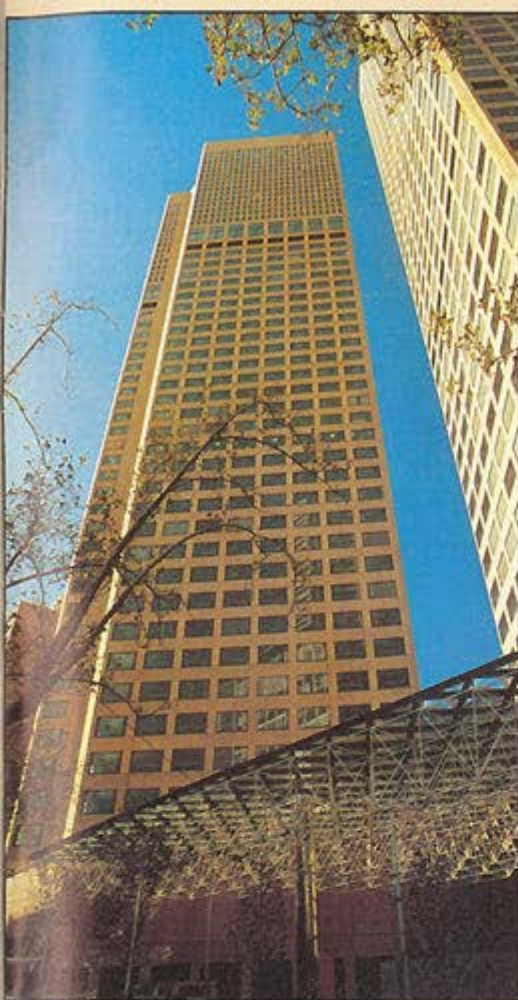


HOTEL GRAND BALLROOM



Above: The twin towers of Collins Place.

- * Telephone/telex outlets and land line connections.
- * Outside broadcast television cable 'pull in' trap doors and ducts.

The conference room is provided with seven control rooms/work areas with viewing windows and projection ports into the ballroom area arranged around three sides at mezzanine floor level.

Dedicated audio and video control rooms are located between the work area control rooms and house all the permanent audio and video equipment.

HOUSE LIGHTING

The Grand Ballroom house lighting comprises petal lights, high intensity down lights, wall wash lights and accent or dais lights.

The ceiling 'brass petals' are each fitted with a 25W mirror capped lamp located in the centre of the petal to provide a low level of 'brassy' coloured illumination for dining functions and to give the room a 'warm inviting glow'. The average illumination level is approximately 30 lux.

The petals are circuited in groups to enable a separately controllable perimeter ring, two petals deep, to be used with any room configuration to supplement the wall wash lighting. This can be a little tricky as there are two dividing wall tracks at each location so the room perimeter can move about.

A system of high intensity down lights employing 250W tungsten halogen luminaires is provided to give an even coverage of the area at an average illumination level of approximately 330 lux. The high level system is used for Exhibitions and Conference type functions. The down lights are located in the 230mm (9in) blacked-out open slots between ceiling petals.

A series of wall washing luminaires are provided to light wash the perimeter walls of all areas and combinations of areas, i.e. all room configurations. The luminaires utilise 300W tungsten halogen lamps and are located at the intersections of the 230mm (9in) blacked-out slots two petals distant from the wall to be light washed.

Additional circuit grouping is provided to enable the wall wash at the major room focal points to be separately controlled.

A series of 'accent' or 'dais' lights are provided to enable the major focal points of the areas to be

highlighted utilising permanently installed and concealed 500W fresnel (soft edge) spot lights. Each luminaire is individually circuited to provide maximum flexibility of control.

The lighting control systems are designed to provide simultaneously multiple area usage with ease of set-up and conversion of room patterns, whilst providing varying degrees of lighting control sophistication. The controls available range from single lever or push button control to multiple channel, multiple group and preset control.

Lighting systems may be controlled from the control rooms, waiters' stations, main entry lobby, portable plug-in control stations and lecterns as required for specific functions.

The petal lights, high intensity down lights, wall wash lights and accent lights are all dimmer controlled with the accent lights being switch selectable for off or one of two dimmers for each room focal point. All told there are 60 dimmers involved mostly rated at 5kW although some circuits use 7.5kW dimmers.

The dimmer control system is based on the Strand 'Advanced Manual Control' (AMC) multi preset, multi group, control combined with 'Preset' push button controls and a system of master override controls.

The main control rack is located in the Control Room and is provided with a 3 phase power supply.

The rack contains the following house lighting control modules:

- * House Lighting Manual Override.
- * Area A Master Control Panel.
- * Area B Master Control Panel.
- * Area C Master Control Panel.
- * Power Supply.

The 'Manual Override' control panel comprises a single dimmer lever for each type of house lighting for each area.

The dimmers respond to the highest level set on the controllers connected, hence it is not possible to use the manual override to dim circuits out if another controller has those circuits up at the same time.

The primary purpose of the manual override control is to provide an 'if all else fails use these levers' type of control. It is also useful when rigging shows to get some lights on.

The control panel for each area basically comprises a 20 channel 3 preset control with preset masters and auto fade illuminated push button controls.

The push buttons provide automatic controlled rate fading from 'black out' or any other 'preset' to the desired preset.

These controls provide the basic set-up controls and may be operated as a conventional three preset control with cross fading via the manual masters, or automatic cross fade dimming using the preset and blackout illuminated push buttons. Changeover of operating modes is selected with a panel mounted key switch.

When operated in the push button preset mode all lighting controls at the remote control stations are simultaneously operative, i.e.:

- * Control Work Rooms.
- * Projection Room.
- * Waiters' Stations for Areas A, B and C.

Portable plug-in control panels providing the four push button presets and tell-tale indications are available at all major focal points and the 'Lectrum' lecterns also provide a similar lighting control facility.

A typical control set-up would be as follows:

- 'Blackout' All Off
- 'Preset 1' All on i.e.
Petal full ■ Wall wash full ■ Down lights full ■ Dais lights on focal point full.
- 'Preset 2' Illustrated Lectern.
Wall wash and perimeter petals on full except over focal point ■ Central petals dim ■ Dais lights on lectern ON.
- 'Preset 3' Cine Projection.
Wall wash and perimeter petals dim ■ All others off.

Alternatively a preset for a panel discussion could be used in lieu of cine projection or the All on preset.

Where one or more areas are used together, i.e. A and B, B and C, A and B and C, area control selection illuminated push buttons on the area control panels are illuminated and the presets are paralleled, i.e. should any of the local or remote preset push buttons be operated then the system will fade to the selected preset for the combined area.

All remote control stations indicate the areas under the control of the station and which preset is operative. Indication is by means of light emitting diodes.

A tell-tale lamp on the respective area master control panel is provided to indicate whenever the master override controls are operative.

An independent system of non dimmed parallel switched security/safety/anti-panic lighting is provided to Public Health Department requirements.

SPECIAL PURPOSE LIGHTING

A Special Purpose Lighting System comprising permanently installed lantern suspension system and the associated distribution and dimmer control system is provided to enable additional 'Special Purpose' lanterns to be rigged as required for particular functions.

Approximately 300 20A (5kW) independently patchable double pole switched outlets are provided for plug-in connection of special purpose luminaires. The permanent installation provides accommodation for 60 5kW dimmers to control the special purpose luminaires. However, only 30 dimmer modules are fitted at this stage. Provision is made to plug-in additional 'touring' dimmer racks as required for special functions.

The special purpose outlets and lantern support spigot sockets are arranged in patterns based on anticipated usage with the major focal points. The patterns contain straight line rows of supports to enable extended spigots fitted with shackles to be used to support continuous lengths of lantern support bar. This system may be employed by Television Broadcasters whenever a 'heavy' lighting rig is required.

The spigot support clamps are located in the 230mm (9in) open spaces at the petal corner intersections and most stage and television lanterns including 5kW fresnel may be directly suspended from the TV spigot clamp. Sufficient space is available for most pan and tilt adjustments.

Where a lantern fouls the ceiling petals, short extension droppers are used.

DIMMED OUTLETS

Dimmed outlets, each rated at 20A (5kW) are colour coded black and are located in the conference room ceiling adjacent to the special purpose lantern supports, additional outlets are provided in the concealed skirting and in the control/work rooms adjacent to the viewing windows.

All dimmed outlets are separate 20A circuits connected directly to the special purpose lighting patch panel. The outlets accommodate Australian standard 3 pin plugs of 10A, 15A and 20A rating.

CONTROL SYSTEM

Multicore control cables connect all dimmer control panels and plug in point locations to a marshalling panel located in the dimmer room. In general the system caters for 90 dimmer channels and associated common control lines. It is possible to plug-in any standard 'Rank Strand' dimmer control desk at any location to control the desired dimmer channels.

Provision is made to control the special purpose and dimmer controlled house lighting from within an external Television Broadcast van.

The control desk is a 'Rank Strand' Advanced Manual Control type AMC 30 housed in a AMC 60 desk to enable expansion to 60 channels when the full-in house dimmer complement is installed.

Two simple plug-in control systems are available for control of less demanding productions. These controllers are 'Rank Strand' SMC 12 (2 preset 10 channel units).

April this year saw the first major use of the combined ballroom as an outside television broadcast venue - The 1982 T.V. Week Logie Awards - the major television awards in Australia. This year the Ten Network televised the presentation. Access to the area was obtained at 6.00am on Monday 18th April, with the telecast commencing 8.30pm on Friday 22nd April. The lighting director - Keith Ferguson - obtained first use of the area and by midday Tuesday we (Strandhire) had rigged all the equipment over the stage area and installed the extra dimmers (100x2kW dimmers, 100x5kW dimmers) together with a 240 channel Galaxy including Memory back-up. The total rig comprised:

- 200xPar 64 Cans; 20xPollux 5kW's; 26xCastor 2kW's; 15x1kW Harmony 15/20's; 1xPani 2.5kW CID Follow Spot; 2x1kW CID Follow Spots; 68xT/89; 18xT/64.

The Par Cans were fixed on a truss network and 4 winches lifted the entire rig into position. Tempus lighting bars were mounted down either side of the auditorium by utilising the 1 1/2" TV barrel clamps fixed in the ceiling and providing 300mm droppers to the bar. (Modified Ref 255 boom arm brackets).

The telecast finished just after midnight and the "bump out" commenced as soon as the guests left the ballroom. The majority of the 5 and 2k's, plus the Galaxy, were loaded into our van and driven the 600 miles (1000km) to Sydney to be rigged in the Sydney Entertainment Centre, on Saturday afternoon. (An article on the opening is being prepared for the next issue.)