

Lawson Flats

Address Cnr Sherwood Court & The Esplanade, Perth WA 6000

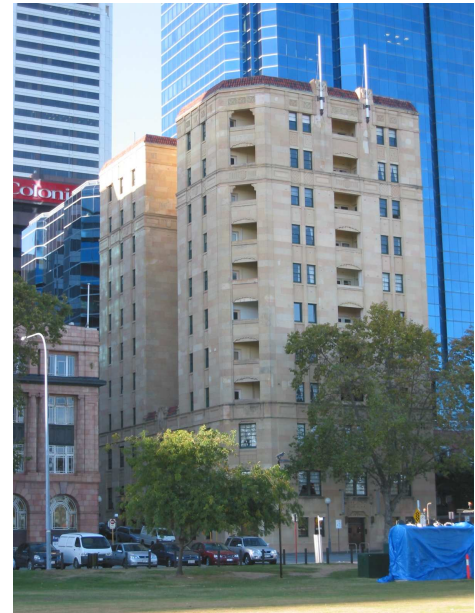
Practice Hennessy, Hennessy & Co. in association with Reginald Summerhayes

Designed 1936 Completed 1937

History & Description

Lawson Flats is an 11 storey building constructed for the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society. It included a private club and restaurant at the lower 3 floors and apartments above. The building was designed by Sydney architects Hennessy, Hennessy & Co in association with prominent local architect, R. Summerhayes for rental purposes as a companion piece to the neighbouring CML Building (1936-1980) on St Georges Tce.

When constructed, the two CML buildings were amongst the tallest in Perth. Its landmark status and prestigious location catered for an exclusive market in multi-residential building stock not known in WA prior to the Inter-War years. The design features Spanish Mission and Art Deco styled ornamentation, evoking some of the allure of Hollywood. Internally, the H-shaped plan form provides for 4 apartments per floor, arranged in pairs in the twin palazzi form towers. The apartments were refurbished in the 1980s but remain a desirable address.



(All photos: Katrina Chisholm, May 2008)

Statement of Significance

The multi-level Lawson Flats offered prestigious apartment living and was a unique residential development in Perth at the time. It would appear to be the only remaining example in WA of the work of nationally renowned architects, Hennessy, Hennessy & Co.. Hennessy, Hennessy & Co was responsible for the design of other CML developments around Australia and the Commonwealth.

The stylistic influences demonstrate a move away from British and European origins to those of America, notably Chicago.

Criteria Applicable

N2. Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

