

## **NOMINATION TO THE ACT HERITAGE REGISTER**

*Please note that the information below represents the indicative heritage values supplied by the nominator and are not the views of the ACT Heritage Council (the Council).*

*This nomination is yet to be assessed by the Council against the heritage significance criteria established under the Heritage Act 2004.*

*Acceptance of a nomination is a preliminary, threshold step and ought not to be taken as indicative of any particular outcome concerning the Council's assessment of the nomination.*

### **FORMER COLONIAL MUTUAL LIFE BUILDING 17-21 UNIVERSITY AVENUE BLOCK 2, SECTION 5, CITY**

The nomination was accepted by the Council in January 2024.

Built in 1968 by Civil & Civic for the Lend Lease Corporation to be the Canberra premises of Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society, the former Colonial Mutual Life Building is a significant building in the history of mid-century architecture in Canberra. It is not only important for the way it exhibits characteristics of the Late Twentieth-Century International Style of Australian Architecture, it also demonstrates a most creative and unusual way of arranging the fenestration of an office building. The extensive bands of windows sloping outwards under encircling concrete sunshades are a remarkable achievement. These ribbon windows, a roof garden and sturdy concrete pilotis-like supports forming colonnades comply with three of the five principles of Le Corbusier's new architecture post WW2. Here they demonstrate the creativity of the consultant architects Towell, Rippon and Associates.

The building is also important for its association with the company Civil & Civic, which was responsible for its design and construction. After constructing nationally significant buildings in Sydney and the Australian Academy of Science in Canberra (1959) the company made significant contributions to Canberra's built environment during the city's rapid commercial development by the National Capital Development Commission in the 1960s.