complex to retain its copper roof, the roofs of buildings 10A and 10B having been replaced with Colorbond steel of a similar colour in the late 1990s due to ongoing maintenance issues.

Originally a copper covered way and canopy were included in Roy Simpson's design, linking the Chancelry tower to Building 10A. Omitted due to funding issues, it was later reinstated as an '...important architectural element' (George Holland, 1965)

A bronze sculpture was placed in the pool near the main entrance to the Chancelry tower in 1969, entitled *Saraswati*, the sculpture depicts Saraswati, Goddess of Knowledge in many Asian cultures. The sculpture was donated by the government of the Republic of Indonesia; it was cast by students of Budiani, the Institute of the Arts (formerly the Academy of Fine Arts) in Yogyakarta.

### *Building 10A*

For Stage 2A of the building programme, a two-storey 'finger' juxtaposing to the west of the Chancelry Tower and a small building to 'link' with the other proposed 'fingers', were constructed in 1966 as space issues became apparent in the Chancelry Tower. The external finishes of the building closely conform to Stage 1, except that the external columns were constructed of brick facing, not concrete. The building was designed by Roy Simpson of Yuncken Freeman Architects, who had become by this time the University's preferred architectural firm. The supervision of this building's construction was given to Anthony Cooper and Associates Pty Ltd. The construction was executed by ACT Builder Ltd. 'SunFilter' Blind Company fitted identical horizontal louvers to the western windows to match those used on the Chancelry Tower. Carpets were not fitted to this building due to budgetary constraints in Stage 2A. Hard vinyl CSR 'Satintone' tiles in 'Avocado' were used in lieu of carpet.

### *Building 10B*

This building is another two-storey building to the same design as Building 10A. Stage 2B also included the construction of a 'link' building to serve as a thoroughfare between the link buildings, and was overseen by Anthony Cooper and Associates. It continued the design themes of 10A with brick bearing walls, concrete floors. Steel roof framing and copper roof cladding, later converted to steel Colorbond. 'SunFilter' louvers were once again used on western facade, with the Canberra Brick Company supplying facing bricks similar to those used in the first two stages of the building construction.

The original Kitchen and Seryery built in this building to serve the administration staff at functions, were fitted with Tasmanian Blackwood veneer to surfaces. Construction of this building was overseen by W.E. Bassett and Partners Architects and erected by Simmie and Company Builders. This building was handed over to the occupants in 1968.

### *Building 10C*

This building was again to further alleviate space disputes within existing administration buildings, the design of this building remained the same as earlier 'finger' buildings, excluding the 'link' connection. Construction was supervised by Robert Peck vonHartel Trethowen, Architect, and built by Project Coordination (Australia) Pty Ltd. Colorbond steel was used for roof construction due to maintenance issues experienced with the copper roofs of other 'finger' buildings. The external fenestrations have the same design of 'SunFilter' louvers on the western windows; however a mesh finishing was used instead of the grill design already integrated into the earlier buildings. This building was completed in 1996.

The Examination Hall originally designed to extend to the north of the Chancelry 'fingers' and covered walkway was not constructed as designed, and the transportable CEDAM/RSDC Building 10T1 was erected in 2009-2010 in the general form the Chancelry extensions were to take, care of Bill Szydluk Architects Pty Ltd and Modular Building Systems, Pty Ltd.

### **Landscape**

The landscapes of the area are mixed. The pool which serves at the setting for the *Saraswati* sculpture contains non-native Iris varieties, and the lawns to the front of the Chancelry Building contain 22 mature eucalypts, four of exceptional quality and 18 of high quality. To the rear of Chancelry are 16 mature trees, 14 eucalypts, one casuarina and one callitris, all of high quality. The area between Buildings 10A and 10B serves as a car park, however between Buildings 10B and 10C informal garden beds have created a pleasant outdoor area frequented by staff. The CEDAM/RSDC modular building is surrounded by recent landscaping. All the plants in this area are natives, excluding the Rosemary, Tecrium and Quercas (oak trees). Callistemons, Grevilleas and Correas provide shelter and food and Cupressus seeds are favoured by Cockatoos. Lomandras (tussock type grasses) provide refuge for many animals in the area. The CEDAM garden beds are designed to be aesthetically pleasing, attractive to local wildlife and very drought tolerant.

## Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

### Statement of Significance

The Chancelry Tower was the first permanent administration building to be constructed on the Acton Campus and the Chancelry Buildings as a group are an important example in evolution of the architectural styles of the campus, with the first stage designed as a tower. This presented a departure in previous styles of architecture used on the campus, breaking the tree canopy level to be visible from across the lake.

The Chancelry Buildings are associated with a number of individuals of significance to the history of the University including Sir Leslie Martin, Chairman of the Australian Universities Commission who opened the Tower on September 10, 1964. It is also notable for its associations with Ross Hohnen, first Registrar, and all Vice-Chancellors of the University since 1964, including Sir Leonard Huxley, a physicist who was integral in the integration of Canberra University College into the University as the School of General Studies, and Sir John Crawford, an economist and a key architect of Australia's post-war growth.

The internal furniture and finishes of the Chancelry complex were designed by the ANU Design Section under Derek Wrigley, the University Designer a colleague of notable designer Fred Ward, and represent significant furniture and interior features custom designed for the University.

Criteria	Assessment
<p><b>(a) Historic</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.</p>	<p>The Chancelry Tower was the first permanent administration building to be constructed on the Acton Campus. The building integrates working spaces for many administrative levels of the University. The RC Mills Council Suite, a room of grand proportion and unique design, has been the continued location of significant ANU Council meetings since 1964.</p> <p>The Chancelry Buildings are an important example in evolution of the architectural styles of the campus, with the first stage designed as a tower, presenting a departure in previous styles of architecture used on the campus, breaking the tree canopy level to be visible from across the lake.</p> <p><b>The Chancelry Buildings meet CHL criterion (a) for historic values.</b></p> <p><i>Attributes</i></p> <p>The location, scale and architectural qualities of the Chancelry complex, in particular the administration tower.</p>
<p><b>(b) Rarity</b> The place has significant heritage values because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.</p>	<p><b>The Chancelry Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (b) for rarity values.</b></p>
<p><b>(c) Scientific</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.</p>	<p><b>The Chancelry Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (c) for scientific values.</b></p>

<p><b>(d) Representative</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of: A class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or A class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.</p>	<p>The Chancelry Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (d) for representative values.</p>
<p><b>(e) Aesthetic</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.</p>	<p>While The Chancelry displays some aesthetic values, to fully meet this criterion, aesthetic values must be demonstrated as being valued by the community. The community appreciation of the aesthetic value has not been formally tested.</p> <p>The Chancelry Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (e) for aesthetic values.</p>
<p><b>(f) Creative/Technical</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.</p>	
<p><b>(g) Social</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</p>	<p>The presence of social values (strong or special attachment to the place by an identified community group) has not been formally tested.</p> <p>The Chancelry Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (g) for social values.</p>

<p><b>(h) Associative</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural and cultural history.</p>	<p>The Chancelry Buildings are associated with a number of individuals of significance to the history of the University including Sir Leslie Martin, Chairman of the Australian Universities Commission who opened the Tower on September 10, 1964. It is also notable for its associations with Ross Hohnen, first Registrar, and all Vice-Chancellors of the University since 1964, including Sir Leonard Huxley, a physicist who was integral in the integration of Canberra University College into the University as the School of General Studies and Sir John Crawford, an economist and a key architect of Australia's post-war growth.</p> <p>The internal furniture and finishes of the Chancelry complex were designed by the ANU Design Section under Derek Wrigley, the University Designer a colleague of notable designer Fred Ward, and represent significant furniture and interior features custom designed for the University.</p> <p><b>The Chancelry Complex meets criteria (h) for associative values</b></p> <p><i>Attributes:</i></p> <p>The furniture and interior features of the Chancelry tower building.</p>
<p><b>(i) Indigenous</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.</p>	<p><b>The Chancelry Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (i) for Indigenous values</b></p>

### Photographs



**Figure 5:** Opening of Chancelry - Finance Committee meeting, the first University meeting to be held in Chancelry's new RC Mills Room, September 11 1964. L-R: Mr PJ Lawler, Mr WS Hamilton (Bursar), Mr RA Hohnen (Registrar), Mr JQ Ewens (Chairman), Sir Leonard Huxley (Vice-Chancellor), Professor AD Trendall (Deputy Vice-Chancellor), Professor DNF Dunbar (Dean of Faculty of Science), Professor H Burton (Principal, School of General Studies). (Source: ANU Archives)



**Figure 6:** University Council meeting in the RC Mills Room, 1971. (Source: ANU Archives)

# Australian National University

Acton Campus — Site Inventory



**Figure 7:** Chancellor HC Coombs addressing students during the 1974 student occupation of the RC Mills Room. (Source: ANU Archives)



**Figure 8:** The front façade and some of the mature eucalypts of the Chancery Tower. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)



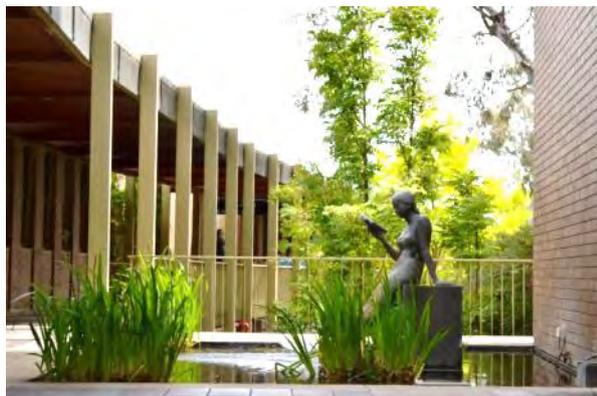
**Figure 9:** The rear of the CEDAM/RSDC Modular Building and subsequent landscaping. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



**Figure 10:** The outdoor area between Buildings 10B and 10C. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



**Figure 11:** Replaced facing bricks next to the entrance of the Chancery Tower. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



**Figure 12:** Saraswati, the sculpture and water feature at the entrance to the Chancery Tower. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 13: Current configuration of the RC Mills Meeting Room. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)



Figure 14: The small dining room adjacent to the Vice-Chancellor's Office. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)

### Management Issues

#### Constraints and Opportunities

**Constraints** arise from the identified heritage values of the Chancery and it is a requirement of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth)* (EPBC Act) to conserve them. The significant fabric of the Chancery, as indicated in the attributes above, should be conserved wherever possible.

The Chancery Building is of moderate heritage value and meets the EPBC Commonwealth Heritage criteria a) historic and h) associative. Elements of moderate heritage value and make a contribution to the overall heritage significance of ANU Acton campus and should be retained and conserved. They require care in their management and can generally tolerate a low degree of change or some change and adaptive reuse. Loss or unsympathetic alteration could diminish the Commonwealth Heritage or local heritage values of the ANU Acton campus.

The **Tolerance for Change** heritage management tool, outlined in Section 7.6 of the ANU Action Campus Heritage Study 2012, will assist in conserving heritage values through a process of change. The Chancery Building is able to tolerate moderate/some level of change through development whereby the historic, creative/technical and associative attributes and characteristics are conserved and interpreted.

**Opportunities** arise from the identified heritage values of the Chancery Building. The history of the Chancery Building should be interpreted to maintain the historic and associative values of significant attributes identified in the assessments above. A greater degree of change may be tolerated if interpretation is of a very high quality and considered in any future development, which presents the identified heritage values for the future.

#### Recommendations

The Chancery Buildings should be nominated to the Commonwealth Heritage List and a Heritage Management Plan prepared for the conservation and management of identified heritage values.

If development resulting in loss of significant fabric is proposed, interpretation and a heritage impact assessment would be a prerequisite according to EPBC Act requirements.

Photographic recording for the ANU archives should be undertaken prior to any potential loss of significant fabric, buildings or landscaping in any future development of the College of Law Building.

A formal assessment of the aesthetic and social values of the building should be carried out.