

Offices at 2 Glen Street

Address 2 Glen Street, Milsons Point, NSW,
2061

Practice Harry Seidler & Associates

Designed 1971-73 Completed 1985

History & Description 2 Glen Street was constructed on the cliff above Luna Park with five floors of offices that take in spectacular views over Port Jackson to the west & the Sydney Harbour Bridge, with the Central CBD beyond, to the south. The upper two levels were designed for the office of Harry Seidler & Associates with the second floor from the top planned as a double height space overlooked from Seidler's personal office on the top floor. The building is an excellent example of modern architecture with its structure expressed, large areas of glazing & integrated sun shading blades. The design was predicated on taking full advantage of the views while controlling the extent of natural light & solar gain entering the offices; as well as displaying Seidler's élan. The adoption of a rectangular floor plan with the services & circulation core located where the view was of little consequence, along the north façade, enabled the principal southern view to be fully exploited without interruption. The core was given a boarded off-form insitu-concrete finish. The east & west glazed facades were protected by a 'brise soleil' of smooth white-painted precast concrete blades.

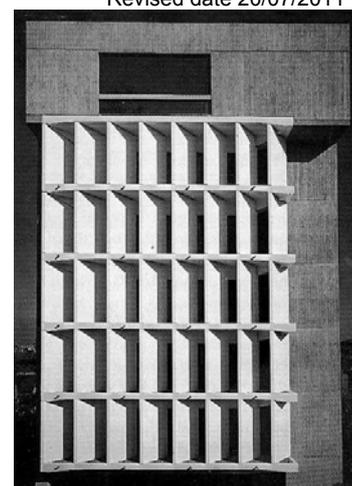
The column free office spaces were constructed with pre-stressed precast-concrete profiled 'T' beam floor units that span 11m in the north-south direction; between the service core & an expressed concrete column & beam frame to the south. The 'T' beams were profiled specifically to accommodate the loads & shear forces & were exposed internally forming the ceiling, expressing the structure of the building. The lighting & air conditioning ducts extend along the space between each beam integrating the services with the structure.

The precast-concrete sun control blades which rest on the end 'T' beams shows the influence of Le Corbusier's architecture on Seidler, exemplified in the Millowner's Association Building, Ahmedabad, 1954, & the Carpenter Centre for the Visual Arts, Harvard University, USA, 1963. Though in these two buildings the blades were insitu-concrete & integral with the façade structure. The use of precast concrete 'T' beams was contemporaneous with Seidler's design for the Edmund Barton Office (Trade Office), Canberra, in association with P. L. Nervi, begun in 1969. There though the spans were 15.8m requiring the beams to be post-tensioned. The integration of the services with the exposed 'T' beams exhibits an influence of the 8 storey American Republic Insurance Company Building, Des Moines, Iowa, USA, by Skidmore Owings & Merrill, 1965.

A northern addition to 2 Glen Street was completed in 1988 which extended the offices on the lower floors & added a double height penthouse apartment. A further addition was built to this northern addition in 1994. Each addition was designed by Harry Seidler & Associates. Seidler was awarded the RIAA Gold Medal in 1976 & the RIBA Gold Medal in 1996. The building was jointly awarded The Sulman Award in 1981.

Statement of Significance The architecture of the office building at 2 Glen Street & its impressive setting combine to produce a building of integrity, illustrative of modern architecture by a notable Australian architect. The building demonstrate a theme of modern architecture with column free offices incorporating integrated exposed services with the precast-concrete structure combined with external sun control blades. This approach was innovative at that time in Australia. Seidler pioneered modern architecture in Australia & this is an important work in his career. The place has added significance as the top two floors being built specifically as the office of Harry Seidler & Associates.

Criteria Applicable **N2.** Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics
N5. Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history
N6. Significant heritage value in demonstrating a high degree of technical achievement of a particular period



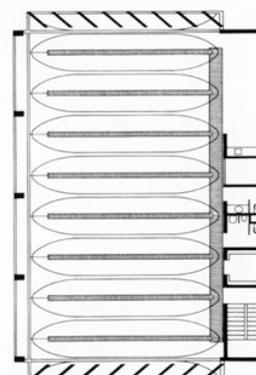
East view (street façade)



SW view above Luna Park & sandstone cliff.



Seidler's Office. Source: Photos Max Dupain



Typical floor showing 'T' beams & A/C. Source: Harry Seidler & Associates