

CEMENTING A PLACE IN HISTORY

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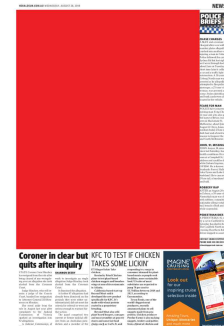
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Car park at pinnacle of works in concrete



A MELBOURNE University underground car park popular for movie shoots has been ranked as one of the nation's top concrete structures.

The car park, built in the early 1970s, has been described as a "poetic piece of pragmatic infrastructure" and a "wondrous space from simple geometry" by Victorian Government Architect Jill Garner.

Ms Garner was on a judging panel that rated it in the top 10 most outstanding public architectural works of

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the past 90 years. The modernist structure, under the university's south lawn, has been used for movies including the original *Mad Max* and the 2016 film *Lion* starring Nicole Kidman, as well as for TV broadcasts and shows.

Another modernist work, the Victorian State Offices, was the only other Victorian structure recognised by industry group Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia.

Judging panel chair Peter Poulet, a former government architect, said the late 1960s government building on Macarthur St was an example of modernism at its best.

"Structural precast and column free spaces make for a building built on innovation yet with longevity —

historically sensitive, true to its time and clearly of its place," he said.

Others on the list are the Australian Academy of Sciences' Shine Dome and High Court of Australia in Canberra; Australia Square in Sydney, which was the country's first round skyscraper; Sydney's Gladesville Bridge; James Cook University Library in Townsville; Brisbane's Queensland Art Gallery; the Sydney Opera House; and the Punchbowl Mosque in Sydney.

CCA chief executive Ken Slattery said the top 10 list highlighted the aesthetic, environmental and social contribution concrete had made since the industry body was formed last century.

"Since 1929, Cement, Concrete & Aggregates Australia has promoted the inherent qualities, flexibility and sustainability of concrete as a building and construction material," he said.

The list was whittled down from 45 nominations. john.masanauskas@news.com.au



The University of Melbourne car park, below in a Myer fashion launch, and Victoria State Offices (inset) have made the list of top concrete structures. Pictures: JOHN GOLLINGS, TIM CARRAFA, JOHN GOLLINGS