



State Offices Building

Address 10 Murray Street Hobart, Tasmania

Practice Hartley Wilson and Bolt, Hartley Wilson and Partners

Designed 1963 Completed 1967

History & Description Situated behind & to the side of the 1836 Parliament House, in Sullivans Cove, the fifteen storey State Offices Building fronts onto Murray Street with three stories below street level. It is part of a precinct of buildings devoted to Parliament & it was constructed to house the new government departments of Roads and Infrastructure, Forestry, Mines, & Construction, formed following the expansion of hydro industrialisation as the economic driver for the state. The location behind Parliament was symbolic of the desired image of a modern bureaucratic government attracting industrial investment with cheap electricity & abundant natural resources.

The insitu-concrete framed building has a rectangular floor plate & a central service core. The perimeter columns & edge beams of the frame extend beyond the glazing line & are expressed as an orthogonal grid to each façade. The corners are column free with the thickened slab-edge set back at the glazing line. Behind the expressed grid is a lightweight glazed façade with **bronze** transom panels & plain-anodised aluminium-framed paired windows, one fixed & one opening. The layering of the façade gives it a spatial order. Its formal Modernist grid a play on the city street plan, while functioning as shading to the north façade. The west facade has operable plain anodised aluminium sunshade louvers; overlaying multiple layers. The north façade cantilevers out beyond the Murray Street property line supported by deep concrete beams. This bold form demarcates this key government office in the city street, identifies the building's main entry, & permitted increased floor plates. The main entry façade, below the deep beams, is clad in vertical slabs of black terrazzo. The partner in charge of the design was Dirk Bolt prior to him moving to Canberra in 1964. David Hartley Wilson was then in charge of the project. Bolt recognized that the building at its completion was to be the tallest building in Hobart & the first tower adjacent to the waterfront in Sullivans Cove. He establish the form based on what he saw as the synergy of the classical proportions of the neighbouring sandstone nineteenth century buildings; both in the Parliamentary Precinct & the Georgian warehouses of Sullivans Cove. The Golden Mean ratio was used in both the grid set-out & the elevation form. Bolt was also mindful of the profile of the building from the Cove with the exposed rock face of Mount Wellington in the background.

Bolt's architectural language of cantilevered deep beams to support levels above was to be adopted for two Sydney buildings, one by Ancher Mortlock & Woolley in the 100m high Sydney Town Hall House, 1977, & one by Denton Corker Marshall in the 227m high Governor Phillip Tower, 1993. The language of column-free flush-glazed corners was contemporaneous with Louis Kahn's Richards Medical Research Laboratories, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA, 1964, though there the structure was precast concrete. The expressed orthogonal grid of columns & beams can be seen in the Centre Point tower, London, by Richard Seifert, 1966. Dirk Bolt immigrated to Australia from The Netherlands in 1950 as an undergraduate. He is considered to be one of Tasmania's notable architects having designed a number of exemplary buildings in Hobart during the decade he was in practice with Hartley Wilson. His architecture in has been described as both 'rationalist' and 'romantic'. David Hartley Wilson is significant as an architect that developed early modernism in Tasmania.

Statement of Significance The State Offices Building is a significant example of a building that demonstrates a theme of modern architecture with planning of a simple cubic form in an expressed structural frame combined with shading of large areas of glazing & assertive cantilever. This is complemented by contrasting textures of insitu-concrete & smooth terrazzo wall cladding. The office building was designed by one of Tasmania's notable architecture firms. The use of deep beams to support the cantilever of the offices above was technically innovative at that time.

Criteria Applicable **N1** Important heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design.
N3 Important heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement.



North view



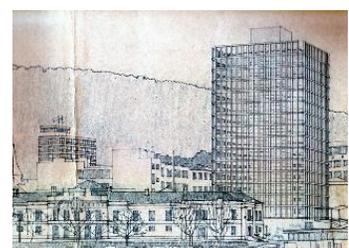
Entry, Murray Street.



Parliament Square view



View from Sullivans Cove. Source: Coloured photos by Leigh Woolley



Perspective. Dirk Bolt