

## **QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY NAMED AMONG AUSTRALIA'S TOP 10 CONCRETE PUBLIC ARCHITECTURAL WORKS**

August 26, 2019

What do the Queensland Art Gallery, in Brisbane, the Sydney Opera House, and the main car park at the University of Melbourne have in common?

They have all been named among the top 10 most outstanding concrete public architectural works in Australia of the past nine decades.

A judging panel comprising some of Australia's best-known architects and building experts today unveiled the first ever list of the 10 most outstanding concrete public buildings in the country.

The publication of the Top 10 List marks the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the organisation that represents the heavy construction materials industry, Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA).

The Top 10 List also includes iconic national buildings such as the High Court of Australia in Canberra; the Gladesville Bridge in Sydney; James Cook University Library in Townsville; and more recent works like the Punchbowl Mosque in Sydney.

The chair of the judging panel, Peter Poulet, a former Government Architect, said the judges had chosen the Queensland Art Gallery building among the Top 10 because of its ground-breaking design - and the way it broke down barriers between art, the public and its surrounds.

"There was no doubt among the judges that this is an impressive structure, which is why we had no problem including it in our list, which has been culled from the original list of 45 nominations," Mr Poulet said.

The panel also included Malcolm Middleton OAM, who is the Queensland Government Architect, and Professor Cameron Bruhn, the Head of the School of Architecture at the University of Queensland.

Mr Middleton described the Queensland Art Gallery as a "robust" cubic composition adding: "In its architectural purity and its innovative use of concrete in a public space – particularly the famed water mall area - it was an important building in establishing Brisbane as an International City."

The Chief Executive Officer of CCAA, Ken Slattery, said the Top 10 List highlighted the aesthetic, environmental, and social contribution concrete has made, and continues to make, to Australia's urban landscapes since the organisation began nine decades ago.

“Since 1929, Cement, Concrete & Aggregates Australia has promoted the inherent qualities, flexibility and sustainability of concrete as a building and construction material,” Mr Slattery said.

“To mark our 90th year, we embarked on a quest to find Australia’s most important and distinctive concrete public architectural landmarks, highlighting the central role that concrete has played in Australia’s urban landscape throughout the past nine decades.

“Some of the Top 10 structures sit in harmony with the landscape, while others are proudly uncompromising; some have Brutalist, geometric composition while others have continuous free-flowing forms, but collectively, this list captures the limitless potential of concrete.”

Mr Poulet said the judging panel had whittled down a long list of 45 nominations to 23 finalists, before reaching a consensus on the Top 10.

He said the selection was based on three criteria: Architectural Merit (the form, function and structure of the building); Innovation in the use of concrete as a material, as a structure, and aesthetically; and finally, Exemplar of the time, which determined whether the project redefined and expanded concrete’s potential.

“These buildings and structures remind us of the resilient, enduring beauty of concrete - and it is this durability that makes it a key enabling material to put society on a sustainable transition path,” he added.

[Ends]

For further information, contact Cannings Strategic Communications:

**William Roberts** – *Senior Consultant*

**M:** 0431 318 893

**E:** [wroberts@cannings.net.au](mailto:wroberts@cannings.net.au)