

The University of Melbourne Archives

Records Description List

Reference Number: 1987.0050

Collection/Series Title: RECORDS OF YUNCKEN FREEMAN

ARCHITECTS PTY LTD AND

PREDECESSORS: NEWSCUTTINGS

Creator	Yuncken Freeman Architects Pty Ltd	
Creator's Activity/Occupation	Town planners - Architects	

Creator's Historical Note

The architectural and planning practice, Yuncken, Freeman Brothers and Griffiths was established in Melbourne in 1933 by Otto "Rob" Yuncken, brothers John and Tom Freeman, and (William) Balcombe Griffiths. Three of these men had studied with the University of Melbourne's Architectural Atelier. Following the disruption of WWII, the firm became Yuncken, Freeman Brothers, Griffiths & Simpson in 1945 when Roy Simpson joined the partnership. Barry Patten and John Gates were admitted to the partnership in 1953 following the death of Rob Yuncken (1951). In due course, John Yuncken (Rob's son), Robert Peck and Jamie Learmonth also joined the firm.

In 1963 the Royal Australian Institute of Architects approved the principle of architects practising as proprietary limited companies. The partnership was disbanded and re-established from 1 January 1963 as Yuncken Freeman Architects Pty Ltd.

Key figures in the firm such as Barry Patten and Roy Simpson designed some of the most iconic Australian architectural works in collaboration with other architects at YFA which operated in a team model. Such projects included the Sidney Myer Music Bowl (Reynolds Award 1959), AON Centre (Victorian Architecture Medal 1967), Treasury Place (RAIA Victorian Bronze Medal for Excellence 1970), Eagle House (RAIA Award of Merit 1972), BHP House (RVIA Victorian Architects Award (1975) and the Master Plan for Latrobe University as well as number of significant projects in Melbourne, Canberra and abroad. Several YFA projects are listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

The evolution of YFA largely reflects that of Australian architecture in the mid-to-late 20th century. During this time, Australian designers were experimenting with materials, form and space. They were inspired by the processes of the modernist movement but sought to add their own Australian touch and to bring modernism into the home and not restrict it to just the cultural avant-garde.

Yuncken Freeman Architects wound up in 1992.

Date Range of Collection/Series	1950-1980
Size/Extent	2 units (0.27m)
Access Conditions	Access: Open

Scope and Content of Collection/Series

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Cuttings files on particular YFA buildings and general architectural subjects. Bound volumes (2) of journals 'Architectural Review' and 'Progressive Architecture' 1964 that were deposited at the same time have been transferred to Architecture Library.

Records created by Yuncken Freeman Architects are controlled by several reference numbers at the Archives, and parts of each job may be distributed across these reference numbers. Please see series 1984.0047, 1987.0051, 2018.0077 and 2018.0079. The majority of photographs are within series 2018.0115.

Collection Category	Business, organisations
This document dated	21/06/2019

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To request access to records on the list below via the University of Melbourne Archives Reading Room, quote the Unit/Box reference in full.

Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
1987.0050 Unit 1	1987.0050.0000	Yuncken Freeman Architects - Newspaper Clippings	25 June 1961-18 April 1974	Austin Hospital (YFA Job No 64); Royal Insurance Building (YFA Job No 550); Scottish Amicable House (YFA Job No 551); New State Public Office (YFA Job No 562); La Trobe University (YFA Job No 625); B.H.P. House (YFA Job No 740); Sidney Myer Music Bowl (YFA Job No 820); St. Patrick's College (YFA Job No 865); Prahan City Library (YFA Job No 910); Eagle House (YFA Job No 940); Canberra Theatre (YFA Job No 1061); Canberra Law Courts (YFA Job No 1020); Australian National University (YFA Job No 1078), Yuncken Freeman Architects. Newspaper clippings (including newspaper articles by John D. Gates); 13 files.
1987.0050 Unit 2	1987.0050.0000 0.0002	Yuncken Freeman Architects - Newspaper Clippings	26 October 1966-11 October 1974	Airports, Apartments, Architects, Canberra, Expo, South Melbourne, Arts Centre Melbourne, Australian Embassy - Washington, Civic Square Melbourne. General typology newspaper clippings; 10 files (includes 1 file of photographs; photos of YFA Offices at 411 King Street, Melbourne, VIC.).

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