

Yulara Tourist Village

Address **Uluru, Northern Territory**

Practice **Philip Cox & Partners**

Designed **1980** Completed **1982-84**

History & Description

The Yulara Tourist Village is a major resort which provides a number of facilities in an integrated coherent townscape that respects the existing landforms & environmental domain. The facilities include two resorts; a camping ground; town facilities; housing for Aboriginal people; accommodation for staff; an airport, & support infrastructure.

The site plan responds to the serpentine pattern following the valley floor with development generally concealed below the sand dune ridges. The village is pedestrian oriented with vehicles on the periphery. A major spine links each component with minor diversions created to courtyards; pools, & landscapes - each with a different quality. The various elements maintain a form & language consistent with contemporary aspects of vernacular architecture, but slightly modified along the spine to give different impressions of its architecture & its diversity. There is a consistency in the use of materials while walls & other elements are painted in desert colours, integrated with western & Aboriginal artworks.

There are views to the natural environment from throughout the village & beyond to Uluru & Kata Tjuta. The buildings are of a human scale & closely related to the sand dunes - providing a source of enclosure to the courtyards & squares giving the impression of a garden oasis.

The design incorporates passive solar energy design features - orientation, shade provided by lightweight fabric structures, & thermal storage, as well as active solar energy systems. Other features include recycled water & reuse of A/C waste energy. The landscaping reinforces the diverse natural desert landscape.

The Yulara Tourist Village is an important work in Cox's career. It was awarded the Sir Zelman Cowen Award in 1985. It was also awarded the BHP Australian Steel Award in 1985 & the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Award for Infrastructure in 1986. Philip Cox was awarded the RAIA Gold Medal in 1984.

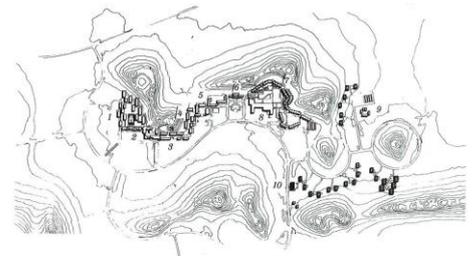
Statement of Significance

Yulara Tourist Village is an excellent example of an integrated complex of buildings in a landscape setting that reflects the analytical process undertaken by the architects of the desert landscape site & climate. It represents a forerunner of tourist architecture in Australia which reflects the unique & spectacular forms of the country, its climactic extremes & its cultural traditions. The tourist village shows innovation in energy conservation. It is recognized as a significant work by the internationally notable architect Philip Cox.

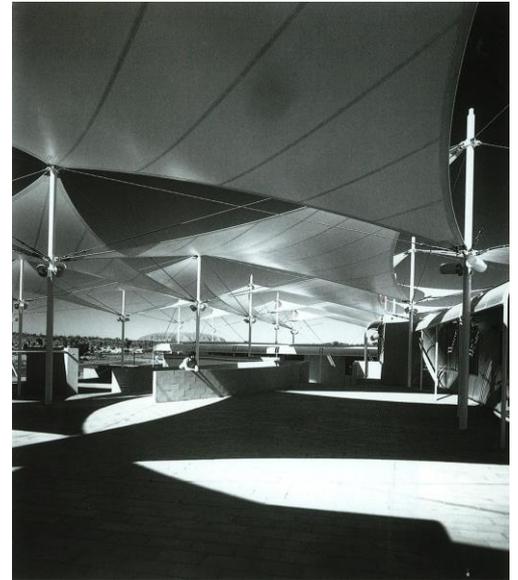
Criteria Applicable

- N1. Significant heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design.
- 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.

Master plan.
 1 Four Seasons Motel
 2 Visitors Centre
 3 Staff Plaza and Mail
 4 Staff Townhouse
 5 Shopping Centre
 6 Community Centre
 7 Sheraton Hotel Rooms
 8 Sheraton Central Facilities
 9 School
 10 Police Station



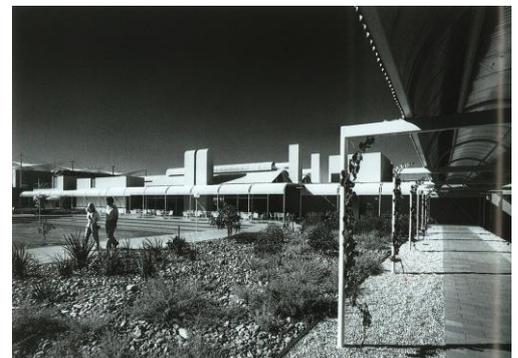
Plan of area



Sails over Visitor's Centre



Aerial View from North West



Four Seasons Hotel (Source all pictures Dean, John (ed) et al (1988), Australian Architects: Philip Cox, Richardson, Taylor & Partners)