

National Trust of Australia



NATIONAL TRUST

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A part of our built heritage goes under the jackhammer



Love them or loath them but the buildings that formed the Cameron Office complex in Belconnen were significant in their architectural form and design and were heritage listed.

But now most of the group of buildings are being demolished (see photograph).

Designed by renowned Australian architect, John Andrews, and built of concrete and glass the complex was an excellent example of Brutalistic architecture. The low rectangular forms of the buildings with intervening courtyards each with individual themes established a new design philosophy for office buildings which influenced Canberra's planners.

The complex was listed on the Register of the National Estate in 1999, is on the Royal Australian Institute of Architects National Register of Significant 20th Century Architecture and one of the few places on the Union of International Architects International Heritage Registers.

The ACT National Trust has them listed on the 2007 *Our Heritage at Risk* programme. This list, comprised by all State and Territory National Trusts identifies places of historical, cultural, technical or environmentally significance which they consider are at risk.

The Cameron Offices along with the Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station were the top two places nominated in the ACT.

Two wings of the Cameron Office complex have already been demolished and now a further five wings are being pulled down. The current plan of the ACT Government is to retain only two of the original nine wings.

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