

# Building 8, RMIT University

Address 368 Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000

Practice Edmond and Corrigan in assoc. with Demaine

Designed 1990

Completed 1993

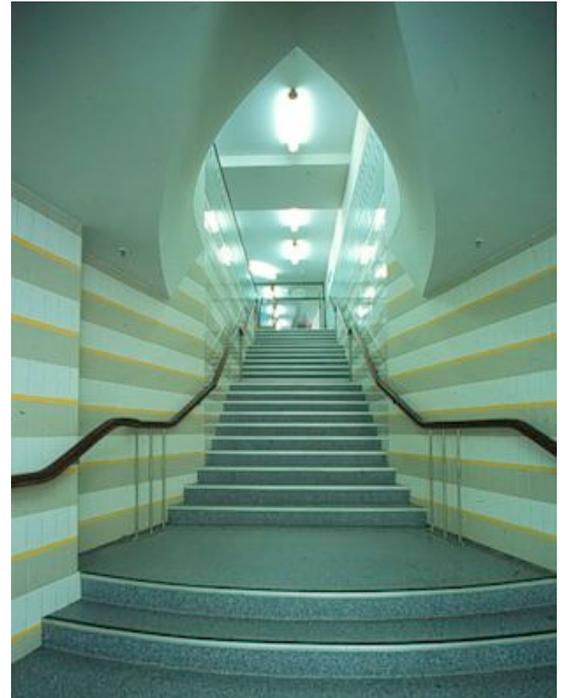
History & Description Sitting on top of John Andrew's incomplete four storeyed Union building, Edmond & Corrigan's additions to Building 8 make a riotously colourful signpost for RMIT along Swanston Street. 'Built on a tight budget and with the constraints of the the existing buildings beside and below, Building 8 is like a magic castle. A new lift and service core were built and account for the medieval passage accessing the upper floors. The deep floor plate was maximised, resulting in a rabbit warren of rooms to the upper floors. Balustrade details, handrails and dadoes are built to last and the entire interior has the chaotic vibrancy of a pre-Renaissance city. From various points along Swanston Street, the expressionistic roofscape reveals more and more formal fantasy from the crystalline cornice and Darth Vader exhaust hoods over the fire escape stairs, to the corrugated Matterhorn of the lift overrun. The coloured stone facade and its knitting needle, steel pipe strut supports continue the bastion theme, whilst on the back elevation, a polychrome and polygonal brick fire stair turret acknowledges Percy Everett's 1930s workshops and provides the visual focus for one of RMIT's few outdoor spaces.' (extracts from Philip Goad, *Melbourne Architecture*, p223)

Corrigan's aim was to delight and break down the dominant and seamless city-wall 'mood' RMIT presented on Swanston Street. The building's front, side and rear elevations create a whole from fragments and a collage of design 'ideas'. It presents itself to the city on its own terms.

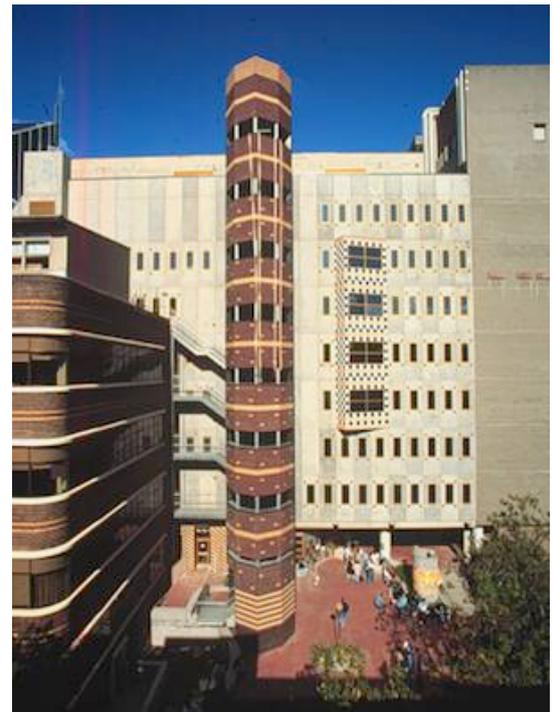
Statement of Significance Peter Corrigan's other professional life as an active theatre designer, both in Australia and in Europe, is reflected in this playful and eclectic composition. Symbolism and fantasy abounds in a riot of colour and layered meaning. Building 8 was recognised as a work of great merit when in 1995 it won the RAIA (Vic Chapter) Victorian Architecture Medal and the RAIA National Award for Public Buildings.

The complex is arguably the best example of the noted practice of Maggie Edmond and Peter Corrigan. Corrigan, the great admirer of the teachings of Robert Venturi, was recognised for his contribution to the profession when he was awarded the RAIA Gold Meda in 2003.

Criteria Applicable N2 - Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.  
N3 - Significant heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement.  
N5 - Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history.



The medieval access corridor



Rear facade



Detail of Swanston Street facade



Swanston Street facade