



presents....The Top 20 Mid-Century Modern Buildings in Canberra

20 buildings might seem a lot, but in a city that grew up in the mid-century period that showcases work from some of Australia’s most renowned architects, it is almost impossible to narrow the list to just 20! While many on the list are obvious and iconic, we also wanted to include a few buildings that are lesser known or are at risk of being lost altogether or visually lost in the midst of adjacent developments (*). We are also a little loose on the use of

mid-century – some of these buildings even creep into the 1980s – but good architecture is good architecture! Hashtag your pics #canberramodern so we can share in all the fun! And check out canberramodern.com for more info!

National Library of Australia , Parkes Place, Parkes - Bunning and Madden, 1968 NB: Happy 50 th Birthday!
University House , Balmain Crescent, Australian National University, Acton - Brian Lewis, 1954 NB: the interiors of this building are fab including custom design furniture by Fred Ward - a walk around the rest of ANU will also not disappoint, mid-century gems are everywhere!
*Churchill House , Northbourne Ave, Braddon - Robin Boyd, 1971
Housing Co-operatives : Urambi Village, Crozier Cct, Kambah and Wybalena Grove, Cook - Michael Dysart, 1974
*Callam Offices , Callam Street, Woden - John Andrews, 1977-81 (also check out his residences at the University of Canberra and his Cameron Offices in Belconnen)
*Giralang Primary School , Atalumba Close, Giralang - Enrico Taglietti, 1976 (there are so many Taglietti gems – how about a side trip to the Dickson Library?)
School of Music , Childers Street, Acton - Daryl Jackson & Evan Walker, 1976
Edmund Barton Building , Kings Avenue, Barton - Harry Siedler, 1973
*Civic Square including Legislative Assembly & Canberra Museum and Gallery, London Circuit, City - Yuncken and Freeman, 1961
*Colonial Mutual Building , University Ave, City - Civil & Civic and Towell, Rippon and Associates, 1968 NB: this is part of an awesome intact group of commercial buildings on each corner of University Ave, Marcus Clarke Street and London Circuit
Australian War Memorial Annexe , Callan St, Mitchell - Enrico Taglietti, 1979
Australian Academy of Science : The Shine Dome, McCoy Cres, Acton - Grounds, Romberg and Boyd, 1959
The Benjamin House , known as The Round House, Gawler Cres, Deakin - Alex Jelinek, 1959 NB: Deakin, and nearby Yarralumla, is full of great mid-century houses, a meander through the streets is lots of fun
Australian Institute of Architects Headquarters , Mugga Way, Red Hill - Ancher, Mortlock, Murray and Woolley, 1967
St Joseph’s Church , Boronia Drive, O’Connor – Kevin Curtin, 1971
Australian Parliament House , Parliament Dr, Canberra - Mitchell Giurgola & Thorp, 1988
Torrens Townhouses and Shopping Complex , Beasley Street, Torrens – Dirk Bolt, 1967 NB: the Burgmann College complex at ANU is also a great example of Bolt’s work
*Anzac Park East and West (Portal Buildings), Anzac Parade, Reid/Campbell - Richard Ure, Department of Works, 1965
High Court of Australia , Parkes Pl, Parkes - Edwards, Madigan, Torzillo, Briggs, 1980 NB: Of course, next door neighbour and architect sibling - the National Gallery deserves its own mention, but we are out of space!
Swinger Hill Housing , Barnet Close, Swinger Hill - Ian McKay and Partners, From 1969

PS: Find us at <http://canberramodern.com>, as Canberra Modern on Facebook or @canberramodern on Instagram - #canberramodern

PPS: Who could forget Canberra’s iconic concrete bus shelters – still littered through the suburbs.

PPPS: A drive around the embassies in Forrest and Yarralumla should also be on the agenda – even if your view is through a security fence!

PPPPS: The city centre or ‘Civic’, as the locals call it, is full of awesome commercial building gems, there is a bunch on London Circuit, Petrie Plaza, Monaro Mall (the original David Jones Façade) and near Garema Place. The Civic Pool is also worth a gander!

PPPPPS: Thanks to Martin Miles from <http://canberrahouse.com> the best archive of Canberra’s buildings there is!

PPPPPPS: The Australian Institute of Architects has a fantastic Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture and a List of Enduring Buildings – see <http://www.architecture.com.au/events/state-territory/act-chapter/act-architecture>