

Federation Square

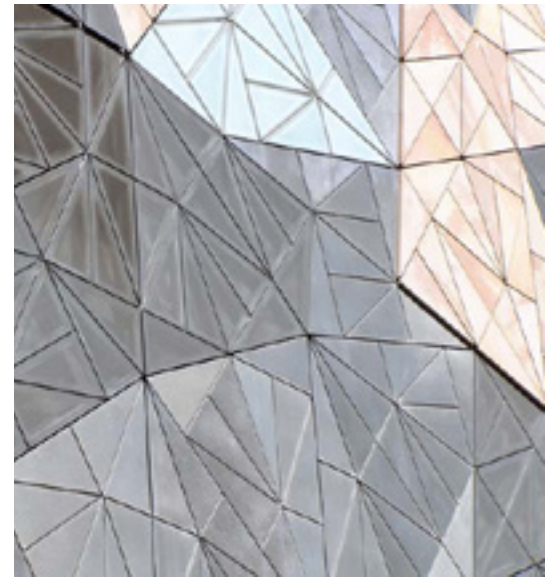
Address Crn Swanston & Flinders Streets, Melbourne 3000
Practice LAB Architecture Studio with Bates Smart
Designed 1997 **Completed** 2003

History & Description Initially controversial and notorious on account of the novelty of its building forms, the design for 'Fed Square', as it is affectionately known, was the result of an international design competition overseen by a jury, including the likes of Daniel Libeskind, in 1997. Commissioned to celebrate the centenary of the federation of Australia, Federation Square opened belatedly in 2002, the 3.2 hectare site integrating public, transportation, tourist and civic facilities while re-establishing connections between the city and the riverbank previously lost by previous constructions on the site. This has been achieved through the creation of a multitude of public internal and external spaces that encourage a blurring of lines between the interior and exterior of the building and the public and private functions contained therein, including the Ian Potter Centre for Contemporary Art, the Australian Centre for the Moving Image and the national cultural broadcaster SBS. These spaces are subsequently complemented by a sophisticated construction system of structural steel, glass and sandstone quarried in Australia's remote Kimberley region to create a piece of architecture that is inherently Australian in its associations and inherently Melbourne in its response to context.

Statement of Significance Federation Square is important for its conception as part of a collection of important buildings and sites along the north-east edge of central Melbourne, including the Old Treasury building, Treasury Gardens, Parliament House and the Royal Exhibition Building, associated with the Federation of Australia and Melbourne's period as Federal capital of the Commonwealth of Australia from 1901-1927. The importance of its location as a place of civic celebration and public interaction, a purpose for which it was originally set aside, during the initial foundation, and early settlement years, of the city of Melbourne. It is an important example of the work of British architectural practice LAB Architecture Studio. It is the most awarded project in the history of the RAIA (Vic Chapter), winning the RAIA Victorian Architecture Medal; the Melbourne Prize; the Marion Mahoney Award (Interior Architecture), and the Joseph Reed Award (Urban Design); and the Architecture Award for institutional buildings in 2003.

Level National

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.
 N6 - Use of technology of the day in an advanced and creative way and architectural works which extend technology to new limits.



Detail of Federation Square cladding, Maxlink Media Services



Oblique aerial of Federation Square site, wikipedia



View of the atrium entrance from Flinders Street, fedquare.com



Twilight view from within Federation Square, looking toward, arcadis.com



Twilight view from within Federation Square, karresenbrands.nl