



Interior



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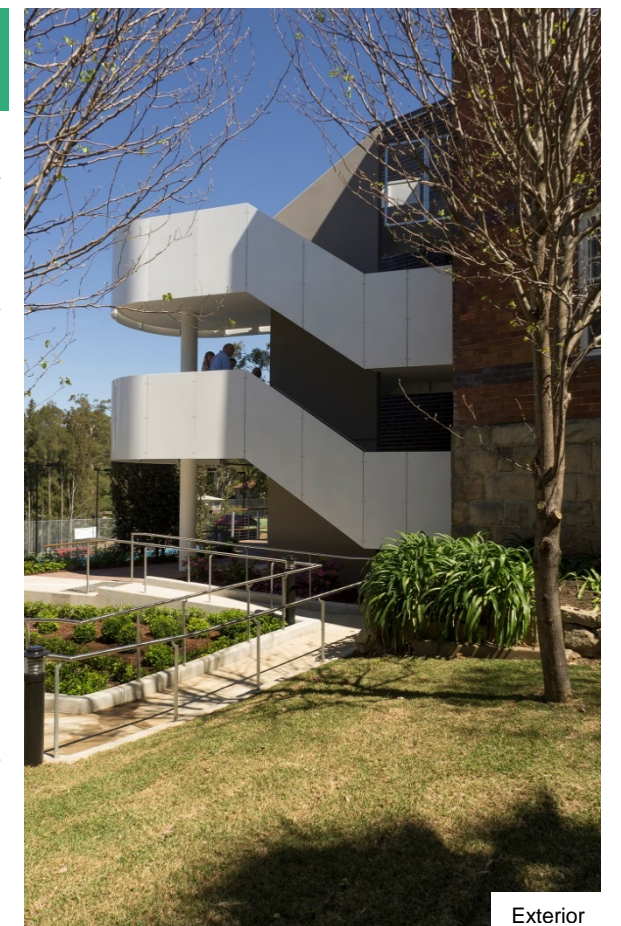
The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery - Abbotsleigh School

The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Wahroonga, NSW (Vindin House 1929-2014) Vindin House was built in 1906 and was purchased by Abbotsleigh School in 1927. The house demonstrates principal characteristics of a substantial federation style dwelling. It is one of several, large, formerly private dwellings acquired by Abbotsleigh, used as a boarding house as the numbers of students expanded during the 1930s through to 1960s. Over several decades various alterations and additions have taken place to the house, the most recent being in the early 1970s. Abbotsleigh requested that AJ+C carry out a design study to convert the boarding facility into a public art gallery space art teaching facility in 2011, after the conversion of Read House (from a single residence to a boarding facility). A review of the school's archival material enabled the new design to reflect the original spaces and allowed for the removal of additions that had taken place over a fifty year period. An extensive alteration in the 1970s which removed an original staircase, created a significant and negative impact on the ability to understand the most significant internal spaces of the original dwelling. AJ+C's approach was to reclaim these spaces and rebuild the staircase in its original location. Whilst acknowledging the existing building's internal fabric, the design intent was not to reinterpret or match the original design but to provide a more contemporary aesthetic to ensure that an accumulated history of the building changes remained evident. The Building's north elevation (Pacific Highway) remains substantially intact with the exception of an access ramp replacing the building's original stairs. The rear and side elevations, due to the various additions over the years, consisted of a conglomeration of different forms. Our intention was to maintain the original principle form of the original 1929 building, and to remove the prominent 1970's addition, to provide a new lift and stair, allowing access to both the students and gallery patrons, to access the entire building. Such additions were located to ensure that these elements are not visible from any of the principal view corridors, and that the principle building form of the 1929 building was maintained.



Exterior

Architect: Allen Jack+Cottier Architects Pty Ltd 79 Myrtle Street, Chippendale NSW 2008
Builder: Walton Constructions



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