

Olympic Park Rail Station
Address Showground Road, Olympic Park, Homebush
Practice HASSELL
Designed 1995 Completed 1998

History & Description
The Olympic Park Rail Station was designed for the 2000 Olympic Games. The brief required the mass transport of crowds to & from the Olympic site with the arrival of one train every two minutes. The architects provided clarity of spectator orientation through simple architectonic expression with a highly engineered & streamlined steel-framed segmented vaulted-canopy that shelters the sunken railway station which is organised around mass visitation of arrival & departure for spectators. Arriving passengers are conveyed upwards via escalators from the two middle platforms along elevated walkways that lead to a broad plaza in front of the station from where spectators are able to continue their journey to the various sporting venues. Departing passengers descend side stairs to the two outer platforms.

The station is located within a cutting, below street level, edged by precast concrete panels. The roof, centipede like & edged in steel with light coloured metal infill panels, is supported by tapered concrete columns & swells out in a curved brim shape at the entry. The level of detail is consistent throughout the complex, as seen in the well resolved steel roof framing to the glass & metal balustrades. To achieve a pure form no services were contained within the canopy structure. Located symmetrically at the ground level entrance are timber clad single storey pavilions which sit within the volume of the roof canopy.

The partner in charge of the project, Ken Maher, has created a modern interpretation of the late 19th Century cast-iron railway station aesthetic with a space defining yet urban building which uses the clear span of a segmented roof form to convey drama. The building was awarded The Sulman Award in 1998. Maher was awarded the RAIA Gold Medal in 2009.

(Sources: Powell R, *HASSELL: Poetic Pragmatism*, 2003, HASSELL Project Sheet)

Statement of Significance
The architecture of the Olympic Park Rail Station & its setting combine to produce a building of integrity, illustrative of modern architecture by a notable Australian architect. The freestanding segmented vaulted-canopy that shelters the sunken railway station is shown here to good dramatic effect & demonstrates a theme of modern architecture with its large scale lightweight delicate steel structure sculptural form floating above the site. The building is considered to be an important work in the carrier of the architect Ken Maher.

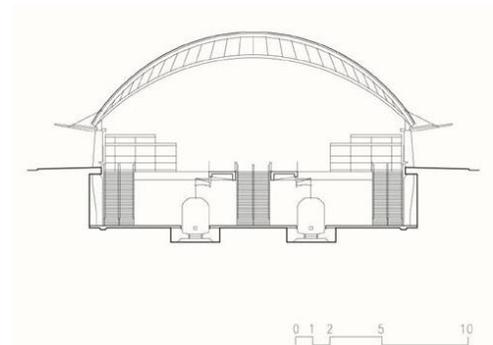
Criteria Applicable
N2. Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics
N3. Significant heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement



Entrance Source: P Bingham-Hall



Station during 2000 Olympics
Source: P Bingham-Hall



Section
Source: HASSELL