## **Attachment C1**

**Sydney Masonic Centre Inventory** 

SHI number 5066129 Study number

Item name: Sydney Masonic Centre building podium including interiors and Mona Hessing artwork

Location: 279-283 Castlereagh Street Sydney Sydney

Address: 279-283 Castlereagh Street Planning: Sydney South

Suburb/nearest town: Sydney

Local govt area: Sydney Parish:

State: NSW County:

Other/former names: Memorial Masonic Centre

**Group ID:** Area/group/complex:

Aboriginal area:

Curtilage/boundary:

Item type: Built **Group:** Recreation and Entertainment

Owner:

Admin codes: Code 2: Code 3:

Current use: Conference and function centre, museum

Former uses: Masonic centre

Assessed significance: State **Endorsed significance:** Local

Statement of The Sydney Masonic Centre has strong associations with the United Grand Lodge, which was formed in the significance: 1870s. The northern section of its site has been associated with the United Grand Lodge since 1884, following

the completion of the New Masonic Hall in Castlereagh Street.

The Sydney Masonic Centre is an outstanding and powerful example of the Brutalist architectural style, with a monumental interior that ranks amongst the finest interiors in Sydney from the second half of the 20th century. It is associated with the prominent architectural firm of Joseland & Gilling and is one of several innovative buildings designed by the firm during the late 1960s and the first half of the 1970s. The Sydney Masonic Centre demonstrates a very high standard of off-form concrete construction. The building is an important landmark and streetscape element in this section of Sydney. The Civic Tower addition, built in 2005, closely follows Joseland & Gilling's original intention for the development of the site.

The Mona Hessing artwork, which was commissioned for the building and is located in the main foyer, is regarded as one her finest works.

The Sydney Masonic Centre is at least of local heritage significance in terms of its historical, associations, aesthetic/technical, rarity and representative value. This satisfies five of the Heritage Council criteria of local heritage significance for local listing.

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Historical notes This site forms part of the land of the Gadigal people, the traditional custodians of land within the City of Sydney of provenance: council boundaries. For information about the Aboriginal history of the local area see the City's Barani website: http://www.sydneybarani.com.au/

> Freemasonry was brought to the colony of New South Wales by soldiers in British Army regiments shortly after the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788. In September 1839, members of the various Masonic groups purchased the York Hotel in York Street to house their meetings. It became known as the Freemason's Hall. The first Grand Lodge opened in Sydney in 1845. The Grand Lodge of New South Wales was established by 13 Masonic lodges in December 1877.

In January 1884, a New Masonic Hall at 279-281 Castlereagh Street, designed by Backhouse & Lough, was consecrated. On 16 August 1888 the Masters and Wardens of 183 lodges assembled for the purpose of constituting and establishing the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales. The first Grand Master was Lord Carrington, Governor of NSW. The New Masonic Hall served for many years. However, by 1935 it was perceived to have numerous inadequacies so during that year the United Grand Lodge passed a resolution to purchase property "suitable for the erection of a Temple worthy of this jurisdiction." (Cramp 1948, p.71)

The history of the land acquired for the future building has associations with the site of the New Masonic Hall. By 1876, properties extending north along Castlereagh Street from Goulburn Street were in the possession of Herbert Gibson. He sold them to accountant Thomas Hall in October 1876. During July and August 1881 the title of the southern section was transferred back to Herbert Gibson and that of the northern section to licensed victualler James Hunt, cordial manufacturer John Starkey, builder and contractor Unni William Carpenter, and druggist and future mayor of Manly, Nicholas Weekes. All four were associated with the Grand Lodge - Hunt was one of its officers, Starkey its Grand Treasurer, Carpenter a Grand Junior Warden and Weekes its Grand Secretary. The northern section became the site of the New Masonic Hall; its title was transferred to Starkey on 1 August 1882, who subsequently transferred it to the Grand Lodge of New South Wales Masonic Hall Company on 1 April 1886. The title was eventually transferred to trustees of the United Grand Lodge in October 1913.

The property "suitable for the erection of a Temple worthy of this jurisdiction" happened to be the southern section of land that Thomas Hall transferred back to Herbert Gibson in July 1881. At that time part of it was vacant. The Pompey's Pillar Hotel occupied the corner of Goulburn and Castlereagh Streets along with an adjoining pair of houses on Goulburn Street, all of which had been built by the second half of the 1860s. They were purchased by H Patrick in 1869 and then offered for sale in April 1873 before being acquired by Gibson a couple of years later. The buildings were sold to prominent retailer Samuel Hordern in July 1901. By 1903 he had acquired all of the properties along Goulburn Street and several along Pitt Street to the north. After Hordern's death his estate came under the control of trustees, who began to sell sections of it at the end of 1937. The United Grand Lodge purchased several of them.

The final purchase by the United Grand Lodge was the 1919 building, which occupied the site of Pompey's Pillar Hotel, and an adjoining building in Castlereagh Street known as the Bapaume Building. In the first half of 1918, Samuel Hordern's trustees sold the buildings to James Chester Foy, a director of the major retailing company Mark Foy's Ltd. Dorothy, Lurline and John Millar acquired both buildings, which they had tenanted since 1920, and the Bapaume Building, in May 1925. They had occupied the 1919 building, known as Millar House, since 1920, and mortgaged the entire property to the City Mutual Life Assurance Society in February 1930. For whatever reason the company exercising its power of sale sold it to the United Grand Lodge at the beginning of May 1945.

It took some time for the United Grand Lodge to rebuild. In September 1943 the Grand Master, Lord Gowrie, had revived a proposal for an ambitious scheme put forward in 1936 and suggested it might take the form of a Peace Memorial Temple to commemorate freemasons who had served and died in the two world wars. In December 1954 a motion to establish a building fund to finance construction of a Memorial Masonic Temple in honour of those who died in the two World Wars was carried. There was not unanimous support, however, and the initial fund, launched in 1957, foundered. It was relaunched in 1959.

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> In June 1967, a building committee was finally set up and began gathering information locally and from overseas. It included the United Grand Lodge's Grand Architect, T W Hodgson, and architect Ronald Gilling, a partner in the respected firm of Joseland & Gilling. Although development consent was sought for new Lodge headquarters in 1970, in March 1972 a model and sketch drawings were exhibited to the client. The United Grand Lodge submitted a revised development application in 1973 for a lodge, shops and office block. Joseland & Gilling lodged the building application in July 1974.

> The firm of Joseland & Gilling was formed in 1919 when Richard George Howard Joseland entered into partnership with Frederick Glynn Gilling (1877-1955). The practice designed a series of substantial and notable houses during the interwar period. Joseland retired in the late 1920s. Gilling's son, Ronald Andrew, became a partner in 1948 and continued the firm after his father retired. The firm's orientation became increasingly commercial, and designed several notable buildings in Central Sydney during the 1960s and 1970s. Apart from the Masonic Centre, these included the ANZ Bank Building in Hunter Street (designed circa 1960), the South British United Insurance Building in Hunter Street (designed circa 1969), the Qantas Centre near Lang Park (designed circa 1968), and the Colonial Mutual Building in Pitt Street near Martin Place (designed circa 1973), The use of reinforced concrete and advanced structural design played a key role in the South British United Building, the Qantas Centre and the Colonial Mutual development.

> Tenders were called to construct the building on 14 April 1975. The building's foundation stone was laid on 15 May 1976. Occupancy commenced during December 1978 and the building was officially opened and dedicated on 10 March 1979. An International Masonic Festival was staged at this time to accompany the opening.

The entire project consisted of a podium to serve as the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales - "to the Grand Lodge of New South Wales as a cathedral is to the Church" (Constructional Review) above which a 24-storey office tower was to rise. The office tower was not to eventuate for some 25 years. The forceful podium, an outstanding example of the Brutalist idiom that was popular with architects from the second half of the 1960s through the 1970s, contained parking and supper rooms at basement and street levels, and the Grand Temple, Banquet Hall, Lodge and committee rooms and office space on upper levels. It also contained some of Central Sydney's most dramatic interiors as the main foyer extended over three storeys, each level linked by a pair of centrally located free-standing circular lift shafts, surrounded by a winding stair. Acclaimed artist Mona Hessing was commissioned to undertake a woven sculpture for the building that was located within the main fover. It is considered to be one of her major commissions.

In 1989, Apperly, Irving and Reynolds featured the Sydney Masonic Centre in their reference book "Identifying Australian Architecture" as one of the select illustrated examples of the brutalist style in Australia.

The office tower, an integral component of the original design, was finally completed in 2005 under the jurisdiction of the architectural firm PTW, closely following Joseland & Gilling's original concept. The building is unique in that it is supported off its central lift core. Variations to the original 1970s tower design were approved in 2001. These include the addition of three levels and other minor changes. There was no change, however, to the general appearance of the tower or its originally conceived splayed base. This 2001 approval included the added glazing for the lobby and cafe by Peddle Thorpe and Walker. Both the glazed enclosure and the tower were completed by 2005.

According to architecture writer and critic Joe Rollo, "the Sydney Masonic Centre expresses all the plasticity and brute force of concrete as a material in architecture perhaps better than any other building in Australia. It is bare-boned, direct and strong. For fans of the art it is an architectural experience of great sophistication and delight, boldly conceived and carried through without compromise." (Concrete Poetry 2004, p.130)

Themes:	National theme	State theme	Local theme
	8. Culture	Creative endeavour	Modern architecture & art
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and villages	Creating landmark structures as
	8. Culture	Social institutions	Masonic halls & freemasons
	9. Phases of Life	Persons	Joseland & Gilling, architects

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Location: 279-283 Castlereagh Street Sydney Sydney

Designer: Joseland & Gilling, T W Hodgson & Sons

**Builder:** 

Year started: 1975 Year completed: 1978 Circa: No

Physical description: The Sydney Masonic Centre is an outstanding example of the Brutalist architectural style and demonstrates many of its characteristics - strong and expressive shapes in reinforced concrete, bold curved elements, texture provided by building materials and large unbroken wall surfaces. The original program of spaces is expressed externally through the massing of different components and the dramatic upper level structure that is supported off large splayed bracing elements.

> Its original character has been obscured to some extent by later modifications, including coatings applied to off-form concrete surfaces and the glazed enclosure of forecourts at street level.

The external form of the building was generated by internal spatial requirements. It originally contained parking and supper rooms in basement and street levels, and the Grand Temple, Banquet Hall, Lodge and committee rooms and office space on upper levels. The podium includes 5-6 storeys with some internal spaces spanning several floors, and 2 levels of basement parking. The internal spaces are organised around one of Sydney's most dramatic interiors – the main foyer extended over 3 storeys, each level linked by a pair of centrally located free-standing circular lift shafts surrounded by a winding stair. A fabric artwork by Mona Hessing was hung above a reception desk near the stair. The central large grand lodge room is augmented by several smaller lodge rooms, a large banquet hall, offices, meeting rooms, function rooms.

The building layout is arranged around a diagonal axis running through the corner of the site. Set on this axis is the central grand lodge room; the form of which is expressed externally on the corner of the building. Symmetrically arranged around the main axis on either side of the lodge room are two pairs of vertical concrete stair shafts which frame, respectively, the entrance to the masonic centre itself and the entry to the office tower above. Subsidiary spaces are arranged around these principal compositional elements. The building is stepped outwards from a narrow base towards a dominant overhanging upper level which contains offices and meeting rooms behind a windowless external face. (Weir Phillips, Heritage Analysis, 2019)

The principal construction material, both internally and externally, is unfinished off-form concrete (the face of the upper level is painted), with frameless glass infill and travertine stone flooring along with some sections of vertical timber panelling internally. (Weir Phillips, Heritage Analysis, 2019)

The Sydney Masonic Centre forms the podium of the 24-storey office building known as Civic Tower, which closely follows Joseland & Gilling's 1970s concept for an office tower. It is linked to the Masonic Centre by a splayed base. The tower is constructed of concrete, with a strong vertical emphasis provided by narrow window bays separated by slender projecting mullions. The corners of the building are curved. While completing Joseland & Gilling's original scheme for the site, the tower was constructed approximately 25 years after the hall complex. A separate public foyer off Goulburn Street provides access to the lift lobby of this tower.

The heritage item listing, as specified in the item name, includes the Sydney Masonic Centre building podium exteriors and interiors and Mona Hessing artwork. It excludes the 24-storey Civic Tower where it extends above the podium.

Physical condition Good

level:

Physical condition: The building is in good condition and has been well maintained.

Archaeological Not assessed

potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail: Item name: Sydney Masonic Centre building podium including interiors and Mona Hessing artwork

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Modification dates: 2005 - works approved in 2001 were complete including the glazed enclosure of undercroft spaces adjacent to Goulburn and Castlereagh Street for a lobby and cafe to the design of Peddle Thorp and Walker, and construction of the 24-storey Civic Tower office building. The 2001 approval included modifications to the 1970s original tower design for an additional three levels and other minor changes, without changing the general appearance of the tower or its originally conceived splayed base.

> The Goulburn Street stair shafts have been clad in aluminium sandwich panels. The original radial pattern tiling between the front walls of the site and the street boundary have been removed. Bathrooms and utility areas have been refitted

Recommended The Sydney Masonic Centre building podium, including exteriors and interiors, should be retained and management: conserved. The podium includes the lower 5-6 storeys of the building that form part of the original podium, with some internal spaces spanning several floors. It excludes the 24-storey Civic Tower extending above the original podium.

> All original external fabric should be retained. Surfaces never intended for painting should remain unpainted and be appropriately maintained. Where off-form concrete surfaces, which were a significant part of the building's architectural character, have been obscured through the application of a coating, investigation should be undertaken to determine an appropriate method for removal that will not damage concrete surfaces. If it is necessary to apply a coating to the surface, then investigation should be undertaken to source a material that will obscure the surface as little as possible.

> Remaining intact original internal fabric should be retained and conserved. The textile artwork by Mona Hessing should be retained in situ and conserved.

> A conservation management plan should be prepared to guide future use and maintenance of the podium. Any application for future development affecting listed building features should be accompanied by a heritage impact statement.

> The impact of external works to the Civic Tower on the significance of the Sydney Masonic Centre podium will be assessed as works in the vicinity of a heritage item.

**Management:** 

Management category

Management name

Statutory Instrument

List on a Local Environmental Plan (LEP)

Further comments: Heritage inventory sheets are often not comprehensive, and should be regarded as a general guide only. Inventory sheets are based on information available, and often do not include the social history of sites and buildings. Inventory sheets are constantly updated by the City as further information becomes available. An inventory sheet with little information may simply indicate that there has been no building work done to the item recently: it does not mean that items are not significant. Further research is always recommended as part of preparation of development proposals for heritage items, and is necessary in preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments and Conservation Management Plans, so that the significance of heritage items can be fully assessed prior to submitting development applications.

Criteria a): The site of the Sydney Masonic Centre has long associations with freemasonry in Sydney, in particular the [Historical United Grand Lodge, which has occupied its northern section after the completion of the so-called New significance] Masonic Hall in Castlereagh Street in January 1884.

Meets this criterion at a Local level.

Criteria b): The Sydney Masonic Centre has strong associations with the United Grand Lodge, which was formed in the

[Historical 1870s.

association

significance The building is associated with the prominent architectural firm of Joseland & Gilling. It is one of several innovative buildings designed by the firm during the late 1960s and the first half of the 1970s.

Meets this criterion at a Local level.

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[Aesthetic/ **Technical** significance|

The Sydney Masonic Centre is an outstanding and powerful example of the Brutalist style, with a monumental interior that ranks amongst the finest interiors in Sydney from the second half of the 20th century. It is an important landmark and streetscape element in this section of Sydney.

The Civic Tower, completed in 2005, does not detract from this significance because it closely follows Joseland & Gilling's original intention for the development of the site in the 1970s.

The Sydney Masonic Centre demonstrates a very high standard of off-form concrete construction.

The Mona Hessing artwork, which was commissioned for the building, is regarded as one her finest works.

Meets this criterion at a Local and State level.

Criteria d): [Social/Cultural significance]

The building's social significance has not been ascertained. It has potential social significance for the mason community and architectural community.

The 2019 submissions in support of the heritage value and listing of this building from heritage bodies,

May meet this criterion at a Local level.

Criteria e): The building's research potential has not been ascertained.

[Research

significance May meet this criterion at a Local level.

The Sydney Masonic Centre is a rare example of a Masonic building from the second half of the 20th century in Criteria f):

[Rarity] the City of Sydney.

Meets the criterion at a Local level.

**Criteria g):** The design of the Sydney Masonic Centre is representative of the Brutalist style of architecture.

professionals and community members may indicate potential social significance.

[Representative]

Meets the criterion at a Local level.

**Intactness/Integrity:** The Sydney Masonic Centre has retained a large amount of original building fabric. The Mona Hessing artwork remains in situ.

References: Author Title Year "Masonic Centre", February 1980 1980 K R Cramp From Jubilee to Diamond Jubilee: history of ten years of the Ur 1948

M H Kellerman From Diamond Jubilee to Centenary: history of forty years of tl 1988 Philip Goad and Julie Willis Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture 2012 Joe Rollo Concrete Poetry: concrete architecture in Australia 2004

Freemasonry: History 2014 2019 Weir Phillips Heritage and Planning Heritage analysis - Sydney Masonic Centre

Studies: Author Title Number Year

Tanner Kibble Denton ArcModern Movement Architecture in Central Sydney - Heritag 2018

Parcels: Parcel code Lot number Section number Plan code Plan number LOT DP 1067328

Latitude: Longitude:

Location validity: Spatial accuracy:

Map name: Map scale:

SHI number 5066129 Study number

Item name: Sydney Masonic Centre building podium including interiors and Mona Hessing artwork

Location: 279-283 Castlereagh Street Sydney Sydney

Northing: AMG zone: **Easting:** 

Listing: Name Title Number ListingDate

Modern Movement Architecture in Heritage study 01/01/2018

Data entry: Data first entered: 10/04/2018 Data updated: 20/05/2020 Status:

SHI number 5066129 Study number

Item name: Sydney Masonic Centre building podium including interiors and Mona Hessing artwork

Location: 279-283 Castlereagh Street Sydney Sydney

#### Image:



Sydney Masonic Centre in 2013 viewed from the south eastern corner of Castlereagh and

Goulburn Stree

Copy right: City of Sydney Image by: Claudine Loffi Image date: 10/07/2018

Image number:

Image url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP

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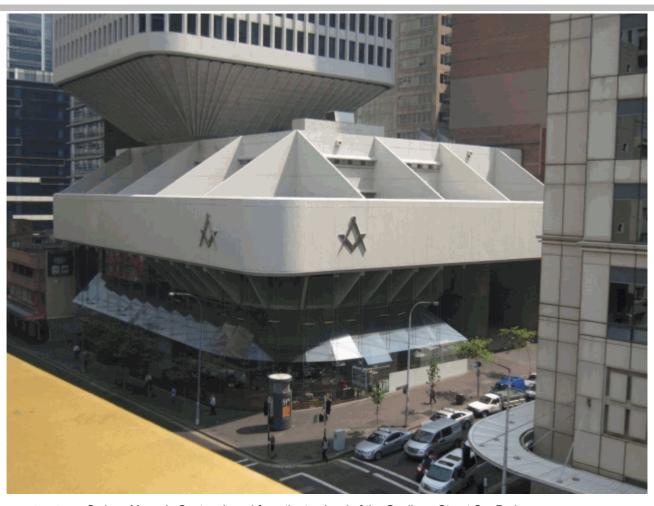
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Caption: Sydney Masonic Centre viewed from the top level of the Goulburn Street Car Park

Copy right: City of Sydney

Image by: Tanner Kibble Denton Architects

Image date: 01/01/2013

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Sydney Masonic Centre Goulburn Street elevation

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Caption: Sydney Masonic Centre Castlereagh Street elevation

City of Sydney Copy right: Image by: Claudine Loffi Image date: 10/07/2018

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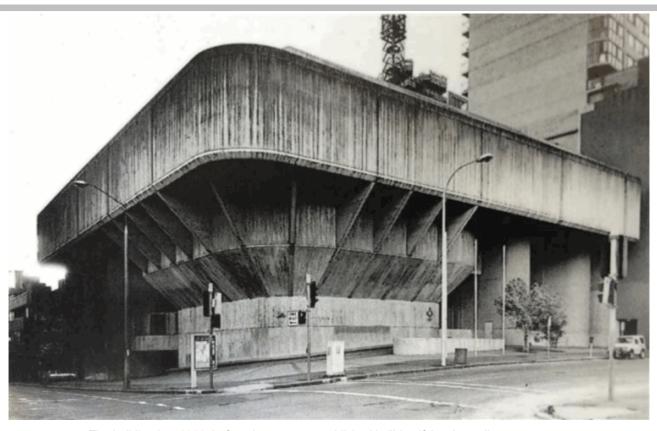
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Caption: The building in c.1989, before the tower, as published in "Identifying Australian

Architecture"

Copy right: Richard Apperly, Robert Irving and Peter Reynolds

Image by: Apperly, Irving & Reynolds

**Image date:** 01/01/1989

Image number:

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Civic Tower under construction in 2003

Copy right: City of Sydney Image by: John Prescott **Image date:** 01/01/2003

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Building exteriors in 1997 before alterations, viewed at corner of Castlereagh and

Goulburn Streets

Copy right: City of Sydney

Image by:

Image date: 15/01/1996

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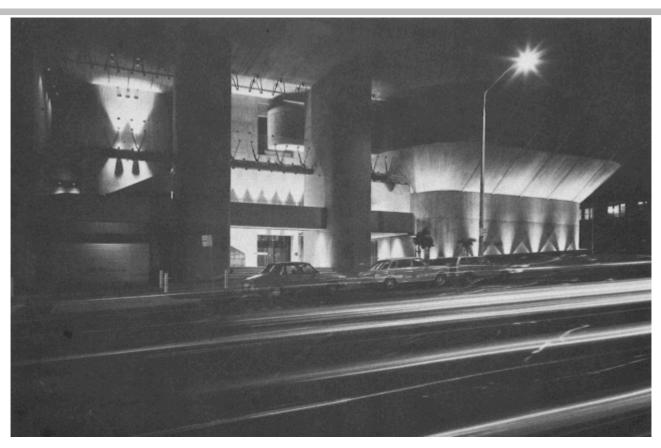
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Caption: The building shortly after completion, as published in Constructional Review, Feb 1980

Copy right: Constructional Review Image by: Constructional Review

**Image date:** 01/02/1980

Image number:

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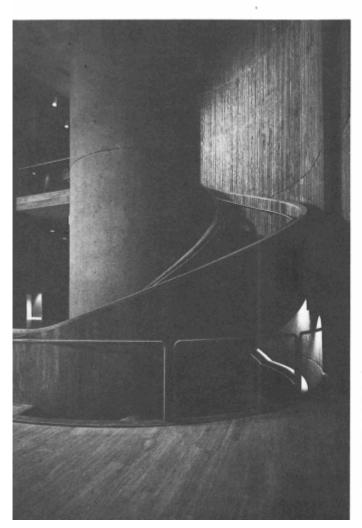
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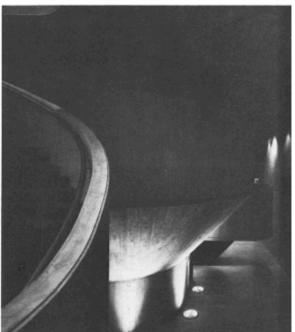
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The foyer shortly after completion, as published in Constructional Review, Feb 1980

Constructional Review Copy right: Constructional Review Image by:

Image date: 01/02/1980

Image number:

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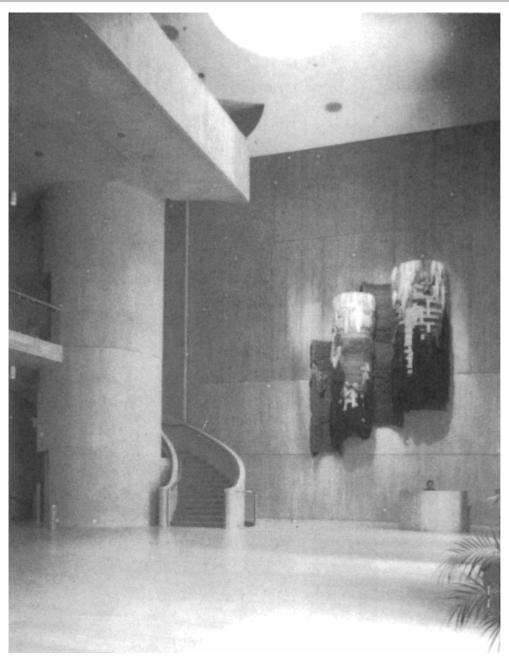
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Mona Hessing's artwork in the main foyer, as published in "From Diamond Jubilee to Caption:

Centenary..."

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**Image date:** 01/01/1980

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