

# Museums and Collections Projects Program 2021

## University of Melbourne

### Property & Campus Services Photographic Collection

#### Project Description

##### Collection Management- Inventory and Rehousing Project, Photographic Collection

#### Project

This project involves creating an inventory and rehousing a selection of photographic materials that form part of the Property & Campus Services Photographic Collection. This project will aid in the long-term access, storage and preservation of this collection.

#### Background

The [Property and Campus Services Photographic Collection](#) comprises of slides, assorted photographs, albums and binders of photographic materials that document the built environment of the University of Melbourne. The Collection is a valuable historical and contemporary resource for those wishing to research and understand the physical development of the University. It focuses on the built infrastructure of buildings, services and landscape, and chronicles over an extended period of time the minutiae associated with the building and running of a large university.

The Collection documents the substantial changes to the University in the post-World War II period, a time that witnessed an intense building and landscaping program. Evidence is recorded in detail of changing architectural styles and construction methods that were considered innovative at the time, and how these buildings have been subsequently altered and updated to suit changing needs. The Collection provides substantial photographic documentation of a number of University buildings that are now considered of State and National heritage significance. The collection comprises more than 20,000 images.

#### Details

Working in consultation with the Conservation Programs Coordinator, the student will focus on a specific aspect of the Collection and sort, document and rehouse the selection of photographic materials that record the University's built environment over the last 40 years. The Collection comprises of photographs, slides, albums and other enclosures, and the project will focus on one type of collection material. A basic understanding of collection management principles specific to the documentation of museum objects (progress towards the completion of a degree in Art Curatorship/Museum Studies, Conservation and/or previous volunteer experience with an Archive, Museum or Historical Society) is desirable. An interest in and knowledge of basic conservation methods and practices, and familiarity of the correct procedures for the safe handling of objects would be an advantage, as this position requires the handling and close inspection of vulnerable photographic material and other collection items. A methodical, prudent approach with a keen eye for details is required. Knowledge of the University campus and an interest in architectural history would be ideal.

#### Benefits

Opportunity to work at close hand with one of the University of Melbourne's extensive cultural collections and for professional development through experience gained in collection management procedures and practice. Satisfaction gained from working closely with the Property and Campus Services Photographic Collection and improving the long-term storage of the collection and aiding future access to collection material. Through the project you will be contributing to make the University's cultural collections more accessible, facilitating their interpretation and assisting in their long-term preservation.

#### Supervisor

Jason Benjamin, Conservation Programs Coordinator

