

National Heritage List

The National Heritage List recognises and protects our most valued natural, Indigenous and historic heritage sites. It reflects the story of our development, from our original inhabitants to the present day, Australia's spirit and our ingenuity, and our unique, living landscapes.

Each place in the List has been assessed by the Australian Heritage Council as having outstanding heritage value to the nation, and is protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This means that approval must be obtained before taking any action that may have a significant impact on the national heritage values of the place. In this way, we can retain our heritage for future generations.

To ensure ongoing protection, each listed place should have a management plan outlining how the heritage values of the site will be conserved and interpreted.

The National Heritage List enables all Australians to celebrate, value and protect our unique heritage.

For further information visit www.heritage.gov.au

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Australian Government

Australian Academy of Science (Shine Dome)



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The modernist copper dome of the Australian Academy of Science (Shine Dome) in Canberra represents an architectural landmark and construction milestone in Australia. The innovative structure with its complementary interior and surrounding circular moat is a rare example of a 20th century freestanding dome. The building was included in the National Heritage List on 21 September 2005.

A rare example

- The Australian Academy of Science (Shine Dome) is a rare example of a 20th century freestanding dome building. The copper-clad sides slope down to arched supports that disappear into the surrounding moat.
- Constructed in 1959, the building was unusual for its structural integrity, materials, geometry, functionalism, symmetrical planning and sensitivity to its setting. The gentle dome reflects the bold modernism of the era.
- The unique exterior, complementary interior, surrounding moat and garden setting all contribute to the building's national heritage value.

Characteristic elements

- The Australian Academy of Science (Shine Dome) is an excellent example of Geometric Structuralism in Australia. The structural system relies on the tensioned foundations to support the thrusts of the dome.
- Inside, curved walls and spaces highlight the geometry of the roof and interior materials were carefully selected for natural strength, colour, texture and durability.

Creative and technical achievement

- The self-supporting dome was a milestone for the Australian construction industry. The dome accommodates three storeys in its 47 metre diameter and overall weighs 710 tonnes. The moat, beam, piers and footings create a stable base, and the internal walls do not need to provide any structural support for the dome.
- The highly creative design flows throughout the building's integrated and consistent architectural style and detailing.

Links to significant people

- The multi-award winning building was one of the most significant public works designed by notable Australian architect, Sir Roy Grounds.
- It is directly related to distinguished scientists Sir Mark Oliphant and Sir Ian Clunies Ross, and explorer, Sir Douglas Mawson who were instrumental in establishing the academy. The Becker and Jaeger Rooms, and the Ian Wark Theatre, recognise the contribution of those individuals to Australian science.



Australian Academy of Science