

## Statement of Significance: Centre Arcade and Neon Sign (2018)

<b>Address:</b> 325 Centre Road, Bentleigh	<b>Name:</b> Centre Arcade
<b>Place Type:</b> Commercial	<b>Grading:</b> Significant
<b>PS ref no:</b> HO162	<b>Constructed:</b> 1959



### What is significant?

The two storey shopping arcade and 'Star Dance Studio' neon sign at 325 Centre Road, Bentleigh. Notable detailing to the upper level of the façade includes the main aluminium-framed panelling (bands of glazing and alternating yellow and mauve coloured panels) and the umber bricks to the side walls. Significant elements include the intact interiors to the common areas of the building, ground and first floors, including the granolithic floors, balustrade, light fittings, and the shopfronts (tiling, frames, highlight windows, and doors).

### How is it significant?

The Centre Arcade and Neon Sign are of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Glen Eira.

### Why is it significant?

The Centre Arcade & Neon Sign is historically significant as a Post WWII period arcade in the Bentleigh shopping centre with its original signage. The well-resolved, progressive design utilised demonstrates the substantial commercial development that was occurring in Bentleigh at this time. It also demonstrates the importance of shopping areas in the daily life of communities in suburban Melbourne. In addition, the Star Dance Studio has occupied the first floor continuously since the early 1960s. (Criterion A)

This document is an incorporated document in the Glen Eira Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

The Centre Arcade, built in 1959 is aesthetically significant as a remarkably intact and relatively uncommon example of a suburban mid-20<sup>th</sup> century shopping arcade in the International style. Designed by the architects Forsyth & Dyson, it is notable for the prismatic configuration of its upper level façade and the original neon sign installed in the early 1960s. (Criterion E).

**Primary source**

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*Glen Eira Heritage Review of Bentleigh and Carnegie Structure Plan Areas (Commercial) 2018*, (RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants)