



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Supporting Information

PLEASE NOTE: This Assessment Documentation is intended to provide sufficient information to consider the place for inclusion in the State Register. It is not intended to provide a complete record of the history of the place or its physical presentation.

10. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural heritage significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for individuals or groups within Western Australia.

In determining cultural heritage significance, the Heritage Council has had regard to the factors in section 38 of the *Heritage Act 2018*. It is considered that the place warrants inclusion in the State Register against the following factors relevant to cultural heritage significance:

10(A) Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history;

Hale School Memorial Hall was constructed in 1960-61 and is the first Brutalist style building in Australia. It makes a significant contribution to the evolution of Western Australian contemporary architecture (historic value).

Hale School Memorial Hall was constructed at a time of rapid population growth in the State in the post-war years and demonstrates the increased social expectation and subsequent expansion of secondary school education from the 1950's to 1960's, which saw a wave of high school construction in the metropolitan area (historic value).

10(C) Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's history;

As the first Brutalist building in Australia, and the first to demonstrate the use of off-form concrete using the Bêton Brut construction method, *Hale School Memorial Hall* is the exemplar and precedent for the use of this technique and for the evolution of Brutalist buildings in Western Australia (historic value).

10(D) Its importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places;

Hale School Memorial Hall was built as a memorial to honour the Old Haleians who lost their lives in war, with this function reflected in the building's austere but striking design, scale and use of off-form concrete to produce a building of symbolic significance (historic and aesthetic value).

10(E) Any strong or special meaning it may have for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;

Hale School Memorial Hall was built to honour the Old Haleians who died in war and continues to have significance to past and present students, teachers and staff as demonstrated in the documentary film 'Memoirs of Memorial Hall' produced in October 2021 by the Old Haleians' Association, and the stage play 'My Hall', by Julie Jarel in the same year (social value).

The place is of special importance to members of the Old Haleians Association who funded the design and construction of the Memorial Hall to provide a place for the whole school community to come together and as a gift to the future boys of Hale School (social value).

10(F)¹ Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community;

Hale School Memorial Hall is a fine example of Late Twentieth-Century Brutalist style architecture with landmark qualities within the Hale School Campus, and is valued by the school alumni and wider architectural community (aesthetic value).

Constructed in *Béton Brut* reinforced off-form concrete with a striking east elevation, prominent external concrete columns, concrete fenestration and bas-relief moulded balustrades, *Hale School Memorial Hall* is valued for its bold contemporaneous design that contributes to the identity of the Hale School community (aesthetic value).

10(G) Any special association it may have with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in Western Australia's history;

Hale School Memorial Hall was designed by prominent Western Australian Architect Anthony Brand who was recognised for his pioneering use of the *Béton Brut* construction method that demonstrated a high degree of innovation at the time (historic value).

10(H) Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement;

Hale School Memorial Hall demonstrates achievement in construction technology, in its use of reinforced off-form concrete using the *Béton Brut* construction method and is the earliest application of this technique in Australia in 1961. (historic and scientific value)

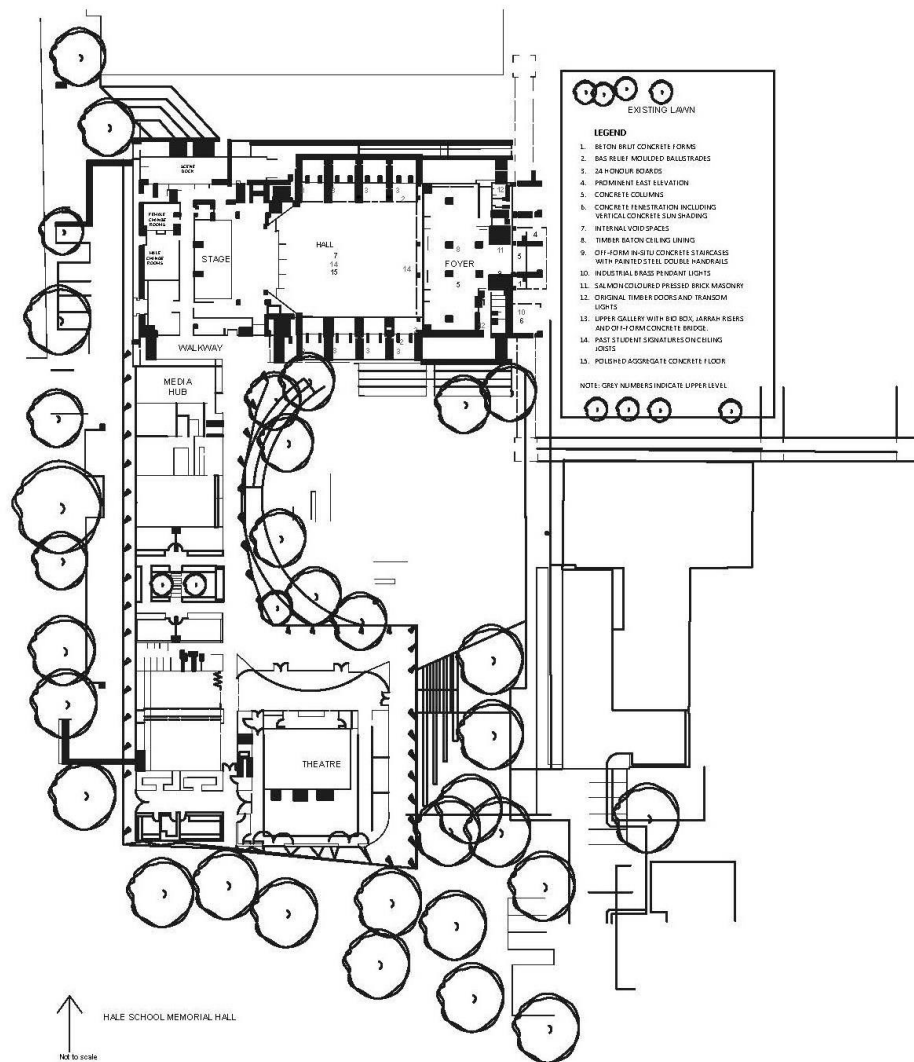
Hale School Memorial Hall was awarded the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Bronze medal (1959-1961) and the Architecture and Arts Australian Building of the Year in 1962, in recognition of its pioneering achievement as the first building in Western Australia to be conceived as a design in reinforced concrete. (historic value)

¹

For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

11. SITE PLAN



Annotated Site Plan (not to scale)

12. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, in October 2023, with amendments and/or additions by the Heritage Council and the Department.

12.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Hale School Memorial Hall was constructed in 1960-61 and comprises a substantial single storey hall designed in the Late Twentieth-Century Brutalist style, constructed in reinforced off-form concrete, which forms part of the Hale School Campus in Wembley Downs.

Heritage Council of Western Australia Theme (s)

This analysis is based on the Thematic History of Western Australia^[1] (WA Thematic). The following theme/s, key events and phases are relevant to the history of the place:

International Links

1939 – 1945 World War II and international events impacts development of Western Australia

Services – Education

1950's - During this period there is an increased social expectation of high school education resulting in pressures to the school system, especially due to post-war migration and population increase. Increasing numbers of students complete five years of high school.

1960's - During this period there was a wave of government high school construction in the metropolitan area to cater for the rapid growth and increasing expectations of accessible secondary schooling.

1961 - Hale School relocates from CBD to Wembley after over 100 years educating boys in central Perth (from 1914 at Havelock Street rather than original St George's Terrace site).

Peopling WA – Demographic Development

1946-1955 – Post-war the Commonwealth government instituted a decade of sustained, supported immigration in an attempt to increase the Australian population, with 58,400 assisted migrants arriving in Western Australia.

The area around Wembley Downs is the traditional land of the Mooro Noongar people. The wetlands and coastal areas provided abundant natural resources and were used for activities such as camping, hunting, fishing, and ceremonial purposes during the warmer months. Noongar boodja (country) covers the entire south-western portion of Western Australia from Jurien Bay to Esperance and comprises at least 13 Noongar groups. The Whadjuk Noongar people traditionally occupied the country of the Perth Metropolitan area, with the Mooro people

[1] 'A Thematic History of Western Australia' (incl. Framework Spreadsheet & Narratives). Prepared for the Heritage Council of WA by Clare Menck, Historian, June 2018.

occupying the land on which the City of Stirling local government area is now situated, including Wembley Downs.²

Hale School Memorial Hall is located on Unwin Avenue and forms part of the Hale School Campus in Wembley Downs. Located in the north east part of the suburb, within the City of Stirling, it is situated on land that was originally granted to Henry Trigg and Mary Ann Hokin in 1842. A portion of the land was then acquired by David Boyle and in 1926 was sold to the City Beach Land Company to be developed into a residential suburb.³

Hale School

Hale School is the oldest private boy's school and one of the first secondary schools in Western Australia.⁴ It was originally situated at *The Cloisters* (P2119 RHP) on St Georges Terrace, Perth, briefly relocated to the Pensioner Guard Barracks in 1880 and then Havelock Street, West Perth in 1914. The current location of Hale School is a 48-hectare site in Wembley Downs which was officially opened in 1961.⁵

The original Hale School at *The Cloisters* was established in 1858 by the first Anglican Bishop of Perth, Bishop Hale, as a secondary school for boys. It was funded with a grant from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and Bishop Hale's own donation. Called the Perth Church of England Collegiate School, the school was important as the sole source of secondary education in the Colony, and it attracted wealthy young men as pupils. In 1929 the school was renamed Hale School after Bishop Hale.⁶

The initial enrolment at Hale School was twenty-three pupils and during the first years it went on to educate many of the young men who would become the colony's leading citizens in the first years of responsible government. These included the Forrest brothers, John who became Premier of Western Australia and then Federal Treasurer; Alexander who would become the Lord Mayor of Perth; and William and David. Other alumni who played a major role in the commercial and industrial development of the State include: Stephen Henry Parker, later Q. C. and a major figure in achieving Responsible Government; Sir Edward and Frank Wittenoom; Edward Lee Steere, Maitland Brown; William F. Samson; Charles and Maxwell Lefroy; Henry de Burgh; John Bateman; Henry J. Saw; Richard Sholl; Robert E. King; Fred Brockman; and Fred, George and Augustus Roe.⁷

From the early 1920's, consideration was given to moving the school to a suburban location which would allow for its long-term expansion. It was also thought that parents were not supportive of having a boarding school in such close proximity to the city due to the temptations and distractions that city life had to offer.⁸ In 1939, the Chairman of the Board of Governors and headmaster Dr Arnold Buntine began

² [Collard, L., Rooney, A., & Stocker, L. \(2013\). Mooro Nyungar Katitjin Bidi \(Mooro People's Knowledge Trail\). Literature Review.](#)

³ City of Stirling. "Wembley Downs" (2023). www.stirling.wa.gov.au

⁴ HCWA Assessment documentation for P2119 The Cloisters" (1995)

⁵ The Old Haleians' Association "Potted History". (2023). www.oldschool.com

⁶ Hale School, "Traditions". (2023). www.hale.wa.edu.au. WA Thematic: [Services - Education](#)

⁷ Oldham, R. 'School Architecture in Western Australia' in The W. A. Teacher's Journal (June, 1966) pp. 156-157.

⁸ Conservation Plan – Former Hale School Buildings, Havelock Street, West Perth, prepared for the Building Management Authority, by Palassis Architects, April 1993, p 16.

looking for a new site for Hale School. They purchased the 48 hectare 'Herdsman Lake' land for £2,260 in the area now known as Wembley Downs. However, plans to relocate the school as soon as possible were put on hold due to the outbreak and aftermath of World War II, and the move was postponed for two decades.⁹

By the 1950's, post-war development and rapid population growth in Western Australia saw the Havelock Street campus reach capacity. Following the recommendations of the Stephenson-Hepburn Report, released in 1955, the State Government offered to purchase the Hale school site for £225,000 in order to facilitate the move to Wembley Downs. At this time, the school also entered into an agreement with the Church of England for a further loan of £150,000 for its building fund, an agreement that resulted in the school being converted to a church school. In 1958, the foundation stone for the new school at Wembley Downs was laid by the Premier Bert Hawke to commemorate the centenary of the school. The school finally opened its doors in February 1961.¹⁰

Design and construction of Hale School Memorial Hall

Part of the design brief for the new school was for an allied arts and performance space that would also serve as a commemorative war memorial to remember the sixty 'Old Boys' who died during the two World Wars. An Old Boys Memorial fund was set up to raise the sum of £75,000 that was required to build the Hall with a request for every Old Boy to make a donation. The Hall was to provide a place for the whole school community to come together and was seen as a gift to the future boys attending Hale School.¹¹

The *Hale School Memorial Hall* was designed by Architect Anthony (Tony) Brand,¹² a former Old Boy, with student architect Ralph Drexell contributing to the sketch drawings with Gus Ferguson employed to carry out the working drawings. In the early stages, Gus Ferguson returned from a trip to England and convinced Brand to make the upper walls of Bêton Brut concrete, saying that making more of the building off-form would make it look more unified and memorial like. Ferguson was also responsible for the design and creation of the bas-relief sculptured panels around the interior balcony. Consideration was given as to whether to have bare or rendered concrete to match the rest of school. At first the Old Boys had reservations about the use of concrete, but wanting a premier building, they were eventually convinced of its use.¹³ The new hall was to be a bold Brutalist design that would stand in stark contrast to the low, cream brick buildings of the existing Hale School campus.

Brutalism became a popular architectural style in Eastern Europe and Britain in the 1950s, and by the 1960s was beginning to make its presence felt in Australia, notably in its application for offices and government buildings. This post-war

⁹ The Old Haleians' Association "Potted History". (2023). Available at: Potted History - Old Haleians Association, page 23.

¹⁰ Ibid, p.16.

¹¹ Information from the documentary film *Memoirs of Memorial Hall* (October 2021) Available at: <https://www.oldhale.com/History/Memoirs-of-Memorial-Hall>

¹² During the design phase for the Memorial Hall, Brand was working as Anthony Brand and Marshall Clifton, Architects in Association. However, Brand has stated in correspondence and in an interview with Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (the Department) staff that Clifton was not involved in the design of the Memorial Hall. Interview with Tony Brand and Department staff on 27 September 2023

¹³ Interview with Tony Brand and Department staff on 27 September 2023.

European approach was a reaction to the sleek idealism of the International style, favouring heavy, sculptural buildings featuring expanses of rough concrete. Derived from the French term *Béton Brut* ('rough concrete'), the use of reinforced concrete showing the imprint of its formwork was the material of choice for post-war architects including Le Corbusier.¹⁴

Hale School Memorial Hall was constructed of off-form concrete using the *Béton Brut* construction method. This technique produces a form that is left unfinished after being cast, displaying the patterns and seams imprinted by the formwork, leaving the material to express its strength, power, and character without adornment. The construction method included the use of absorbed and hardened concrete formed with wood.¹⁵

Tony Brand recalls that the hardest part of using concrete was with the control of colour. The cement had to come only from one source to ensure the same mix, colour and speed of surface drying. Care had to be taken so the concrete didn't dry out too quickly and the longer it was formed, the lighter the colour was. A decision was made not to use jarrah for the formwork as it was too hard and was affected by moisture movement,¹⁶ but to use pine – a slightly soft wood so the grain could be shown.¹⁷ Renowned West Australian engineer Peter Bruechle provided advice on the methodology. His engineering firm was also responsible for the structural engineering behind prominent Perth buildings such as Central Park, and Exchange Plaza. Bruechle was also the Senior Design Engineer with the Public Works Department from 1958 to 1961.¹⁸

The design of the new building also had to consider its dual function as both a memorial and a school hall. The hall needed to provide seating for 1000 and meet the acoustic requirements for events such as drama performances. An acoustic expert was appointed to help with the design of the internal walls in order to find an appropriate reverberation and suggested that zig-zag walls be installed. As this would result in the loss of a row of seating, Brand suggested an alternate solution of mounting the jarrah honour boards in such a way as they support the acoustic function of the building, mitigating any sound distortion. This idea was supported and 24 honour boards were installed in total at the time.¹⁹

The honour boards, originally located at the entrance to the Memorial Hall record the sacrifice given by the Hale alumni, some as young as 17 years old. Other boards list the names of high achieving students including prefects, sports captains and duxes of the school, and celebrate both individual and collective members of the Hale community. (In 2024, the honour boards are in storage and will be re-hung once re-development works are complete).

¹⁴ Boyle, B, 'Brutalism', 20th Century Architecture, Available: <http://architecture-history.org/schools/BRUTALISM.html> [accessed 20/09/23]

¹⁵ Condello, Annette. "Branding/Brutifying Perth: The Art Gallery of Western Australia and its Parched landscape". *Art Gallery of Western Australia* (2019), pp. 200 – 211.

¹⁶ Interview with Tony Brand and DPLH staff on 27 September 2023.

¹⁷ The use of pine for the formwork is noted in the documentary film 'Memoirs of Memorial Hall' (October 2021) Available at: <https://www.OLDHale.com/History/Memoirs-of-Memorial-Hall>

¹⁸ Bruechle, Peter, "Peter Bruechle interview, 5 November 2014 and 12 November 2014," UWA Historical Society: UWA Histories, accessed January 17, 2024, available: <https://oralhistories.arts.uwa.edu.au/items/show/82>.

¹⁹ Interview with Tony Brand and DPLH staff on 27 September 2023.

In 1961 *Hale School Memorial Hall* was awarded the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Bronze Medal for the most meritorious building constructed in Western Australia for the years 1959-61. The jury was convened by Gordon Stephenson, who had previously worked in Perth as co-author of the 1955 'Metropolitan Plan for Perth'. In 1960 he returned to take up the joint role of Consultant Architect and Professor of Architecture at UWA. The jury praised the architects for "a robust, masculine and well-proportioned design which has symbolic significance as well as a very practical purpose" as well as the builders "on the result of the pioneer work they undertook." Stephenson recalled it was the most original and modern building the jury saw in the architectural main stream.²⁰

In 1962, *Hale School Memorial Hall* was awarded the Architecture and Arts 'Building of the Year', an annual award given to the best new building in Australia. The jury report that was published in the December 1962 edition of 'The Architect', describes the impact the building made at the time:

*'The Hall is important as the first building in Western Australia to be conceived as a design in reinforced concrete leaving the material to express its strength, power and character without adornment... The architects and the builders are to be congratulated on the result of the pioneer work they undertook in this regard. The appearance of Hale School Memorial Hall will be enhanced by the passage of time. The unplastered and unpainted concrete will weather in the manner of stone'.*²¹

Since its construction, *Hale School Memorial Hall* has served as a venue for various activities, special events, and stage productions. In March 2021, the place was the venue for the production 'My Hall', a play written and directed by Julia Jurel, as a homage to *Hale School Memorial Hall* and the memories and traditions it holds. Jurel began her research three years prior to the production being staged and invited members of the Hale community to visit the hall and share their recollections of the place. These memories along with archival research formed the basis of the site-specific theatre script. The play was performed by a cast of Old Haleians, school staff members, parents and students.²²

In October 2021, a documentary film 'Memoirs of Memorial Hall' was produced by the Old Haleians' Association. This film set out to capture the history of *Hale School Memorial Hall*, including the funding raised by the school community to build it, and its design and construction. The film also provided an opportunity to include original footage from the Hale School archives, and documented the extensive work undertaken behind the scenes for the 'My Hall' production performed in 2021.²³

²⁰ Murray Andrew, 'A 'Not Quite Gold' Medal Winner: Gus Ferguson and the University of Western Australia Law School Building.' In *Proceedings of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand: 33, Gold*, edited by AnnMarie Brennan and Philip Goad, 518-526. Melbourne: SAHANZ, 2016.

²¹ <https://www.fineartathale.org/memorial-hall/>

²² Jurel, J. (2020). *My hall. A stage play and My Hall: Excavating, shaping and sharing the memory of Hale School's Memorial Hall through a site-specific, staged performance. An exegetis*. Edith Cowan University. Retrieved from <https://ro.ecu.edu.au/theses/2283>

²³ Available at: <https://www.oldhale.com/History/Memoirs-of-Memorial-Hall>



Figure 1. Hale School Memorial Hall, Wembley Downs. Image: 1961. Source: Cross-Section Archive, Melbourne University



Figure 2. Hale School Memorial Hall, Image: 1961 R J Ferguson Source: https://www.sahanz.net/wp-content/uploads/SAHANZ18_paper_Murray.pdf

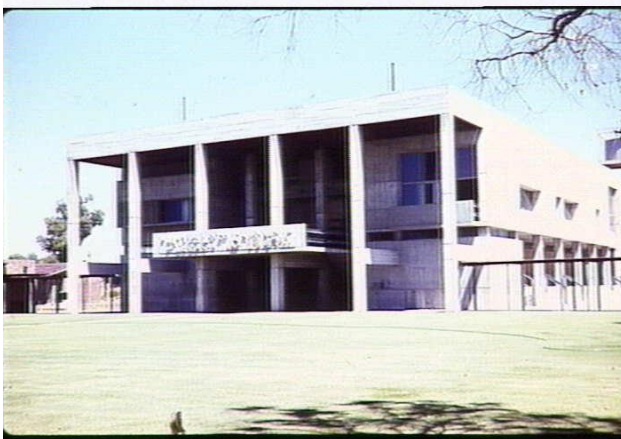


Figure 3. Hale School Memorial Hall. Wembley Downs. Image: 1973. Source: State Library of Victoria (slv.vic.gov.au)

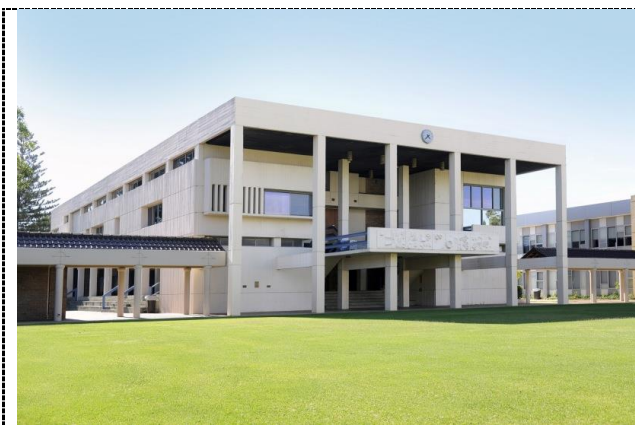


Figure 4. Hale School Memorial School. Image: 2014. Source: www.sosbrutalism.com.au

Current Use

In 2020, Hale School commissioned Kerry Hill Architects to undertake a renovation and extension of the Memorial Hall, along with the construction of a new theatre and drama precinct. In 2023, works to the Hall commenced to expand the seating capacity to 1,650. This has resulted in some of the internal structure being demolished while the exterior of the Hall remains relatively as is. Significant elements of the brutalist design, including the east elevation, prominent external concrete columns and concrete fenestration and the bas-relief moulded balustrades, will be retained.²⁴ This work is due to be completed in April 2024.



Figure 11. New Development Under Construction

12.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Hale School Memorial Hall was constructed between 1960-1961 and comprises a multi-purpose hall of dominant utilitarian architecture that forms part of Hale School campus. Constructed in *Béton Brut*²⁵ reinforced off-form concrete it gives the appearance of being sculpted from a single block. A striking east elevation, prominent external concrete columns, concrete fenestration, suspended staircases, bas-relief moulded balustrades and simple roof form creates a symbolic

²⁴ <https://architectureau.com/articles/hale-school-memorial-hall-and-stow-theatre-redevelopment-by-kerry-hill-architects/>

²⁵ *Béton Brut* is a French term that translates in English to “raw concrete”. The term describes concrete left unfinished displaying patterns imprinted by the formwork. It is an architectural expression of concrete.

architecturally robust edifice. Colonnades to the north and south connect the hall to the wider Hale School campus.

Siting

Hale School Memorial Hall is located at the south west corner of the Hale School campus, located on Unwin Avenue, in Wembley Downs. It is flanked by the middle school reception building (c.2010) to the north with a paved quadrangle thoroughfare separating the two buildings. To the east is the Quad (c.1960) which is defined by a series of colonnades (c.1960) connecting the Memorial Hall, Middle School Administration Building (c.2010), Dining Hall (c. 1960) and Administration Building (c.1961,1994,2020). To the south is the Dining Hall and the newly developed New Theatre, media studies hub and House Hubs (c.2024) which will house a courtyard and outdoor stage connecting the two buildings. To the west are nine mature Norfolk Island pine trees (c.1980) and two mature Eucalyptus trees (pre 1953).



Figure 12. South Elevation

Southern façade constructed in Bêton Brut off-form concrete poured in-situ using pine to form a grain pattern. The upper portion of the façade is original fabric and remains extant. The lower colonnade has been infilled with new glazed entry doors, brickwork, and a glazed awning. The original columns remain extant. The original music block has been demolished and replaced with a costume store and laundry, drama & media studies staffroom, and new toilet entrance. The external walkway has been extended.



Figure 13. East Elevation

Northern façade constructed in Bêton Brut off-form concrete poured in-situ using pine to form a grain pattern. The use of planar geometry in the dominant facade is comparable to Japanese concrete work. The façade is original fabric and remains extant with the addition of infill metal framed curtain wall elements to the foyer, entrance, balcony and upper level. The original column, fenestration, vertical shading, balcony and bas-relief balustrades remain extant.



Figure 14. North Elevation

Northern façade constructed in Béton Brut off-form concrete poured in-situ using pine to form a grain pattern. The upper portion of the façade is original fabric and remains extant. The lower colonnade has been infilled with new glazed entry doors and a glazed awning. The original columns remain extant. A furniture store, scene dock and new toilet entrance have been added.



Figure 15. West Elevation

Currently under construction, the new western addition is of tilt-up concrete construction with brick veneer, concrete fins and a concrete canopy. It will include male and female changerooms, drama and media studies staffroom, backstage area, external walkway, tech room, costume store and laundry, scene dock, furniture store and stage.

Ground Floor Internal layout

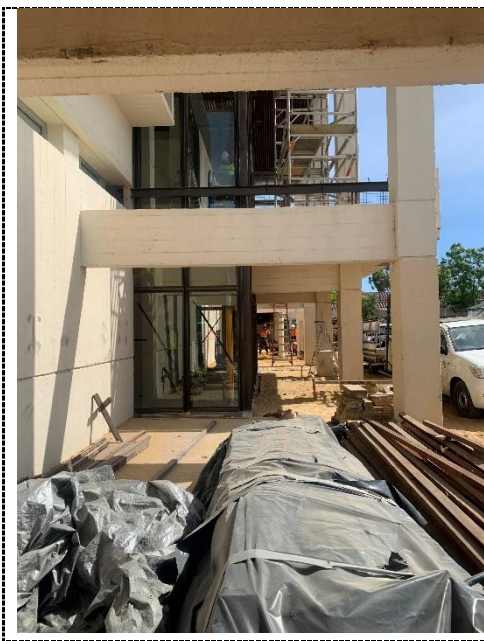


Figure 16. Front Entrance Infill

The east façade is original fabric and remains extant. The original entry has been infilled with new full height glazed metal framed curtain wall elements. The original columns remain extant.



Figure 17. Internal View of Entry

Internal view of the new foyer shows glazed infill with metal framed curtain wall elements, Béton Brut detailing of the under stair, concrete stairs leading to upper level with painted steel double handrail and original columns.

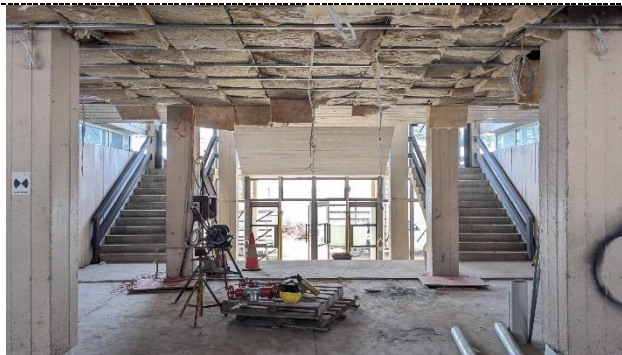


Figure 18. Internal View of Foyer and Original Columns

Original columns and concrete stairs leading to upper level with painted steel double handrail remain extant. A new batten ceiling is to be added for acoustic absorption and to conceal cabling.



Figure 19. Extant Bathroom and Stairs

Stairs constructed in off-form concrete poured in-situ with painted steel double handrail. Béton Brut detailing evident in adjacent wall with highlight windows inserted



Figure 20. Grand Hall Space

Main features of the *Hall* space include the extant original Bêton Brut in-situ off-form concrete structure, bas-relief sculptural balustrade panels, concrete columns, upper fenestration, upper gallery including bio box, timber baton lining, bathrooms, concrete stairs, original timber doors with transom lights, and double height void space. The salmon coloured brick feature wall has been lined with acoustic wall battens. A portion of original timber ceiling lining has been removed and will be replaced with angled ceiling panels with acoustic properties. The original brass lights in the Main Hall have been replaced.



Figure 21. New Bathroom Entrance

Entrance to both women's and men's bathrooms has been relocated to the exterior of the building.

Upper Level Internal Layout



Figure 22. Balcony Infill

The balcony has been infilled with new full height metal framed curtain wall elements with balcony access via a double door, in order to expand the capacity of the hall. The original columns and timber lined ceilings remain extant.



Figure 23. Infill Detail

Integration of double height metal framed curtain wall is an introduced element to the original entrance. The Bêton Brut concrete form is dominant and sculptural. The crudeness and uneven forms of the concrete structure reflect the experimental nature and immaturity of the concrete industry of the time. Originally grey in colour, the building has been painted multiple times as reflected in the patchwork colour scheme in Figure 23. The painted steel double handrail servicing the main staircase is a linear element that expresses strength. The simple materials palette is reflective of the Brutalist style of architecture.



Figure 24. Upper Level Meeting Room-South

The main features of this room are the aluminium upper highlight windows, windows looking east with concrete vertical shading. Southern wall has been plastered and the Bêton Brut detailing is not evident.

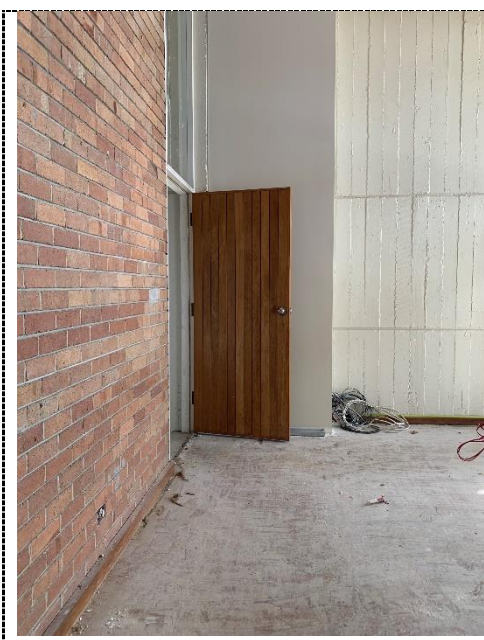

	<p><i>Figure 25. Upper Level Meeting Room-North</i></p> <p>The main feature of this room is the double height salmon coloured brick wall, original timber door with transom light above and Béton Brut concrete detailing. Column directly behind the door has been lined with plasterboard sheeting and the Béton Brut detailing is not evident.</p>
	<p><i>Figure 26. Northern Balcony</i></p> <p>The main features of the northern balcony looking east include original timber doors with transom window, aluminium windows with concrete sills, honour board gallery space, timber baton lined ceilings, and bas-relief sculptural balconies. The salmon coloured brick wall has been lined with acoustic wall battens. Windows are rectilinear and square in shape.</p>



Figure 27. Southern Balcony

The main features of the southern balcony looking west include original timber doors, aluminium windows with concrete sills, honour board gallery space, timber baton lined ceilings, in situ off form concrete stairs and bas-relief sculptural balconies. Windows are rectilinear and square in shape and there is a series of upper highlight windows which allow abundant natural light into the space. Condition of the aluminium window framing is very good. There is no evidence of water ingress, moisture pooling or concrete spalling.



Figure 28. Balcony Pony Wall

Balcony pony wall featuring bas-relief sculptural balustrade (on opposite side) with timber handrail detailing and concrete floor.



Figure 29. Upper Gallery

Upper gallery is in original condition and includes the bio box, salmon coloured brick wall, jarrah risers, bas-relief sculptural balustrades and off-form concrete bridge to back of house.



Figure 30. Bio Box

Located on the upper level, the bio box is incorporated within the gallery seating. Access is via the main staircase in foyer, or the concrete stairs with timber handrails immediately behind the bio box. Access to the back of house is via the off-form concrete bridge. Ceiling is lined with original timber batons. Original industrial brass pendant lights have been replaced.



Figure 31. Upper Gallery Seating

The main features of this area are the salmon-coloured brick wall, jarrah risers and timber baton lined ceiling. The seats have been removed due to poor condition.



Figure 32. Original Flooring Detail in Bio Box Bridge

Extant polished aggregate concrete floor has previously been overlaid with a cement render.

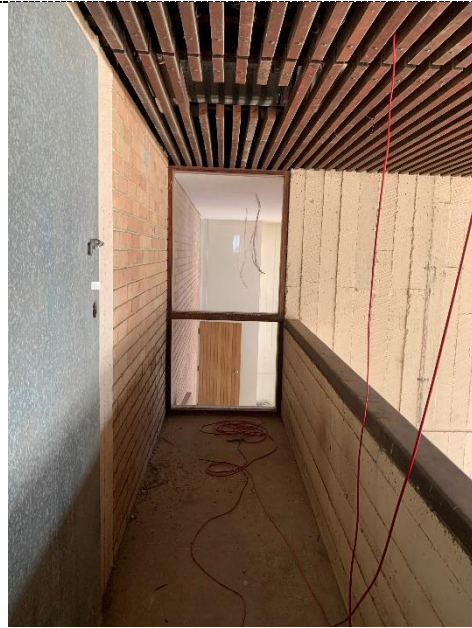


Figure 33. Upper Level Balcony and Void

Original timber baton lined ceiling, salmon coloured brick wall, concrete pony wall, jarrah handrail and timber window overlooking meeting room below.

Balconies

The bas-relief sculptural balconies, designed and made by architect Gus Ferguson, depict a battlefield from an aerial view. The triangular shapes symbolise tents and the circular shapes denote bomb craters.²⁶ The sculptural form is a representation of the sacrifices and heroism of Old Haleians who died during the World Wars. Bas-relief is a sculptural technique shallow in profile that allows the artist to represent complex scenes. It was formally used by Romans to depict important events relating to military equipment and tactics and is therefore an appropriate technique to be used in this context.²⁷



Figure 34. Entrance Bas-Relief Sculpture Balcony

²⁶ Jarel, J. (2020). *My hall. A stage play and My Hall: Excavating, shaping and sharing the memory of Hale School's Memorial Hall through a site-specific, staged performance. An exegesis.* Edith Cowan University. Retrieved from <https://ro.ecu.edu.au/theses/2283>

²⁷ Artelier, 2022. [Bas-Relief Plaster Wall Art Techniques Explained \(artelier.com\)](https://www.artelier.com/bas-relief-plaster-wall-art-techniques-explained)



Figure 35. East Bas-Relief Sculpture Balcony



Figure 36. North Bas-Relief Sculpture Balcony



Figure 37. South Bas-Relief Sculpture Balcony

Stage



Figure 38. Newly Constructed Stage and Ceiling Replacement

The stage and its associated room to the west are of new construction (2023). Materials include concrete block masonry, that is in contrast to the original material palette and is distinguishable as new construction.

Details



Figure 39. Past Student Signatures

Past students' signatures and dates are etched into ceiling rafters and beams dating from c. 1960s - 2020's

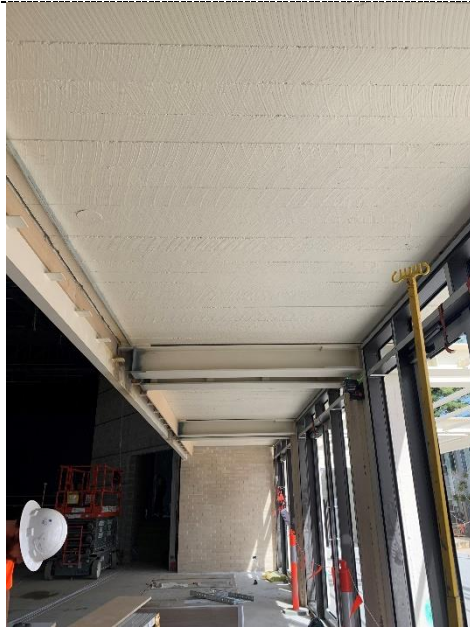


Figure 40. Former Colonnade Infilled

In order to expand the capacity of the Hall, entrance doors have been moved in line with the external colonnade columns and replaced with modern glazed doors.

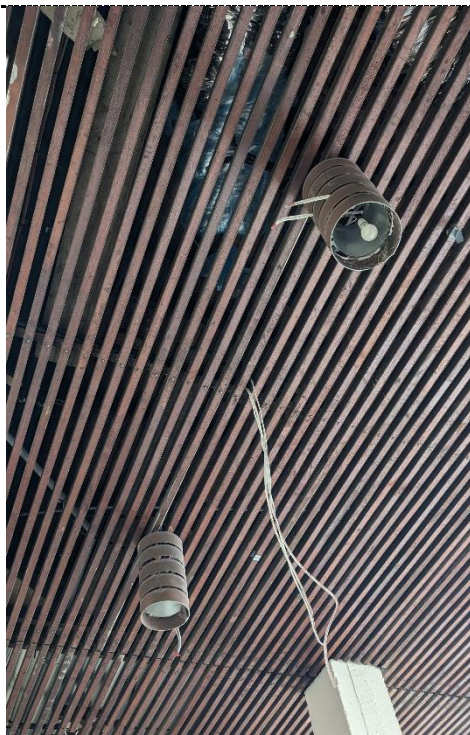


Figure 41. Extant timber baton ceiling lining and original light fittings

Original timber baton ceiling lining is extant, in good condition. Surface dust from the redevelopment is evident but there is no other damage as such. The original industrial brass pendant lights have been replaced.



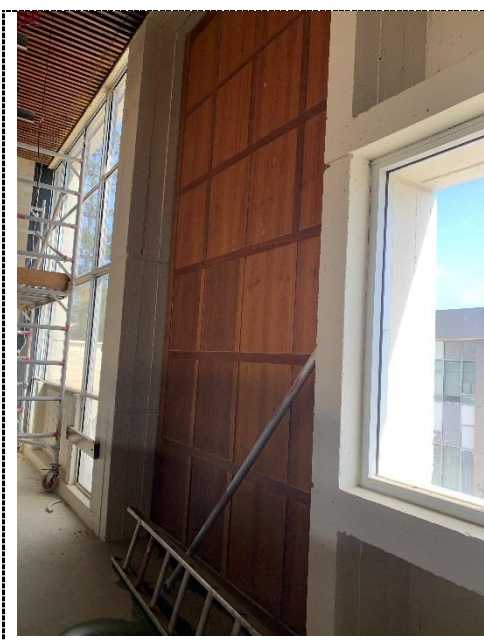
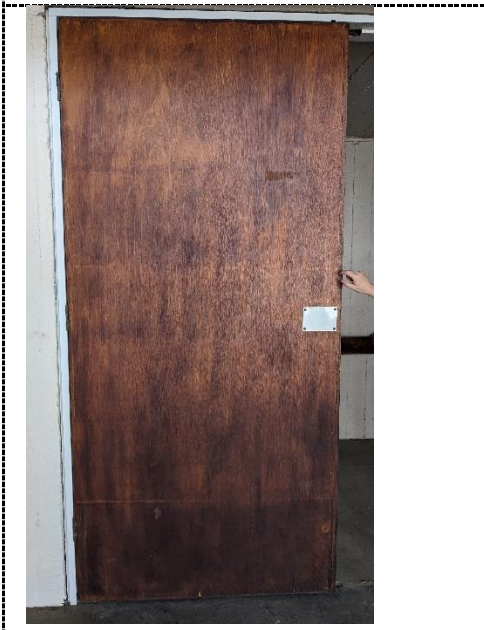
Figure 42. Extant Concrete Details

Formwork has been arranged in such a way to produce a detailed pattern in the opening of the bio box bridge.



Figure 43. Extant Concrete Details

The distinguishable textured pattern of the Béton Brut off-form in-situ concrete are evident in figure 43. The crudeness and uneven forms of the concrete structure reflect the experimental nature and immaturity of the concrete industry of the time and the materiality expresses its strength and power without adornment. The design intention was that unplastered and unpainted concrete will weather in the manner of stone. The concrete has since been painted to prevent it from spalling. The condition of the majority of concrete is exceptional.

	<p><i>Figure 44. Timber wall panels - upper level</i></p> <p>Panels represent the location of existing organ.</p>
	<p><i>Figure 45. Extant Timber Doors</i></p> <p>Many original timber doors remain extant.</p>

Associated Elements



Figure 46. Stairs and Landscaping Elements

Newly constructed addition includes furniture store, and scene dock in feature brick adjoining existing original off-form concrete external wall and steel framed canopy roof. Concrete stair for access to Unwin Street and stage back of house. Limestone terrace to form landscaping feature



Figure 47. Colonnade Connection to Quad

The northern colonnade (c.1960) forms a connection between the adjoining *Hale School Memorial Hall*, the Middle School, the Quad and Administration Block. Concrete fascias, inset with religious iconography, flank the ceramic tiled open gable roof with central gable stud and tiled ridge cap. Ten decorative concrete columns are situated immediately below each inset icon.



Figure 48. Paved Quadrangle and Colonnade

Paved quadrangle forms a connection between *Hale School Memorial Hall* and the Middle School building. A cohesive landscaping plan will comprise low level planter boxes.

Alterations, Building Activity and Modifications

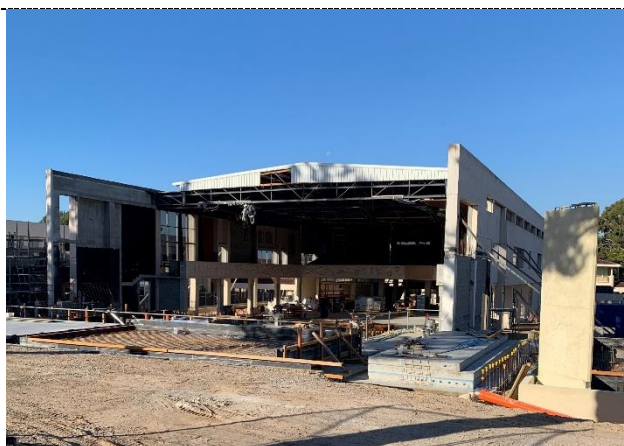


Figure 49. Hale School Memorial School. Image 2023 Source: SHO

In 2023 the rear portion of *Hale School Memorial Hall*, including backstage, stage, music block and roof deck, was demolished to make way for the new development.



Figure 50. New Theatre Building under construction in 2023

On completion the New Theatre will hold 220 people. Retractable seating allows for multipurpose use. External walkway connects to the Theatre Green. The materiality is in contrast to *Hale School Memorial Hall*.



Figure 51. Colonnade Columns Infilled with Feature Brick.

To create additional space and capacity within *Hale School Memorial Hall* the original colonnade has been infilled with feature brick. Original concrete columns are extant.



Figure 52. Front Entry Enclosed with Glazed Windows and Doors.

To create additional space and capacity within *Hale School Memorial Hall* the original front entrance and upper balcony has been infilled with metal framed curtain wall elements. Original concrete columns and stairs are extant.

12.3 CONDITION

Overall the condition of *Hale School Memorial Hall* is very good.²⁸

Although, there is a redevelopment currently underway, the building and its surrounds have been well maintained.

Deterioration through weather penetration and spalling of the concrete has been prevented through internal and external paintwork.

In 2023, concrete remediation works have been undertaken to the first floor balcony area.

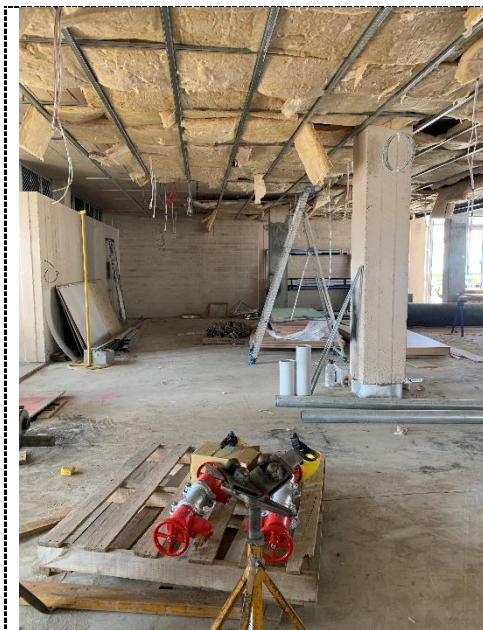


Figure 53. Ceiling, Columns and Floor

New concrete slab. Concrete columns are in very good condition and no evidence of spalling or deterioration. A new ceiling will comprise timber panel lining.

²⁸

Further details on the condition of individual elements have been provided with the relevant images in the physical evidence section.



Figure 54. Concrete Patching

In small sections there is evidence of paint flaking, deterioration and graffiti etched into the concrete. These areas have been patched in preparation for repainting.

12. 4 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Comparative Analysis

Brutalist architectural style

The Late Twentieth-Century Brutalist style was heavily influenced by Le Corbusier with characteristics that featured heavy, sculptural buildings, featuring expanses of rough concrete with vertical slit windows. The emergence of the Late Twentieth-Century Brutalist style in Perth materialised from a core group of local émigré architects, with Tony Brand leading the advent, including the earliest application of the *Béton Brut* construction technique in Australia in 1961.

A search of the Historic Heritage database for places constructed in the Late 20th Century Brutalist architectural style in Western Australia returns 39 entries. Of these, five are on the State Register of Heritage Places including the following three examples:

- P9917 *Marsala House* (RHP), Dianella – a double-storey concrete block and asbestos roofed residence, designed by Ivan Iwanoff in the Late Twentieth Century Brutalist style constructed in 1976.



Figure 57. P9917 Marsala House, Dianella. Front Elevation, 25 Mar 2011

- P10907 Town Council Offices (fmr) & Library (RHP), Northam – Purpose-built offices and library building in the Late 20th Century Brutalist and Stripped Classical style (1971-1974), designed by Architect Iwan Iwanoff, including a double-storey concrete block Library.



Figure 58. P10907 Town Council Offices (fmr) & Library, Northam, April 2011

- P16722 Art Gallery of Western Australia Complex – The Main Gallery Building (1979) comprises a five storey Late Twentieth Century Brutalist style concrete-framed building clad with concrete blocks. Designed by Public Works Architect K (Charles) Sierakowski, structural engineer Philip Nadebaum and architectural firm, Summerhayes and Associates.



Figure 59. P16722 Art Gallery of Western Australia Complex – Main Gallery Building (1979). Image: DPLH staff Oct 2011

Anthony (Tony) Brand Architect

During the design phase for the *Hale Memorial Hall*, Anthony Brand, also known as Tony, was working for Anthony Brand and Marshall Clifton, Architects in Association. From the 1960s to the 1980s, Brand, an award winning architect, was responsible for the design of the following Brutalist buildings and bold structures:

- P9108 City Beach and Floreat Beach Precinct (RHP)- Includes South City Beach Kiosk and Floreat beach Kiosk – constructed of concrete in the Late 20th Century Brutalist and Late 20th Century Organic styles. Designed by Brand, while working for the architectural firm Forbes & Fitzhardinge.



Figure 60. P9108 City Beach and Floreat Beach Precinct -South City Beach Kiosk – Image: Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage staff Oct 2017

- P26470 Sun City Precinct, Two Rocks (RHP) includes Two Rocks Shopping Centre and Tavern, designed by Brand which received a Design award in 1976 and a Bronze Medal for Architectural excellence in 1979.



Figure 61. P26470 Two Rocks Tavern - front entry. May 2022, Image: Stephen Carrick Architects.

- P9823 Hampton Senior High School, Morley (1966) (Heritage Council Assessment Program), the complex was designed by Brand in the Post War Brutalist style.



Figure 62. P9823 Hampton Senior High School - North elevation, North Wing. Image DPLH Staff Nov 2009

- P8769 East Perth Railway Station (1976) - designed by Brand in the Late 20th Century Brutalist style.



Figure 63. P8769 East Perth Railway Station - Perspective View. Image: Feb 2008

- P24341 UWA Music Department (P13702 University of Western Australia-Crawley Campus –Assessment Program) – a two and three storey complex of buildings constructed from 1976 in an interpretation of the Late Twentieth Century Perth Regional Style. Designed by Tony Brand (working for Forbes and Fitzharding architects). Runner up in the 1976 WA Design Awards. Also includes the Eileen Joyce Studio (1981), a 70 seat music performance space designed by Tony Brand, in coordination with University Architect Arthur Bunbury.

Off-form concrete construction

Hale School Memorial Hall was constructed of off-form concrete using the Béton Brut construction method. A search of the Historic Heritage database for places constructed in off-form concrete in Western Australia returns 18 places; of those nine are on the State Register of Heritage Places. The following three registered places are comparable to *Hale School Memorial Hall*:

- P4571 Perth Concert Hall (RHP), Perth – constructed in 1973 in the Late 20th Century Stripped Classical Style, the place was recognised by an award for construction technology with off-form concrete providing a textural quality to the overall form. Designed by architects Jeffrey Howlett and Don Bailey.

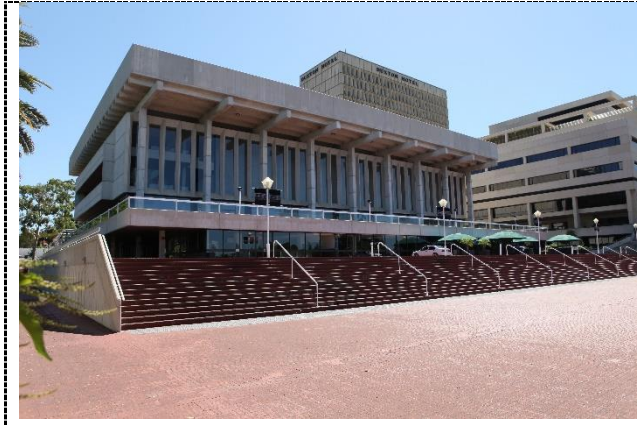


Figure 64. P4571 Perth Concert Hall, South elevation. January 2011

Other places constructed of off form concrete include P04574 Law School (UWA). Constructed in 1967 and designed by Gus Ferguson, the place was awarded the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' highest accolade, the RAIA Bronze Medal in 1969, and was the first of a number of buildings to be constructed in off form concrete on the UWA campus.²⁹

War Memorials

A search of the Historic Heritage database for 'War Memorial' returns 171 places, 14 of which are on the State Register of Heritage Places. Many of these places comprise buildings/structures, including Halls in a variety of architectural styles, that also have a dual purpose as war memorials, including the following examples:

- P1426 Kulin Town Hall (RHP) - the place has functioned as a war memorial since 1928 and was designed by Eales & Cohen in the Inter-War Free Classical style.
- P10644 Memorial House, Bruce Rock (RHP) (1922) – A purpose-built health facility, and commemorative rose garden, that serves as a utilitarian war memorial. The following place includes a memorial chapel of contemporary design that is also part of a school campus:
- P2379 Wesley College Chapel and Memorial Rose Garden (RHP) – includes Wesley College Old Boys' Memorial Chapel (1961) – a circular building designed using reinforced concrete in the Post War Ecclesiastical style.

The above comparative information suggests that *Hale School Memorial Hall* is significant as the first Brutalist building in Australia. Designed in the 1950s and constructed in the early 1960s, it is associated with prominent Western Australian architect Tony Brand, and his pioneering use of the *Béton Brut* construction method which demonstrated a high degree of innovation at the time. The place makes a significant contribution to Western Australian contemporary architecture. The place also has social significance to the Hale School community and the wider Western Australian community in its dual function, as a school hall, as well as a war memorial.

²⁹ Ibid, Murray Andrew, p.518.

12. 5 KEY REFERENCES

12. 6 FURTHER RESEARCH
