

# Australian National University

## Acton Campus — Site Inventory



Study Item/ Area	Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies and Baldessin Precinct Building (Asian Studies Building)
Acton Campus Precinct	BALDESSIN Precinct
Building Nos. & Names	127 (Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies), 110 (Baldessin Precinct Building, Asian Studies Building)

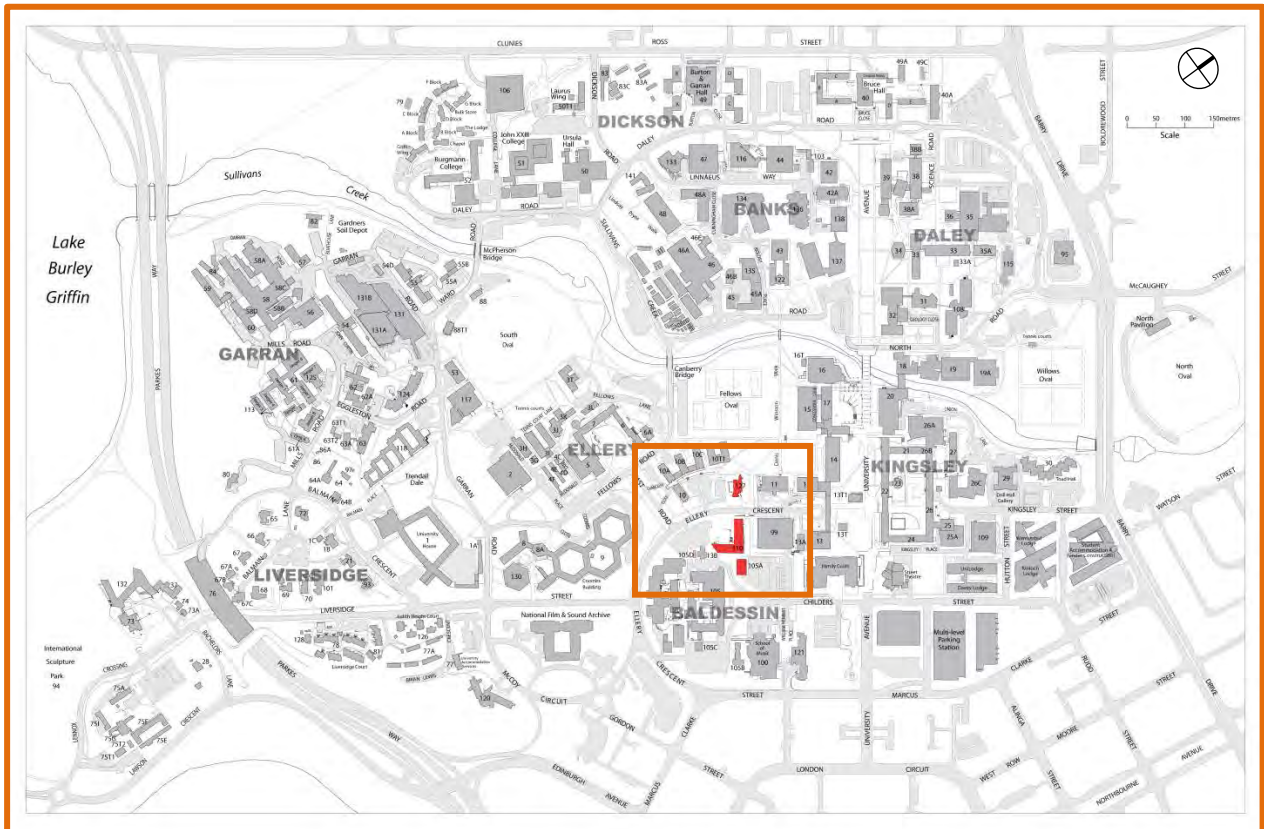
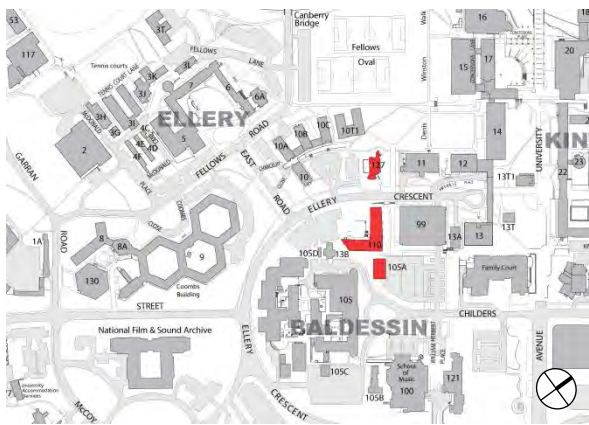


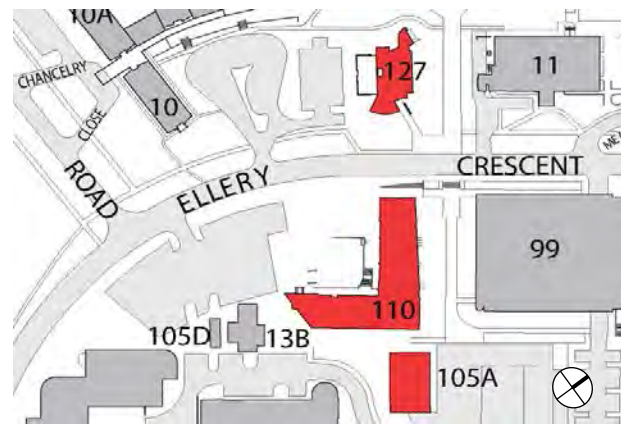
Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking	Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies— <b>Low</b> —does not meet criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List Baldessin Precinct Building— <b>Low</b> —does not meet criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List
Heritage Listing	The Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies and the Baldessin Precinct Buildings are not individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).
Condition—Date	The condition noted here is at December 2011. Both buildings are in excellent condition and continue to be well maintained.
Relevant Documentation	There is no relevant documentation on these buildings.

### Context of the Buildings



**Figure 2:** The Asian Studies building and Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies in context of surrounding buildings including Chancery and the Coombs Building.



**Figure 3:** The Asian Studies building and Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies in context of Ellery Crescent and East Road.

### Brief Historical Overview

The construction of the Baldessin Precinct Building Building (#110) began in 1994 as the result of an invited architectural competition. This competition was won jointly by Pegrum Colek Architects and Anthony Cooper and Associates P/L. The management and construction of the building was conducted by Project Coordination (Canberra). This building was designed and built with the intention of housing the Faculty of Asian Studies, Department of Modern European Languages and Linguistics. During the construction of the building, the oldest known river sediments in Canberra were discovered on the site. This discovery was made by Dr Brad Pillans from RSPacS and the samples have been dated to 5 – 20 million years old.

The Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies was designed by Daryl Jackson Alastair Swain Architects in 2003, and constructed by Manteena.



**Figure 4:** Site Plan of the Islamic Studies building dated 2001 with reference to surrounding buildings including the Asian Studies Building.

## Description of Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies and Baldessin Precinct Building

### Buildings

The external fabric of the Baldessin Precinct Building includes faced & rendered brickwork cladding. Interiors consist of plasterboard cladding on the roof and walls with tiled flooring.

The Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies is a modern rendered building with decorative sun screens on the exterior facades.

### Landscape

The landscape in the areas is mixed. The Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies landscaping includes plantings of a similar nature to the native Middle Eastern regions of Arab and Islamic cultures including palms and low, drought tolerant shrubs. The Baldessin Precinct Building has also been landscaped to reflect the function of the building with ordered and well-kept layout of plantings.

## Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

### Statement of Significance

N/A

Criteria	Assessment
<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.	The Baldessin Precinct Building and the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies do not meet CHL criterion (a) for historic values.
<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.	The Baldessin Precinct Building and the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies do not meet CHL criterion (b) for rarity values.
<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.	The Baldessin Precinct Building and the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies do not meet CHL criterion (c) for scientific values.

## Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<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 Baldessin Precinct Building and the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies 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>The Baldessin Precinct Building and the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies 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>The Baldessin Precinct Building and the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies do not meet CHL criterion (f) for creative/technical values.</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 Baldessin Precinct Building and the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies do not meet CHL criterion (g) for social values.</p>

## Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

**(h) Associative**  
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.

The Baldessin Precinct Building and the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies do not meet CHL criterion (h) for associative values.

**(i) Indigenous**  
The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.

The Baldessin Precinct Building and the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies do not meet CHL criterion (i) for Indigenous values.

## Photographs



**Figure 5:** Entrance to The Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)



**Figure 6:** Rear view of The Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)

### Photographs



**Figure 7:** Feature Tile pattern in Foyer of The Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)



**Figure 8:** Main entrance to The Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)



**Figure 9:** North West entrance to the Asian Studies Building. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)



**Figure 10:** Main entrance to the Asian Studies Building. (Source: GML 2011)

### Photographs



**Figure 11:** Landscaping on the North East Section of the Asian Studies Building. (Source: ANU Heritage Office. 2011)



**Figure 12:** The Baldessin Precinct building and the Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies in relation to each other. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)

### Management Issues

#### Constraints and Opportunities

As The Baldessin Precinct Building and the Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies are of neutral significance, no **constraints** are noted.

The Baldessin Precinct Building and the Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies are ranked as being of 'Neutral' significance as they do not embody, reflect or demonstrate Commonwealth or National Heritage values. The buildings makes no contribution to the site nor do they detract from the overall 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 Baldessin Precinct Building and the Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies are able to tolerate a substantial amount of change through development. Removal of neutral elements is not necessary unless it allows for heritage values of the campus to be regained, reinforced or conserved.

As The Innovations Building is of neutral significance, no **opportunities** are noted.

#### Recommendations

Photographic recording for the ANU archives should be undertaken prior to substantial change to buildings or landscaping in any future development.