

Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre

Address Yulara

Practice Greg Burgess Architects

Designed 1990 Completed 1995

History & Description The complex with its integral display & interpretative themes is a response to both landscape & local cultural criteria. The design concept was evolved through a collaborative on-site process over a month in 1990 between the Mutitjulu community, ANCA & the consultant team; a warm trust developed. The site was walked, stories of Uluru were mapped & painted by Anangu members, the brief developed & the siting negotiated. Preliminary layouts were explored in sand drawings & later a number of paintings that the Architect commissioned gave more detailed accounts of the men & women's ideas with relevant Tjukurpa (law).

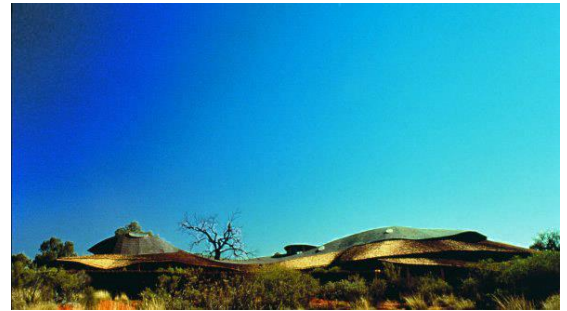
The building makes extensive use of timber; including the organic roof profiles that borrow from indigenous forms. Through its animated relationship with its site; extensive use of sustainable materials; low energy use & its sympathetic responsiveness to both people & the environment, the building celebrates the spirit of Anangu culture.

Use of curved forms & a connection to the ground prevail. The plan emanates from the traditional camp layout adjusted to the requirements of the modern day visitor. Integral to the buildings are landscaped areas that provide insight to the lifestyle of the Anangu people.

Gregory Burgess received the RAI Gold Medal in 2004. Yulara was awarded RAI NT Chapter Award & the Tracy Memorial Award.

Statement of Significance Kata Tjuta Culture Centre is an expression of Aboriginal culture with its organic forms & use of natural materials by one of Australia's notable architecture firms. The free, asymmetrical massing of the complex in a natural arid setting are shown here to good effect. The place is considered to be one of Greg Burgess Architects most important works.

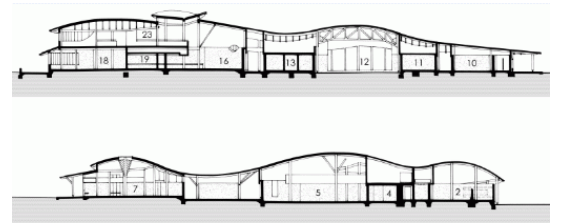
AIA National Heritage Criteria Applicable N2 Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics. N3 Significant heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement.



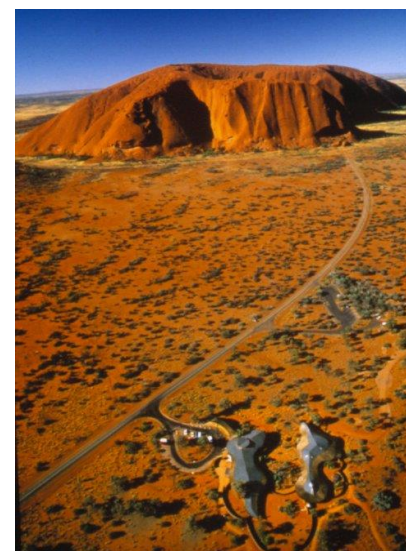
View from the south



Aerial view



Site Plan



Aerial View with Uluru backdrop. (All photos by Greg Burgess Architects)