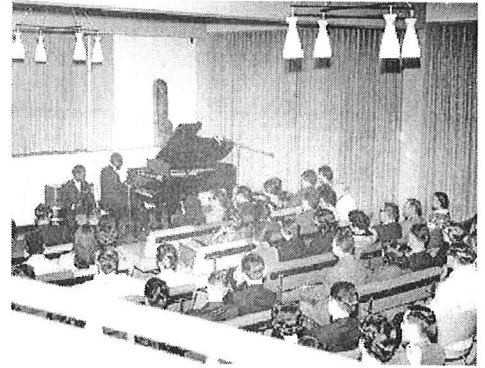


International House
The University of British Columbia
1958



*Top: East Facade
Bottom: West Indian Music Night, 1960*

International House
1958

Description of the Historic Place

International House is situated prominently on the southwest corner of the intersection of West Mall and Marine Drive.

Heritage Values



International House is important for its aesthetic, historical, social, and cultural values, particularly for its literal and functional embodiment of the great social and cultural expansion of the university after the Second World War, which saw a huge increase in the student and faculty population from other cultures around the world.

The building is important for its historic high-profile opening ceremonies featuring Eleanor Roosevelt and then UBC President MacKenzie, adding lustre to the project of accommodating and embracing the cultural expansion of the university.

International House is aesthetically important for being one of a handful of UBC campus buildings designed in the 1950s that launched the emergence of the campus as a Modernist precinct. Designed by Frederick Lasserre, the first dean at the then-newly constituted School of Architecture, the building exhibits features considered to be central traits of Modernist design: the formal integration and expression of the structure; the willful facade composition that sought to reveal and dramatize the human activity within; and its conception as a building viewed from all angles in its natural surroundings.

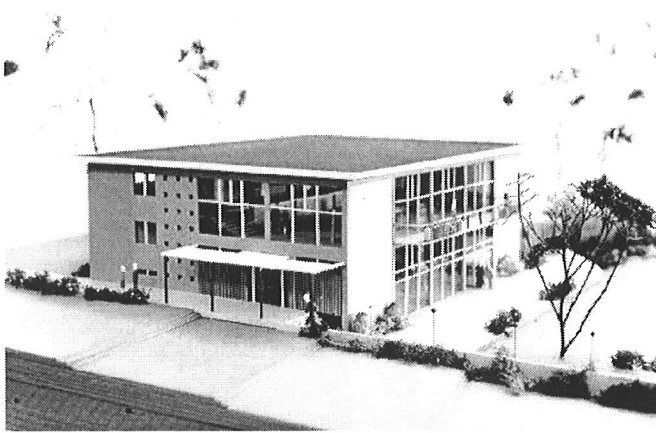
Character-defining elements

Intangible

- Name "International House"
- Legacy of multicultural social gatherings

Tangible

- Expressed concrete structure - roof, walls, canopies, balconies
- Concrete block and brick wall panel ornamentation
- Simple solid form in the landscape
- Delicate appendages at passages between interior and exterior
- Two "Front" facades: north (Marine Drive) and east (West Mall) facades; two subordinate facades: south and west facades
- Exterior space, north side, an extension of Games Room
- Aluminum window walls associated with the two major spaces
- Contrasting solid walls flanking window wall areas
- Contrasting small apertures in east facade stair hall
- Horizontal window composition on subordinate facades
- Crest wall between Lobby and Games Room
- Setback from West Mall (accommodating the 1914 Sharp & Thompson Plan boulevard)



From top to bottom:
 Design model from two angles
 Lassore drawing, site plan
 Opening ceremonies with Eleanor Roosevelt and
 UBC President MacKenzie
 North facade in the 1970s

