

St Kilda Public Library

Conservation Management Plan

150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda, Victoria 3182



December 2019

Prepared by

Prepared for

LOVELL CHEN

City of Port Phillip

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Cover: St Kilda Library lending desk, entry point and lightwell, 1974 (Source: Ian McKenzie, in *Constructional Review*, February 1974)

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Conservation Management Plan, 2003

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) relies upon content included in a CMP for St Kilda Library prepared by Allom Lovell & Associates Pty Ltd in 2003. The project team for the 2003 CMP was: Robyn Riddett and Gina Levenspiel, then of Allom Lovell & Associates; Mark Hodgkinson of Mark Hodgkinson Consulting Engineers; and Steve Grimes of PlanCost Australia Pty Ltd.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for St Kilda Public Library was prepared for the City of Port Phillip (CoPP). The property is generally described in this report as St Kilda Library. The subject property, comprising Lot 1 LP45670, is owned and operated by CoPP.

St Kilda Library is located within the 'St Kilda, Elwood, Balaclava, Ripponlea' precinct which is designated as HO7 in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Port Phillip Planning Scheme. The Library is also identified as a 'significant heritage place' in the Port Phillip Heritage Gradings Map, October 2018.

The primary objectives of this CMP are to:

- Confirm the cultural heritage significance of St Kilda Library;
- Provide policies for the conservation of the place; and
- Provide a heritage framework to inform future management of the place, including guidance on new works and development.

This document follows an earlier CMP prepared for St Kilda Library in 2003 by Allom Lovell & Associates.

The present CMP is based on the principles and processes set out in best practice heritage guidelines, notably the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter, 2013* (Burra Charter).

Overview of the asset

Location

St Kilda Library is located north of St Kilda Town Hall close to the intersection between Carlisle Street and St Kilda Road. It occupies a large approximately rectangular site measuring c. 4,000 square metres, with a principal frontage to Carlisle Street (51.5 metres) and a secondary frontage to Duke Street (54 metres). The site is approximately 77.5 metres deep. There is a pedestrian thoroughfare extending north-south at the east of the site, connecting Duke and Carlisle streets. This thoroughfare was introduced in the 1990s

Summary history and description

St Kilda Library was designed by architect Enrico Taglietti (1926-2019) in 1971. Stage 1 of the proposed two-stage build was completed in 1973. As well as the building itself, Taglietti was responsible for the design of the landscaping, and the design or selection of a number of pieces of furniture, some of which survive. Stage 2 was delivered in 1992-93 to a design by Ashton Raggatt McDougall Architects (ARM). The building in its current form comprises a part basement (below Stage 1) and a ground level. A raised pyramidal skylight defines the original point of entry to the building.

Stage 1 was L-shaped in plan with generous setbacks to the south and north. The principal entry from Carlisle Street led to a forecourt with hard paved surfaces, concrete bench seating and a water feature adjacent to the entry canopy. Deep cantilevering eaves afforded protection from the elements. To the south-east of the site (addressing Carlisle Street), the landscaping comprised concrete brick retaining walls and raised planters with native trees. These elements were generally removed during the works of the early 1990s.

Stage 2, as anticipated by Taglietti, was for the construction of a small theatre and café to the south-east of the Carlisle Street entry. The construction of these works would see the completion of the axial entry enclosure and courtyard. Also contemplated as part of Stage 2 was the extension of the building to Duke Street.

The original part of the library is comprised of walls in concrete, either bush hammered or board marked. The secondary elevation to Duke Street is built of brick. The eaves throughout are lined with radiata pine boards and the fascias are lined with untreated western red cedar. The pyramidal skylight on axis with the entry, to which the name of the library was originally mounted, was also clad with timber boards. This has since been replaced by metal sheeting, and the naming removed. Window frames are timber and steel.

In 1993, the floor area of the library was enlarged to include a new entry and disabled ramp along the east boundary. These works also provided a pedestrian thoroughfare extending between Carlisle and Duke streets. The additions involved alterations to the 1973 building, including internalisation of some external walls. The original entry in the approximate centre of the Carlisle Street elevation was blocked, and a bluestone screen wall, evoking the form of an open book, was introduced to the west of new entry.

Although altered through the 1993 additions key aspects of the planning and program of the original building remain legible, including the entry canopy, the double height foyer and the main reading room (room G. 11).

Significance

The assessment of significance undertaken for this CMP has found that St Kilda Library is of historical, aesthetic (architectural) and social significance to the City of Port Phillip (CoPP).

St Kilda Library, designed in 1971 and completed in 1973 to designs by Enrico Taglietti, is of local historical significance as a public institution with an important place in the City's history. It was the product of a protracted community campaign to lobby St Kilda Council to invest in a municipal library. The Library is also in the post-World War II Victorian tradition of a freestanding public library designed for municipal use.

The first stage of the Library, designed Taglietti, is modelled in textured off-form concrete and concrete brickwork, surmounted by a cantilevered roof with an opposing roof form over the entry. The extant elements of the original building demonstrate the formal concerns that characterise his idiom, such as cantilevering and hovering forms, the appearance of concrete construction and spaces articulated by openness and contiguity. The building received the RAIA VIC Chapter Architecture Awards: Architectural Merit in 1972.

The extension to the library in 1993 by Ashton Raggatt McDougall Architects (ARM) represents an aesthetic departure, making only modest reference to the design qualities and planning of the original building. The additions provided improved access and circulation arrangements in an additional volume elevated above conventional building practice by its front façade, comprising a monumental book element in concrete and bluestone. The additions reinforced the municipal and physical presence of the Library in Carlisle Street

While an understanding of the building as an outcome of local community activism in the 1950s-70s has largely dissipated, it is evident that the Library is valued as a resource by a broad cross-section of the present community. Further, as more directly related to heritage considerations, the architectural character of the building and its open and inviting internal characteristics, are recognised by members of the community. The 'community' for whom the Library is of social value is understood as the CoPP community at large, including but not limited to users of the Library Service. An exception to this is the architecture community, for whom the building derives some interest for its associations with Enrico Taglietti and ARM.

Recommendations

The core recommendations of this CMP are summarised below.

Conservation

Features, elements and attributes of St Kilda Library that should be conserved are listed below and indicated at Figure 1. These features, elements and attributes are:

St Kilda Library as completed in 1973, including original external and internal fabric, including:

- The north and west elevations;
- The west end of the south elevation – the east end of the original south elevation was internalised and modified in 1993;
- The north end of the east elevation – the south end of the east elevation was internalised and modified in 1993;
- Remnants of the original entry area defined by exposed off form concrete walls and the pyramidal skylight above;
- The spatial quality of the main reading room (G11); and
- Furnishings and fittings, including joinery items and light fittings, as well as items of furniture designed or selected by Taglietti, including desks, red powder-coated lockers, children’s display shelving and pendant lights in children’s library area.

The 1993 additions to the extent of the ‘book’.

The following plaques mounted in the Library related to the:

- Foundation stone, 1972 (eastern exterior wall – internalised in 1993);
- Opening ceremony, 14 May 1973 (south wall); and
- Opening ceremony (additions), 19 December 1993 (north of disabled access ramp).

Management

Key management considerations include the following:

- CoPP should comply with all applicable legislation in the management of St Kilda Library, including the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987*, being the key piece of legislation that applies directly to management of the Library’s heritage value.
- The Library was designed as a community resource and derives cultural significance from this historical and ongoing use. Library Services should continue to occupy part or all of the building, in an accessible, ground floor, location. A combination of uses, such as an ongoing library use in conjunction with office space and/or commercial tenancies, may be acceptable.
- Programs of priority maintenance, remedial works and cyclical maintenance should continue to form the basis for ongoing care of the place.

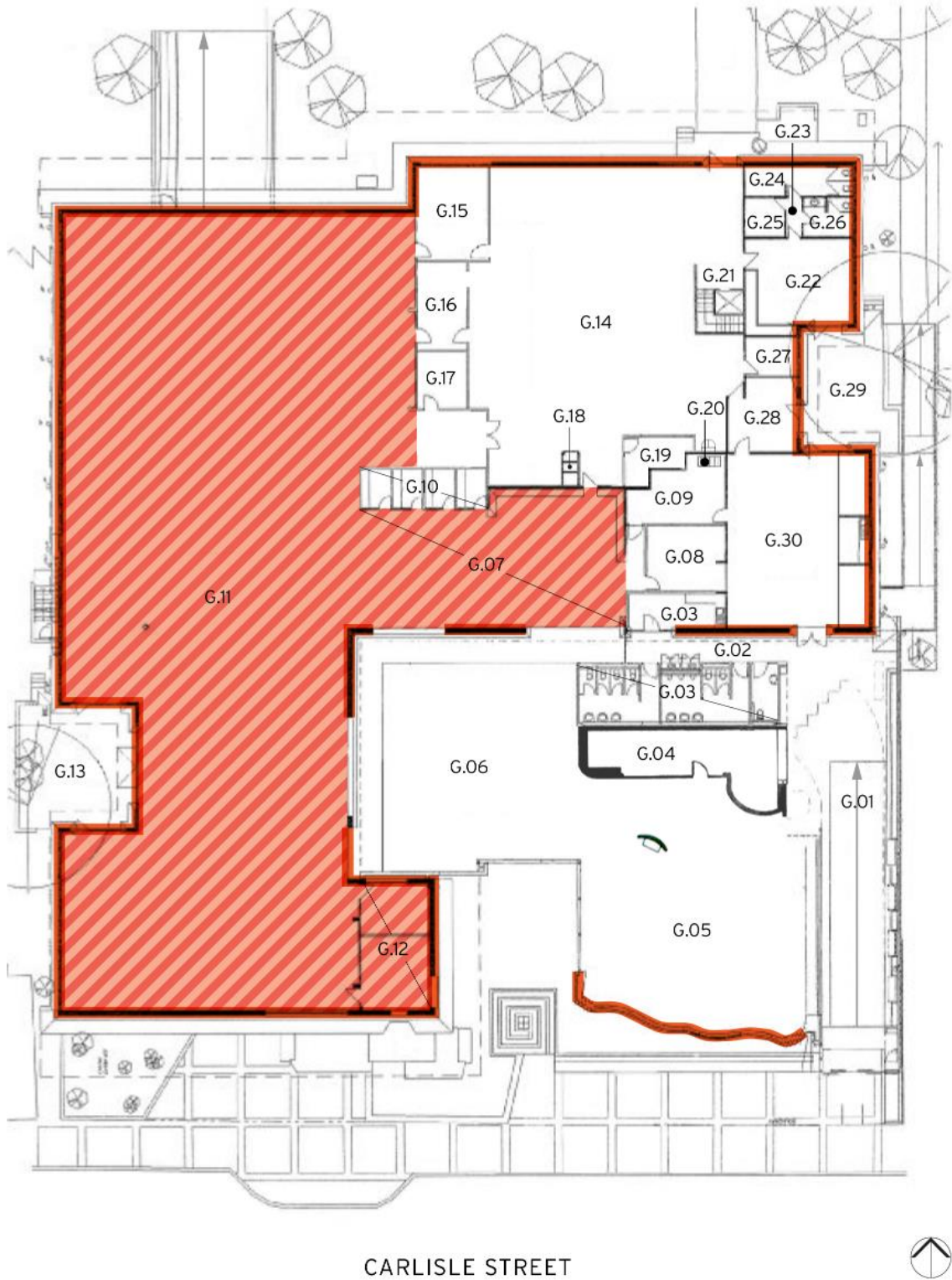


Figure 1 St Kilda Library ground floor plan: significant fabric, spaces and elements are highlighted

Changes to significant fabric and elements

- St Kilda Library has been subject to incremental physical change since the mid-1980s, in response to changing community needs and expectations. This pressure to evolve can be expected to continue. Changes to St Kilda Library have been both external and internal. Further physical and functional change can reasonably be contemplated, providing that the works do not diminish the cultural heritage significance of the place overall as identified in this document.
- Opportunities to incorporate concealed, modified or unrealised aspects of the Taglietti design may arise as a consequence of future works. For instance, Taglietti's arrangement of approach and entry spaces, which were delivered to a limited extent in 1973, were substantially overwritten in 1993. Opportunities to revisit the central entry and plaza as conceived by Taglietti should be explored where opportunities allow. Opportunities to return openings modified in 1993 to their original form should also be pursued in the event that change at the south-east of the site is proposed.
- The 'book' (1993) at the south-east of the site should remain a visible public element.
- The pyramidal lantern should be retained and conserved. A preference is for re-instatement of horizontal ship-lapped timber boards recalling the original appearance of the of the lantern in timber, to match the original detail.
- The rear (north) elevation is an intact component of the Taglietti design as completed in 1973. It is preferred that this is retained and that it remains visible from Duke Street, at least in part. Accepting that this is not a primary elevation, some opportunities for change exist. The rear elevation could be sensitively altered, enclosed or partially removed to facilitate the ongoing library use.

Collections, furniture, objects and fittings

- The collections of furniture and fittings at St Kilda Library, designed or selected by Enrico Taglietti, contribute to the heritage values of St Kilda Library. However, a detailed audit of the furniture and other items of moveable heritage falls outside of the scope of this CMP. An audit and assessment of the furniture and other moveable items should be commissioned and completed within the lifespan of this CMP.
- A number of loose and possibly uncatalogued items of heritage value are located in the basement, including prints of Taglietti's design for the library, conceptual designs for the addition by ARM, Ledgers, Bound collections of newspapers, items of historical clothing and other memorabilia. The contents, condition and significance of these items should be assessed by an appropriately qualified consultant.

New works and development

- In the event that new works are required to support the on-going use of the Library these should be designed with regard to the assessed significance of the building.
 - > The 'book' should be retained and continue to be understood as a key episode in the building's evolution.
 - > Taller new works should be set to the east of the building away from the intact Taglietti west wing which should be retained as a single-storey volume. Additions of this kind should allow the lantern above the centre of the building to remain visible from vantage points in Carlisle Street.

- > In the event that change to the rear of the existing building envelope is contemplated, options include enclosure or partial removal to facilitate ongoing library use. In preference, at least part of this elevation should remain visible from Duke Street.

Interpretation

- The historical values of St Kilda Library relate, in large part, to the community-led campaign to lobby St Kilda Council to commit funds to a public library during the 1950s-60s. Recognising that this value is intangible and noting that an understanding of the Library as a product of community activism has largely dissipated, it would be appropriate for the story of the Library's origins to be presented in the building. This could take many forms – i.e. from a wall-mounted plaque to a commissioned artwork.

1.0 UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

St Kilda developed as a fashionable seaside resort through the nineteenth century, attracting day-trippers, tourists and residents due to its bayside location. By the interwar period St Kilda's was Melbourne's pre-eminent recreation and pleasure destination. By the 1950s, however, the municipality was increasingly associated with groups and activities regarded by many as antithetical to post-war conservative sentiment.¹ From what had been an affluent and professional community in the mid-nineteenth century, St Kilda in the mid-twentieth century was culturally diverse with a large transient population, conspicuous poverty and a tendency towards left-leaning politics. It was from this context of social disenfranchisement and growing political activism that the St Kilda Public Library was born.

1.1 St Kilda in the twentieth century

Tensions between local interests and St Kilda's metropolitan role as a destination for pleasure and recreation were increasingly evident by the interwar period.

In 1906, the St Kilda Foreshore Committee was established with the purpose of remodelling and developing approximately two hectares of the foreshore for the recreation, convenience and amusement of the community.² The Committee included representatives of the State Government and the St Kilda City Council, reflecting the seriousness with which the beautification of St Kilda and its ongoing development as a tourist and recreational precinct was taken at this time.

Under the direction of the Committee and Public Works Department engineer, Carlo Catani, the foreshore at St Kilda was transformed by the construction of the Esplanade incorporating landscaped lawns, gardens and fountains. In addition, the construction of dance halls and theatres were financed by revenue gained through leases of land, buildings and facilities to amusement operators. Luna Park opened in 1912, followed in 1913 by the Palais de Danse.³ Further urban development during the interwar period included the construction of sea bathing facilities in the 1920s, new hotels, guest houses and rooming houses, as well as a wave of flat developments.

In 1923, the *Prahran Telegraph* noted:

St Kilda Council has been of late years too busy attending to its shop window, the Esplanade, and the foreshore, to give any thoughts to the much needed want of a public library ... With a good library in St Kilda we can all increase our knowledge ... let us welcome the library for the good it may do – even to councillors.⁴

As noted above, following World War II St Kilda's reputation changed dramatically, with the growing presence of antisocial activities such as street prostitution, illegal gambling, drug use and alcohol abuse.⁵ The period also saw a trend towards flat construction continue, with existing buildings replaced with higher density types.⁶

In early 1947, in a report on the status of libraries in metropolitan Melbourne, the *Herald* newspaper noted that even with St Kilda's relative prosperity and the existence of a library sub-committee, the municipality had 'no librarian [or] reading room'. St Kilda was not the only area with inadequate library facilities; the Malvern and Camberwell councils were also identified as providing no lending libraries for residents.⁷ In late 1947, the Council's library collection, by then housed in the town hall, was partially sold, with the remainder donated to charity. Cr George Cavanagh, chairman of the library committee, stated he intended to:

... submit to the council a scheme for a modern library, which would be a cultural centre, providing for lectures, demonstrations, visual education ... in addition to reading facilities.⁸

The Council's resistance to investing in library facilities and other service endured during the 1950s. As noted in the *City of St Kilda Twentieth Century Architectural Study of 1992*:

Post war anti-communist attitudes and the domination of the Council by conservative parties tended to lead to the association of any public or social proposal with a Socialist objective. Even calls for a Municipal Library and Home Help services were rejected, the council believing that local government was not a vehicle for social services.⁹

In addition, it had been estimated that by 1961 over 30,000 people were moving through St Kilda every three years, and Council refused to use local resident rates to finance services for the municipality's transient population.¹⁰ As observed by historian Anne Longmire, by the mid-1960s, 'residents of all ages suffered because of the paucity of services in St Kilda and voluntary agencies were more taxed than ever.'¹¹ In 1967, the Labour MLA for Albert Park, P K Sutton, remarked in the Legislative Assembly on the level of Council obduracy, suggesting that prostitution was the only social service available in St Kilda.¹²

1.2 St Kilda Library Promotion Committee 1953

In 1953, six years after the sale of the library's collection, a committee was formed to 'approach St Kilda Council about establishing a municipal library'.¹³ The entrenched nature of Council's resistance to welfare matters is further illustrated by the failure of the St Kilda Library Promotion Committee to pressure the Council to provide a library. The committee organised a petition of 3,000 ratepayers calling for a free library, although the Council felt this petition contained 'too few' ratepayers' names.¹⁴ The council committee which considered the proposal for a children's and reference library concluded that the provision of a library would be 'an unwarranted expenditure'.¹⁵ One St Kilda resident wrote to the *Age* newspaper, stating that Council was more concerned about the provision of 'pleasure beaches ... dance halls, cinemas [and] ice rinks' over 'the needs of children'.¹⁶ Some Councillors even promoted the view that a municipal library would only 'encourage the reading of fiction, which, in turn, would encourage juvenile delinquency'.¹⁷ However, not all councillors were against the provision of library services, with some advocating for grants to fund existing school libraries.¹⁸

The Library Promotion Committee's proposal was countered by a lengthy report prepared by the Town Clerk, which argued that a library would be an unwarranted administrative and financial burden on the Council. After the decision, St Kilda resident Norah Strahan complained in the *Age* newspaper that it was 'not possible to believe the people of St Kilda are radically different from their fellows in Prahran, South Melbourne, Hawthorn or Box Hill' in requiring a library.¹⁹ In the *Argus* in October 1954, one parent commented to the *Argus* that 'we don't want our children to grow up numbskulls', with another noting that libraries were as important as school in helping children 'to get the reading habit early in life'.²⁰ The group vowed to continue their campaign, and in December 1954, declared a 'We want a library' war on St Kilda City Council.²¹

Council's continued opposition to the library was reinforced in the Council's 1957 *City of St Kilda Centenary Booklet*, which advocated that a library:

... should not properly be a matter for the expenditure of municipal funds which are provided by property owners only. It would cost thousands of pounds per year to operate and, generally speaking, would provide mostly books of fiction and thus come into active competition with a large number of Lending Library businesses established in St Kilda and providing excellent service to meet the public's requirements at reasonable rates.²²

1.3 'We will not be trodden into passive submission'²³

The first break in this cycle came as a result of the formation of St Kilda Library Establishment Committee in 1961; the group comprised parents of children at the kindergarten in Nelson Street, who had become disaffected by their attempts to engage with the Council. The Committee office-bearers

were Ivan Scown as President, Jeanette (Jenny) Love, a former librarian as Secretary and Angela Pedicini as Treasurer.²⁴ The group persuaded Council to request that the Free Library Service Board conduct a library survey in the area which was completed in 1961. It recommended the establishment of a library, a proposal that was rejected by Council.²⁵

The Committee responded by launching a community campaign, organising petitions, distributing information leaflets and writing letters of support to Council. Parliamentary representatives and the Free Library Services Board were kept informed of its progress. Public meetings and speakers were organised and drew support from all quarters of the community. By 1962 the case for a library had gained the support of Cr Eric Gamon who unsuccessfully agitated Council to hold a referendum on the issue. The Committee's President, Ivan Scown, stood for Council in the elections of that year, and although unsuccessful, polled well.²⁶

The substance of the Committee's arguments was reinforced by the findings of the *Jungwirth Report* in 1964 which had investigated the provision of municipal libraries and criticised the St Kilda City Council for refusing to conduct a poll on the issue.²⁷ Further support came from MLA Sutton's description of the Council as a 'one-party body', claiming that the absence of a public library, whereby *Hansard* could be read, coupled with the absence of a local newspaper, ensured that residents were kept ignorant of municipal mismanagement.²⁸ The depth of community feeling in support of the Committee's endeavours was displayed in a public meeting, addressed by Brian Dixon, the liberal MLA for St Kilda, which attracted over 500 people.²⁹ As noted by Anne Longmire:

Public support was so sincere that Norma Gormley, the joint secretary, declared in July 1964: 'This year, next year or [in] 10 years, there will be a library in St Kilda. We will not be trodden into passive submission'.³⁰

In 1967, the election of Ivan Trayling to the St Kilda Council represented a victory for the Library Establishment Committee. Trayling's own campaign had centred on the need for a municipal library and child-minding centre. His electoral victory represented the first success of community activism for social welfare services which had been expressed almost continuously since the 1950s. As recorded by Anne Longmire:

Council's inertia seemed to end with its decision to build a library, and many other barriers seemed to crumble soon after the determined Library Establishment Committee won its fight in 1967.³¹

With the election of younger, energetic members to the St Kilda Council, who followed in Ivan Trayling's wake, issues including St Kilda's 'image problem' and the provision of community welfare services, began to be addressed.³²

1.4 The beginnings of the St Kilda Library (1967)

In November 1967, Council allocated \$50,000 to fund the library building and requested that Barrett Reid, the Executive Officer of the Library Services Division of the Library Council of Victoria, to review the 1961 survey conducted by the Free Library Services Board.³³

By 1969, a Council library advisory sub-committee was formed with Cr Trayling as Chairman. For the first time in Council's history, the Committee included community representatives such as Jenny Love, Reverend Brother F I McCarthy and Bernard Rechter.

Canberra-based Italian architect, Dr. Enrico Taglietti was appointed to design the St Kilda Library in April 1970. No competition or tender process for the St Kilda Library commission appears to have been undertaken. Rather, it seems that the commission was awarded to Taglietti on the basis of his design for the Dickson Public Library in the Australia Capital Territory (ACT) (Figure 2) – Dickson Library was

awarded the RAIA ACT Chapter Twenty Five Year Award in 1995.³⁴ The St Kilda Library Advisory Committee travelled to Dickson to inspect the building prior to commissioning Taglietti.³⁵

Vida Horn, previously the City Librarian for Mordialloc and Footscray, was appointed Chief Librarian and began to prepare a detailed design brief. In the meantime, an intensive survey of the user population was undertaken, and an acquisition program commenced which responded to the needs of St Kilda's diverse community. St Kilda by the 1960s had a highly transient population, large migrant communities, and more marginalised groups including elderly and single-parent families, all of whom stood to benefit from improved library services.³⁶ By 1971, over 16,000 books had been acquired.³⁷

1.4.1 *Enrico Taglietti (1926-2019)*

Enrico Taglietti emigrated to Australia from Italy in 1958 and established a practice in Canberra. He soon became known for his innovative and sculptural designs for hotels and motels across the ACT and NSW. Concurrently, he produced a suite of private residences in the suburbs of the nation's capital. At a time when Canberra architectural practices were often franchised out of large interstate corporate firms, Taglietti succeeded in sustaining the first Canberra-based practice of note, undertaking civic and institutional commissions for the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC).

The NCDC was established in 1958 to manage the Commonwealth's interest in the planning and development of Canberra as Australia's capital. Taglietti's work for the Commission included his design for the Dickson District Library (1967-69), Flynn School (1972), Giralang Primary School (1975-76) and Latham School (1970). Taglietti's, boldly-modelled annex to the Australian War Memorial (1977) has been described as exhibiting 'the best quality of Taglietti's architecture'.³⁸ In 2007, he was awarded the RAIA Gold medal in recognition of recognition of his distinguished service to Australian architecture.

Enrico Taglietti maintained an interest in St Kilda Library, continuing to provide commentary on changes to the library, both completed and proposed, until his death in May 2019.



Figure 2 Dickson Library, ACT, completed 1969 (undated photograph)
Source: Images ACT, ACT Heritage Library

1.5 Design and construction (1970-73)

1.5.1 *The site*

Under its Chairman Cr Trayling, the Library Sub-committee recommended that a car yard site in Carlisle Street opposite the Town Hall and seven properties in Duke Street be purchased for the construction of the library.³⁹ The site as consolidated in 1970, was essentially rectangular in plan with a frontage of 51.5 metres to Carlisle Street and 54.1 metres to Duke Street.⁴⁰ A one metre wide drainage easement on the east side of the site linked the site to Duke Street.

1.5.2 *The brief*

The library brief is detailed in the Chief Librarian's report, prepared by Vida Horn following the completion of the building, as follows:

The new building is centrally situated on a main street well served by public transport. The site ... has a frontage of 170ft. and extends through 240 ft. to a back street, which allows access to the basement carpark.

An early decision by the Library Sub-committee recommended that stage one of a contemplated two-stage building should be big enough to serve as a single service point for five years. As a result, the size of the building was increased by nearly 3,000 sq. feet and extra funds were also allocated for the carpark.

Planning of the building took place initially in joint meetings between the Architect, representatives of the Public Libraries Division of the Library Council of Victoria, the Library Sub-committee and Library staff.

Planning of services, materials and building was related at all stages to the estimated community needs of St. Kilda's inner-suburban population of approximately 61,000. Stage one emphasizes the library as a source of recreational reading at all levels, and provides lounge areas for members wishing to relax in comfortable and pleasant surroundings. One of the lounge areas is connected to audio equipment at the circulation control desk, for use of the record collection within the library. Another, in a corner of the fiction/large print section, looks out onto a courtyard.

The reference section can accommodate 18 students at open desks, and there are three lockable study carrels. This section will be considerably extended in stage two, which also includes plans for a theatre and coffee shop.

The workroom layout functions well, though the need for extra desks reduces its original spaciousness. Staff areas, which open onto a courtyard shared with the community room are pleasant and comfortable.

Layout of shelving and furniture in both public and office areas was designed by Library staff in consultation with the architect. Shelving is arranged on walls and in bays, not in the usually preferred arrangement of runs of island shelves. Narrow screens, which can be used for display, were designed by the Deputy Librarian to extend metal-framed shelving at right angles to wall shelving.

The community room which will accommodate meetings of up to 50, is available for use by local groups as well as for library programmes and exhibitions. It has a small kitchen, and also an office for storage and use of local history material.⁴¹

1.5.3 *The design*

Taglietti's sketch designs (see Figure 3), as presented in the Council's journal, *St Kilda Today*, were described as having, '... bold horizontal lines of wide overhanging eaves and the soaring lines of the roof over the foyer... [which] will invite people to enter, acting rather like outstretched arms, involving people in the building before they actually come inside'.⁴²

For reasons likely to relate to the budget, it was decided to approach the construction as a two-part exercise. The western wing containing the book stacks and lending areas along with the rear wing, containing the staff works rooms, were constructed in their entirety as were the basement parking areas. The eastern wing, intended to contain meeting and café spaces, was left unbuilt. Following the contract documentation,⁴³ a building tender of \$417,000 from M. Notkin Construction Co. of Caulfield

South, was accepted in December 1971.⁴⁴ The architectural drawings are reproduced at Appendix B. Taglietti had understood that the eastern wing would be constructed as part of a second stage of the development creating the central entrance courtyard between the building's two 'outstretched arms' (Figure 4). Taglietti also anticipated an extension towards to Duke Street as part of Stage 2.

Further to this, Taglietti was generally committed to the design of the landscaped setting for his buildings. However, this also appears to have been left to the second stage of construction. An aerial photograph of 1975 shows lawned areas to the north and south of the building. (Figure 5).

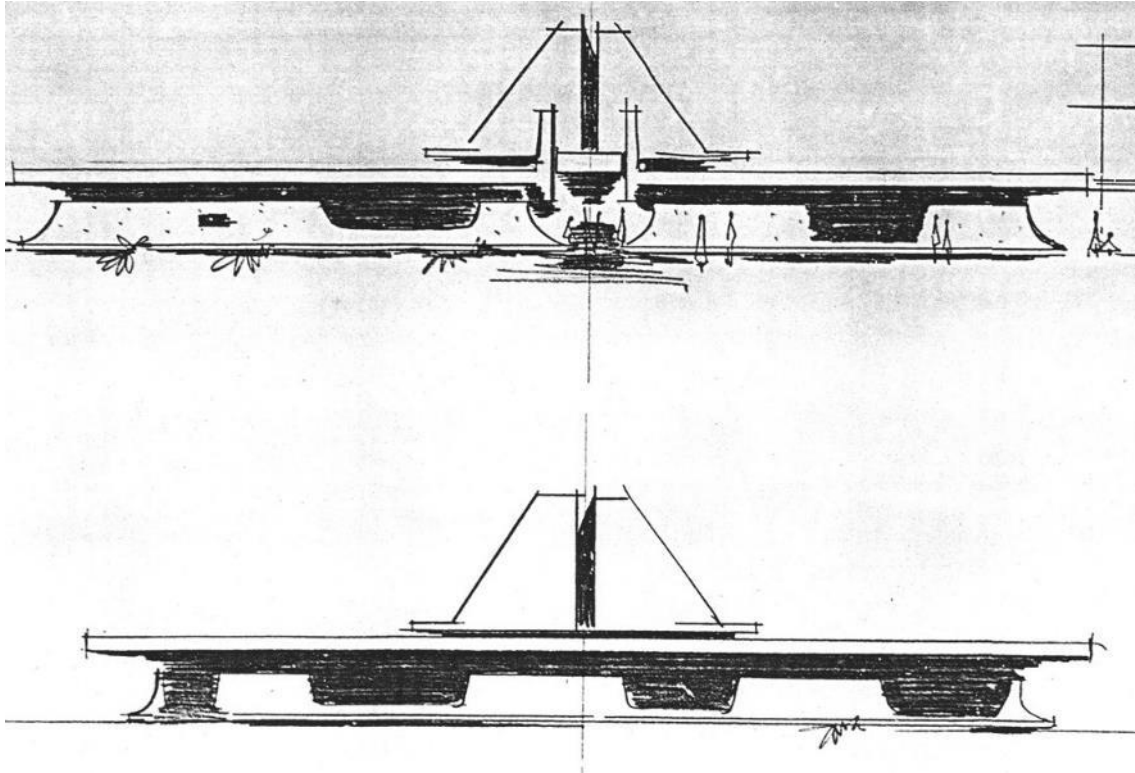


Figure 3 Carlisle and Duke street elevations: Design Development 5/B, 22/3/71 by Enrico Taglietti
Source: City of Port Phillip Collection



Figure 4 Sketch plan of Stage 2 by Enrico Taglietti, 1971, with the alterations indicated: a theatre and café were proposed at the south-east of the plan and the building was extended to Duke Street: north is at top
Source: Enrico Taglietti



Figure 5 Aerial view of St Kilda Library, 1975
Source: Landata Historic Aerial Photography Collection

1.5.4 *The building*

The building covered the whole of the site except for setbacks to the north and south. The ground floor contained the library and public facilities; access to the basement car park was from Duke Street. Reflecting on the library in 1981, Taglietti described the design as follows:

The ground floor slab projects about a metre beyond the sloping walls and provides a strong horizontal line from which the building rises. This base line is echoed by the immensely heavy cantilevered roof which floats clear of the walls below, only joined to them by continuous slot windows [Figure 7 and Figure 6]. The materials are simple. The walls are concrete, either bush hammered or board marked; the roof and eaves untreated softwood boards, and the window frames are timber and steel. Untreated softwood also covers a high pyramidal roof structure on which the name of the building is painted in tiny Roman letters.

Once inside, all is lightness and warmth. One climbs the few steps to the entrance and enters the Lobby through a pair of doors which are oddly shaped but slide open normally enough. To the left is the library itself, its entry and reception area surmounted by a high ceiling elsewhere [Figure 8]. To the right is a small meeting room, its privacy screened by a pair of doors. In front, coat hooks, bag racks, and three toilets, one for women, one for men, and one for wheelchairs.



Figure 6 View of St Kilda Library from Carlisle Street, 1974
Source: Ian McKenzie, in *Constructional Review*, February 1974

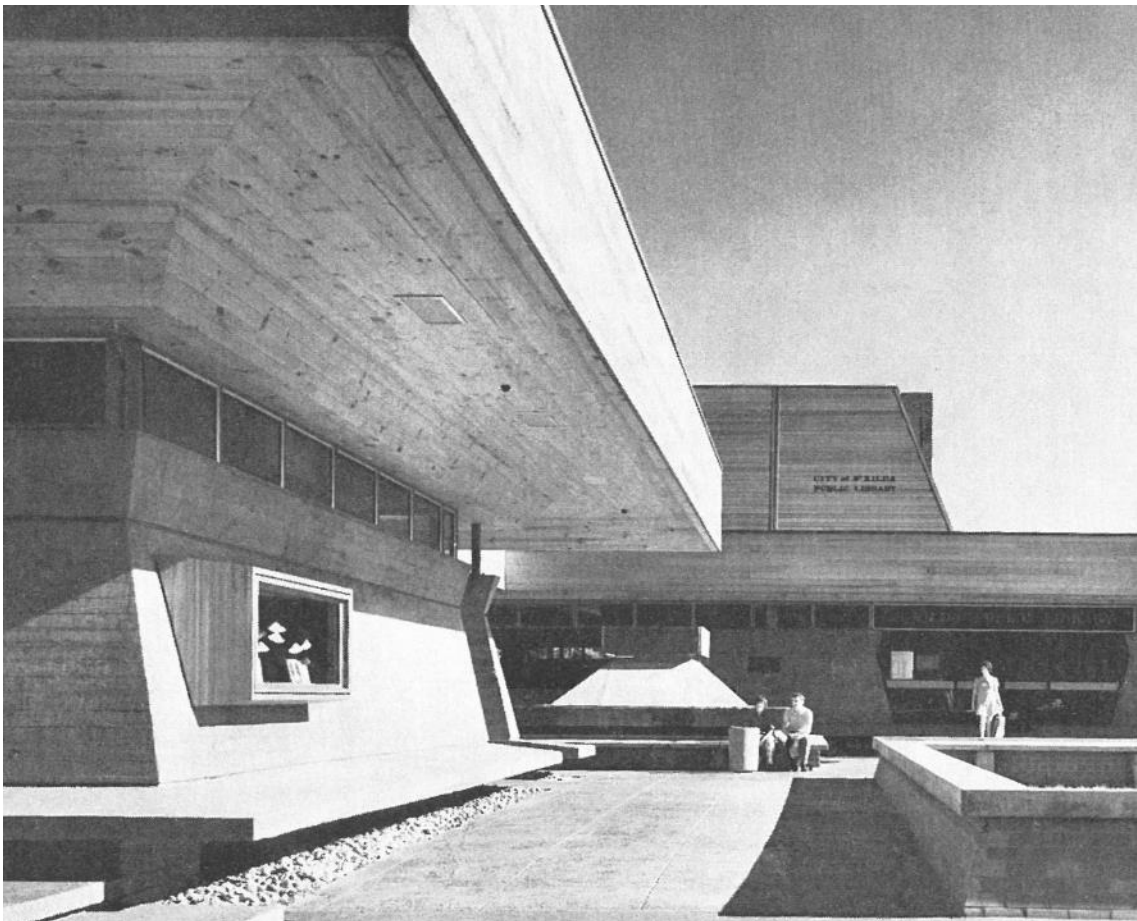


Figure 7 View of St Kilda Library entry, 1974
Source: Ian McKenzie, in *Constructional Review*, February 1974



Figure 8 Original lending desk, entry point and lightwell, 1974
 Source: Ian McKenzie, in *Constructional Review*, February 1974

But it is to the Library we should turn, and there we find the best of this building. Space unfolds before us as we enter, and although it is held firmly between the horizontal planes of the carpet tiled floor and the boarded ceiling, it has variety, interest and delight. There are no formal spatial divisions, and different functional areas are divided by screens, by changes of lighting, and of scale. One of the most successful of these modulations occurs in the children's library where reference tables are only about 150mm high, so the children can sprawl on the floor while they read. Bookcases are scaled down copies of those in the remainder of the Library. The light fittings are square, fluorescent boxes, of ponderous scale, mounted against the ceiling. The children's section is identifiable from a distance by the addition of clusters of miniscule, toy-like, gaily coloured lights suspended at a height to about 1800mm from the floor.⁴⁵

1.6 Opening and reception

In August 1972, the foundation stone for the library was laid by the then St Kilda Council Mayor, Ivan Trayling, and Sir Rohan Delacombe, the Governor of Victoria, opened the library on 13 May 1973 (Figure 9). A plaque commemorating the event remains in the building and reads:

City of St Kilda Public Library erected in 1972

Mayor the Hon Ivan B Trayling MLC JP

Councillors S Aldous UR Campton LLB, IW Clark, JC Duggan, HW Ireland, GA Manning, RD Thomas, TP Tierney, EE Vienet, IS Williams, BT Zouch

AN Isaac Town Clark, Enrico Taglietti Architect

Service to the public began on the following day. Commander R S Veale, the original Chairman of the Library Promotion Committee, was invited to borrow the first book.⁴⁶

The completion and opening of the library received some attention in newspapers and journals. The *Age* newspaper reported on the opening of the library in May 1973, noting the provision of services for children in particular:

It will be the first to be open on Sundays and the first to have an on-site car park for readers. The library has a children's section which includes an aquarium. It has also been supplied with children's jigsaw puzzles and eventually will be stocked with educational toys. The lighting for the children's section is provided by 30 yellow, red and white lights which create a kind of carnival atmosphere.⁴⁷

Aside from the provision of services, the architecture of the library was also praised. The *Constructional Review* in its review of the building's design observed that:

Internally it possesses an atmosphere that is at once restful and yet sufficiently animated to appeal to children ... Planning of services, materials and building was related at all stages to the community needs of St Kilda's [municipal] population of over 60,000. Stage I emphasises the library as a source of recreational reading at all levels and provides lounge areas for members wishing to relax in comfortable and pleasant surroundings.⁴⁸

1.7 Ten years of growth (1973-83)

In 1977, the library received a grant of \$5,000 from the Library Council of Victoria to develop and implement an activities program for adults and children. With the allocation of supplementary funds by the St Kilda Council, the library concentrated on upgrading its equipment such as a film projector for the community room, audio equipment for the adult reading room, film scripts and sets for the youth activities section. The expenditure extended to a diverse range of library activities, including poetry readings, speakers, film programs, children's games, as well as deliveries of lending material to house-bound residents within St Kilda.⁴⁹

By 1979, the library had a membership of over 13,000 people. Membership was free to anyone who lived or worked or attended school in the City of St. Kilda, as well as St Kilda ratepayers.⁵⁰ A plan of the library from the 1980s shows the arrangement of the various spaces of the library, with the children's section at the Carlisle Street end of the main library, adult fiction at the Duke Street end and non-fiction in the centre (Figure 10). In March 1980, celebrated St Kilda-based artist Mirka Mora, in concert with a group of school children, completed an approximately 12 metre-long painting as part of an event at that year's St Kilda Festival. Once completed, the painting became the property of the City of St Kilda, and was subsequently relocated to the library.⁵¹ The painting remains mounted at the west end of the south wall of the reading roof – in 1980 that area was the designated children's zone (see Figure 31).



Figure 9 Opening of St Kilda Library by Sir Rohan Delacombe (standing left) with Cr Trayling (standing right)
Source: sk2734, Port Phillip Heritage Collection

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the library's opening on 14 and 15 May 1983, one writer in the *St Kilda Today* observed:

The library opened with a stock of 29,058 books. This has now grown to 106,757 books plus periodicals, sound recordings, maps and pamphlets. Membership has increased from 11,603 in the first year of service to 19,815. Borrowing of books and other items has also increased, from 306,121 in the first year to 421,501 in 1981-82 ... There is no charge to join the library or borrow books.⁵²

Over the following years, the community's use of the library included conducting English-language classes as well as meetings held by local organisations. School use of the library was frequent and during the school holidays the children's librarians in conjunction with Council's recreation offices presented co-ordinated programs of activities. With 27 percent of the population of the municipality born overseas, demand for the library's foreign language resources was such that, in 1993, an ethnic services librarian was appointed, as part St Kilda Council's multicultural policy. Russian, Hebrew, Polish and Chinese titles were increasingly popular, indicating the diversity of St Kilda in the early 1990s.⁵³

Following the amalgamation of local councils in 1995, the St Kilda City Council was integrated into the Port Phillip Council. The Port Phillip Library Service remains free and available to all permanent and temporary Victorian residents.⁵⁴

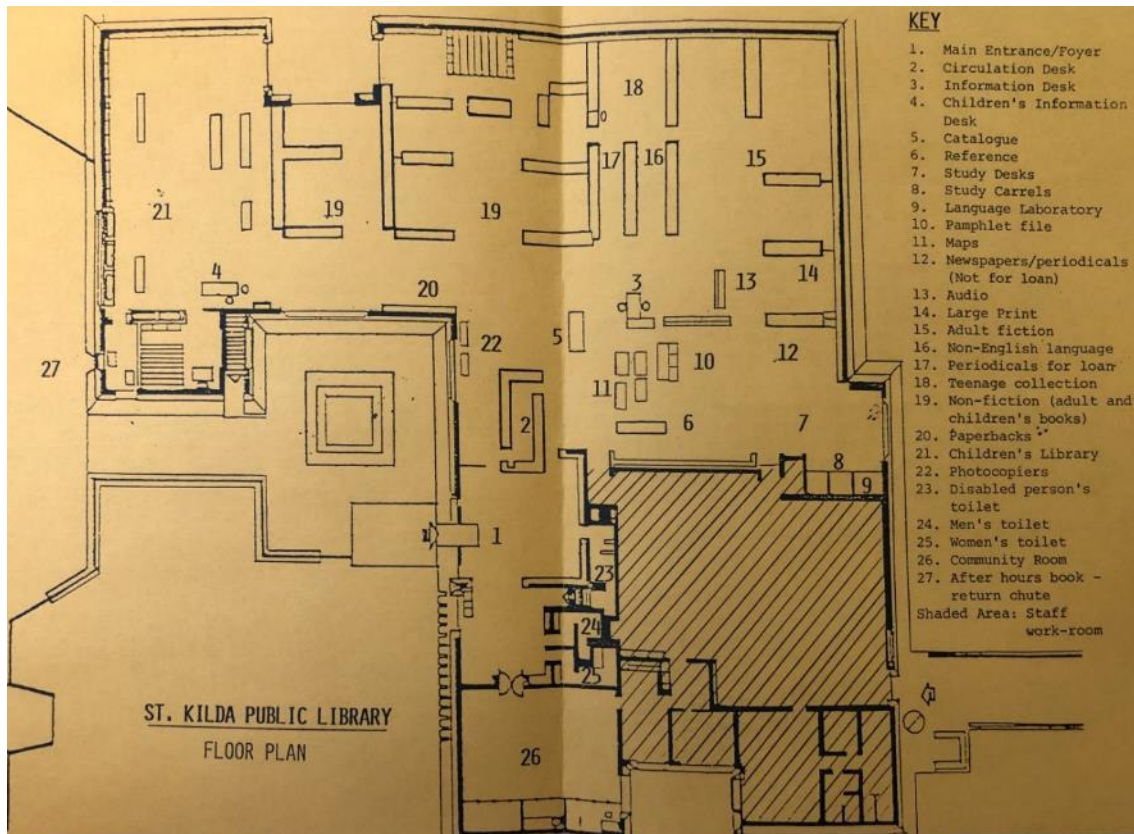


Figure 10 Floor plan of St Kilda Library, (undated, but 1980s): north is at right
Source: 'Welcome to St Kilda Public Library', undated, State Library of Victoria

1.8 Alterations and additions (1987)

The staff workroom areas in the south-east corner of the building were modified internally in 1987. MMH Partnership designed the alterations and the work commenced in 1987, following the acceptance of a tender for \$97,236 from R&L Collins Constructions P/L of Doncaster.⁵⁵ The work comprised limited demolition of the floor slab to allow the installation of stairs from the rear work room to the basement car park allowing straightforward access for staff. It appears that the basement ceased to provide public parking at this time. A book hoist was installed as part of these works. In addition, some concrete brickwork walls were reconfigured to adjust the size of the female lockers, the staff room and the librarian's office. General works to the staff workroom included the painting of the ceiling and the addition of light fittings. Architectural documentation for these changes is included in Appendix B.

1.9 Alterations and additions (1989)

In July 1989, Council approved the installation of a building identification sign on the Carlisle Street fascia. The design of the lettering was similar to an existing red plastic sign positioned over the glass entry doors.⁵⁶

1.10 Alterations and additions (1993)

By the early 1990s, St Kilda Library was reportedly one of the busiest in Victoria, with a membership of over 27,000. It had reached the limits of its accommodation, requiring additional space for 'book storage, audio-visual and study areas' and staff areas.⁵⁷

In April 1991, a major fire gutted the St Kilda Town Hall on the opposite side of Carlisle Street and resulted in an extensive building programme to upgrade and refurbish the damaged areas, including the construction of a new two-level administration building.⁵⁸ The works to the town hall were undertaken by the Melbourne architectural office, Ashton Raggatt McDougall (ARM).

In September 1992, the *Emerald Hill, Sandridge & St Kilda Times* reported that St Kilda Council had received \$1.15 million from the Federal government to construct an extension to the St Kilda Library, qualifying for the assistance as the project had been deferred due to a lack of funds. It was initially proposed to relocate the 'overcrowded library' into the new facilities at the town hall, as a way of solving the accommodation issues. However, a 'survey showed that library users were against the idea'.⁵⁹ Following the completion of their work at the town hall, St Kilda City Council engaged ARM to design an extension to the library⁶⁰ connected to the refurbished town hall by a new plaza.

1.10.1 *Ashton Raggatt and McDougall*

In the late-1980s, Ashton Raggatt Architects merged with architect and editor of *Transition* magazine, Ian McDougall to form an inquisitorial new practice. The commission for the St Kilda Library followed the delivery of several 'breakthrough' buildings by ARM, including primary schools at Rosedale (1988) and Flowerdale (1987); the Rosedale High School (1989); and the William Angliss Hospital additions in Ferntree Gully (1992). The young firm undertook work for the Victorian Ministry of Housing, including, the foyer and penthouse refurbishments of Housing Commission towers at North Melbourne (1986) and Flemington (1988) and the Cheddar Road public housing units at Reservoir (1986).

Designs sprang from a range of explorations including semiotics, the role of architectural language in the wake of Modernism; and experimental form-making.⁶¹ Between 1992 and 1995, the firm was engaged on its most visible project to that time, RMIT University's Storey Hall, which was a seminal work for the practice gaining national attention for its combination of a challenging façade treatment and its digitally-derived interiors.

ARM received the Victorian Architecture Medal from the AIA (Victorian Chapter) for its work at RMIT. In the early 1990s, ARM was one of Melbourne's most individual and celebrated architectural practices and was an obvious choice for prominent works in unconventional St Kilda.

1.10.2 *Design tensions*

Awarding the St Kilda Library commission to ARM, meant that the second stage of Taglietti's original design for the building was not implemented. Sketch designs surviving from the earliest phase of the design process suggest that ARM considered a number of solutions that would have incorporated a centrally located courtyard/entry, as Taglietti had proposed, into the additions. However, this approach failed to meet the requirements of the brief and was abandoned.

In October 1992, Taglietti wrote to the Council expressing his concern that his original design had not been commissioned. In her reply, the Council's Chief Executive Officer, Jude Munro, noted that the original works were not completed, partly due to lack of funds, and partly due to changed community needs and the requirement to establish a larger space.⁶² She added:

The architect designing the extension has taken great care to preserve the existing building, almost to its entirety. A committee of Councillors steering the project, some of whom share your concerns about preserving the integrity of the existing building, its design and impact on the City, has fully endorsed the design approach being taken with the extension. Public comment has also been very positive.

Landscaping to create a plaza between the redeveloped Town Hall and the extended library will draw both the existing and new elements of the library building into focus. The Steering Committee is very pleased at the way in which the design of the extension thus incorporates the entire library building into an exciting civic precinct.⁶³

1.10.3 *The ARM design*

By November 1993 ARM had finalised its design for the additions in the south-east of the site, the major element of which was a large open book device. A tender for \$878,000 from John Holland Construction & Engineering P L of Melbourne was accepted on 19 February 1992.⁶⁴ A ground floor plan indicating the major interventions is at Figure 11, and photography of the additions under construction are at Figure 12 and Figure 13. See also architectural documentation in Appendix B.



Figure 11 (1) Indicates the extent of the addition to the original library completed in 1993; (2) the location of the original entry and sidelights; (3) window sill that was demolished for a full-height opening; (4) glazing removed from opening; (5) new full height opening; (6) new double door opening; (7) opening infilled; (8) window to the north wall of the reading room (north is at right)

Source: Allom Lovell & Associates, *St Kilda Public Library, Conservation Management Plan*, 2003



Figure 12 St Kilda Library south elevation, part, c. 1994 during construction of the additions
Source: City of Port Phillip History Collection



Figure 13 St Kilda Library, 1994 during construction of the 'book'
Source: City of Port Phillip History Collection

A small staff work room was constructed to the north of the reception area. A mural by local artist, Tony Clark, was commissioned for its exterior in c. 1994. The workroom was extended in c. 2010 and the artwork truncated. It has since been de-accessioned from the council's collection.

The ARM additions provided space for community facilities and a writers' studio, as well as a '40 per cent increase in public space'. New programs were also introduced to the library, with a 'strong arts focus', including 'literary evenings, children's literature programs' and a proposal to appoint a writer-in-residence.⁶⁵

ARM's design statement, published in 1995, reads:

The main entry ramp allows for access to the street behind the library without entering into it. The walk is beside, and outside the secured area. It is intended that the walk is the gap between an artificial extension of the existing fabric, a 'cardboard model' of the original building designed by Taglietti in 1972 and the new ...

The decision demanded an interplay between the heavily figured façade, the giant, raw shaping of the existing library and the third player in the space – the face of the extension. Only something of scale and elemental detachment, floating in the public plaza would turn the two buildings into three markers describing a space, and inferring something bigger ...

We [ARM] would always tend toward the difficult aesthetic of the figured, rather than the easy authenticity of something 'abstracted', and therefore we seized upon the opportunity to generate a sculptured wall as well as embrace the direct symbol of the book. The interest was in testing our capacity to re-render this direct image as something which is obvious, sensual and architectural all at the same time.⁶⁶

ARM's sketch at Figure 14 suggests that the book device was also the subject of more traditional architectural concerns. It illustrates ARM's considerations in relation to the representation of individual pages as elements within the monumental bluestone sculpture. Formally, the sketch explored parallels between the curving form of the open book and the undulating Baroque facades of the Palazzo Carignano and the Quattro Fontaine.

Robert Sands, Council's heritage adviser, questioned, among other things, the orientation of the extension to Carlisle Street rather than over the park along Duke Street.⁶⁷

St Kilda architect and councillor, David Brand, described the book as 'bizarrely literal', equivocating on the potential success of the idea:

Whether this idea turns out to be completely banal, or boldly surreal, or poetic or just very funny depends on the quality of its execution ... the 'Big Book' may make St Kilda Library one of the best known in the land.⁶⁸

Council's planning officers recommended the removal of the book element; however, councillors unanimously endorsed the proposal. Mayor John Spierings commented that Council was setting 'an important precedent'. The *Emerald Hill Sandhurst and St Kilda Times* reported that he called the book design:

... 'a bold experiment' that could put St Kilda 'up there with the great big banana'⁶⁹

Another councillor, Cr Julia Murray, described the book as:

... a very effective piece of signage that the building really needs ... that a fairly blank building wouldn't have had.⁷⁰

The community response to the additions ranged from 'great idea, excellent', to 'shame on the architects', but a review of contemporary local newspapers does not suggest that there was widespread or concerted concern about or interest in the design.⁷¹ Library Services Coordinator Rose Nolan recalls that, 'there was no sense of community backlash ... we focussed on keeping the building open during the construction works, and continued to provide our core services. It is typically a threat to service provision that upsets people'.⁷² Industry responses to the additions were generally positive, including a 1995 article in *Vogue Living*.⁷³

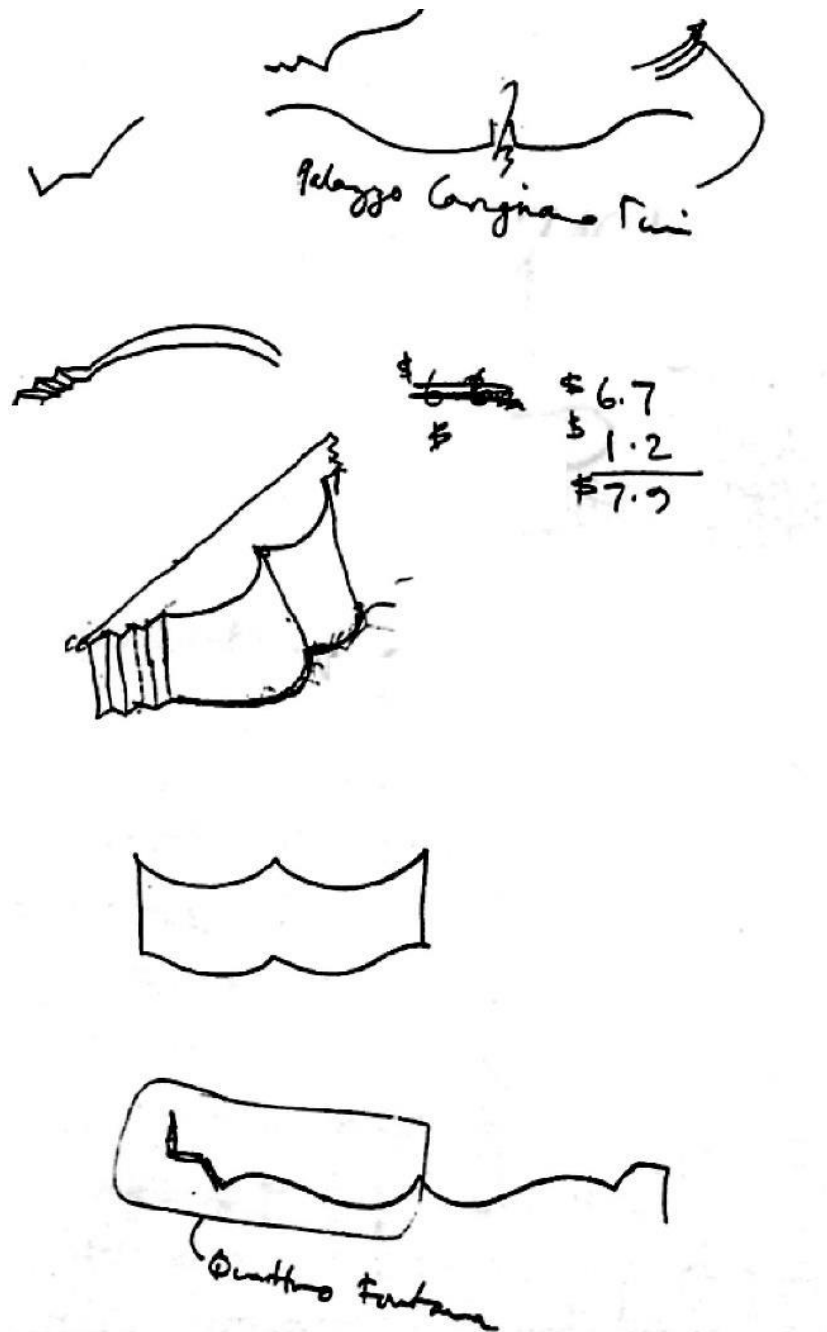


Figure 14 Sketch diagram of the book device by Ashton Raggatt McDougall
 Source: Ashton Raggatt McDougall, 'St Kilda Public Library Extension', *Transition #47*, 1995, pp.32-35

As Council's CEO, Judy Munro, identifies above, a plaza linking the town hall and library was contemplated, with ARM including it in their development of concepts for the library extension. It was to be a pedestrianised 'go-slow' zone, with the 'library theme continued by incorporating large letters into the paving.'⁷⁴ As part of the extension, the first stage of the plaza was implemented: a grid of concrete square inset with letters, was constructed in the Carlisle Street footpath (Figure 15). Some letters remain, although their visibility has been diminished as a result of footpath works in 2010. A similar grid was created across the road at the entrance to the town hall. A report in the *Emerald Hill, Sandridge & St Kilda Times* noted that the plaza was to be 'eventually built'⁷⁵ but this did not occur. It is possible that the relocation of the main library entrance to the eastern end of the site was to streamline movement across the proposed plaza, or for better use of spaces within the library.

1.11 Since 1993

Following the amalgamation of St Kilda, South Melbourne and Port Melbourne councils in the mid-1990s, St Kilda's library service became part of the Port Phillip Library Service, which comprises five libraries: St Kilda, Middle Park, South Melbourne, Albert Park and Port Melbourne. The new council's first annual report of 1994/1995 noted that a 'substantial staffing restructure' would be taking place across the libraries, as well as the integration of computer systems.⁷⁶ Through the Port Phillip Library Service, facilities at the St Kilda Library have been regularly upgraded as technologies have improved, including introduction of library management software in 2005 and wi-fi in 2013.⁷⁷



Figure 15 The ARM additions to the St Kilda Library as viewed from Carlisle Street, looking east
Source: *Vogue Living*, April 1995

St Kilda Library was first identified as a building of heritage significance in 1992, when it was assessed as an 'A'-graded building in the *City of St Kilda Twentieth Century Architectural Study* by Robert Peck von Hartel Trethowan and as a significant place in the *City of Port Phillip Heritage Review* by Andrew Ward, 2000. Citations are reproduced at Appendix A. A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was completed for building in 2003 by Allom Lovell & Associates. The Statement of Significance from the CMP is included at Appendix A.

In May 2003, the library celebrated its thirtieth anniversary and in November of that year the founding librarian Vida Horn died. She was remembered by in *InCite*, the Library Association of Australia's journal, as a 'true public servant':

As well as appointing staff and overseeing the purchase of books and other materials, Mrs Horn had to keep a watching brief on the building program. By the time the library was officially opened on 14 May 1973, everything from the rosters to the filing system was in order ready for the rush of local residents who had waited so long for their own library. She even wrote the library by-laws. 'It was the sort of job people describe as challenging. Fortunately, I had marvellous staff,' she told people at the 30th anniversary celebrations of St Kilda library in May 2003.⁷⁸

By the 2000s, plans were being developed for internal refurbishment and updating of the library, which was characterised as the flagship branch of the Port Phillip Library Service. The municipality's *Creative Futures* strategy noted the aim to:

Upgrade the St Kilda Library to provide a flexible centre for learning that can respond to the current and future needs and aspirations of our community ... [and increase] opportunities for people to interact, exchange ideas and connect with Council services within a new civic precinct on Carlisle Street.⁷⁹

As part of its 2010 re-election campaign, the Brumby Labor government pledged \$750,000 towards 'major infrastructure works at the St Kilda Library'. However, the party ultimately lost the election and funding did not eventuate.⁸⁰

In early 2013, refurbishment works at the library were completed, funded by the City of Port Phillip. The works included the introduction of self-serve kiosks and wi-fi, as well as new toilet facilities, 'replacement of the front circulation desk, improved access to the internal returns chute, new carpet, lighting, furniture and display shelving'.⁸¹

In 2016-2017, the children's space at the library was 'refreshed', and a more environmentally friendly heating and cooling system was installed.⁸²

The City of Port Phillip's annual report for 2013-2014 demonstrates the popularity of the St Kilda Library, accounting for 380,109 of the total 686,211 visits across the municipality's libraries.⁸³ In addition to regular visitors, the library has been used by numerous community and cultural groups for talks and other events and continues to serve as a base for the St Kilda Historical Society. It has been a venue for metropolitan-wide festivals including the Melbourne Writers Festival, Emerging Writers Festival, Melbourne Open House, along with more localised events such as the St Kilda Festival.

1.12 Community associations

In 2019, as part of research for this CMP, the City of Port Phillip and the CMP project team sought to establish whether there is evidence that St Kilda Library is a place for which a community or cultural group holds strong or special associations. The object of this process was to establish whether St Kilda Library satisfies, or has the potential to satisfy, the Heritage Council of Victoria's threshold for social value defined as, 'Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons' (see also Chapter 2).⁸⁴

The first stage was to identify individuals or groups with a readily identifiable connection to the place. Very few were found. It has been some time since there has been a 'Friends of St Kilda Library Committee'⁸⁵, and it has a very limited online presence, although there are references to the building on specialist architecture websites. In the absence of individuals/groups with an obvious or overt connection to the place it was decided to conduct a formal process of community engagement to establish whether such individuals/groups are present in the community.

From 25 June to 16 July 2019 a 'Have Your Say' webpage was hosted on the City of Port Philip website and promoted by Council's communications team (Figure 16). Over the same period an information board promoting the campaign was mounted at the Library.

The webpage sought submissions regarding what people value about St Kilda Library and why – 'Tell us which aspects or attributes of the place you value and why. You can use images and video to tell us your story'. This was preceded by the following commentary about the Library's origins:

The opening of St Kilda Library in 1973 was the culmination of a 20-year community campaign for the construction of a public library. Today, 46 years later, what does the library mean to you?

The heritage values of St Kilda Library are being reviewed. These values can relate to the building's historical significance, its architectural value and also what the library means to us as a community (social value).

Tell us what you value about St Kilda Library by adding your story/idea below. Your feedback will be used to inform a new Conservation Management Plan for St Kilda Library. This will guide the future management of the building's heritage values.

A total of 79 submissions were received during the three-week period that the webpage was 'live'. Of these the majority related to services provided by the Library. Examples of these amenity-related responses include:

'I have always been so thankful to have such a wonderful library here in St Kilda for the many decades I have made use of all the services it provides. Free IT use, DVD's, daily papers, magazines, local papers etc. It enables me to request every new release of book whenever I want ...'

'We love visiting the library, walking in and seeing the awesome display in the glass cabinet and then wandering straight to the kids area where the kids love the pods and finding a great new author or series.'

'I moved to St Kilda East just over a year ago, and the St Kilda Library was a really important part of helping me to get settled into Melbourne and the local community! The free internet was (and is!) great, but a library is always more than just free internet. Wandering around the library, looking at the resources, the flyers and posters, even the books that the fabulous librarians choose to highlight on particular shelves - all of this gave me a really great introduction to the community and what they value'.

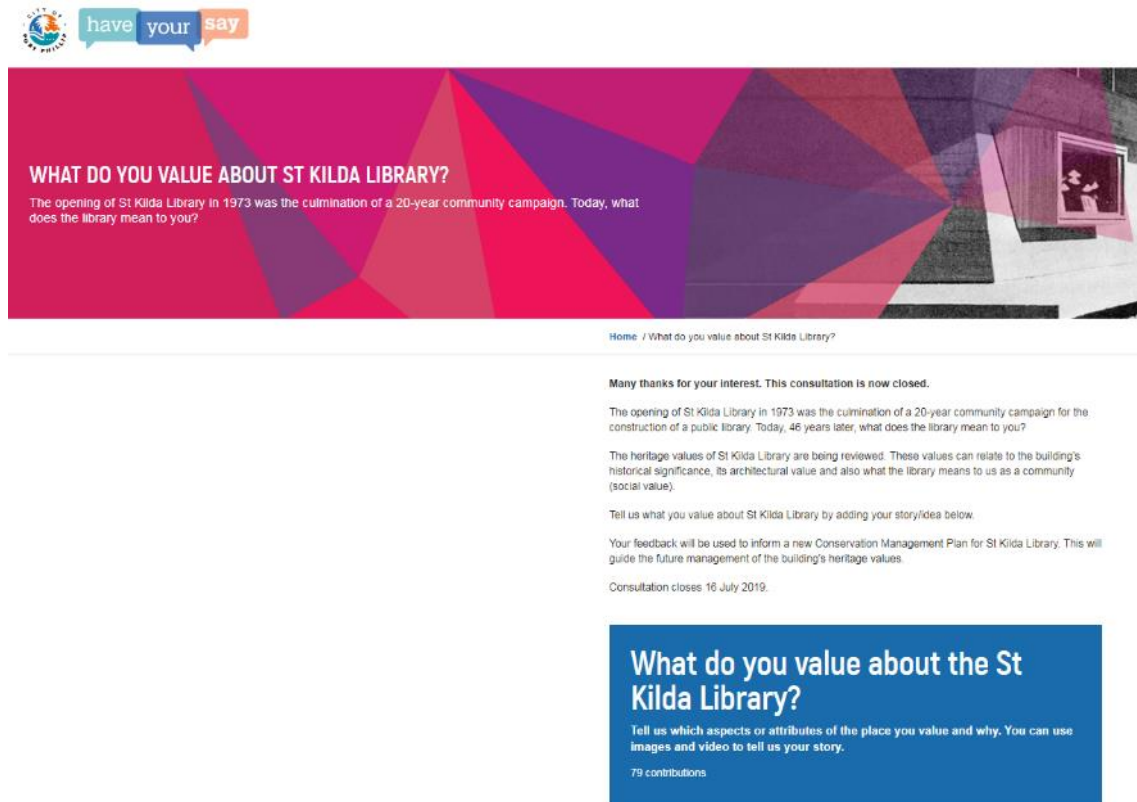


Figure 16 'Have Your Say' webpage screen grab
Source: <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au>, accessed 25 July 2019

A smaller percentage (c. 10 of the 79 submissions) of the comments addressed the building's architectural qualities. Examples include:

'The original design by Enrico Taglietti is a great example of 'organic architecture' as championed by Frank Lloyd Wright, all those horizontal lines, floating walls and wide roof eaves. The off-form concrete has a nice texture and the interior with all the timber-lined ceilings is very warm. The original character has been somewhat lost though from the front with the infilling of the courtyard, I do wonder why the expansion was done there and not to the rear? Perhaps somehow more of that courtyard could be revealed?'

'An architecturally significant building that provides a much used service to the local community however the service could be updated with the times.'

'The architectural design with a facade resembling an open book is funky, inspired and fun, aptly reflecting the culture inside. The quiet ambience of a library always appeals to me but St Kilda staff are always a pleasure to work with.'

'St Kilda Library is a beautiful example of early 1970's modernist architecture. I often visit just to enjoy the feeling of the building- both from the outside and the inside. It's a unique and valuable landmark in our suburb.'

Other submissions used the webpage as an opportunity to, variously: express gratitude for the work of the library staff; identify concerns about the perceived 'poor quality' of the public open space at the rear of the library, addressing Duke Street; and recall personal associations with the building.

Analysis of the evidence for social value generated for this CMP is at Chapter 2.

1.13 Physical description

The following provides a description of St Kilda Library and its setting in 2019

The Library occupies a rectangular site opposite the St Kilda Town Hall. It is set back, from Carlisle Street to the south, behind hard landscapes of pavement and stones. More generous setbacks from Duke Street to the north have been developed as a modest park.

1.13.1 Exterior

As experienced from Carlisle Street the building reads as two distinct elements adopting two different architectural expressions. In this regard, the St Kilda Library is understood both internally and externally as an evolved place (Figure 17 and Figure 18).

The original single-storey building is L-shaped in plan comprising a wing along the western boundary of the site containing the main library reading room and a second wing along the rear of the site which incorporates work areas for library staff. These remain legible, externally, as the work of Enrico Taglietti with in-situ concrete floor and wall construction, with steel columns supporting the roof framing. All perimeter walls are battered in section and the sloping wall surfaces are textured by off-form horizontal board-marked concrete and concrete brickwork. The roof frame, which comprises large-span, open web steel trusses, is clad in steel sheeting and supported on load-bearing perimeter walls. Throughout, the eave soffits are lined with radiata pine boards and the fascias are lined with untreated western red cedar horizontal boards. The flat roof cantilevers from the line of the building envelope and is separated from the walls by continuous highlight glazing.⁸⁶ A gestural stack rises above the flat roof at the centre of the building. These western sections of the building and the rear, Duke Street, elevation, remain legible as the first stage of Taglietti's vision for the site.

An engraved bronze plaque fixed to the original (external) south wall contains the following inscription:

City of St Kilda Public Library officially opened by His Excellency Major-General Sir Rohan Delacombe KCMG, KCVO, KBE, CB, DSO, KSt.J, Governor of Victoria on 14th May 1973.

As noted, the presentation to Carlisle Street was substantially altered by the works of 1993. ARM's additions are located in the 'elbow' of the original building, abutting Taglietti's external walls and transforming them into internal partitions. The additions, themselves, present to Carlisle Street as a simple, single-storey volume. Aluminium framing articulates the facades into broad rectangular segments infilled variously with plain glazing, lightweight panels and super-graphic signage. However, the architectural focus of the additions, and the library more broadly, is the out-of-scale gesture of the book device realised in concrete and bluestone (over a steel structure, Figure 13) its central 'illustration' a window on the activities of the library.



Figure 17 St Kilda Library, western (1973) sections of the Carlisle Street façade



Figure 18 St Kilda Library, eastern (1993) sections of the Carlisle Street façade

1.13.2 Interior

Internally, the same divisions are evident. In the western wing, the original form of Taglietti's book stacks and study areas remain evident (discussed as 'Group 2' below). Some early elements such as study desks and light fitting remain in place. In these areas, uninterrupted space is sandwiched between the horizontal planes of the carpet tiled floor and the boarded ceiling and this area continues to encapsulate Taglietti's design intent. Staff work areas (discussed as 'Group 3' below) are located in a group of rooms in the north-eastern sections of the building. The skylight above the original loans desk survives although its original role and use are now less evident, the desk having been relocated to the new entry as part of the ARM works of 1993. These later works comprised additions over the courtyard and landscaped areas. Generally speaking, the 1993 works were designed and constructed in a simple manner with a concrete floor constructed flush to the floor level of the earlier building with steel-framed wall and roof framing. These were lined with conventional materials such as plasterboard, timber sheet and glazing – occasionally arranged in unconventional ways. The additions provided increased capacity for the library and introduced a disabled access ramp along the eastern boundary of the building. As with the exterior, the most notable internal space in the addition is the area within the book device, its window allowing library occupants to become its subject. The 1993 works generally fall within 'Group 1' as discussed below. A parking area and storerooms are located in the basement of the library. These are also discussed below.

Basement Area (LG.01 – LG.06)

The basement area comprises the car park, plant rooms and stores including a compactus room (Figure 19). The basement is L-shaped in plan comprising a secure car parking area for council and library officers (Figure 21). Car parking spaces (LG.02) are accessed from Duke Street via ramped driveway (Figure 20). Access to staff work areas at first floor level (LG.05, Figure 33, Figure 34) is provided by a stairwell (G.21, Figure 21) constructed near the north-eastern corner of the basement in 1987. An

earlier stair survives in the southern sections of the carpark but has been blocked off. A compactus area and book hoist (LG.01, Figure 21) is located to the east of the modern stairwell. A large office/store along the southern wall of the car park is used as a storage area for the St Kilda Historical society. An undercroft corridor space (LG.03) located along the north wall along with plant and electrical rooms (LG.04, LG06) were not accessed as part of the current assessment.

The basement is utilitarian in its construction and comprises a concrete floor with square concrete columns supporting a concrete slab at ground floor level. The retaining walls are constructed of reinforced off-form concrete and concrete brickwork. A modern sliding gate at the entry appear to be a later intervention – possibly a part of the 1987 works. This has been clad in modern decking in the relatively recent past.

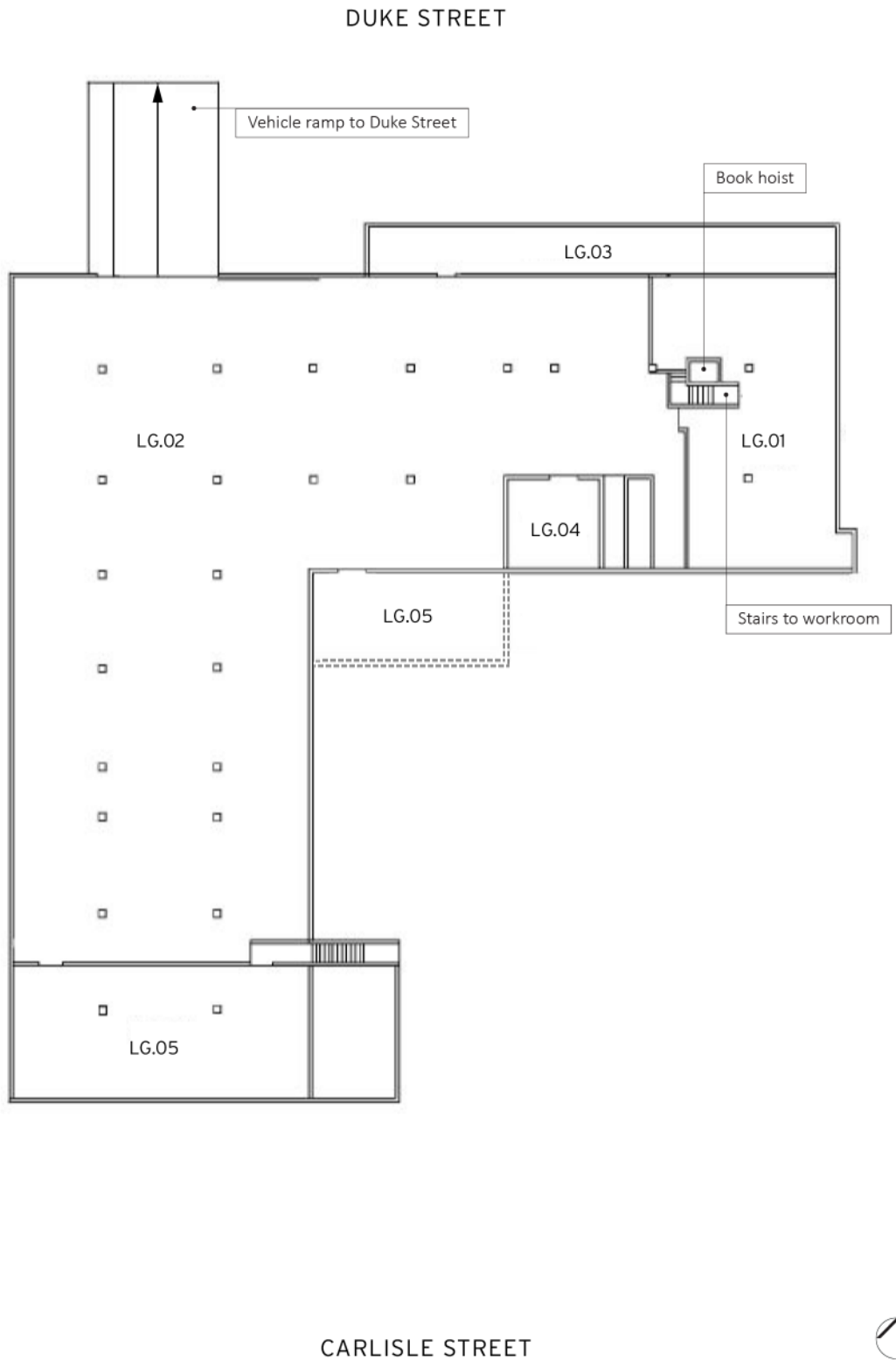


Figure 19 St Kilda Library basement



Figure 20 Basement parking area (LG.02) with sliding gates to Duke Street evident at rear

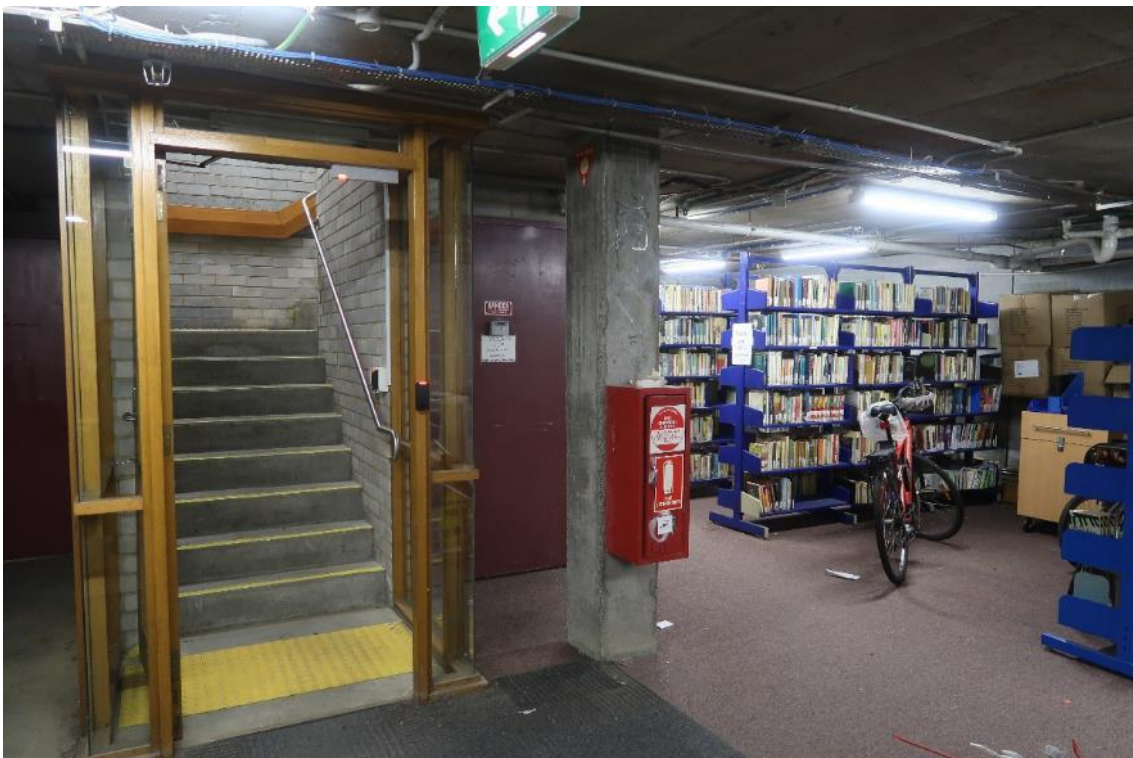


Figure 21 Compactus room (LG.01) and stair to first floor work room (G.21)

Ground floor areas (G01 – G30)

The spaces at ground floor level (Figure 23) are discussed in functional groups of similar or complementary roles as follows and illustrated at Figure 22.

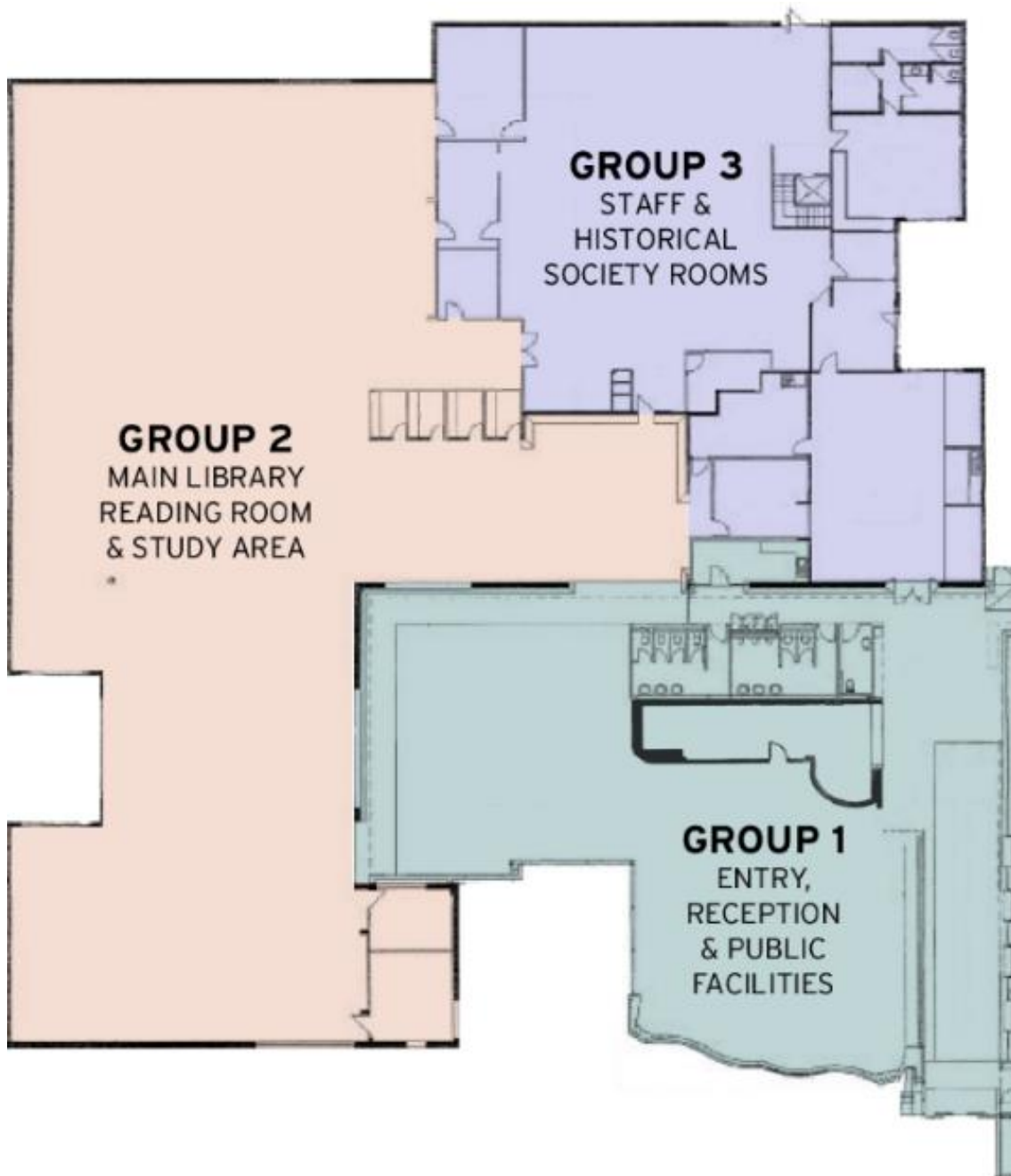
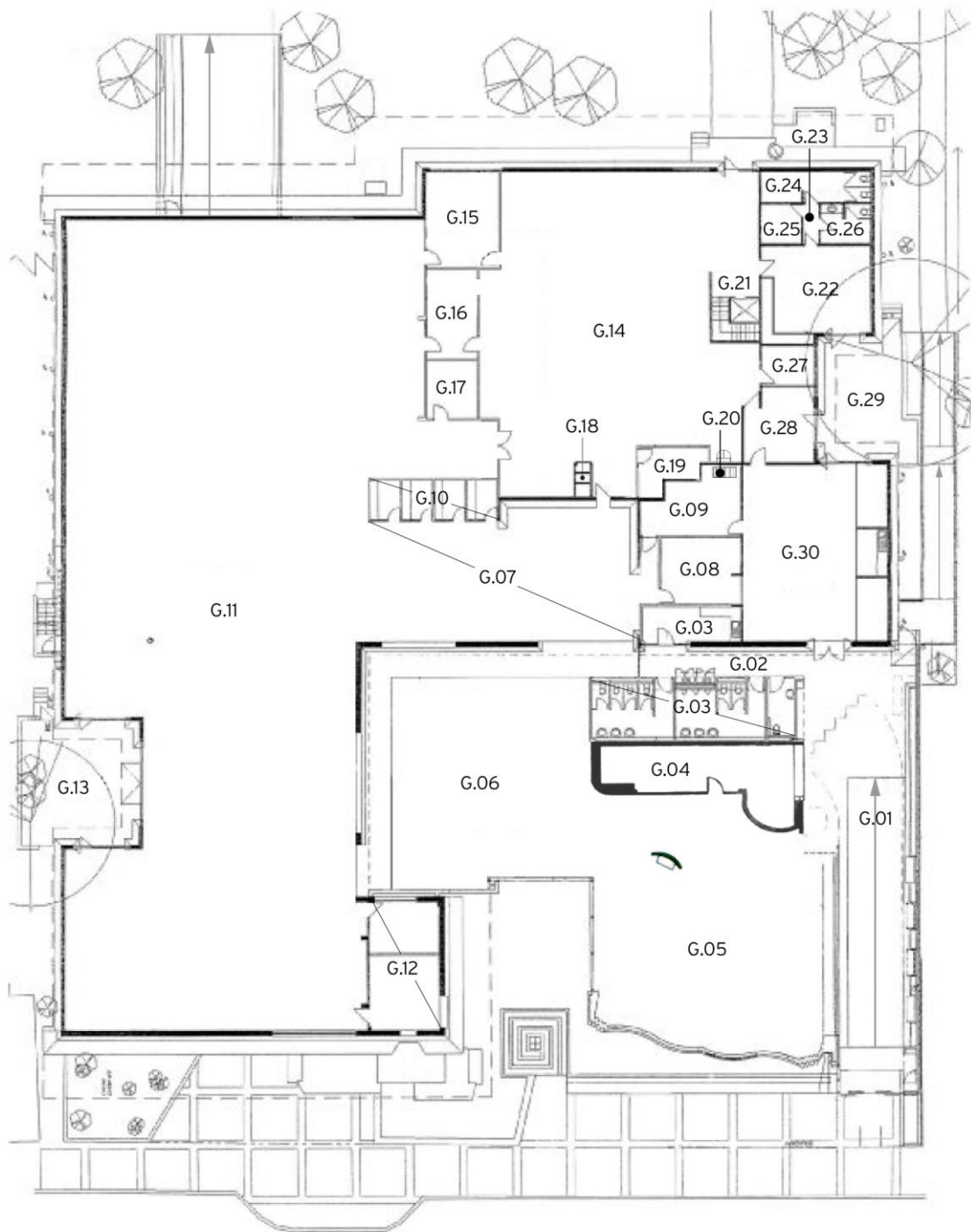


Figure 22 Ground floor: functional groups

DUKE STREET



CARLISLE STREET



Figure 23 Ground floor plan

Group 1: Entry, reception and public facilities

Group 1 comprises the public entries reception areas and toilets and a small, centrally-located librarians' workroom (G.01-G.06).

The library entry (G.01) combines a number of planning devices that organise public circulation into and through the building from Carlisle Street. These were constructed as part of the 1993 works. L-shaped in plan form, the space comprises an airlock at Carlisle Street with glazed automatic double doors leading to a disabled access ramp (Figure 24) rising from street level to the level of the library. At the northern end of the ramp a waiting area provides access to: the main library entrance (Figure 25); a corridor containing public toilets (Figure 24); the community room to the north (G.30) and a ramp to Duke Street along the eastern boundary of the site. The main library entrance provides access to the key reception spaces of the library (G.05 and G.06, Figure 26). The design of the 1993 additions incorporates architectural forms and details which are informed by the design of the original Taglietti building – including the lozenge-shaped display cases and sloping wall surfaces in the entry. A workroom (G.04) was constructed in c. 1993 and extended in c. 2010 abutting the south wall of the toilets (G.03). A mural on its south wall, painted by artist, Tony Clark in c. 1994, was truncated by the works of c. 2010.

The disabled access ramp floor (G.01, Figure 24) is finished in exposed aggregate concrete with a polished finish. The ceiling to the ramp is faceted, constructed from layered timber sheeting to an irregular serrated profile and painted in tones of green. The western ramp wall is fully-glazed allowing views into the library (Figure 25). The eastern ramp wall has raked timber linings and lozenge-shaped, glass-fronted display cabinets recalling the shapes of the original concrete walls and window openings. An engraved brass plaque is fixed to the wall to the north of the ramp. It reads, 'All books are either dreams or swords, Amy Lowell'. Also fixed to the wall is a plaque commemorating the opening of the 1993 extension. It reads:

City of St Kilda Public Library (Extension opened Sunday 19th December 1993 by Haddon Storey QC, MLC). Jointly funded project by Commonwealth of Australia and the City of St. Kilda.

The public waiting area and corridor to the toilets at the north end of the ramp also form part of the 1993 additions. Their construction involved the modification of the original south library wall. The waiting area is a straightforward rectangular space. A corridor to its east provides access to the male, female and disabled toilets (south side) as well as to the parents' room (north side). The toilets themselves (G.03) are unremarkable but appear to be substantially intact to their 1993 construction. Within the library proper, the enlargement of the original library floor area in 1993 provided a new loans desk. This area has since been reconfigured with a further new loans desk created in G.05. A workroom was created on the southern side of the toilet group (G.02) incorporating a marbled pattern painted on its exterior plasterboard by noted artist Tony Clarke. The workroom was extended to the east in c.2010.

In general, the concrete floors in these areas are covered with carpet tiles and the ceiling is lined with plasterboard with flush fluorescent lighting. The majority of the later wall linings are plasterboard with full-height glazing providing views to the entry ramp, the courtyard and the town hall opposite. The external walls of the Taglietti's design survive in the northern and western sections of G.06. The most notable window is located in the curved walls in the southern sections of G.05. Overlooking Carlisle Street, the window reflects the form the 'bluestone book' outside. The fittings and furnishings in these areas generally date from the relatively recent past.



Figure 24 Disabled access ramp (left) and services corridor (right)



Figure 25 Library entry looking north (G.01)



Figure 26 Loans desk in G.05 with the 'marbled' pattern to workroom G.04 and the space, G.06, visible at rear



Figure 27 Southern sections of G.05 with the 'book device' visible at rear

Group 2: Main library reading room, study and meeting areas (G.07, G.10-G.12))

The works undertaken in 1993 included the reconfiguration of areas associated with the original entry lobby which now comprises library and study areas with a central skylight above. As a result of the 1993 works, these areas no longer play a role in the control of movement in and out of the main library reading room. The reading room itself (G.11) was substantially unaffected by the works although, its layout was 'reversed' as follows. The children's area was originally located at the southern end of the room where it was identified by a group of customised drop pendant light fittings, suspended over the reading area. Adult fiction and non-fiction areas were located at the northern end of the room.⁸⁷ In 1993, this arrangement was switched with the children's area, including the coloured lights, reception desk and associated joinery, relocated to the northern end of the room (Figure 28).

The reading room (G.11) is a long rectangular space located to the west of the site. It incorporates two smaller areas, a book return and genealogy area (G.12) in its south-eastern corner and a small external courtyard (G.13) inset within the western wall but is otherwise open in plan. Concrete floors have been recarpeted with orange and grey tiles (Figure 29). The ceiling is intact as installed and comprises pine boarding with a matt varnish finish and the original lighting which features a grid of ceiling-mounted acrylic box light diffusers, positioned in rows along the major axis of the space. The structure and fabric of the perimeter walls are also typically intact incorporating battered off-form concrete and concrete brick walls, continuous highlight glazing, painted steel stanchions and lozenge-shaped, steel-framed windows on the north and south sides. As part of the 1993 extension works, an external window, matching the profile and detail of the original windows, was installed in the north wall. Alterations in G.11 are generally minor, including the installation of return air grilles, smoke detectors, fluorescent lighting and signage to the ceiling, and artwork on the walls including a painting by artist Mirka Mora (1980). Original fittings and furnishings include timber joinery, small and large desks, chairs, a large catalogue desk, freestanding bookshelves, pin boards and wall-mounted display boards (Figure 29).

The western courtyard is square in plan form and directly accessible from the main library reading room by way of metal-framed glazed double doors which retain original timber handrails and hardware. The external court is intact comprising a concrete broom finish floor. The perimeter concrete brickwork walls with flush pointing survive.

The original entrance foyer (G.07) and neighbouring rooms are the most substantially altered spaces within this group. The space now comprises a reference area with central skylight above (G.07), study carrels (G.10), a meeting room (G.08) and store (G.09). The plan form of the former entry lobby (G.07) survives, defined by a perimeter of exposed off form concrete walls and the skylight above. A granite building plaque is fixed to the sloping surface of the former foyer east wall and reads:

City of St Kilda Public Library erected in 1972

Mayor the Hon Ivan B. Trayling MLC JP

Councillors S Aldous, UR Campton LLB, IW Clark, JC Duggan, HW Ireland, GA Manning, RD Thomas, TP Tierney, EE Vienet, IS Williams, BT Zouch

AN Isaac Town Clark, Enrico Taglietti Architect

Conspicuous alterations to this space include the removal of feature drop pendant lights with spherical glass/acrylic shades, and removal of the aluminium spotlights located along the perimeter of the area. Alterations to the original fabric include changes to openings located along the west and south walls.



Figure 28 Children's reading area in northern section of the reading room (G.11)



Figure 29 Looking north in main library reading room (left); study desks in study area in G.11 with genealogy room to rear (right)



Figure 30 Skylight above G.07 (left) and western courtyard (G.07)

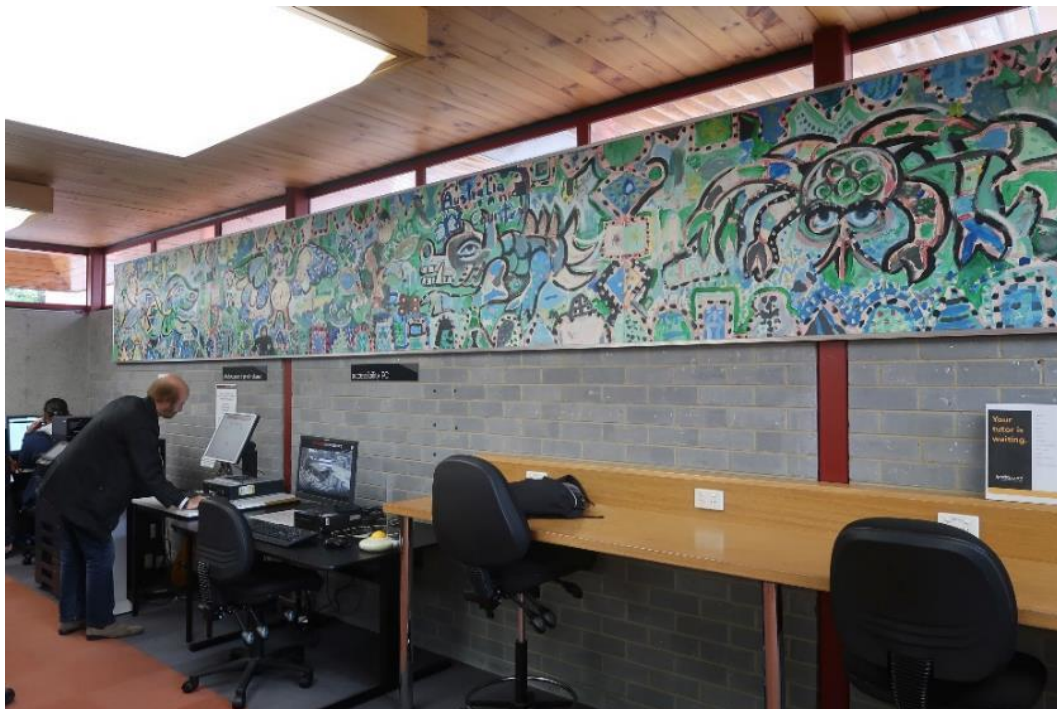


Figure 31 Painting by Mirka Mora in south-western corner of the reading room (G11)

Group 3: Workroom and associated areas (G.08, G.09, .14-G.10. G.22, G.24-G.30)

Group 3 generally comprises workrooms and offices for staff and the St Kilda Historical Society (Figure 32, Figure 33 and Figure 34). The staff workroom (G.14) is an open-plan area located against the northern façade of the building with smaller rooms and offices around its perimeter. The workroom has been modified from the original Taglietti design, although the space remains open in plan. As noted above, a book hoist and stair (G.21) to the basement were constructed in 1987. The 1993 works included the removal of study carrels along the western wall and the addition of a store (G.17), server room (G.16), and office (G.15). The principal staff access to the library was reconfigured at that time. An additional room (G.19) along the south wall also created at that time. It has since been reconfigured.

These areas are utilitarian in nature with carpet floor tiles and plasterboard dividing walls, which are painted, or glazed aluminium-framed partitions with hollow core doors. Non-original fittings include the installation of standard office furniture and fittings such as shelving, ceiling-mounted fluorescent lights, desks and whiteboards.

Staff amenities are generally clustered to the east of the staff workroom (G.14). The staff kitchen (G.22), toilets and sick room (G.23-G.26), librarians' offices (G.27, G.28) and community room (G.30) are configured around a small courtyard (G.29). In general, the plan form, fabric and fittings of these areas have undergone various degrees of alterations. The community room is currently used by the St Kilda Historical society.

Notwithstanding changes to the plan form and reconfiguration of these areas, the majority of finishes and fabric are intact. The staff kitchen and toilets have been refurbished variously including wall and floor tiles and laminated timber joinery. The courtyard itself is predominantly unchanged from Taglietti's design and is similar in plan form, material and construction as is the western courtyard.

The community room (G.30) was not accessed during the recent inspection. However, it is understood that a pair of doors, formerly located in the eastern wall of the community room were relocated to a new opening in the south wall as part of the 1993 works.

The overall plan form and configuration of rooms in group 3 areas is similar to that of the original design, although minor alterations have taken place.



Figure 32 Staff kitchen (G.22) and courtyard (G.29) beyond



Figure 33 Staff workroom (G.14)

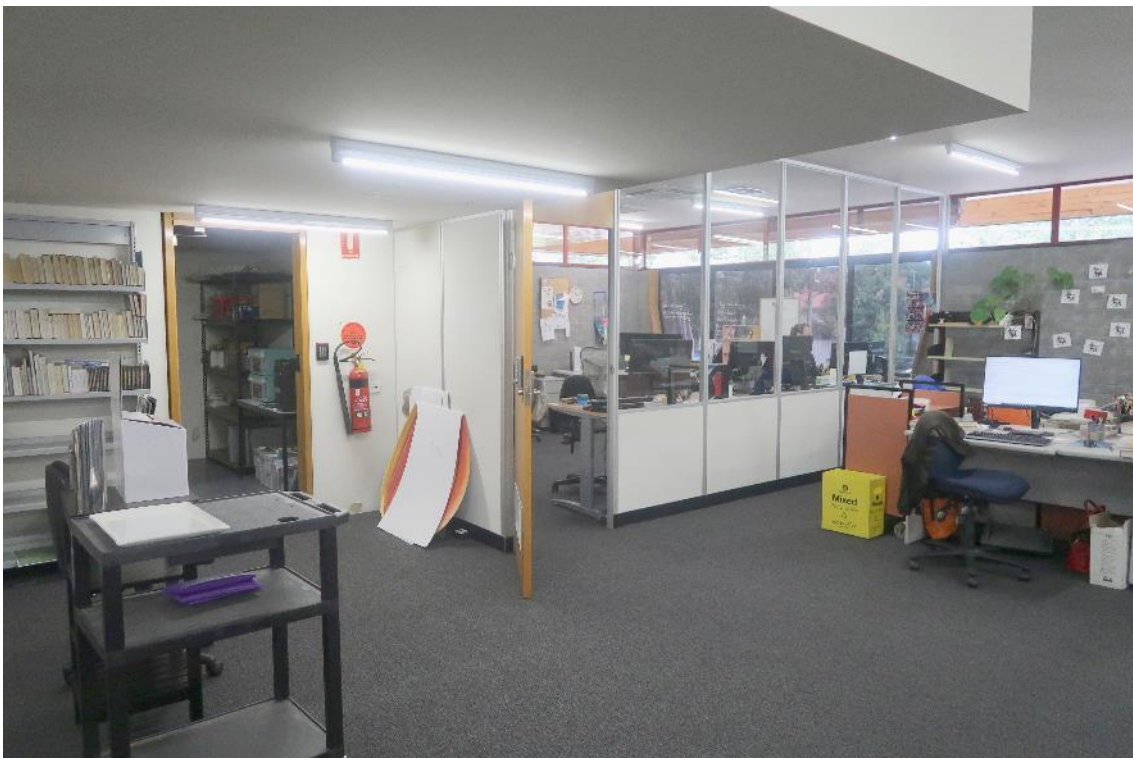


Figure 34 Staff workroom (G.14) with server room (G.16) and office (G.15) beyond

2.0 ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE

The following analysis of St Kilda Library is informed by the evidence presented in Chapter 1 'Understanding the place', and based on the methodology set out in James Kerr's *Conservation Plan*.⁸⁸ It has regard for the definitions of social, historic and aesthetic values included in the 'Understanding and assessing cultural significance' Practice Note to the *Burra Charter* 2013.⁸⁹ The analysis also acknowledges the previous heritage assessments of St Kilda Library (see Appendix A) which have variously concluded that the place is of social, historical and architectural value to the City of Port Phillip. The assessment of significance in the 2003 CMP for St Kilda Library concluded that, '[given] the historical and aesthetic significance of the St Kilda Library ... [it] should be considered for nomination to the Victorian Heritage Register ...'⁹⁰ Based upon the evidence generated for this report, as documented in Chapter 1 and as discussed below and in Chapter 3, this CMP confirms that St Kilda Library is a place of local historical, architectural and social value.

2.1 Social value

The 'Understanding and assessing cultural significance' Practice Note to the *Burra Charter* 2013 provides the following definition of social value:

Social value refers to the associations that a place has for a particular community or cultural group and the social or cultural meanings that it holds for them.⁹¹

These concepts are expanded in the *Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines* in which social value is defined as:

... a collective attachment to a place or object that embodies meanings and values that are important to a community or cultural group. The reasons for the attachment may be spiritual, religious, cultural, political or derived from common experience. The attachment of the relevant community with the place/object may be evident in its physical fabric and/or revealed through background research, direct community engagement, observational techniques or media analysis that demonstrate customary usage, access, symbolism or other community function.⁹²

The evidential basis for social value in this definition derives from processes and protocols promoted in the Heritage Council of Victoria (HCV) paper, *Guidance on identifying places and objects of state-level social value in Victoria* (April 2019)⁹³ – the principles set out in the guidance paper, while drafted for application at the State level, also apply at the local level.

For social value to be demonstrated the HCV guidance framework requires that evidence of the following should be presented:

- the existence of a present-day community group (or groups) that values the place;
- the existence of a strong attachment on the part of the community group to the place;
- the existence of a time-depth to that attachment; and
- the extent to which these characteristics exert an influence that resonates within the community – i.e. locally, or more broadly.

See also Section 2.1.3 'Interpretation of evidence'.

2.1.1 *Typological characteristics*

Communal attachment (social value) is typically associated with places that are publicly accessible, or have otherwise been, ‘appropriated into the daily lives of people’.⁹⁴ Places recognised as having social value include those that:

- provide a spiritual or traditional connection between past and present;
- provide an essential reference point in a community’s identity or sense of itself;
- provide an essential community function that over time develops into a deeper attachment that is more than utility value;
- have shaped some aspect of community behaviour or attitudes;
- are distinctive features that lift a place above the crowd, making it likely that special meanings have been attached to that place;
- are accessible to the public and offer the possibility of repeated use to build up associations and value to the community of users; and
- places where people gather and act as a community, for example places of public ritual, public meeting or congregation, and informal gathering places⁹⁵

Public libraries are places for which it can be anticipated that communities will develop particular meanings and/or associations over time. This recognises that they have the capacity to provide a point of reference in a community’s identity or sense of itself. Given the origins of St Kilda Library in community activism during the 1950s-60s, that is a consideration with potential relevance in this case.

Libraries are also highly valued community resources that are accessible to all and accommodate a range of functions. Among the services/resources provided by St Kilda Library are: access to literature in multiple languages; access to audio books and music; free wi-fi; spaces to work; and meeting spaces/rooms for events and clubs. St Kilda Library also provides a warm and safe refuge for members of the community who are experiencing homelessness and social isolation – a drop-in centre is located on the opposite side of the road (101 Carlisle Street).

Libraries also form part of a community’s lived experience. They are places where people can meet and make repeat visits. Libraries are proudly communal; they are rare examples of civic spaces in the twenty-first century.

The external character of the original part of St Kilda Library, designed by Enrico Taglietti, and the ARM additions, defined by the ‘book’, combine to create a physically distinctive structure that has a powerful presence in the heart of St Kilda’s ‘civic precinct’.

2.1.2 *Evidence of social value*

Origins in activism

As noted in Chapter 1, the construction of St Kilda Library in 1972-73 was the outcome of a concerted and long running community campaign. The building stands as tangible evidence of the community's commitment to forcing Council to provide as public resource for collective use and benefit. It is very likely that an assessment of social value attached to St Kilda Library undertaken in the 1970s, and during the 1980s, would have concluded that the place is valued by the community that fought for its construction. Many of those who advocated for its construction were still active members of the community, and construction of the building was a recent memory. That said, it is interesting to note that research revealed little or no evidence that the alterations undertaken in the 1980s or in 1992/93 provoked a notable response from the community.

During research for this CMP the authors looked for evidence in the present community of awareness about the Library's origins in community activism. Very little evidence came to light. An exception is the librarians and staff of the CoPP Library Service, many of whom are long-standing employees and have a particular interest in and/or attachment to the Library and the Library Service.⁹⁶ The story of the Library's origins is also recorded in Anne Longmire's 1983 history of St Kilda (referenced extensively in Chapter 1).

Communities of interest

Aside from library staff (referenced above), local historical societies and twentieth century architecture enthusiasts (also discussed below) there are no readily definable 'communities of interest' for the Library, such as a Friends of the Library Committee. On this basis, and having regard to the outcomes of the 'Have Your Say' public engagement campaign (see Chapter 1), the 'community' for whom the Library is of social value is generally understood as the CoPP community at large, including but not limited to users of the Library Service.

Online presence

With the exception of pages dedicated to the services that it provides St Kilda Library does not have a strong online presence, an exception to this is the specialist architecture community, for whom the building derives some interest for its association with Enrico Taglietti and ARM – see for instance 'Melbourne Buildings: great architecture in Australia's finest city'.⁹⁷

The Library is, however, the subject of a Trip Advisor webpage.⁹⁸ The 2019 comments generally relate to library services, with some exceptions. The tone and content of the submissions is generally consistent with the outcomes of the 'Have Your Say' campaign page. Representative extracts are included below:

'St Kilda Public Library is a microcosm of the suburb it serves, it is used by everyone from labourers to lawyers. The building is in Brutalist style ... It's not usually a style of architecture that appeals to me, but I must say that here I find it attractive. The library took over 100 years to get off the ground and was eventually opened in 1973. Some users find the noise of children playing in the library annoying but the days of the 'hush' library are long gone. The mixture of young children and down-and-outs is typical of St Kilda, which has always been regarded as an 'edgy' sort of place, even though now it's expensive to live there.'

‘Glad there is still a local library people can use! Great place to take kids to get them reading and the outside of the building is a nice interesting building architecturally.’

‘St Kilda has always had a diverse community. The St Kilda Public Library has a large section with books devoted to languages other than English There's also a diverse range of newspapers, including the Jewish News and Eastern European publications. In the music section, there are hundreds of CDs, ranging from rock to classical. For the ankle-biters, there's a large section devoted to children's books. Computers are welcome. The St Kilda Library is quite large, if you have connections with the area, it's worth joining; The St Kilda Library always has a hum of activity.’

‘... it's a busy place with an eclectic patronage, but excellent set-out [assumed to be a reference to its planning] ... ’

Observations

St Kilda Library is intensively used. In 2013/14 it accounted for 380,109 of the total 686,211 visits to the CoPP's five libraries.⁹⁹ As observed by a librarian at a workshop on 11 June 2019 these visitors include ‘a large number of library users, really the biggest group, who don't borrow books. They use the space to work. You have to ask, is it important to these people that the building is a library? Perhaps it's just warm space with toilets and wi-fi’.¹⁰⁰

Other observations made by librarians about visitors to and their behaviour within St Kilda Library are as follows:

‘Libraries are one of the last civic spaces, places for people to meet or just be. They make the Library work for them. There are formal and informal areas [chairs and bean bags]. Libraries are much less rigid than they used to be. They accommodate a lot of competing needs and uses’; and

‘St Kilda Library is a very particular. People are quite independent here. The building encourages that ... people carry themselves independently, they are proactive ... That might be because there's a large transient population.’

Despite the pronounced demographic shifts in St Kilda over the past 50 years, which has seen the once down-at-heel suburb become increasingly gentrified, the presence of distinct cultural and ethnic groups in the area – including Russian and Jewish communities – continues to be represented in the books available at the Library.

‘Have Your Say’ survey

As noted, from 25 June 2019 to 16 July 2019, a public campaign was run to elicit an understanding of what the community values about St Kilda Library and why. For commentary on the campaign and its outcomes see Sections 1. 2 and 1.3 in Chapter 1.

2.1.3 *Interpretation of evidence*

What is the community/cultural group?

In general, the people that led the campaign for the library in the 1950s-70s are no longer alive or are no longer prominent in the community. A consequence is that knowledge of St Kilda Library's origins in community activism has largely dissipated. In this respect, the community campaign that led to the construction of the Library may be understood as part of its historical significance, rather than as evidence of social value.

Users of St Kilda Library users are diverse – a reflection of the local community and the variety of services available – and generally do not present as a coherent or distinct social entity. There is evidence that the physical qualities and characteristics of the library are valued by some users, as demonstrated in observations about the internal experience of the space and its external presentation. In general, however, the large majority of users value the place for the services that it offers.

What is the intensity of the attachment?

Evidence generated for this CMP did not reveal the existence of a strong attachment for St Kilda Library on the part of a community group as related to spiritual, religious, cultural or political activities, or derived from common experience. There is, however, a strong and demonstrated attachment to the services that the library provides. These services are valued and threats to the services are challenged, as observed by librarians.¹⁰¹

What is the time depth of the attachment?

St Kilda Library has been a feature of the Carlisle Street landscape since 1973, when it opened.

To what extent do these characteristics exert an influence that resonates within the community?

St Kilda Library is a place of social value to the local community.

2.2 Historical value

The *Burra Charter Practice Note* provides the following definition of historic value. As noted below, this definition is holistic and 'often underlies other values':

Historic value is intended to encompass all aspects of history—for example, the history of aesthetics, art and architecture, science, spirituality and society. It therefore often underlies other values. A place may have historic value because it has influenced, or has been influenced by, an historic event, phase, movement or activity, person or group of people. It may be the site of an important event. For any place the significance will be greater where the evidence of the association or event survives at the place, or where the setting is substantially intact, than where it has been changed or evidence does not survive. However, some events or associations may be so important that the place retains significance regardless of such change or absence of evidence.¹⁰²

The following addresses St Kilda Library as a place that:

- was the outcome of a community campaign at a point of social and political transition in the history of St Kilda (1950s-70s); and
- is in the post-World War II Victorian tradition of a freestanding public library designed for municipal use.

2.2.1 *Community campaign for a public library*

The absence of a public library in St Kilda for much of the twentieth century is a conspicuous one given that municipal library lending services had, more typically, been established throughout Victoria as part of the nineteenth century construction of town halls (see also Section 2.2.2). As discussed in Chapter 1, even the formation of the Library Promotion Committee in 1953 did not persuade the St Kilda Council, which appeared to be a bastion of post-World War II stability, bolstered by predominantly liberal and pro-development attitudes with regard to commercial interests. The ensuing campaign for the St Kilda Public Library was a protracted one, extending over two decades. However by the 1960s, the Committee's concerns had begun to resonate within the broader St Kilda community and encouraged individuals to lock horns with Council.

Like any form of community activism, the contributions of many individuals were collectively responsible for sustaining the library issue as a point of principle, which became the dominant issue of the 1967 St Kilda Council elections. Some, who brokered the campaign 'head on' included Brian Dixon, a footballer who had gone on to coach North Melbourne. Dixon joined the Liberal-Country Party in 1963, and in 1964, became the new MLA for St Kilda after defeating the ALP candidate, Julie Dahlitz, a solicitor. Through his youth and candour, his views on prostitution, and his overt lobbying of Council, the majority of which were representatives of his own party, Dixon quickly gained local electoral support.

However, it is generally acknowledged that the election of Ivan Trayling to the St Kilda Council in 1967, signalled the success of the Library Establishment Committee which was formed in 1961. Trayling had joined the St Kilda West Branch of the Labor Party in 1964 and his 1967 campaign centred around the need for municipal library and child minding centre. The underlying cause of Trayling's electoral success was partly founded on his age, then being in his early thirties, but also politically, since he had defeated the sitting West Ward Councillor, Bill Bush, who, previously, had been elected unopposed. Trayling's election reflected the popular strength of social justice, welfare and civic mindedness, concerns which had motivated community activism since the 1950s.

As described by the historian Anne Longmire:

The library stood as an affirmation for the dignity and right to knowledge of all who lived in St. Kilda, no matter how short their stay, or how limited their financial resources, standing as a reminder to all, that if people worked hard for a just cause, they would eventually win through. Importantly, too, involvement in the long fight for the library taught those who struggled what it meant to win, and many joined other action groups afterwards.¹⁰³

Following Trayling's election to Council in 1967, other barriers began to 'crumble', and initiated a phase whereby younger, energetic members were elected to the St Kilda Council. These included the election of Labor member Brian Zouch, in 1968, a former journalist and news editor for the *Southern Cross*, who had also managed Trayling's 1967 campaign. As noted by Zouch's employer Peter Isaacson:

At last, young men with a sense of duty were standing and winning places in the St. Kilda Council, which had been moribund and weak and had allowed a first class residential area to degenerate into a tawdry district of jerry-built flats, abandoned shops, dreary apartments and sleazy cafes.¹⁰⁴

Comment

The construction of St Kilda Library provides tangible evidence of the community's commitment to holding the Council to account in the delivery of a public institution of value to all. The building can also be understood as evidence of a fundamental shift in local politics, from a Council dominated by conservative tendencies to a Labor-led regime dedicated to social justice and communal welfare.

2.2.2 *The establishment and development of public library services within Victoria*

Early library services in Victoria

At the initiative of the colonial governments, during the second half of the nineteenth century, public libraries were established in most capital cities around the nation.¹⁰⁵ In Victoria, the development of public libraries commenced with the opening of the Melbourne Public Library (now State Library of Victoria) in 1856. From the outset, the Library Trustees attempted to serve the whole of the State, by looking to develop lending facilities in areas beyond the City of Melbourne. Based on the British precedent, the Mechanics' Institute movement also served Victoria from 1839, with the aim to 'agreeably occupy' the minds of working men in the evenings.¹⁰⁶ Mechanics Institutes were focal points in their community offering libraries and reading rooms, opportunities for self-education and a variety of other attractions such as lectures. Across the State, a diverse set of similar, local organisations also emerged. These included Mechanics' Halls, Athenaeums, Free Libraries, Lyceums, Schools of Mines, Temperance and Public Halls, Literary Institutes and Reading Rooms.¹⁰⁷ The *Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics* identified over 500 such libraries by 1913.¹⁰⁸ Municipal town halls, built in the 1840s to 1860s, also provided free library services to the general public. Collingwood, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, Northcote and South Melbourne town halls all incorporated libraries or reading rooms for public use.¹⁰⁹

The rise of local public libraries

By the 1920s, a campaign against deficiencies in library services was initiated by professional librarians with the support of prominent individuals such as Sir John Latham, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. This agitation led to a national review of public libraries and lending services, conducted by the American librarian Ralph Munn and the chief Victorian librarian, E R Pitt. In its findings, delivered in 1935, the report was 'outspoken in its condemnation of the paucity and backwardness of Australian library services and recommended that local government should develop improved libraries with state government assistance.¹¹⁰ By 1940, the recommendations in the *Munn Pitt Report*, had begun to be implemented. In Victoria, the Melbourne Public Library was separated from its affiliated bodies in 1944 and a separate *Free Library Service Board* was set up to promote, subsidise, inspect, and organise public library services throughout the State. Further detailed recommendations, made by Lionel McColvin, Librarian of the City of Westminster, in 1947, emphasised the need for suitably trained librarians to staff new libraries. As a direct consequence, in 1948, the Public Library established the Library Training School.¹¹¹ Over time, a 'free library' system developed, where the state government provided grants for new library buildings and books as well as subsidising the running costs.

Public library buildings in the post-war period

Consequential changes to the library system did not begin in earnest until the post-war period when the construction of a new generation of library buildings began.

In 1961, the Melbourne Public Library became known as the State Library of Victoria, reflecting developments in public libraries across the city and the state.¹¹² By 1964, the State's library services were substantially engaged with the co-ordination of resources of municipal councils. Accordingly, the *Library Council of Victoria Act 1965* set up a single council, the Library Council of Victoria, to administer the functions of the former Free Library Service Boards as well as those of the State Library Trustees.¹¹³

Significant increases in government subsidies to municipal libraries in the decade following World War II resulted in a boom in library construction. Benefiting from the financial assistance from government, some 65 municipal libraries developed in Melbourne and throughout the country districts.¹¹⁴ Notable library buildings constructed in the post-War period include: the Malvern City Library designed by Stewart Handasyde in 1959; Prahran Branch Library designed by Leslie Perrot in 1961 and featuring a

children's courtyard¹¹⁵; Toorak/South Yarra Public Library (1972-3 Figure 35) to designs by Yuncken Freeman which remains a significant modernist intervention; the Springvale Library (Bernard Evans, Murphy, Berg & Hocking, 1972-3); the Ivanhoe Library (Leith and Bartlett, 1964) and the Resource Library Centre for the Methodist Ladies College in Kew, designed in 1973-74 by Daryl Jackson and Evan Walker. The fashion for buildings of high architectural distinction extended into the 1990s when the remarkable Eltham Library was constructed (Figure 36).



Figure 35 Toorak/South Yarra Library
Source: <http://ibprojects.com.au/project/tooraksouth-yarra-library-building-services-toilet-upgrade/>



Figure 36 Oblique aerial view of Eltham Library, 1994
Source: http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra_plenty/eltlhpic/9710.html

Comment

St Kilda Public Library, designed in 1971 and completed in 1973, is in the post-World War II tradition of a freestanding public library designed for municipal use. The library incorporates large enclosed spaces as well as a combination of municipal-based services such as meeting rooms, general and multi-lingual reading areas and a children's department. This reflects the development of the library typology, which originated from a simple combination of a reading room accompanied by book stacks. Although delivered late by comparison to some other municipalities, the St Kilda Public Library is an example of the evolution in the provision of local library services, which were established in Victoria under the *Free Library Services Act of 1946*.

As such, the St Kilda Public Library forms part of an explosion of new libraries constructed across Victoria in the postwar period. The construction of the St Kilda Library provides local evidence of this phenomenon.

St Kilda Library also demonstrates the principal characteristics of a postwar library through its freestanding form and the provision of reading and study areas and is representative of buildings of this type. On this basis, it is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places often described as 'representativeness'.

2.3 Aesthetic value

Aesthetic value is described in the *Burra Charter Practice Note* as follows:

Aesthetic value refers to the sensory and perceptual experience of a place - that is, how we respond to visual and non-visual aspects such as sounds, smells and other factors having a strong impact on human thoughts, feelings and attitudes. Aesthetic qualities may include the concept of beauty and formal aesthetic ideals. Expressions of aesthetics are culturally influenced.¹¹⁶

As noted in the Practice Note, relevant questions to ask when considering aesthetic value include:

- Is the place distinctive within the setting or a prominent visual landmark?
- Does the place have qualities which are inspirational or which evoke strong feelings or special meanings?
- Does the place show a high degree of creative or technical achievement?

In the context of St Kilda Library aesthetic value has application as:

- an example the work of celebrated Italian émigré architect Enrico Taglietti; and
- an example the work of the influential Melbourne-based practice ARM.

2.3.1 *The original building*

The earliest sections of the St Kilda Library form the first phase of a two-staged proposal for the Library. As discussed in Chapter 1, it was designed by Enrico Taglietti (1926-2019). Taglietti also developed concepts for a second stage of the building. These concepts were not delivered.

Enrico Taglietti was an influential figure in Australian architecture through the second half of the twentieth century. At the time of his death in 2019, he was regarded as an 'elder statesman' of the architectural profession in Canberra, whose completed architectural works contributed significantly to the development of the national capital. His distinctive sculptural style drew upon Italian free form construction, post-war Japanese design and the Frank Lloyd Wright's, writings on 'Organic Architecture'. His houses, schools, churches and commercial buildings have won numerous awards. In 2007, Enrico was awarded Australia's most prestigious architecture prize - the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) Gold Medal for Architecture.¹¹⁷

Taglietti was born in Milan in 1926. He attended the Milan Polytechnic, where training followed a codified Bauhaus-inspired approach. However, in his final years as a student, these training methods were discarded in favour of an approach guided by organic theory and students were encouraged to explore the architectural philosophies of leading Modernists such as Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright.¹¹⁸ This shift clearly suited Taglietti, who would later declare, 'I want to become a poet not a scientist'.¹¹⁹ Taglietti earned his doctorate in 1953¹²⁰ and set up his practice in Milan.

In 1955, Taglietti and his wife Franca came to Australia to design an Italian promotional display for a Sydney department store. He was invited by the Italian Government to find a site for an Italian Embassy in Canberra with the possibility of undertaking its design. The couple returned to Australia in 1956. While Milan remained the European headquarters of Taglietti's practice, the couple were based in Canberra for the next 50 years.

Taglietti's first major projects, launching his career in Canberra, were the much-lauded Town House Motel (1959) and Noah's Restaurant (1961) and he soon became known for his innovative and sculptural designs for hotels and motels across the ACT and NSW. Over the next decade, he completed: the Canberra House Motel in Lyneham, ACT, the Town House Motel in Wagga Wagga, NSW, the Town House Motel in Young, NSW; the Motel Hay, NSW; the Adam Motel in Narrabunda, ACT; and the Captain James Cook Hotel in Griffith, ACT.¹²¹

Concurrently, his reputation as a designer of beautiful residential buildings began to spread.¹²² In 1961, he completed one of his best known country houses, Grantham Park at Currandooley, NSW. Through the 1960s he became renowned for sculptural residences such as the McKeown family house at Watson, ACT; the Dingle House in Hughes, ACT; the Smith House in West Pennant Hills, NSW; and the Killen House at Mt Majura, ACT. Through the second half of the decade, the practice began to employ concrete as a key construction material. Some of his domestic work from this period used concrete to create striking visual and spatial effects – the Patterson House (1970) being perhaps the best example.

In 1965, Taglietti was commissioned by the Order of St. Vincent de Paul to complete his only major church, the 600-seat St Anthony's Catholic Church at Marsfield in Sydney. In 1978, he also completed the Apostolic Nunciature in Red Hill (ACT) and received a Papal Knighthood of St. Gregory the Great from the Pope for his work.

From his earliest days as an architect in Canberra, Taglietti had worked with the Italian and broader ambassadorial community to complete a number of important projects, the earliest including the Italo-Australian Club in Forrest ACT (1963) and the Italian Ambassador's Residence (1967). This relationship continued into the 1970s, when he designed the Embassy of Italy Chancellery, adjacent to the Ambassador's residence. Associations with these communities continued for decades. In the 1990s, Taglietti designed a residence for the Ambassador of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Garran; the Italian community's retirement village, Villaggio Italiano Sant', in Page, ACT; and most recently the High Commission of Pakistan Chancellery and Residence.

However, Taglietti is most frequently celebrated for a group of civic projects delivered from the late 1960s and into the 1980s. The 1960s heralded a new period in Canberra's architectural development following the creation of the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC).¹²³ A key objective of the NCDC was to engage the country's best architectural practices to undertake major projects and to direct the planning and development of the city. At a time when Canberra architectural practices were often franchised out of large interstate corporate firms, Taglietti sustained the first notable Canberra-based practice to undertake civic and institutional commissions for the NCDC.

In 1969, he completed his first project for the Commission, the Dickson Library in the ACT. This project led to the commission to design the St.Kilda Library in 1971. In the same year, he completed the first of many school and youth projects in the ACT that would become the hallmark of the practice over the next two decades. These include: Latham Primary School (1970), Flynn Primary School (1972); the multi-award winning Giralang Primary School (1974); Gowrie Primary School (1981), the Woden Youth Centre (1988) and the Forrest Early Childhood Centre (1991). Other civic projects include: the Australian War Memorial Annex (1979); the Dickson Health Centre (1980); and the Phillip District Oval Grandstand (1989).

In 2001, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (ACT Chapter) honoured Taglietti with its highest award for his contribution to architecture. The citation for his RAI A *Life Fellowship* is quoted here in full:¹²⁴

Enrico Taglietti's architectural oeuvre is highly significant and unusual as much for its individual character as for its regional base in Canberra, away from the big coastal cities. Enrico's work over much of the second half of the 20th century has consistently pursued an Australian architectural vision seen through Italian eyes. He has carefully developed a characteristic style using strong bands of horizontal form and space from Wright's 'unisonian' [sic] period houses.

His body of work stands at a very high level of quality and consistency even though it is detached from the Australian architecture mainstream, and its base is regional.

Enrico's career over the four decades, since arriving from Italy as a young graduate in 1958, is most notable for the following reasons:

For his consistently high level of achievement in the design and construction of buildings. His architecture has been critically acclaimed in Australia and internationally in numerous publications.

For his contribution to Australian culture as a European-born and trained architect whose career-long presence has enriched our architecture. Alongside the obvious case of Harry Seidler in this regard, two people stand out for mention: Frederic Romberg and Enrico Taglietti. Similarly Aldo Giurgola has made a large contribution even though the bulk of his professional life has been spent in the US.

For the regional basis of his career.

It is significant that Enrico committed himself to practice in Canberra in 1958 when the population was not much over 40,000. In the same year, the National Capital Development Commission emerged and engaged the country's best architectural talent to undertake the major projects, which implemented the capital's growth. At a time then, when Canberra practices were usually branch offices, Enrico succeeded as the first Canberra-based practice of note and has continued after the National Capital Development Commission period.

Today he is the city's 'elder statesman' of architecture and shown himself to be a worthy candidate for Life Fellowship of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

Comment

When assessing Taglietti's contribution to Australian architecture, it is useful to consider his achievements through the lens identified in the citation for his RIAA Life Fellow Gold Medal (2007). The citation notes that his work is 'detached from the Australian architecture mainstream' and that his 'base is regional'. Taglietti, developed an architecture that provided a response to the landscapes and climate of the ACT. His distinctive and highly personal designs produced unusual sculptural forms creating open, flowing spaces beneath cantilevered planes in a direct response to local conditions in the ACT. Part of the success of the Taglietti's Dickson Library derived from its 'free' design¹²⁵ of unbounded spaces providing a contrast with more rationalist architecture imported to Canberra from Australian capital cities. The St Kilda Library is the only building in Victoria to designs by Enrico Taglietti. In fact, Taglietti completed little work outside of the ACT. None of his work outside of Canberra - including his only Victorian work - was acknowledgement in the RIAA citation.

Given Taglietti's highly personal, regionally specific approach, the presence of a library in St. Kilda presents as an anomaly. As noted in the *Port Phillip Heritage Study*, 'its almost brutal forms offer no sympathy to its surrounding context'. Nonetheless, the partially completed building was well received at the time of its opening receiving the 1972 RIAA VIC Chapter Architecture Awards: Architectural Merit (possibly anticipating the completed design to be delivered in subsequent years). Of perhaps greater relevance, the Library was not subsequently included in the RIAA Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture. Many other buildings by Taglietti, including his Dickson Library, have been included in this register

Further to this, as realised in 1973, the Taglietti design was incomplete, providing the core elements of the library complex without the associated public spaces. From an architectural point-of-view, the deletion of the key entry and courtyard experience both in terms of the library's expression and of Taglietti's proposed arrangement of spatial experiences remains undelivered and the finished building owes as much to the ARM works of 1993 as it does to Taglietti's original architectural vision. Viewed in this light, the St Kilda Library is not considered to be a key building in Taglietti's built catalogue.

2.3.2 *Ashton Raggatt McDougall (ARM)*

As noted in Chapter 1, Ashton Raggatt McDougall Architects (ARM) is a Melbourne-based architectural practice. It was founded in 1984 by Stephen Ashton and Howard Raggatt and expanded in 1988 with Ian McDougall joining the firm. Both sides of the new partnership had worked previously for architects at the pluralist or Post-Modern end of the design spectrum – Ian McDougall for Edmond & Corrigan and Howard Raggatt for Norman Day. Collectively, the firm is also an acknowledged critical force in the physical and intellectual development of the City of Melbourne. Since the late-1980s, ARM has completed numerous commissions that explore semiotics and the role of architectural language in the wake of Modernism and experimental form-making while questioning the importation of overseas architectural styles into Australia.

The completion of the St Kilda Library additions followed a period of ‘breakthrough’ buildings for ARM, including: the William Angliss Hospital additions in Ferntree Gully (1989); the Grosvenor Street House in Prahran (1984), Flowerdale Primary School (1987), Rosedale Primary School (1988), Kyneton Technical School (1989). Their catalogue for the Victorian Ministry of Housing is extensive, including the foyer and penthouse refurbishments of Housing Commission towers at North Melbourne (1986) and Flemington (1988), and the Cheddar Road public housing units in Reservoir (1986). The practice delivered the Australian Council for Education Research Head Office at Monash University (1990) and the Brunswick Community and Endeavour Hills community health centres in 1989 and 1991 respectively. The design for the Kronborg Medical Centre (1993), for example, grew from an image stretched, scanned and digitised on a photocopier with the randomised outcome carefully documented and constructed.

RMIT’s Storey Hall in 1992-95 was a seminal work for the practice gaining national attention for its combination of a challenging façade treatment and digitally derived interior volumes for both the nineteenth century hall and a new annex realised in shades of green and purple (Figure 37).¹²⁶ This and much of ARM’s work of the early 1990s, was the subject of intense local debate, polarising architects and the public alike.

Since the completion of the additions to St Kilda Library, ARM has become one of Australia’s pre-eminent architectural practices, designing major projects that included the Museum of Australia in Canberra (1998-2001), Marion Cultural Centre, Marion SA (2001); the Hamer Concert Hall refurbishment, Melbourne (2012, VHR H1500); extensions to the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance (2014, VHR H0848) and the Geelong Library and Heritage Centre, Geelong (2015). Individually, each Director has made substantial contributions to architectural organisations, professional and teaching bodies.

Comment

The later additions to the St Kilda Library by ARM provided additional floor area contrasting architectural expression to the Taglietti building. The works also precluded the completion of the Taglietti design for Stage 2 of the Library. The additions, presenting to Carlisle Street as an open book, are an unusual and celebrated local example of ‘semiotic post-modernism’.¹²⁷ As with Taglietti’s Stage 1 design, the addition and its book device are all that remains of a more ambitious scheme – ARM had envisioned the library additions as part of its scheme to redevelop the St Kilda Town Hall Precinct (see Section 1.10.3). Considered as a whole, the St Kilda Library is unusual insofar as it incorporates the work by two notable architects. However, the building survives as an evolved amalgam of architectural elements and approaches which neither provides insights into the broader catalogue or design approaches of either firm nor presents as a coherent or complementary whole.

As noted, St Kilda Library forms part of a spate of library construction in the post war period. These buildings vary from straightforward modernist buildings to buildings of high individual architectural distinction. Of these, Greg Burgess’ Eltham Library of 1995 and Yuncken Freeman’s, Toorak South Yarra Library of 1973 are among the most highly regarded outcomes from an aesthetic point-of view. Eltham Library has been described as, ‘probably the most widely-published and celebrated new municipal library building to be built in Victoria in the post-war period’.¹²⁸ It was the recipient of a Merit Award, in the Institutional category, at the RAI (Victorian chapter) awards in 1995. The building has a local heritage overlay (HO239) but is not included in the VHR.



Figure 37 Storey Hall, RMIT University, Swanston Street, Melbourne by ARM

Source: <https://architectureau.com/articles/green-brain/#img-0>, accessed 5 August 2019

The Toorak/South Yarra Library has been identified as being of architectural, aesthetic and technical importance at the State Level. It is one of the most notable Australian examples of the conceptual ideas expounded in the international movement of modern architecture. Specifically, it is an excellent example of the formal minimalism developed by the internationally acclaimed architect Mies Van der Rohe in the United States in the post-war years. Aesthetically, the Library is a refined black box, floating above its immediate context. The Toorak/South Yarra Library is included in the Heritage Overlay of the Stonnington Planning Scheme (HO174). It is not included on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Aesthetically, the St Kilda Library is also a building of some individual consequence having been designed by celebrated Canberra architect and completed to designs by notable local firm, ARM. However, it presents as a coalescence of varied architectural styles and approaches. While it contains important elements and spaces from both programs of work, it presents as an evolved place which does not elaborate a single, well-articulated vision of the kind found in the two examples above. It remains an individually significant element within the broad-ranging suite of buildings found in St Kilda and the book device is a local landmark in Carlisle Street. Nonetheless, it is a building of lower individual aesthetic merit than either of the examples noted above.

In relation to the ARM additions, it is noted that the firm has been involved in numerous projects which have received design awards from the RAIA (Victoria) including having been awarded the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) Victorian Architecture Medal on an unprecedented five occasions. In contrast to the firm's work at St Kilda Town Hall, its St Kilda Library extension won no AIA awards and has not been identified as being of high individual aesthetic value. Nonetheless, the book device remains important locally and is a landmark within Carlisle Street.

3.0 SIGNIFICANCE

Based on research undertaken for this CMP (presented in Chapters 1 and 2), it is confirmed that St Kilda Library is of historical, architectural and social significance to the CoPP. This is consistent with the existing controls that apply to the building - it is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Port Phillip Planning Scheme at part of the 'St Kilda, Elwood, Balaclava, Ripponlea Precinct' (HO7).

An assessment of the place against the eight HERCON criteria, as adopted by the Heritage Council of Victoria, is at Section 3.1¹²⁹ and a Statement of Significance is at Section 3.2. The *Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines*, endorsed by the Heritage Council 6 December 2012 and reviewed and updated on 4 April 2019, were referenced for this assessment.

3.1 Assessment against HERCON criteria

Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of our cultural history (historical significance).

St Kilda Library, designed in 1971 and completed in 1973, is of historical significance to the CoPP as a public institution with an important place in the City's history.

The absence of a public library in St Kilda during much of the twentieth century was conspicuous; municipal library lending services had generally been established throughout Victoria as part of the nineteenth century construction of town halls. The formation of the Library Promotion Committee in 1953 did not persuade the St Kilda Council to change its position as regards providing a library and the ensuing community campaign was protracted, extending over almost two decades.

It is generally acknowledged that the election of Ivan Trayling to St Kilda Council in 1967 was a tipping point in the campaign of the Library Establishment Committee, which was formed in 1961. Trayling had joined the St Kilda West Branch of the Labor Party in 1964 and his 1967 campaign centred around the need for municipal library and child-minding centre. Trayling's election reflected the popular strength of social justice, welfare and civic mindedness, concerns which had motivated community activism since the 1950s.

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural history (rarity).

This criterion is not met. St Kilda Library does not have a clear association with a rare or uncommon event, phase, period, process, function, custom or way of life of importance in the CoPP's cultural history. As noted above (Criterion A), the community campaign for the construction of the Library is considered to be an aspect of its historical significance.

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural history (research potential).

This criterion is not met. St Kilda Library has little or no potential to reveal new information about the operations of public lending libraries which are not demonstrated in other places or available from other sources.

There is some, limited, potential for archaeological evidence associated with previous land uses in the lawn area at the rear of the Library, addressing Duke Street. The balance of the site has been subject to extensive disturbance associated with the construction of the Library and its basement in the early 1970s.

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects (representativeness).

St Kilda Library is in the post-World War II Victorian tradition of a freestanding public library designed for municipal use. This is of local significance. The Library, as evolved, incorporates spaces for a range

of services. As well as book stacks and reading areas, it includes meeting rooms, general and multi-lingual reading areas and an area for children and families. This reflects the development of the library typology, which originated from a simple combination of a reading room accompanied by book stacks. Although delivered late by comparison to other municipalities, St Kilda Library is an example of the evolution in the provision of local library services, which were established in Victoria under the *Free Library Services Act* of 1946.

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

St Kilda Library is of local aesthetic (architectural) significance.

The original Enrico Taglietti design is modelled in textured off-form concrete and concrete brickwork, surmounted by a cantilevered roof with an opposing roof form over its central entry. The extant elements of the original building demonstrate the formal concerns that characterise his idiom, such as cantilevering and hovering forms, the appearance of concrete construction and spaces articulated by openness and contiguity. It is one of only two library designs completed by Taglietti, the other being the Dickson District Library in the ACT (which has been significantly modified).

Taglietti designed the original landscape treatment for the forecourt of St Kilda Library, now overwritten by the 1993 additions. Consistent with his view of architecture as a complete work of art, Taglietti was also responsible for the design or selection of a number of pieces of furniture, some of which survive and contribute to the broad aesthetic value of the place.

At the time of its construction, St Kilda Library was published in various architectural journals and received the 1972 RAIA VIC Chapter Architecture Awards: Architectural Merit. Taglietti is highly regarded for his contribution to Australian architecture in the later decades of the twentieth century, particularly in Canberra. The RAIA ACT Chapter acknowledged him as a Life Fellow for his contributions to architecture and design in 2007. St Kilda Library was his only major building in Victoria.

Although altered through the 1993 additions (discussed below) key aspects of the planning and program of the original building remain legible, including the entry canopy, double height foyer and the main reading room.

The extension to the library in 1993 by ARM represents an aesthetic departure, making only modest reference to the design qualities and planning of the original building. The additions provided improved access and circulation arrangement in an unremarkable additional volume elevated above conventional building practise by its front façade, comprising a monumental book device in concrete and bluestone, to Carlisle Street. The additions reinforced the physical and municipal presence of the library in Carlisle Street and its physical association with the St Kilda Town Hall opposite.

The additions to the St Kilda Library in 1993 comprise one of a number of early projects by ARM including RMIT's Storey Hall (1992-95) and Kronborg Medical Centre (1993) that established the reputation of the practice as one whose intellectual explorations could produce visually striking outcomes. At the St Kilda Library, the book device was incorporated into the design as a semiotic exploration; but the distinctive open book element in concrete and polished bluestone contributes substantially to the aesthetic significance of the library, its landmark stature and the establishment of its municipal presence. ARM has subsequently become one of Australia's most highly regarded architectural firms

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).

This criterion is not met. St Kilda Library does not demonstrate a high degree of creative or technical achievement.

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

St Kilda Library is of social value at the local level. While an understanding of the building as an outcome of local community activism in the 1950s-70s has largely dissipated, it is evident that the Library is valued as a resource by a broad cross-section of the present community, including visitors to the municipality. Further, as more directly related to heritage considerations, the architectural character of the building and its open and inviting internal characteristics, are recognised by members of the community.

It is noted that no readily definable 'community of interest' for the Library exists. Rather the 'community' for whom the Library is of social value is understood as the CoPP community at large, including but not limited to users of the Library Service. An exception to this is the specialist architecture community, for whom the building derives some interest for its association with Enrico Taglietti and ARM.

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

This criterion is not met.

As related to the campaign for the Library in the 1950s-70s, like any form of community activism the contributions of many individuals were collectively responsible for sustaining the library as a political agenda item during this protracted period. It is, however, noted that the contributions of Ivan Trayling, elected to St Kilda Council in 1967, were decisive in forcing St Kilda Council to commit funds to the construction of the Library.

St Kilda Library is of interest as a building associated with both a pre-eminent architect and pre-eminent architectural practice in the Australian context, Enrico Taglietti and ARM.

Comment

On this basis, St Kilda Library is seen to satisfy criteria A, D, E and G at a local level.

Some earlier assessments have suggested that a case for State significance exists at the St Kilda Library, the Lovell Chen CMP of 2003 among these. The significance of the St Kilda Library was difficult to quantify in 2003, less than a decade after the ARM additions had been completed.

The St Kilda Library was constructed in 1971-73 and extended in 1993 to produce its current form. A further 26 years have elapsed since that time. It is generally accepted that a generation (or approximately 25-30 years) should pass after the creation of a place or object before it is considered for heritage listing at any level. The passage of time allows the cultural heritage values of a place to be more rigorously and objectively assessed. As such, it is now possible to assess St Kilda Library, as evolved, in a manner that has not previously been possible.

With time, the role of the Library as an element in both architects' *oeuvres* can be better understood; its value in the history and development of library services both in St Kilda and Victoria is clearer; and the present value of the building to its various stakeholders can be more accurately established. An analysis of the values that have developed, crystallised and been considered over time underpins the current assessment of significance and accounts for the variation in its conclusions from earlier assessments.

3.2 Statement of Significance

The following Statement of Significance has been prepared based on the preceding assessment of significance of St Kilda Library.

What is significant?

St Kilda Library was designed in 1971 and completed in 1973 to designs by Enrico Taglietti, who was also responsible for the original landscape treatment for the forecourt and the design or selection of a number of pieces of furniture, some of which survive. Additions to the south-east of the original building, completed in 1993, were designed by Ashton Raggatt McDougall Architects (ARM).

The building in its evolved form comprises a part basement, used for parking and storage, with library services and amenities at ground level. A raised pyramidal skylight defines the original point of entry.

The building is set back from Carlisle Street behind a hard landscape treatment. More generous setbacks from Duke Street to the north have been developed as a modest park.

How is it significant?

St Kilda Library is of historical, architectural and social significance to the City of Port Phillip.

Why is it significant?

St Kilda Library is of local historical significance as a public institution with an important place in the City's history. The building was the product of a protracted community campaign to lobby St Kilda Council to invest in a municipal library (Criterion A).

The Library is in the post-World War II Victorian tradition of a freestanding public library designed for municipal use (Criterion D).

The first stage of the Library, designed by Enrico Taglietti, is modelled in textured off-form concrete and concrete brickwork, surmounted by a cantilevered roof with an opposing roof form over the entry. The extant elements of the original building demonstrate the formal concerns that characterise his idiom, such as cantilevering and hovering forms, the appearance of concrete construction and spaces articulated by openness and contiguity. The building received the RAIA VIC Chapter Architecture Awards: Architectural Merit in 1972.

The extension to the library in 1993 by ARM represents an aesthetic departure, making only modest reference to the design qualities and planning of the original building. The additions provided improved access and circulation arrangements in an unremarkable additional volume elevated above conventional building practice by its front façade, comprising a monumental book element in concrete and bluestone. The additions reinforced the municipal and physical presence of the Library in Carlisle Street (Criterion E).

While an understanding of the building as an outcome of local community activism in the 1950s-70s has largely dissipated, it is evident that the Library is valued as a resource by a broad cross-section of the present community. Further, as more directly related to heritage considerations, the architectural character of the building and its open and inviting internal characteristics, are recognised by members of the community. It is noted that there exists no readily definable community of interest for the Library. Rather the 'community' for whom the Library is of social value is understood as the CoPP community at large, including but not limited to users of the Library Service. An exception to this is the architecture community, for whom the building derives some interest for its associations with Enrico Taglietti and ARM (Criterion G).

3.3 Attributes related to significance



Areas, elements and attributes that relate to the values described in the 'Assessment against HERCON criteria' (Section 3.1) are identified in Table 1.



Table 1 Summary of heritage values and related attributes

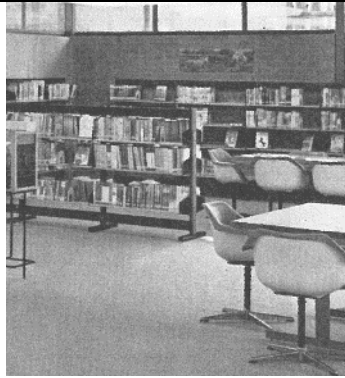
<i>HERCON criteria</i>	<i>Attributes</i>
(a) Importance to the course, or pattern, of our cultural history	<p>St Kilda Library as completed in 1973, including original external and internal fabric. This building was the outcome of a concerted community campaign.</p> <p>The 1993 additions, while part of the evolved library complex, have not been assessed as being of historical significance.</p>
(d) Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects	<p>St Kilda Library as evolved since 1973, recognising that evolution is an implicit characteristic of public libraries – the services provided by libraries, and their physical form and scale, are responsive to the communities that they serve (see also Section 4.1).</p>
(e) Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics	<p>St Kilda Library as completed in 1973, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The north and west elevations; • Original 1973 fabric to the western end of the south elevation – the eastern end of the original south elevation was internalised and modified in 1993; • Original 1973 fabric to the northern end of the east elevation – the southern sections of the east elevation constructed in 1993; • Remnants of the original entry area (G.07) defined by exposed off-form concrete walls and the skylight above; • The roof, including the truncated pyramidal skylight that defines the original entry; • The spatial quality of the main reading room (G.11); • The spatial quality of the entry area • The 1993 additions to the extent of the 'book'.

<i>HERCON criteria</i>	<i>Attributes</i>
	<p>The original library furnishings incorporated joinery items and light fittings which were designed or selected by the architect. Many of these loose and fixed elements survive and are used, or stored, on-site.¹³⁰ The all-encompassing nature of Taglietti's design is evident in fittings and finishes and in furnishings such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desks • Red powder-coated lockers • Children's display shelving • Pendant lights in children's library area <p>(See also Table 2.)</p> <p>It is possible that other original items may be identified through a future audit (see Policy 17 at Chapter 5)</p>
(g) Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	<p>St Kilda Library as completed in 1973.</p> <p>The following plaques mounted in the Library:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation stone, 1972 (eastern exterior wall – > internalised in 1993) • Opening ceremony, 14 May 1973 (south wall) • Opening ceremony (additions), 19 December 1993 (north of disabled access ramp) <p>The 'book' component of the 1993 additions.</p>

Table 2 Select extant furniture designed or selected by Taglietti for St Kilda Library

<i>Item</i>		<i>Item</i>	
Tub Chairs Red and white vinyl on steel frames		Desks Timber and steel	

<i>Item</i>		<i>Item</i>	
Lockers Red powder coated steel		Pendant lights in children's library area plastic	

<i>Item</i>	
Tables, timber and steel (note: some are understood to survive on site, but they were not sighted during the preparation of this CMP)	

3.3.1 *Art works*

The CoPP holds a large and diverse collection of artworks and objects, some of which are on exhibition in St Kilda Library. The Port Phillip City Collection (PPCC) is maintained for the long-term benefit of the community through professional management practices based on internationally recognised standards and protocols for publicly owned collections. These management protocols form the basis for on-going care of the artworks in the Library.

Artworks in the PPCC that were present in St Kilda Library at the time of writing were:

- Wall mounted crest, 'City of St Kilda, Aura, Favente, Feror' (east wall of study area)
- Sculpture by Ailsa O'Connor, on loan courtesy of the Estate of Ailsa O'Connor
- Mirka Mora painting (southwestern corner of the main library reading room)
- Tony Clarke mural (north of the reception desk)

While the artworks/objects have significance and value in their own rights, they are historically unrelated to St Kilda Library and do not contribute to an understanding of its heritage significance.

It is noted that a mural by, St. Kilda artist, Tony Clarke, was painted directly onto the wall of a Library workroom in the ARM addition in c. 1994. It was part of the project to commission pieces of public art to be included in new spaces being created at both the St Kilda Library and the St Kilda Town Hall. Situated at the entrance of the busy workroom, the mural was subject to regular damage from trolleys. Concerns about the condition of the mural and the management of an unprotected artwork in a public space were raised by library and curatorial staff. Over the years, cleaning and repairs have been undertaken by conservators and by the artist. By 2003, the cost of repairs and maintenance of the artwork had become extremely high and repairs were discontinued as ongoing damage appeared inevitable. The artist supported this approach. The artwork has subsequently been truncated by the alterations to the library work room in c. 2010 and its de-accession from the PPCC was supported by the Art Acquisition Committee in 2011.

Management of the artworks within the PPCC falls outside of the scope of this CMP – particularly in relation to those works that are moved into the space for a brief period of public display before being relocated to another site or returned to storage. The situation in relation to the Tony Clarke work is somewhat different insofar as the work enjoys a direct association with the library that is not found in other artworks. Nonetheless, it was not designed or commissioned by ARM and represents an attempt by Council to personalise or customise the library space after their delivery by the architects. It is not a work which contributes directly to the identified significance of the library and is not an element which requires management through the policies in this document. Future management of the Tony Clarke mural, as with all other artworks in the PPCC collection, is best undertaken through Council’s existing policies relating to its collection.

3.4 Levels of significance

The Statement of Significance provides an overview of the general nature of significance present at the St. Kilda Library. The purpose of the distinctions drawn at Table 3 is to assist in guiding change to the place in a manner that minimises impacts on its cultural heritage values. At Table 3, the fabric of the library is separated into two classes, namely, those elements and attributes that are of heritage significance and those that are not.

Table 3 Definitions of levels of significance

<i>Level of significance</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Elements and attributes of heritage significance	<p>With the exception of the ‘book’ addressing Carlisle Street, elements and attributes of heritage significance are elements of the Taglietti design of 1973. These are of greater age and historical significance and retain stronger relationships with the early development of the building than the 1993 additions. They also have a more enduring relationship with the public. The back-of-house spaces are seen to be of a lower order of significance than public spaces because the public has no knowledge of, or relationship with, these areas. While two decades younger, the ‘book’ is notable as an element of local architectural significance.</p> <p>Significant elements and attributes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The external walls of the original, L-shaped Taglietti-designed wings including unpainted battered walls, eaves and highlight windows, to the extent that they survive


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The spatial qualities of the main library reading room (G.11 and G.12) and adjacent courtyard (G.13) • The original entry area (G.07) as defined by its, remnant walls and skylight above • The roof above the main library reading room including the lantern above the original entry • The book device <p>(These elements are illustrated at Figure 38.)</p>
Elements and attributes of little or no heritage significance	<p>The balance of the fabric is seen to embody the significance identified above to a lesser extent. These elements and areas include back-of-house spaces and the 1993 additions' excluding the 'book'. Elements and attributes of little or no heritage significance include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basement area (LG.01-06) • Workspaces (G.03 (north), G.08-10, G.14-30) and roofs above • The ARM additions (G.01-G.03 (south), G.04-06) including roofs above

3.5 Implications of significance

Implications arising from the summary of significance are identified at Table 4.

Table 4 Summary of implications of significance

<i>Level of significance</i>	<i>Implications</i>
Significant elements and attributes	Significant elements, areas and attributes should be retained and conserved according to the principles of the <i>Burra Charter</i> .
Elements and attributes of little or no significance	Elements and attributes of little or no significance can be retained, modified or removed as required. Demolition or substantial removal of fabric, if adopted, should be balanced by an assessment of the practical consequences for the continued conservation and use of fabric and elements of significant elements and attributes.

 Significant fabric and areas DUKE STREET

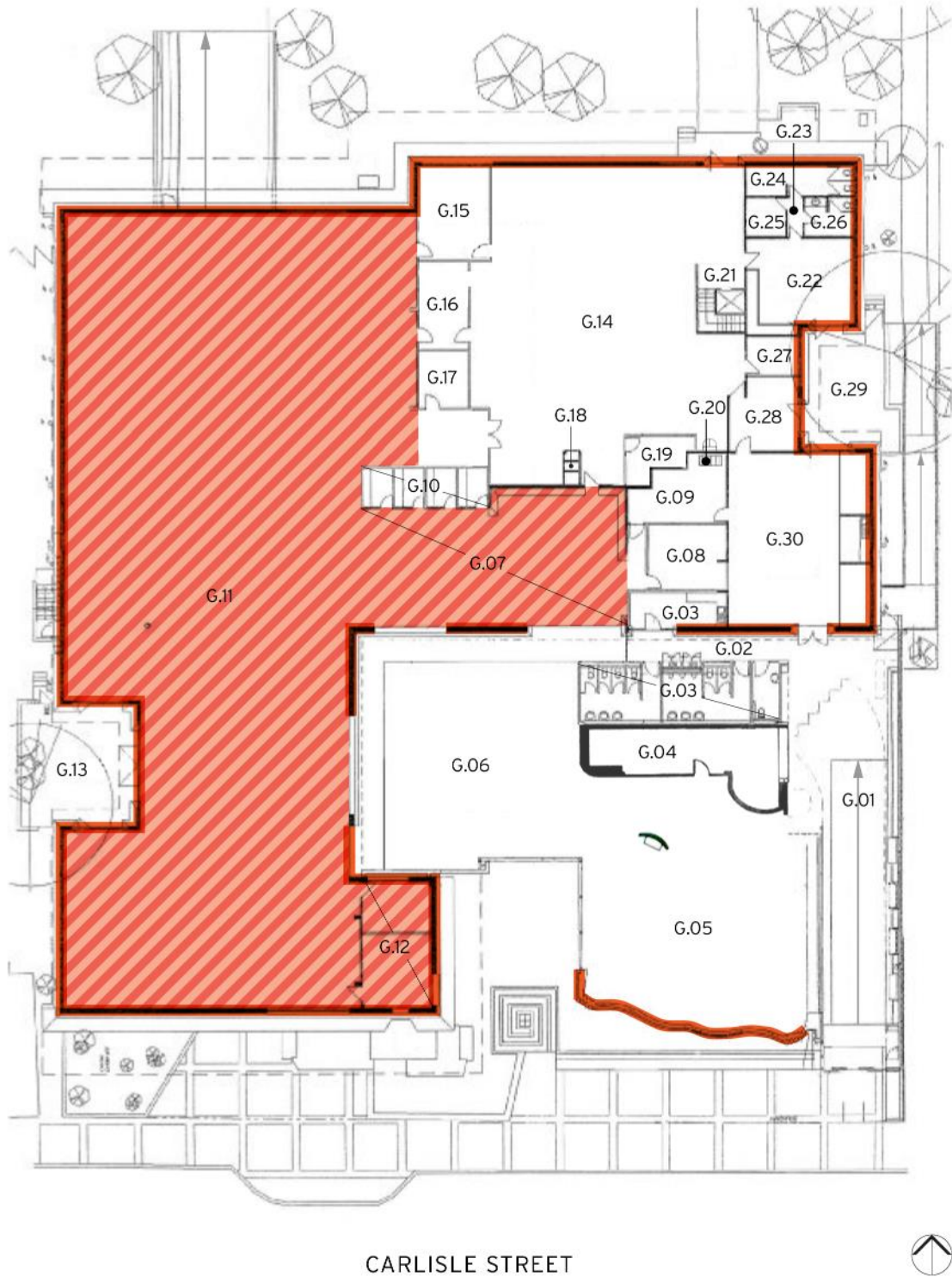


Figure 38 Ground floor plan: levels of significance

4.0 OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

The following establishes a framework for the conservation policy at Chapter 5. It addresses:

- public libraries as a typology;
- implications arising from significance;
- the statutory recognition of St Kilda Library for heritage reasons;
- the application of planning and building regulations and controls;
- the interests of stakeholders; and
- the condition of the building fabric.

4.1 Typological characteristics of public libraries

The history of public libraries is relatively short. The establishment of the Melbourne Public Library (now the State Library of Victoria) in 1856 was contemporary with comparable institutions in the UK and USA and expressed a Victorian aspiration to encourage individual advancement while maintaining collective order.¹³¹

The history of public libraries is also dynamic. Political will, the requirements, scale and interests of the communities that they serve and technological advances are among a range of factors that have influenced the form, content and scale of public libraries. As discussed in Chapter 2 (Section 2.2.2), over the past 160-170 years, community facilities for self-education and congregation in Victoria have taken many forms, including Mechanics' Halls, Athenaeums, Lyceums, Schools of Mines and Free Libraries. This sense of dynamism has been particularly pronounced in recent decades, driven by social mobility, digitisation and the rise of information technology, which has required a fundamental shift in the way that information is held and disseminated. Subject to local conditions, these (and other) factors have led to the construction of new libraries, and the requirement for alterations to existing libraries.

Since opening in 1973, there have been two key stages of growth at St Kilda Library, in the mid-1980s and in 1992-93. This pattern can be expected to continue. The CoPP regularly consults the local community regarding the performance of its Library Service and responds accordingly to deliver improved services to users. In this way, further change to the library appears inevitable if it is to remain on its current site.

4.2 Implications arising from significance

The Statement of Significance at Chapter 3 confirms that St Kilda Library is of historical, aesthetic and social significance to the CoPP as a prominent and architecturally distinctive public institution with an important place in the City's history. The key implication arising from this assessment is that key aspects of the place should be conserved to retain this significance. These features and attributes are listed below:

St Kilda Library as completed in 1973, including original external and internal fabric, including:

- The north and west elevations;
- The west end of the south elevation – the east end of the original south elevation was internalised and modified in 1993;
- The north end of the east elevation – the south end of the east elevation was internalised and modified in 1993;
- Remnants of the original entry area defined by exposed off form concrete walls and the skylight above;
- The roof, including the truncated pyramidal skylight that defines the original entry;
- The spatial quality of the main reading room (G11); and

- Furnishings and fittings, including joinery items and light fittings, as well as items of furniture designed or selected by Taglietti, including desks, red powder-coated lockers, children’s display shelving and pendant lights in children’s library area.
- The 1993 additions to the extent of the ‘book’.

The following plaques mounted in the Library related to the:

- Foundation stone, 1972 (eastern exterior wall – internalised in 1993);
- Opening ceremony, 14 May 1973 (south wall); and
- Opening ceremony (additions), 19 December 1993 (north of disabled access ramp).

4.3 Statutory obligations

St Kilda Library is subject to the provisions of the following:

- Planning and Environment Act, 1987 (City Port Phillip Planning Scheme)
- National Construction Code (Building Code of Australia)
- Disability Discrimination Act, 1992

4.3.1 *Planning and Environment Act, 1987: City of Port Phillip Planning Scheme*

Heritage places of local significance are identified in the local Planning Scheme and protected through a Heritage Overlay. Local Government Authorities are responsible for issuing planning permits for the use and development of heritage places under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The relevant planning scheme for St Kilda Library under the *Act* is the City of Port Phillip Planning Scheme, which identifies the zoning for the site (Public Use Zone 6, Local Government) and applicable overlays.

Heritage Overlay

St Kilda Library is located within the ‘St Kilda, Elwood, Balaclava, Ripponlea’ precinct which is designated as HO7 in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Port Phillip Planning Scheme (Figure 39). External paint controls apply in this precinct. As a consequence of the Library’s inclusion in HO7, permits will be required for demolition, subdivision, new buildings and works.

The precinct (HO7) is extensive and architecturally diverse. The citation for the precinct, included in the *Port Phillip Heritage Review* (Andrew Ward, 1996), makes one reference to St Kilda Library, describing it as part of the ‘public buildings precinct’, as follows:

The Carlisle Street shopping centre extends from St Kilda Road to Westbury Street and is punctuated by the Chapel street tramway and the railway overpass, with its metal girders and sweeping bluestone abutments, now mostly concealed by shops. The public buildings precinct is located at its west end facing the recent municipal library, the discordant additions to the north wall of the Council Offices being strange companions with the self-conscious pretensions of the library.

The Library is also identified as a significant heritage place in the Port Phillip Heritage Gradings Map, October 2018 (Figure 40). The grading system that applies in the City of Port Phillip is: significant heritage places (shown as red in Figure 40); contributory heritage places (shown as green); and non-contributory properties.

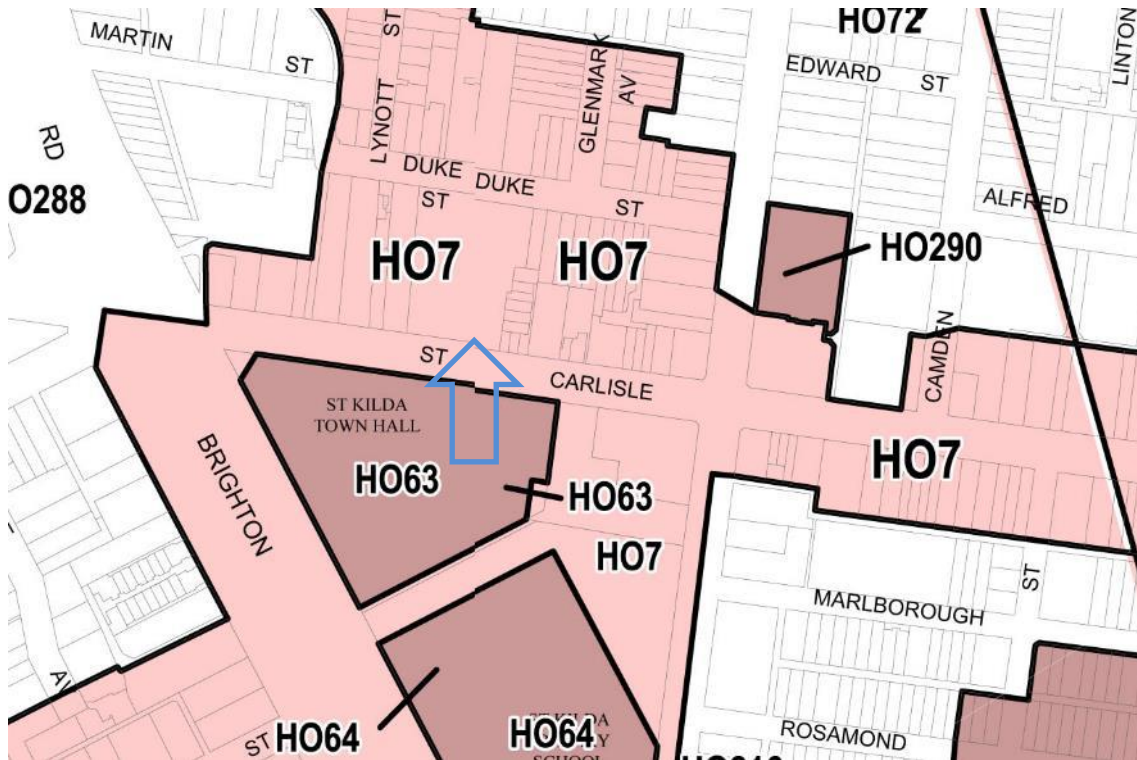


Figure 39 Detail of Port Phillip Planning Scheme heritage overlay map 7: St Kilda Library is indicated
Source: Planning Schemes Online



Figure 40 Port Phillip Heritage Gradings Map, detail: St Kilda Library is indicated
Source: www.portphillip.vic.gov.au, accessed 5 January 2019

Design and Development Overlay

The properties adjacent to the Library, and surrounding area are included within Area DDO 21-1 'Carlisle Street West Precinct' and is subject to the provisions of Schedule 21 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO21). The 'preferred character' of the area is:

- A pedestrian environment with activated frontages that supports this precinct as an extension of the vibrant and active shopping strip to the east of Chapel Street.
- A high-quality public realm and enhanced public spaces which support its role as the centre's 'civic node' and community services destination.
- The dominance of civic / community buildings, in particular the St Kilda Town Hall and Library.
- A legible single-storey built form on the northern side of Carlisle Street.

'Design objectives for Area DDO 21-1 of the 'Carlisle Street West Precinct' are:

- To ensure the visual prominence of the St Kilda Town Hall is maintained.
- To ensure that future development on the north-east corner of St Kilda Road and Carlisle Street reflects its important location at a key point of entry into the activity centre.
- To protect and enhance the open space fronting the St Kilda Town Hall as the primary green space of the activity centre.
- To develop the St Kilda Town Hall public plaza (facing Carlisle Street) and the Library forecourt as key open space areas in the activity centre.
- To enhance the pedestrian experience of this part of Carlisle Street, as an extension of the centre's principal pedestrian spine.
- To ensure new development maintains the predominant low-rise character on the northern side of Carlisle Street.
- To ensure that new development above the street-wall is legible as a separate and visually recessive built form element.
- To ensure that larger sites express the 'fine urban grain' of their surroundings.

'Requirements' of DDO21 of particular relevance to St Kilda Library include:

- Buildings should not exceed a preferred maximum height of 10 metres (3 storeys).
- Above the street-wall additional storey(s) must be set back 10 metres so as to be viewed as separate form.
- The parapet should be well articulated and contain detail consistent with the character of Carlisle Street.
- The ground floor should be level with the footpath.
- The ground floor facade should be designed to facilitate contact between building occupants and people in the street. It should include pedestrian entries and clear glazing.

Carlisle Street Structure Plan (2009)

The Activity Centre Structure Plan of 2009 establishes a vision and strategies for the development of Carlisle Street for the period to 2019-2024. It includes seven 'Strategic and defined strategies and actions relating to individual land use precincts. Strategic directions 2 and 4 relate to St Kilda Library and its environs.

Strategic Direction 2 – A 'community hub' notes the following:

The St Kilda Town Hall is a Council designated 'civic hub', one of three across Port Phillip. The recent co-location of Council's governance and administrative functions at the town hall, and the availability of large meeting spaces have further reinforced this civic role. Directly opposite, the St Kilda Library is a key 'destination'

within the activity centre. Carlisle Street is also a recognised 'service delivery hub'. In addition to the municipal offices, Council services include the Maternal and Child Health centre and the St Kilda Children's Centre (childcare) ...

(3.2.1) Reinforce the profile of the Activity Centre as a key 'destination' for information, services, activities and facilities: -

Promote the 'civic' role of the St Kilda Town Hall through the consolidation of Council's governance and administrative functions, and the availability of large meeting spaces.

Maximise the role of the St Kilda Library as a key 'destination', increasing visitation to the activity centre by both the local and wider communities.

Strategic Direction 4 – 'Street life & the public realm' notes:

Carlisle Street currently lacks a 'town centre', however opportunities exist to redress this and create a series of connected public spaces focused on major destinations – the Town Hall and Library, the 'Retail Core' and Balaclava Station.

Carlisle Street Urban Design Framework (David Lock & Associates 2009)

The urban design framework identifies the St Kilda Library as being located within the Carlisle Street West Precinct. The existing urban character of the precinct (in 2009) was described as:¹³²

... an extension of the retail spine of the Activity Centre but also contains a mixture of housing and community facilities,

- Dominated by St Kilda Town Hall on the southern side of Carlisle Street ...
- Distinctive single storey library building located on the northern side of Carlisle Street opposite the St Kilda Town Hall.
- Access from Duke Street to Carlisle Street via an internal link through the library.

Section 2.9, Open Space notes that the study area contains a limited supply of open space including, St Kilda Botanic Gardens and Alma Park, the St Kilda Town Hall Gardens and the small reserve behind the St Kilda Library.¹³³

The broad objectives for the area anticipated that the, 'precinct will be characterised by ... the dominance of civic/community buildings, in particular the St. Kilda Town Hall and Library'.¹³⁴

Specific design objectives include:

To develop the St Kilda Town Hall public plaza (facing Carlisle Street) and the Library forecourt as key open space areas in the activity centre.¹³⁵

4.3.2 *National Construction Code (BCA) compliance*

The National Construction Code (NCC) addresses all building compliance requirements as related to specified classes of buildings. In Victoria the NCC operates in conjunction with the *Victorian Building Regulations 2018* and under the provisions of the *Building Act, 1993*. In its formulation and reference to relevant construction standards the NCC has necessarily been developed for new construction. In this regard the application, wholesale to the refurbishment or redevelopment of a heritage building has the potential to have significant impacts, particularly if a 'full compliance' with the code is triggered.

Addressing this issue, the *Victorian Building Regulations, 2018*, provide for some flexibility where alterations are proposed to existing buildings, under Part 16, Regulation 233.

This regulation states as follows:

233 *Alteration to existing building*

- (1) Building work to alter an existing building must comply with these Regulations.
- (2) Subject to regulations 234 and 236, if the proposed alterations to an existing building, together with any other alterations completed or permitted within the previous 3 years, relate to more than half the original volume of the building, the entire building must be brought into conformity with these Regulations.
- (3) Despite sub-regulations (1) and (2) and subject to sub-regulation (6), the relevant building surveyor may consent to partial compliance of building work or an existing building with sub-regulation (1) or (2).
- (4) In determining whether to consent to partial compliance with sub-regulation (1) or (2) in respect of any alteration to a building, the relevant building surveyor must take into account—
 - (a) the structural adequacy of the building; and
 - (b) the requirements necessary to make reasonable provision for—
 - (i) the amenity of the building and the safety and health of people using the building; and
 - (ii) avoiding the spread of fire to or from any adjoining building.
- (5) Any consent to partial compliance under sub-regulation (3) must be in the form of Form 18.
- (6) If any part of the alteration is an extension to an existing building, the relevant building surveyor may only consent to partial compliance in respect of the extension if the floor area of the extension is not greater than the lesser of—
 - (a) 25% of the floor area of the existing building; and
 - (b) 1,000m²

Having regard to the above, in developing a design response to conservation and new works careful consideration needs to be given to actions which might trigger full code compliance obligations and if this is the case, the nature of dispensations which might be sought. Activities and compliance requirements which have the potential to have the greatest impact on the fabric include those at Table 5.

Table 5 Impacts associated with compliance requirements

Issue	Potential impact
Hazardous materials removal	A 2015 asbestos audit did not find conclusive evidence of asbestos-containing materials at the Library. It did however identify locations where asbestos may be present including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • doors and electrical boards in the basement; and • pipework and ductwork in the work area roof spaces.¹³⁶

Issue	Potential impact
	While these areas have not been identified as contributing to the significance of St Kilda Library, it would be appropriate to take a cautious approach to works in these areas to minimise loss of evidence of original decorative finishes.
Seismic compliance	Introduction of new structure requiring significant intervention into original fabric.
Energy performance (NCC Section J) compliance	Replacement of original materials (glass) and introduction of insulating material.
Fire protection and separation	Introduction of fire services and new fabric to provide fire separation.

4.3.3 *Disability Discrimination Act, 1992*

Access for people with a disability as relevant to future works at St Kilda Library are addressed under the *Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), 1992*, and also under the NCC and the Australian Human Rights Commission 'Premises Standards'. While the DDA sets out compliance requirements it is a document which also provisions for complaints where these requirements are not met. In the case of the NCC, the requirements under Part D3 must be met under the Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions or by way of a Performance Solution. Additionally, the Premises Standards provide guidance on both new works and works to existing buildings to meet access requirements.

Having regard to these documents, bringing heritage buildings into compliance typically requires a carefully resolved design response which frequently requires a balancing of access and heritage outcomes. Given the absolute need to provide equitable access, design solutions for upgrading and reuse need to be developed in a manner which optimises access points and paths of travel to avoid multiple interventions.

The ground floor of St Kilda Library is raised approximately 800mm above the street level. As built, an access ramp was integrated into the forecourt. This was removed in 1993 and replaced with the present enclosed ramp at the far east of the site. The gradient of the 1993 ramp does not comply with current codes. The rear entry, from Duke Street, is also non-compliant. Considerations from a heritage perspective related to the delivery of compliant access are at Policy 14 'South elevation (Carlisle Street)', Chapter 6.

4.4 Stakeholders

At a general level, individuals and organisations with an interest in the St Kilda Library fall into two categories: statutory and/or services authorities responsible for ensuring the appropriate management of the place; and individuals, groups or entities with an interest in the building and/or the services that it provides. Stakeholders likely to have an interest in and/or concern for the Library are identified below.

4.4.1 *The City of Port Phillip*

Port Phillip Council owns and operates St Kilda Library. It is also responsible for approvals relating to future works at the building.

The Council's aspirations for the Library are articulated in DDO21, as well as the Structure Plan and Urban Design Framework, both dated 2009, which inform the DDO. These aspirations include:

- maximising the Library as a 'destination' within the Carlisle Street Activity Centre;
- increasing visitation to the building; and

- developing the St Kilda Town Hall public plaza (facing Carlisle Street) and the Library forecourt as open space areas in the Carlisle Street Activity Centre.

4.4.2 *Library users*

Library users, generally, have a strong interest in the services provided the library and are resistant to actions or proposals with the potential to alter the status quo. It is also commented that library users are generally very complimentary about the services provided by the Library and the staff who work there.¹³⁷ A smaller cohort of library users value the architectural qualities of the building, including its external presentation and the internal experience of the reading room.

4.4.3 *Library service personnel*

The staff of the CoPP Library Service, at a generalised level, are dedicated, well-informed and community focussed. A high percentage have been with the Service for a sustained period. As such, they form with a group with valuable and considered insights into how the strengths and weaknesses of the Library and the needs of library users.

4.4.4 *Special interest groups*

Groups that may have an interest in St Kilda Library include architecture groups/enthusiasts, particularly those dedicated to late-twentieth century architecture, and local history associations. It can be anticipated that these groups will have an interest in ensuring the protection of the Library's formal architectural qualities, particularly the extant elements that are most overtly expressive of Taglietti and ARM, as well as its historical significance and associations.

4.4.1 *General public*

St Kilda Library is a prominent feature of the Carlisle Street activity centre. It is also a visually distinguished building that is associated with a significant phase in the City's recent history. It can be anticipated that there will be a degree of public interest in proposals for change and new works at the building.

4.5 Management context

The management, care and operation of St Kilda Library is the responsibility of the City of Port Phillip. On-going maintenance is delivered by the Asset Management & Property (ASP) department. At the time of writing there were scheduled programmes in place for Essential Safety Measures and Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning, as well as an asset renewal program. Reactive maintenance is managed via a helpdesk system.¹³⁸ No major renewal works were planned for the financial year 2019/20.

4.6 Condition

St Kilda Library is generally in sound condition, and there are no known impediments to the on-going use of the building or its adaptation as a consequence of structural integrity. It is an intensively used asset, and the materials and finishes used at the building are, in general terms, correspondingly robust. As noted above, a 2015 asbestos audit did not confirm the presence of asbestos-containing materials at the site, although not all areas of the building were accessible. The asbestos audit is to be updated later in 2019.¹³⁹

5.0 CONSERVATION POLICY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

This conservation policy is based on the assessment of cultural significance at Chapter 3 and informed by the opportunities and constraints identified at Chapter 4.

5.1 Definitions

The terminology used in this chapter is of a specific nature. The following definitions are from the *Burra Charter, 2013* (Article 1), as endorsed by a large number of statutory and national heritage bodies.

Place means a geographically defined area. It may include elements, objects, spaces and views. Place may have tangible and intangible dimensions.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.

- > Cultural significance is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places* and *related objects*.
- > Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

Fabric means all the physical material of the *place* including elements, fixtures, contents and objects.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*.

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of a *place*, and its *setting*.

Maintenance is to be distinguished from repair which involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.

Preservation means maintaining a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Restoration means returning a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing elements without the introduction of new material.

Reconstruction means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material.

Adaptation means modifying a *place* to suit the existing *use* or a proposed use.

Use means the functions of a *place*, including the activities and traditional and customary practices that may occur at the place or are dependent on the place.

Compatible use means a *use* which respects the *cultural significance* of a *place*. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

Setting means the immediate and extended environment of a *place* that is part of or contributes to its cultural significance and distinctive character.

Related place means a *place* that contributes to the *cultural significance* of another place.

Related object means an object that contributes to the *cultural significance* of a *place* but is not at the place.

Associations mean the special connections that exist between people and a *place*.

Meanings denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses to people.

Interpretation means all the ways of presenting the *cultural significance* of a *place*.

5.2 General policies

Policy 1 Significance as the basis for future conservation and management

The Statement of Significance included in this CMP should be the principal basis for the management and conservation of the St Kilda Library, and for all future planning, works and management which concern the site.

Specific conservation objectives should include:

- Managing in accordance with the significance attributed in the CMP (Chapter 3). In general terms, the implications of the identification of significance are as follows:
 - > Significant elements and attributes should be retained and conserved according to the principles of the *Burra Charter* (2013). Significant elements and attributes are identified at Policy 8 below;
 - > Elements and attributes that are not identified as significant can be retained, re-used or replaced in a way which has a minimum or no adverse effect on significant elements and attributes.
- A sensitive and respectful approach to adaptation, new works and future development where significant fabric and elements may be affected.

Policy 2 Adoption of the Burra Charter

The conservation and management of the St Kilda Library should be carried out in accordance with the principles of the Burra Charter (2013).

When assessing the suitability of proposed works to significant elements and attributes at St Kilda Library, the principles of the *Burra Charter* and its practice notes should be referenced. These principles provide guidance on the conservation and adaptation of places and elements identified as being of cultural heritage significance.

Policy 3 Adoption of the Conservation Management Plan

The findings and policies of the CMP should be understood and adopted by all agencies and parties with responsibility for management and planning at St Kilda Library.

This CMP should inform on-going management and future development of St Kilda Library. The CoPP should adopt and implement the policies of the CMP as the key guiding reference in terms of managing change and future development within the site.

Policy 4 Compliance with legislation

The managers of St Kilda Library should comply with all applicable legislation and should develop and implement protocols to achieve this.

Statutory obligations pertaining to legislation, including heritage legislation, that applies to St Kilda Library are summarised in Chapter 4. These obligations should continue to be observed by the CoPP. In this regard it is important that site managers are aware of the statutory heritage controls which apply to the library, and of their obligations under these controls. Protocols to promote compliance with applicable legislation should include triggers under the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987*, being the key piece of legislation that applies directly to management of the heritage values the Library.

A heritage induction should be developed and administered for all permanent staff and may be administered for contractors and service personnel where appropriate to the scope of their work on the site. See also Policy 22 'Training and awareness'.

Policy 5 Specialist advice and skills

Advice from qualified heritage practitioners should be sought before any action is proposed or undertaken that could have an impact on significant built fabric at St Kilda Library.

Where works to significant built fabric or elements are proposed, or where technical advice is needed, it is important to select consultants and contractors with proven experience in the relevant field. This applies to the development of strategic approaches to undertaking works, as well as to the delivery of conservation works.

Policy 6 Stakeholder liaison

The managers of the St Kilda Library should consult with all stakeholders identified at Chapter 4 (Section 4.4) and other parties/individuals as relevant, on matters affecting the heritage values of the place.

Individuals and organisations (stakeholders) with a particular interest in St Kilda Library, and elements within it, should be advised of any proposals with the potential to impact on the identified values of the place and provided with opportunities to comment. This may be conducted via public advertising (general public) or direct contact.

Policy 7 Review of the CMP

Consistent with best practice, this CMP should be reviewed and updated every five years (by 2024).

Triggers requiring the review of CMPs may include:

- Where major works are proposed or have occurred;
- Where management protocols/regimes change with the potential to impact on cultural heritage significance; and
- Where significant new information has come to light.

Other triggers include instances where: major change occurs as a result of an accident or misadventure (i.e. vandalism or fire); or where the CMP is found to be out of date with regards to significance.

5.3 Conservation policies**Policy 8 Conservation of significant elements and attributes**

Significant attributes and elements at St Kilda Library should be conserved.

As noted at Section 5.1, conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.

As noted at Chapter 3, significant fabric, elements and attributes are:

St Kilda Library as completed in 1973, including original external and internal fabric, including:

- The north and west elevations;
- The west end of the south elevation – the east end of the original south elevation was internalised and modified in 1993;
- The north end of the east elevation – the south end of the east elevation was internalised and modified in 1993;
- Remnants of the original entry area defined by exposed off form concrete walls and the skylight above;

- The roof, including the truncated pyramidal skylight that defines the original entry;
- The spatial quality of the main reading room (G11); and
- Furnishings and fittings, including joinery items and light fittings, as well as items of furniture designed or selected by Taglietti, including desks, red powder-coated lockers, children's display shelving and pendant lights featuring lozenge-shaped plastic diffusers in various primary colours in children's library area.

The 1993 additions to the extent of the 'book'.

The following plaques mounted in the Library related to the:

- Foundation stone, 1972 (eastern exterior wall – internalised in 1993);
- Opening ceremony, 14 May 1973 (south wall); and
- Opening ceremony (additions), 19 December 1993 (north of disabled access ramp).

Policy 9 Heritage curtilage

The heritage curtilage of St Kilda Library should be defined as the title boundary for no. 150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda (Lot 1 LP45670).

The 'heritage curtilage' for a building, complex or site has been defined as, 'the area of land ... surrounding an item or area of heritage significance which is essential for retaining and interpreting its heritage significance'.¹⁴⁰ A heritage curtilage should include all significant elements and establish an area which is managed to ensure the maintenance of heritage significance. Identification of land to be included within a heritage curtilage does not preclude change within this area. Land within a heritage curtilage does, however, need to be managed so as not to adversely impact on setting, presentation or significance of a heritage place.

The title boundary for St Kilda Library has been associated with the place since 1971, when the existing allotments at the site were purchased by Council for development as a library. There is no heritage imperative to consider a heritage curtilage that is smaller than or extends beyond the current site boundaries.

Policy 10 Views and visual relationships

Views and visual relationships that support an understanding of St Kilda's Library identified values should be maintained.

Views of St Kilda Library from Carlisle Street enable an understanding of the building as an evolved place and support an understanding the history and significance of the building. Future works on the site should maintain key views to the Library and allow significant elements to remain legible. In the context of the south elevation, addressing Carlisle Street, this includes the 1973 and 1993 wings.

The library in conjunction with St Kilda Town Hall combine to create a 'civic precinct' at the western end of Carlisle Street. The relationship between the two buildings should be maintained and a visual connection should be retained between the buildings.

It is noted that, consideration has been given to enhancing connectivity between the Town Hall and the Library through the construction of a pedestrian plaza or similar. While a grand civic space of this kind has never been delivered, it remains an actively contemplated proposition (see Section 4.3.1). Works of this kind could be undertaken without impact on the identified significance of the St Kilda Library provided the views and relationships noted above are maintained.

Policy 11 Remedial works and cyclical maintenance of significant built fabric

Programs of priority maintenance, remedial works and cyclical maintenance should form the basis for on-going care of the significant built fabric at St Kilda Library.

Building fabric will deteriorate over time due to the effects of age, weather and use. Poor maintenance can hasten the decline and decay of fabric, which can be expensive to rectify if not promptly addressed. It may also result in the loss of significant heritage fabric which can in turn impact on the heritage values of the place. The establishment of a cyclical maintenance programme will help to retard deterioration and, following any refurbishment works, to prevent future deterioration of restored original or introduced new material. Broadly, the approach to maintenance should firstly be to maintain and ensure that the significant original and early fabric does not deteriorate further and secondly to maintain all existing fabric. *Ad hoc* repairs or patch ups should be avoided.

Regular inspections of the building's fabric should continue to occur, with an emphasis on susceptible areas such as guttering and downpipes, door and window openings and external timber (eave soffits lined with radiata pine boards and the fascias lined with untreated western red cedar). Generally, day-to-day maintenance work can be carried out in accordance with the conservation policies and without reference to a conservation specialist. However, major maintenance works should be undertaken under the direction of an appropriately qualified conservation practitioner. The primary aim of repair work should be to retain as much of the historic material as possible. In most cases involving repairs to significant fabric, the advice of a heritage practitioner will be required prior to undertaking the works, to ensure the significant fabric is treated appropriately.

Maintenance

Maintenance addresses all existing components of the place, including fabric and setting. Introducing new elements (such as new structures) or changing and adapting the existing building are not matters of maintenance and are addressed in policies and recommendations included elsewhere in this CMP.

Typical maintenance works at St Kilda Library include:

- Cleaning out drainage systems and other water storage and drainage areas
- Maintaining and securing external wall fabric, glazing and joinery in an appropriate and sympathetic manner (may require specialist input)
- Maintaining building services
- Replacing or upgrading services (may require specialist input for substantial works)
- Maintaining existing power or pipelines or other services where this involves no alteration to the fabric of the place

Regular monitoring of the condition of significant fabric is also an important aspect of maintenance.

With regard to the recommended cyclical inspection and maintenance programme, the following sets out a desirable minimum program for cyclical maintenance.

- Annual: Roof cladding, gutters, downpipes, drains and surface drainage, bird-proofing, roof space, security and fire precautions, plumbing, electrical and data cables and appliances, windows and doors and general safety. Ceilings, floors, stairs, joinery, fixtures and fittings, tiling and building services.
- 4–5 years: External walls, external joinery other than for windows and doors and lighting.

Repairs

From a heritage perspective it is generally recommended that repairs of significant buildings and structures should involve replacing 'like with like,' i.e. the replacement of material (missing, deteriorated or broken) with fabric to match the existing. Accepting this principle, it is also important to determine if the material proposed for replacement is appropriate (it may not be original). The advice of a qualified heritage practitioner should be sought on this. Wherever possible, only actual decayed fabric of a heritage structure should be replaced, instead of the whole host element.

Repairs to significant structures should also, in preference, be carried out by appropriately skilled staff or contractors, and may require in some cases prior analysis of the composition of the fabric to be repaired/replaced.

Specialist input may also be required for the identification and eradication of any damage caused by pest infestations. Rectification may involve repair to, or replacement of, damaged fabric.

Policy 12 Hazardous materials

If identified, removal of hazardous materials from St Kilda Library should seek to minimise physical impacts on significant values and attributes.

As noted in Chapter 4 (Section 4.3.2), an asbestos audit in 2015 did not find conclusive evidence of asbestos-containing materials at the Library, although not all areas were accessed. It did however identify locations where asbestos may be present including doors and electrical boards in the basement, and pipework and ductwork in the work area roof spaces.¹⁴¹ While these areas have not been identified as contributing to the significance of St Kilda Library, it would be appropriate to take a cautious approach to works in these areas to minimise loss of evidence of original materials and finishes.

5.4 Use, adaptation and development

Policy 13 Use

Future use (or uses) of St Kilda Library should be compatible with the assessed values of the place so that its cultural significance is maintained and conserved.

The subject building was designed as a community resource and much of its cultural significance derives from this historical and ongoing use. Library Services should continue as the core use of the building. To this end, the library should continue to occupy part or all of the building, in an accessible, ground floor, location. A combination of uses such as an ongoing library use in conjunction with office space and commercial tenancies may be acceptable.

There is no imperative from a heritage perspective for the building to continue to be used as a library in the traditional sense. As with other suburban libraries, the history of the St Kilda Library is one of more or less continual adaptation in response to changing community needs and expectations. This pressure to evolve can be expected to continue. Today, libraries are generally less reliant on reading rooms and book stacks than has been the case historically. Library buildings in the future might take the form of flexible meeting spaces, cafés, theatres and the like. Given the value placed on the ongoing library use as it relates to significance, changes of this kind will need to be accommodated.

Further to this, the sale of the asset into private ownership should not be contemplated. A new use – particularly one in which substantial adaptation is required to support the new use – would be incompatible with its historic value of the building as the product of a community campaign

Policy 14 Change to significant fabric and elements

Physical alterations to St Kilda Library should be limited to works that do not diminish its cultural heritage values.

St Kilda Library has been subject to incremental physical change since the mid-1980s. These changes have been both external (the 1993 additions) and internal. From a heritage perspective, further physical and functional change can reasonably be contemplated at the subject site, providing that the works do not diminish the cultural heritage significance of the place overall as identified in this document.

Commentary regarding the approach to the management of change to significant fabric and elements is provided at Table 6 (exterior) and Table 7 (interior).

Table 6 Exterior – principles to guide change to significant fabric and elements

<i>Element</i>	<i>Principles to guide future change</i>
Building envelope (generally)	The key features of both key building programs (1973 and 1993) should be retained. These comprise the western wing of the 1973 building including: battered perimeter walls in off-form horizontal board-marked concrete and concrete brickwork; eave soffits lined with radiata pine boards; the fascias lined with untreated horizontal boards in western red cedar; the cantilevering flat roof above and continuous highlight glazing. ARM's book device should likewise be retained.
Carlisle Street setback	The remnants of a landscape that recalls Taglietti intention, albeit reinterpreted by ARM, survives to Carlisle Street. Future works should continue to perpetuate this simple Modernist character and its value as a setting to the building. A heavily landscaped or treed approach is discouraged. Overtly modern elements such as green walls and the like are similarly inappropriate.
Duke Street setback	The landscaped setback to Duke Street has not been identified as an area that contributes to the significance of the Library. As such, there exists some opportunities for new built form at the rear of the site exist, as was contemplated by Taglietti in 1973 (see Chapter 1). Where these are undertaken, works should have regard to the retention and ongoing visibility of the intact north elevation as discussed below (see Policy 16).
South elevation (Carlisle Street)	Generally speaking, alterations to the 1973 building, as visible from Carlisle Street, should be avoided. Where changes are required to facilitate the ongoing use of the building as a library, these should be undertaken in a discreet manner, removing as little original fabric as is possible. Removal of later elements and accretions should be undertaken where opportunities arise.

Element	Principles to guide future change
	<p>Opportunities to incorporate aspects of the Taglietti design may arise as a consequence of future works. For instance, Taglietti's arrangement of approach and entry spaces, which were delivered to a limited extent in 1973, were substantially overwritten in 1993. Opportunities to revisit the central entry and plaza as conceived by Taglietti (Figure 4) with a view to the delivery of missing elements, should be explored where opportunities allow. This may provide an opportunity to reinstate a rising ramp to the entry as incorporated in the Taglietti's scheme of 1973 – this approach may provide opportunities for disabled access compliance as discussed as Chapter 4.</p> <p>Opportunities to return openings modified in 1993 to their original, 1973 form should also be pursued in the event that change at the south-east of the site is proposed.</p> <p>The book device should remain a visible public element.</p>
East elevation	<p>1973 fabric along the eastern elevation of the library is largely concealed from public views. It is situated some distance from the concentration of original Taglietti-designed fabric, elements and spaces surviving in the main library reading room. Consequently, there is a lower order of sensitivity to alterations to fabric in these areas. Later fabric in the southern sections of the eastern elevation dates from the 1993 works. Apart from the book device, this fabric is of a lower order of legibility and significance and could be altered as required.</p>
West elevation	<p>While this elevation has limited visibility from the public realm it comprises an intact section of the original volume which helps form the main library reading room. Alterations to the western elevation, beyond those required to facilitate the ongoing provision of library services, should be avoided.</p>
North elevation (Duke Street)	<p>The rear elevation of the library is an intact component of the Taglietti design as constructed in 1973 and has been identified as significant fabric albeit addressing a secondary street. It is preferred that this is retained and that it remains visible from Duke Street, at least in part. Accepting that this is not a primary elevation, some opportunities for change exist. The rear elevation could be sensitively altered, enclosed or partially removed to facilitate the ongoing library use.</p>
Roof	<p>The pyramidal lantern should be retained and conserved. A preference is for re-instatement of horizontal ship-lapped timber boards recalling the original appearance of the of the lantern in timber, to match the original detail (Figure 42).</p> <p>Roof finishes to 1973 section have been altered. Consideration could also be given to reinstating the original cladding or similar although the roof cladding is not visible from any key local vantage points and its contribution to the character and presentation of the building is extremely modest.</p>

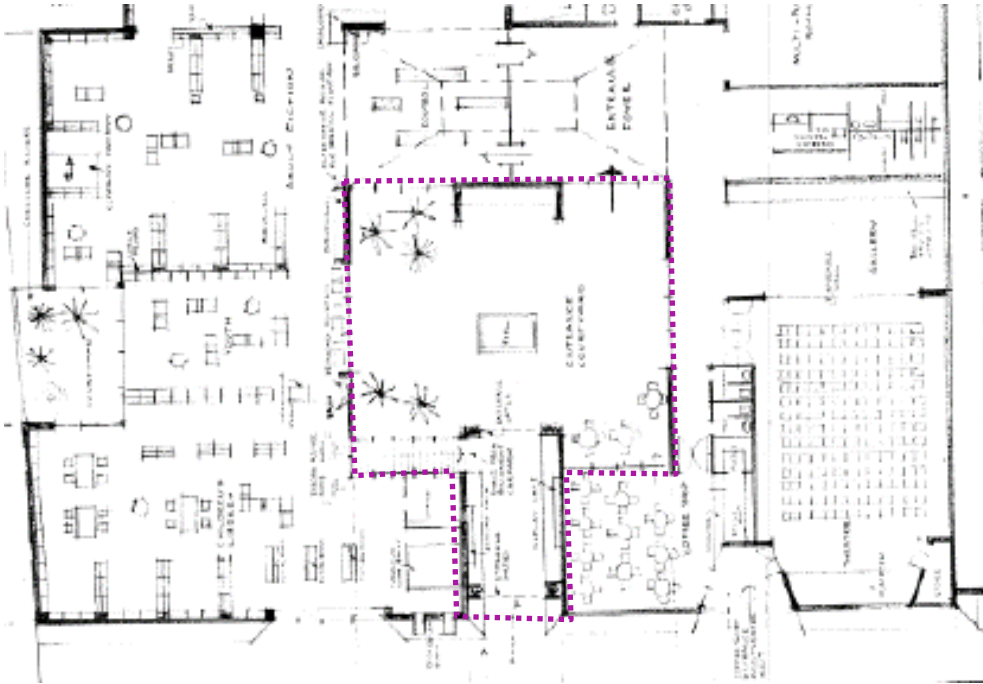


Figure 41 Sketch plan of Stage 2 by Enrico Taglietti, 1971 (detail): the proposed central entry and plaza are indicated
Source: Enrico Taglietti



Figure 42 Detail of View of St Kilda Library entry, 1974
Source: Ian McKenzie, in *Constructional Review*, February 1974

Table 7 Interior – principles to guide change to significant fabric and elements

<i>Element</i>	<i>Principles to guide future change</i>
Reading room (G11)	<p>As a preference, the large space of the main library reading room should not be altered through the introduction of partitions and the like. The original Taglietti design relied on creation of flowing space between the planes of the carpet tiles and boarded roof</p> <p>Further to this, ceilings should not be covered over.</p> <p>In the event that G15, G16 and G17 were removed to allow the reading room to be enlarged, the spatial qualities of the main library reading room would be altered and the legibility of the original space diminished. As a preference, work of this kind should be avoided. In the event that this approach is adopted, consideration should be given to retaining nibs or other sections of wall to allow the original space to continue to be understood.</p>

Policy 15 Signage

Signage should not diminish the cultural heritage values of St Kilda Library.

As constructed, the Taglietti design incorporated a particularly understated approach to signage anticipating that the building's expression and public spaces would be sufficient to make its role clear. Simple applied lettering to the lantern above the original reception area noting 'City of St Kilda Public Library is evident at Figure 42. This was removed and replaced with more substantial signage to the Carlisle Street facia prior to the construction of the 1993 additions. The ARM additions obscured the lantern from some vantage points and reinstatement of signage to the original design, while desirable from a heritage point-of-view, is no longer practical.

The role and location of the Library is currently well-understood and changes to the existing signage are not required at this time. In the event that new signage is required as related to a new use for the building, this should be kept to the minimum required and in preference be limited to locations where signage has previously been applied. Identification and wayfinding signage relating directly to the library should receive priority and prominence.

Considering the future of the building more broadly, it may become necessary to provide external screens or animated signage in order to continue the building's role in the provision of library services. In this event, these should be located to minimise their impacts on significant fabric. Ideally new elements of this kind would be associated with fabric that is not significant or with new fabric that would be, likewise, of no significance.

Policy 16 New works

The introduction of new works at St Kilda Library should be sensitive to the heritage values of the place.

In the event that new works are required to support the on-going use of the Library these should be designed with regard to those aspects of significance identified in Chapter 3.

Key considerations from a heritage perspective when designing additions to the building will include the following.

Retaining the 'book'. This should continue to be understood as a key episode in the building's evolution and in the experience of visiting the Library. It is preferred that the book device continues in its role as an external feature and identifying gesture. However, it is feasible that the fully or partial enclosure of this element could be undertaken while continuing to provide acceptable levels of public visibility and access to the book.

Taller new works should be set to the east of the building away from the intact Taglietti west wing which should be retained as a single-storey volume. Additions of this kind should allow the lantern above the centre of the building to remain visible from vantagepoints in Carlisle Street.

In the event that change to the rear of the existing building envelope is contemplated, alterations to the rear elevation should be limited in extent. The western section of the rear elevation which defines the main library reading room should be retained with limited alterations, allowing its form and original role to remain evident. The eastern sections of the rear elevation contain back-of-house spaces which could, reasonably, be more comprehensively altered. At least part of the rear (north) elevation should be retained and should remain visible from Duke Street.

The appearance of future works including its palette of materials, could contrast with the 1973 building and 1993 additions. That is, the established pattern of aesthetic divergence could reasonably continue. This notwithstanding, new works should be treated so as to visually 'recede' in views from the public realm and to provide a balanced outcome in relation to the prominence of 1973, 1993 and future building works.

It is noted that the City of Port Phillip also owns a pair of Edwardian houses at 5-7 Duke Street. Potential exists for the future integration of this building into the functional programme of the library. In this event, it is preferred that this building remains detached from the library with connections by way of open pathways. In the event that an enclosed link is required, this should be a lightweight structure of a single storey located at a setback from the northern façade of the library.

Policy 17 Furniture, objects and fittings

A detailed assessment of the furniture, objects and fittings at St Kilda Library should be commissioned and completed within the lifespan of this CMP (by 2024).

The collections of furniture and fittings at St Kilda Library, designed or selected by Enrico Taglietti, has been assessed as contributing to the heritage values of St Kilda Library. However, a detailed audit of the furniture and other items of moveable heritage falls outside of the scope of this CMP. The furnishings contribute to an understanding of the original designed appearance of the Library and illustrate Taglietti's all-encompassing design for the library.

On this basis, an audit and assessment of the furniture and other moveable items should be commissioned and completed within the lifespan of this CMP (by 2024). As well as the desks, red powder-coated lockers and pendant lights in children's area (which are listed at Policy 8 as significant elements) it is possible that other items designed or selected by Taglietti are extant, either in storage or offsite. Some large tables, present at the time of the library opening, are understood to survive onsite (although none were identified as part of the current assessment). Items that were noted in the 2003 CMP but were not identified during research for this CMP include: wall-mounted display and pinboards; black powder-coated steel library shelving; and map and filing cabinets.

Investigation to establish the provenance of the various items would allow a strategy for retention and future use. These should be catalogued and managed as part of the Port Phillip City Collection and a record of their locations maintained.

It would be desirable for these elements to continue to play their original roles in the Library, subject to their condition. Relocation off-site should only be considered as an option of last resort and only in the event that a suitable location could not be found

Policy 18 Collections

An assessment of the loose items at the St Kilda Library should be commissioned and completed within the lifespan of this CMP (by 2024).

A number of loose and possibly uncatalogued items of *prima facie* heritage value are located in the storeroom at basement level. These may include material associated with the St Kilda Historical Society's activities. These include prints of Enrico Taglietti's design for the library, conceptual designs for the addition by ARM, Ledgers, Bound collections of newspapers, items of historical clothing and other memorabilia. The contents, condition and significance of these items should be assessed by an appropriately qualified consultant during the lifespan of this CMP (by 2024).

5.5 Management guidelines

Policy 19 Statutory controls

Statutory heritage protection for St Kilda Library is appropriate and should be maintained.

This CMP has confirmed that St Kilda Library is of historical, architectural and aesthetic significance to the City of St Kilda. It has not identified significance at State level and nomination to the Victoria Heritage register is not recommended. The library is a significant building at a local level consistent with the existing heritage control. Some interiors, notably the main library reading room, survive with a high level of intactness and integrity and changes in these areas need to be managed with awareness of and sensitivity to the identified heritage values of these spaces. However, much of the interior of the building is of no identified heritage significance. Management on the basis of the policies provided in this CMP are generally seen to be adequate for the maintenance of the identified heritage significance of the place. However, internal controls could be applied under the existing Heritage Overlay to original intact sections of the 1973 building. This mechanism, in conjunction with an incorporated plan would provide enhanced management of the heritage fabric surviving at the library.

Policy 20 Recording

The managers of St Kilda Library should maintain records of significant changes and alterations.

The CoPP should retain a record of all significant works and alterations undertaken at the library. The record should be maintained in a format whereby it can be accessed in the preparation of future CMP reviews.

Records of changes and alterations should also be referenced when contemplating works to areas/aspects of significance. The record (or file) should include copies of all superseded architectural drawings, and photography of the affected areas before and after the works.

Policy 21 Maintain and augment site interpretation

The City of Port Phillip should maintain and augment interpretive material to promote awareness of the cultural heritage significance of the Library.

Existing information about the origins and significance of the Library are limited to three wall-mounted plaques, recording the foundation stone, opening ceremony (1973) and the opening ceremony for the additions (1993). There exist opportunities to augment this.

The historical values of the building relate, in large part, to the community-led campaign to lobby St Kilda Council to commit funds to a public library during the 1950s-60s. As noted, the building provides tangible evidence of the community's commitment to holding the Council to account in the delivery of a public institution of value to all. Recognising that this value is intangible and noting that an understanding of the Library as a product of community activism has largely dissipated, it would be appropriate for the story of the Library's origins to be presented in the building. This could take many forms – i.e. from a wall-mounted plaque to a commissioned artwork.

Interpretation is an integral aspect of the experience of heritage places. Effective interpretation reinforces and sustains connections between communities and heritage places and enhances an understanding of their significance, where heritage values may not be immediately apparent. The process also has the potential to assist with wayfinding and re-establishing an identity for heritage places undergoing change.

Policy 22 Training and awareness

A training and induction program should be instigated to raise awareness of the heritage significance of St Kilda Library among venue managers and staff.

The heritage significance of St Kilda Library, and responsibilities arising from its statutory recognition, may not be self-evident to casual observers and to those in professional roles outside of heritage and planning professions.

It is recommended that an induction program to promote awareness of the ground's heritage values is developed and implemented by managers for the benefit of permanent staff, contractors and outside event managers.

Policy 23 Risk management

A Risk Management Strategy should be integrated into the management of St Kilda Library.

Risk management and preparedness is an important means of protecting and conserving the heritage values of St Kilda Library. While a detailed assessment of risk is beyond the scope of this report, the following brief analysis outlines potential the primary threats and hazards posed to the landscape and physical fabric at the study area by environmental and other factors.

Table 8 Risk analysis

Threat	Probability	Preparation/Response
Vandalism and theft	Moderate to low	St Kilda Library is accessible to the public at all times, meaning that the threat of vandalism and theft is ever-present. The existing CCTV system should be maintained.
Flooding	Moderate to low	The basement is below ground. Pumps must be kept working. The switches should be secure, not in publicly accessible areas.
Fire	Moderate to high	Maintain existing fire suppression and warning systems and upgrade as required in the future. Ensure there is an evacuation plan in place and conduct regular training and rehearsals. Ensure that extinguishers, fire blankets etc, are located within reach of potential sources of fire. Maintain electrical systems in good order. Maintain liaison with fire brigade to regularly test and monitor systems.

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