

Australian National University



Acton Campus — Site Inventory

Study Item/ Area	Burgmann College
Acton Campus Precinct	DICKSON Precinct
Building Nos. & Names	52 (Burgmann College: Wings A, B, D, E, F, G, H, I, J), 52C (Wardsman's Residence)

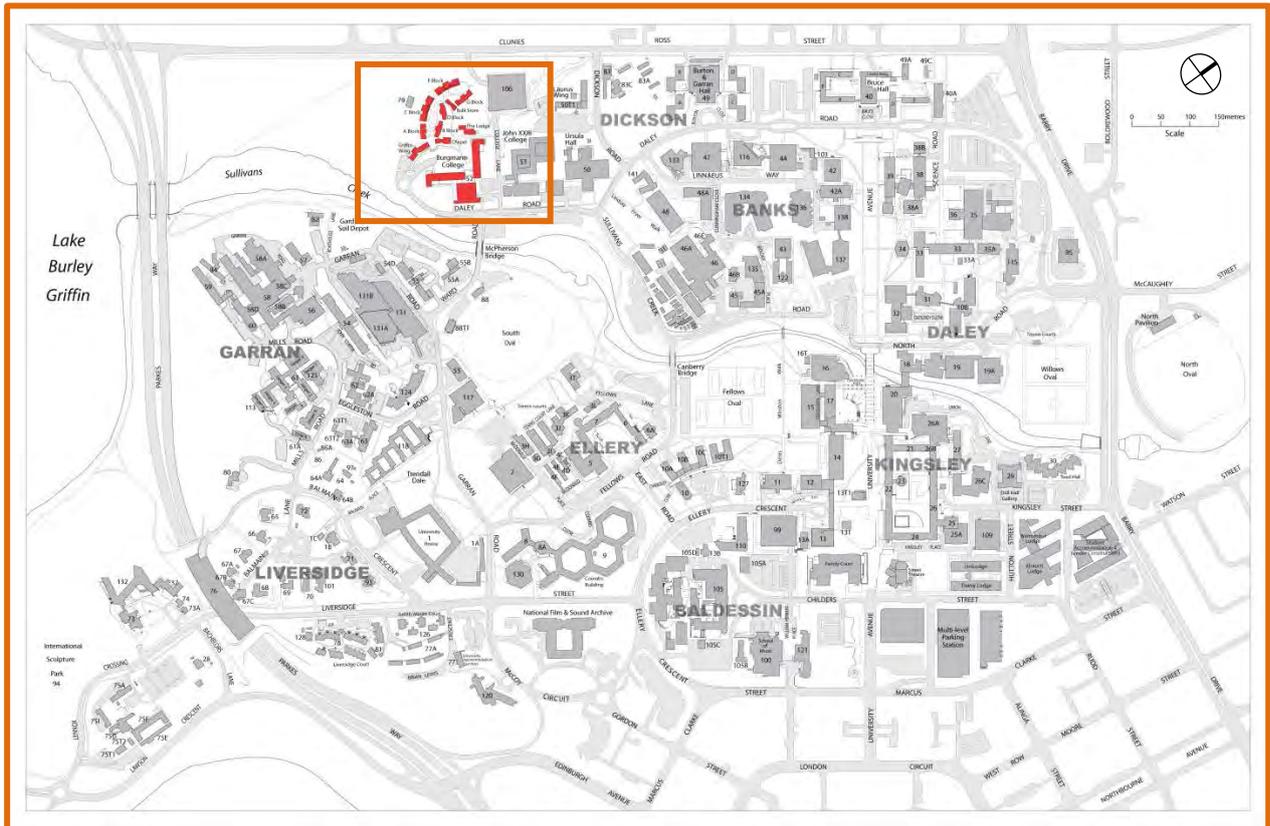


Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking	Burgmann College Group— Moderate —Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List
Heritage Listing	Burgmann College is not individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).
Condition—Date	The condition noted here is at February 2012. The extant buildings of Burgmann College continue to be well maintained for student accommodation and are in reasonable condition.
Relevant Documentation	There is no current relevant documentation prepared for Burgmann College.

Context of the Buildings

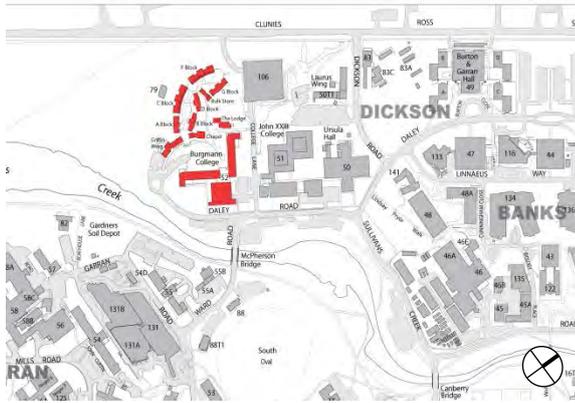


Figure 2: Burgmann College in the context of the Dickson Precinct and Sullivan's Creek.

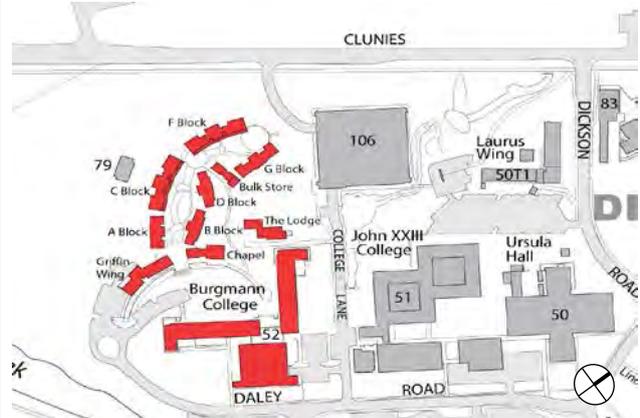


Figure 3: Burgmann College in relation to John XXIII College to the north and Daley Road.

Brief Historical Overview

During the early 1960s a council was formed with the aim of building a student residence that was church sponsored. By 1965 representatives were provided by the Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptist Union, the Churches of Christ and the Congregational Union. The Roman Catholic Churches also had plans for residences, a Dominican run site for men and an Ursuline site for women.

After initial refusal by the ANU for the site requested, and some legal investigation, the current site was taken up by the council body and construction commenced. The college was designed by Dirk Bolt, a Dutch migrant living in Tasmania. He began working on designs for what would be Burgmann College in December 1965. After redesigning to accommodate the client's vision and budget, a staged development was proposed. This was accepted and funds were allocated. During construction however costs were continually revised and certain aspects of the design were cut to keep the construction within the budget including two additional accommodation wings and a chapel.

The Burgmann Site was opened in 1971 after a rain affected construction. The site was named after the Anglican Bishop Earnest Burgmann, Bishop of Goulburn 1934 and Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn from 1950-60. The Committee agreed on a mixed gender residence in order to break from tradition and to attempt to attract married, older postgraduates. Much of the funding for construction was generated via donations by the community with both groups and individuals contributing. This has resulted in certain rooms and sections of the college being named after contributors to the college construction fund.

Over the years minor alterations and additions have happened to the college including new residences and landscaping features such as pools and recreation areas. Despite the cost cuts and subsequent disputes with the architect over fees and building faults, Burgmann college as an institution thrived over the next thirty years. As a piece of architecture its troubled creation soon paled in the aftermath of general admiration from members of the local architectural profession and a steady stream of visiting architecture students. It is currently listed with the Institute of Australian Architects on the ACT Chapter of the Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture.

Since Burgmann opened its doors thirty-five years ago, it has been home for over 7,500 students pursuing many and varied academic disciplines. Many of the scores of talented young people who have called Burgmann home have been high achievers, and have gone on to become esteemed community leaders, eminent citizens, and prominent social role models across Australia and around the world. Diplomats, politicians, judges, lawyers, scientists, activists, journalists, teachers, healers, and clergy. Burgmann alumni consistently rank among the top in their fields.

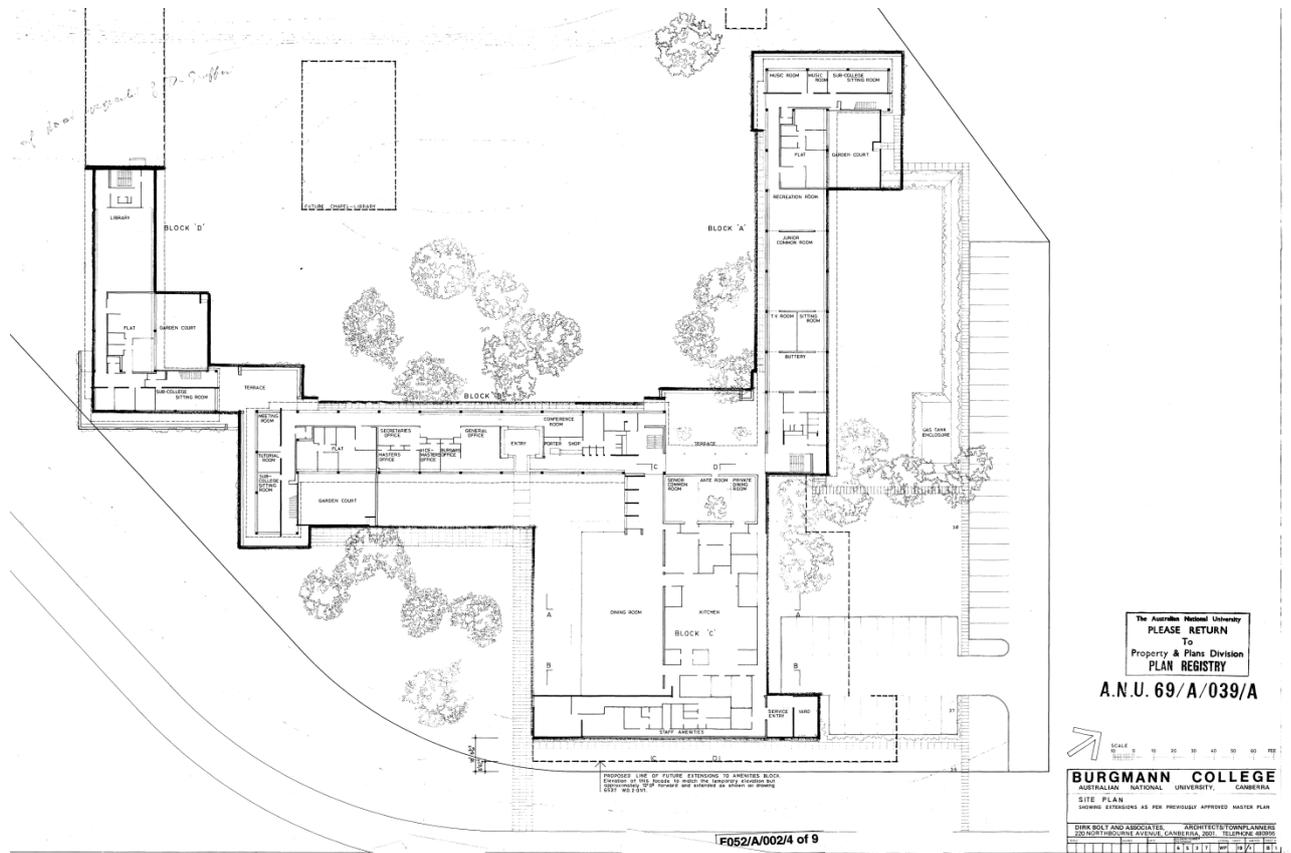


Figure 4: Ground floor plan of Burgmann College by Dirk Bolt and Associates, November 1969.

Description of the Burgmann College

Buildings

Burgmann College is a complex of multi-level residential blocks with a central common dining area behind a three metre brick wall addressing Daley Road. Rectangular residential units have shared entertaining and administration rooms at ground level, with student facilities on the upper levels. The dining room is connected to the residential areas via glazed and covered walkways. The kitchen and workshop are accommodated within the dining hall building. The ground floor level is raised off the natural grade and access is provided by a series of timber walkways and platforms. Residences have distinctive recessed horizontal windows running the full length of the blocks.

Landscape: The landscape of Burgmann House is bedded with a combination of native and exotic plantings. There are some established trees both within and without the site.

Summary Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

Statement of Significance

Burgmann College is significant as the first residence on campus to be constructed by a council of religious organisations. It was also the first denominational residential *college* to make a conscious effort to attract older and married post graduate students, and therefore the first denominational *college* to provide mixed gender accommodation on the campus.

Burgmann College is representative of the twentieth Century International Style of architecture, as interpreted by Dirk Bolt, a Tasmanian architect from Holland. Bolt is celebrated as Tasmania's most significant 'New Australian' architect and also contributed significantly to the architectural landscape of Canberra.

Criteria	Brief Assessment
<p>(a) Historic 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>Burgmann College is significant as the first residence on campus to be constructed by a council of religious organisations. It was also the first denominational residential college to make a conscious effort to attract older and married post graduate students, and therefore the first denominational college to provide mixed gender accommodation on the campus.</p> <p>Burgmann College meets CHL criterion (a) for historic values.</p> <p><i>Attributes</i> The building and its establishment by a council of religious organisations.</p>
<p>(b) Rarity 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>Burgmann College does not meet CHL criterion (b) for rarity values.</p>
<p>(c) Scientific 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>Burgmann College does not meet CHL criterion (c) for scientific values</p>

Summary Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<p>(d) Representative 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>Burgmann College is representative of the twentieth Century International Style of architecture, as interpreted by Dirk Bolt, a Tasmanian architect from Holland. Bolt is celebrated as Tasmania's most significant 'New Australian' architect.</p> <p>Burgmann College meets CHL criterion (d) representative</p> <p><i>Attributes</i> The building and its design.</p>
<p>(e) Aesthetic 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>Burgmann College does not meet CHL criterion (e) for aesthetic values</p>
<p>(f) Creative/Technical 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>Burgmann College does not meet CHL criterion (f) for creative/technical values</p>
<p>(g) Social 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>Burgmann College does not meet CHL criterion (g) for social values</p>

Summary Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<p>(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.</p>	<p>Burgmann College is strongly associated with its designer Dirk Bolt, a Dutch architect and town planner, who migrated to Tasmania during the 1950s, and is regarded as Tasmania's most significant 'New Australian' architect. Bolt is also celebrated for his contribution to Canberra's architectural landscape after his relocation to the Capital in 1964. Bolt collaborated with artists, designers and sculptors in his designs to add a sophisticated edge to the austere Modernism of the post-war period.</p> <p>Burgmann College is also associated with its namesake Ernest Henry Burgmann (1885-1967), Anglican bishop and social critic, who was Bishop of Goulburn 1934 and Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn from 1950-1960.</p> <p>Burgmann College meets CHL criterion (h) for associative values.</p> <p>Attributes The building and its associations with notable persons.</p>
<p>(i) Indigenous The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.</p>	<p>Burgmann College does not meet CHL criterion (i) for Indigenous values</p>

Photographs



Figure 5: View of the residences of Burgmann College. (Source: <http://lostoncampus.com.au/3754>. 2012)



Figure 6: View of Burgmann College reception entrance. (Source: <http://lostoncampus.com.au/3754>. 2012)

Summary Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria



Figure 7: View of Postgraduate accommodation at Burgmann College. (Source: <http://lostoncampus.com.au/3754>. 2012)



Figure 8: View of Postgraduate accommodation at Burgmann College. (Source: <http://lostoncampus.com.au/3754>. 2012)

Management Issues

Constraints and Opportunities

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

Burgmann college is of moderate heritage value and meets CHL criterion a) historic, d) representative 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 some degree of 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 Acton Campus Heritage Study 2012, will assist in conserving heritage values through a process of change. The Burgmann College is able to tolerate a moderate level of change through development whereby the significant attributes and characteristics are conserved and interpreted.

Opportunities arise from the identified heritage values of the Burgmann College, and should be interpreted at the site. 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

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 Burgmann College.

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