

## NOMINATION TO THE ACT HERITAGE REGISTER

*Please note that the information below represents indicative heritage values only, and 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.*

### **Belconnen Library Block 11 Section 54 BELCONNEN**

The Belconnen Library, 1982, is an example of significant architecture and an educational resource. It is a good example of the combination of two styles, the Late Twentieth-Century International Style (1960-) with its Cubiform overall shape, structural frame expressed, large sheets of glass, plain, smooth wall surface, and the Late Twentieth-Century Brutalist Style (1960-) with its strong shapes boldly composed, expressed reinforced-concrete, large areas of blank wall and off-form concrete. It is notable for displaying the high design skill of the architect Robin Gibson. The following design features are of additional significance; the perimeter spaces including the courts and path, the contrasting non-rectangular shapes, the clerestory and horizontal (Corbusian window motif) glazing, the deep concrete fascia overhanging for shade, assertive cantilevering, the bridging path over the entry, and original detailing and finishes. The rationalist design of the complex demonstrates an important development in architectural style in the period of the NDC. The library was awarded the RAI ACT Chapter Canberra Medallion in 1982. The complex is important for its strong association with the talented architect Robin Gibson who is considered one of Australia's most important mainstream modernist architects of this period. Robin Gibson played and still plays a significant role in Australia's cultural history. He is one of the most important architects to practise in Queensland and this is his only work in Canberra. Robin Gibson was awarded the RAI Gold Medal in 1989. The architecture of this complex may contribute to the education of designers in their understanding of Late Twentieth-Century Architectural styles by locating the building in its historical and environmental contexts and placing it within the knowledge domain of architectural, urban and environmental histories.