



Designation Consultation

This designation consultation is open for comment until 22/06/2026

Give us your comments

Historic Environment Scotland consult with those who are directly affected by designation proposals – including owners, occupiers and tenants – and with the planning authority.

We also welcome comments from interested persons or groups.

When we consult about a designation case we will have carried out research and set this out in a **report of handling**. This report is an assessment produced for consultation and it sets out our view, including a proposed decision. The assessment is not intended to be a definitive account or description of the site or place. We consider the comments received before we take a final decision.

We consider comments and representations which are material to our decision-making, such as:

- Your understanding of the cultural significance of the site or place.
- Whether sites or places meet the criteria for designation.
- The purpose and implications of designating the site or place. We consider whether these are relevant to the case.
- Development proposals related to the site or place. Where there are development proposals, we consider whether to proceed with designation in line with our designation policy.
- The accuracy of our information.

You can find more guidance on providing comments and how we handle your information on our [website](#).

Information on how we treat your personal data is available on our [Privacy Notice](#).

How to make a comment

Please send your comments to designationconsultations@hes.scot and provide us with the case reference. You can also make comments through our [portal](#) by clicking on the link 'email your comments about this case'.

If you are the owner, occupier or tenant or the planning authority please email us at: designations@hes.scot.

If you are unable to email your comments please phone us on 0131 668 8914.



Case information

Case ID	300070402
Name of Site	McCance Building and Livingstone Tower, University of Strathclyde, Richmond Street, Glasgow
Postcode (if any)	G1 1XH

Local Authority	Glasgow City Council
National Grid Reference	NS 59600 65380
Designation Type	Listed Building
Designation No. and category of listing (if any)	N/A
Case Type	Designation

Received Date	03/01/2024
Decision Date	Pending

1. Proposed decision

Previous Statutory Listing Address	N/A	Previous category of listing	N/A
Proposed Statutory Listing Address	University of Strathclyde, McCance Building and Livingstone Tower at 16 and 26 Richmond Street, including podium, and car park at 56 Montrose Street, and excluding Collins Building at 22 Richmond Street, interior of Livingstone Tower, single-storey brick entrance block to Livingstone Tower on Richmond Street and shop units (interiors and exteriors) at 80-130 (even numbers) George Street, Glasgow	Proposed category of listing	B

Our assessment using the selection guidance shows that the buildings meet the criteria of special architectural or historic interest. The proposed decision is to list the buildings at category B, excluding the Collins Building, the interior of Livingstone Tower and the entrance block to the tower, and the shop units on George Street.



2. Designation and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

We considered the buildings for listing in 2010-12 as part of the listing review of the University of Strathclyde estate.

The buildings were assessed individually, and at that time, it was found that they did not meet the criteria for listing.

2.2 Development Proposals

We are not aware of any current development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

We received a request to designate the McCance Building and Livingstone Tower on 03/01/2024. (Designations request forms are published on our portal and will be available to view during the lifetime of the case and until 3 months after the case is closed.)

The proposer provided the following information and views in their request form:

- Information about alterations to the buildings
- Information about the architect/designer
- Their views on special architectural and historic interest

We made the planning authority (Glasgow City Council) aware that we had been asked to list the building.

Our policy states that ‘our assessments may involve a site visit, and will aim to make use of the best available evidence.’ (See [Designation Policy and Selection Guidance](#), p.7.) We decide on a case by case basis whether a site visit is required to inform our assessments.

In this case we considered that a site visit was required to inform our assessment of the buildings’ special architectural or historic interest. We visited the McCance Building and Livingstone Tower on 29/04/2024. We saw the exterior and interior of both buildings, as well as the exterior of the Collins Building, the podium and the shop units.



Our assessment has not taken into account financial issues, proposed future use, or whether the building is in its original use. This is because these considerations are not material in our assessment of special architectural or historic interest.

Listed building consent is required for changes to a building which affect its special architectural or historic interest. The planning authority is the main point of contact for applications for listed building consent. They will consider applications for change to listed buildings or their demolition in line with national and local policies.

3.2 Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

We have found that the buildings meet the criteria for listing. We carried out an assessment using the selection guidance to decide whether the site is of special architectural or historic interest. See **Annex A**.

The listing criteria and selection guidance for listed buildings are published in Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (2019), Annex 2, pp. 11-13, <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>.

4. Consultation

4.1 Consultation information

Consultation period: 01/07/2026 to 22/07/2026.

We have consulted directly with the: owner(s), occupier(s) and/or tenant(s) and the planning authority.

The consultation report of handling is published on our portal for comment from interested parties.

4.2 Designation consultations

Comments we consider

We will consider comments and representations which are material to our decision-making, such as:

- Your understanding of the cultural significance of the site or place and whether it meets the criteria for designation.
- The purpose and implications of designating the site or place. We consider whether these are relevant to the case.
- Development proposals related to the site or place. Where there are development proposals, we consider whether to proceed with designation in line with our designation policy.
- The accuracy of our information.



Comments we don't consider

We do not consider comments and representations on non-relevant/non-material issues, such as:

- Economic considerations
- Abusive or offensive remarks
- Whether you personally like, or do not like, a proposal

Our video about consultations explains how you can comment on our designations decisions, and what we can and can't take into account when considering your views. <https://youtu.be/ZlqU51tRA6g>.

Designations Service

Heritage Directorate
Historic Environment Scotland

Contact	designations@hes.scot , 0131 668 8914
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ANNEX A

Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

1. Statutory address

University of Strathclyde, McCance Building and Livingstone Tower at 16 and 26 Richmond Street, including podium, and car park at 56 Montrose Street, and excluding Collins Building at 22 Richmond Street, interior of Livingstone Tower, single-storey brick entrance block to Livingstone Tower on Richmond Street and shop units (interiors and exteriors) at 80-130 (even numbers) George Street, Glasgow

2. Description and historical development

2.1 Description

A Brutalist megastructure for university, office, retail and parking use, designed 1962-67 by Covell Matthews & Partners, for the Royal College of Science and Technology (the University of Strathclyde after 1964), in collaboration with the Glasgow Corporation. The superstructure comprises a 15-storey tower (Livingstone Tower) to the east and a four-storey, square plan block (McCance Building) to the west, which are carried on a three-storey podium of 26 cantilevered concrete bays. There are sculptural panels in the McCance building by William Mitchell (1925-2020). The structure is situated on a steeply sloping site, spanning the urban block between Montrose Street and North Portland Street. The McCance Building and Livingstone Tower are accessed from Richmond Street to the north, whilst the podium comprises a series of recessed retail units to the lower street level on George Street and two decks of car parking above. The structure forms part of the campus of the University of Strathclyde in the east end of Glasgow's city centre.

The **McCance Building** (1962-64) was designed to house the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the college library. It comprises a four-storey rectangular-plan block with a partially exposed concrete frame (largely painted), supported on piloti and bisected at the west end by a stair tower clad in stone panels. The main entrance is formed by a double-height, glazed and recessed door screen on the north elevation. The ground and first floors are united by pilasters spanning both floors and vertically aligned windows divided by spandrel panels. The third floor is recessed with areas of walling clad in blue mosaic tiles, and three cantilevered segmental lecture theatres projecting from it. The upper two storeys form a U-plan enclosing a roof terrace overlooking George Street to the south, with a glazed student cafeteria along the north side. The top floor has continuous horizontal windows and the concrete cladding is fluted to match the pilasters on the lower floors.



The interior of the McCance Building (seen in 2024) consists of lecture theatres, teaching space and faculty rooms. At the centre is a double-height concourse (formerly the library), the original open-plan layout of which has been subdivided around the perimeter. It features a webbed roof of concrete ribs that extend down to ground level (the piers are now concealed by the later partitions). This space also contains two abstract concrete sculptural relief panels (60ft x 9ft) by English sculptor William Mitchell. There are also decorative abstract panels to the main staircase, which are of a similar style to the larger murals.

The **Livingstone Tower** (1962-67) was designed as speculative commercial offices but has been leased to the university since 1965. It has a rhomboid-shaped plan form and comprises thirteen central floors with a raised attic storey (with later mono-pitched additions) and a recessed ground floor over pilotis (slender structural columns). It has a reinforced concrete frame with a glazed curtain wall with dark green spandrel panels divided vertically by full-height inset fillets clad in orange coloured metal. On the ground floor there are battered concrete fins linked by striated concrete aprons, and brick panels above. The main entrance is at ground level on Richmond Street to the north, via a later single-storey extension that projects on the north elevation and is constructed in black brickwork (built after 1973). There is another recessed entrance, below the tower to the left, accessed via external steps and a ramp. There is a small spiral concrete staircase tower to the east elevation with a raised bridge connecting the ground floor to both levels of the podium.

The interior of the tower (seen in 2024) largely comprises a central service core, encircled by a corridor with rooms to the perimeter. There are an entrance foyer and café on the ground floor. The interior retains few original features and largely comprises university teaching space and faculty rooms.

The two-story Collins Building (1973), which occupies the former plaza between the McCance Building and the Livingstone Tower, is excluded from the proposed listing.

The **podium** below the buildings extends across the full block, with an additional level to the centre, carrying the former plaza which the Collins Building now occupies. It comprises two levels of public car parking carried on pilotis. The podium is fronted by shaped concrete facing panels (painted with decorative design around 2020) to the front (south) elevation on George Street, and projects over the retail units that are recessed below (which are excluded from the listing).

2.2 Historical development

The buildings are first shown on the Ordnance Survey National Grid Map (published 1975), occupying the block on George Street between Montrose Street and North Portland Street. Prior to their construction, the block was occupied by decaying tenements, a dispensary and a congregational church, as shown on the Ordnance Survey National Grid Map (revised 1961, published 1961).



The site was part of 25 acres that were zoned for the expansion of the Royal College of Science and Technology (Strathclyde University from 1964) by the Glasgow Corporation, as part of the Townhead Comprehensive Development Area. This was one of 20 areas of Glasgow where widespread demolition of existing housing, followed by redevelopment was proposed by the Corporation to address poor sanitation and overcrowding. These Comprehensive Development Areas (CDAs) were partially informed by the radical proposals of the 1945 'Bruce Report' by Robert Bruce, which reimagined an ultramodern urban centre for Glasgow, keeping the population within the city boundary and reorganising the central area to enable motorcar access and to accommodate specific functions within distinct zones. Townhead was one of the CDAs that saw the greatest level of redevelopment, as large areas of the original street pattern and tenements were cleared and replaced with residential areas comprising maisonette blocks and tower blocks, a new industrial zone, and an education zone that included Strathclyde University campus.

The origins of the university began in 1796 when Professor John Anderson left instructions in his will for the provision of an institution that was 'founded for the good of mankind and improvement in science'. By the 1890s this institution had developed rapidly and in 1903 built the Royal College building, George Street (see separate listing, ref: LB32708). The student population continued to grow, particularly following the Second World War and in the 1950s the area immediately to the north of the Royal College was developed to provide further facilities including a new engineering building, student union and chaplaincy centre. As a result of the recommendations of the Robbins Report (1963), which included immediate expansion of universities, and that all colleges of advanced technology should be given the status of universities, the Royal College was granted the Royal Charter in 1964 and became the University of Strathclyde. Keen to maintain a presence in city centre the renowned Modernist architect Robert Matthew drew up plans for the expansion of the campus to the east of the Royal College building, to provide additional buildings for science and technology disciplines as well as accommodation for the newly introduced arts and social sciences subjects. This original masterplan has been continually developed as land became available for the campus. The University has also acquired and adapted existing buildings adjacent to the campus for their use, such as the Barony Church and the Ramshorn Theatre (see separate listings, refs: LB32824 and LB32740).

The Corporation and College agreed to share the site at Montrose Street and Richmond Street for mixed educational and commercial use and construction began in summer 1962 to designs by London architects Covell Matthews & Partners. The designs were undertaken by partners Albert Matthews, Ralph Covell and Brian Falk, with John Wheatly contributing to the Livingstone Tower design.

The McCance building (named after the Chair of the Board of Governors) at the west end was completed in March 1964 and housed the new Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (top two floors) and the College's Andersonian Library. It originally contained lecture theatres, teaching rooms, staff offices, a television studio and a two-storey open-plan library. The large concrete murals in the former library of the



McCance Building were designed by the English sculptor William Mitchell (1925-2020). In around 1960, Covell Matthews & Partners commissioned Mitchell to design a mural for the Mercure Hotel in their Piccadilly Plaza complex in Manchester after seeing an exhibition of his work for the London County Council. This was followed by a second commission for the murals in the McCance Building, one of a small number of jobs he undertook in Scotland.

The tower block, at the east end of the podium, was developed by the Glasgow Corporation and intended as speculative commercial offices. Originally named Alec House, the property failed to secure tenants and was instead leased to the university in February 1965 and renamed Livingstone Tower after the explorer and missionary David Livingstone, who was an alumnus of Anderson's College (the university's original antecedent). The tower opened in February 1966 and a rooftop penthouse for the university principal was added in 1967. The McCance Building and the Livingstone Tower were originally separated by an open plaza. This was infilled by the construction of the Collins Building in 1973 (excluded from the listing), which was designed by the same architects, Covell, Matthews, & Partners, as a gallery and extension to the library in the McCance Building, with a link block between the two at first floor level.

The exteriors of the McCance Building and Livingstone Tower are largely unchanged in form and appearance, although the wider megastructure has undergone some alteration. The retail units in the podium were undeveloped lettable spaces when the block was completed. The shopfronts and interiors were installed by the individual tenant retailers and have since undergone incremental changes. With the addition of the Collins Building in 1973, the ground floor of the Livingstone Tower was partially remodelled, which included the addition of a new security office and entrance lobby in dark brickwork, matching that of the Collins Building. The exteriors of the lecture theatres and the side elevations of the car park decks were originally clad in mosaic tiles but these have since been removed. The windows of the tower were replaced in the 1980s and the podium fascia was painted with a colourful mural in 2020-21.

The interiors have largely been remodelled and refitted by the university, particularly in the McCance Building, where the former library space was subdivided following the relocation of the library collection to the new Curran Building in 1980. The Mitchell sculptures are still in their original location within the McCance building. The original OTIS lifts in the Livingstone Tower were replaced in 2018.

3. Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

To be listed a building must be of 'special architectural or historic interest' as set out in the [Planning \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) \(Scotland\) Act 1997](#). To decide if a building is of special interest for listing we assess its cultural significance using selection guidance which has two main headings – architectural interest and historic interest (see Designation Policy and Selection Guidance, 2019, Annex 2, pp. 11-13).



The selection guidance provides a framework within which judgement is exercised in reaching individual decisions. The special architectural or historic interest of a building can be demonstrated in one or more of the following ways.

3.1 Architectural interest

The architectural interest of a building may include its design, designer, interior, plan form, materials, regional traditions, and setting and the extent to which these characteristics survive. These factors are grouped under two headings:

3.1.1 Design

The buildings were designed as a cohesive group and form a striking, monumental composition and in their current form the buildings and their grouping are a major example of 1960s Brutalist architecture. The scale, bold massing and multifunctional nature demonstrates elements of contemporary megastructural design incorporating a sophisticated, multi-level plan. The individual buildings differ in terms of their design, composition and materials but complement each other, forming a notable Brutalist set-piece that is contained within the limits of a single urban block.

Megastructures are large-scale architectural set-pieces that often combine a number of buildings and functions within a single overall complex, often incorporating a raised deck or podium to separate pedestrians from vehicular spaces beneath. They were widely used for post-war campus universities, hospitals and new towns, as well as for major urban redevelopments. Brutalism first developed from the late-1950s and was prevalent in Britain in the late 1960s and early 1970s for large and ambitious state-sponsored commissions for government, educational and civic building projects. Brutalism is taken from the French - *béton brut* or "raw concrete" and the style is characterised by the extensive use of concrete for its functional as well as its sculptural qualities on a massive or megastructural scale. Preeminent examples of this style and period include Cumbernauld Town Centre Phase 1 (1967), St Peter's Seminary, Cardross (1966) and the Barbican, in London (1963-82).

The McCance/Livingstone group was the first significant development of the University of Strathclyde at the time that it received its university charter in 1964 and set the tone for the modern expansion of its new estate in the 1960s and 1970s. It incorporates key features of 1960s Brutalism, including functionalist design, elements of exposed reinforced concrete construction offset with curtain walling, powerful massing and scale, bold geometric forms, flat roofs and pilotis.

Both the main buildings exhibit a high level of design interest and material quality for their date and type, distinguishing them from many other surviving examples from the period. Despite the loss of some fabric, much of the external finishes and detailing remain intact. The original monochrome colour-palette of the exterior has been partially obscured by the recent addition of the painted murals to the concrete fascia of the podium but this does not significantly impact the overall character.



The podium unifies the stylistically distinct buildings into a single monumental composition. The podium decks, with their prominent concrete facias that are separated by recesses or voids, give the lower superstructure a strong horizontality, and this feature is repeated on the upper floors of the McCance Building. This use of 'strata' or 'levels' is a key characteristic of Brutalist architecture, which offsets the verticality of the main buildings and lightens the visual massing of the group. In contrast, the projecting stair tower to the west elevation, which extends from the podium to beyond the roofline of the McCance Building, acts as a vertical anchor point that further knits the structures together. The visual mass of the buildings is further lessened by the use of pilotis, which carry the main buildings and create a sense of lightness.

The interiors of both buildings have been substantially altered, with some areas having been remodelled and the fabric and fittings largely date from the early 21st century. The former library of the McCance Building has been significantly reconfigured and partially subdivided but it retains some notable early features. These include the trifurcated concrete structural arches and the abstract murals by William Mitchell in the former library concourse. Decorative abstract panels in a similar style to the larger murals, also survive to the main staircase and may also be the work of William Mitchell.

The complex is one of the most architecturally significant buildings that survive by the London-based architects, Covell Matthews & Partners, and is a major example of their work in Scotland. The practice opened offices in Scotland around 1961 and undertook several projects for the University of Strathclyde including the conversion of the 1930s Beresford Hotel on Sauchiehall Street into the Baird Hall of Residence (listed at Category B, ref: LB33195). They were also responsible for the design of the Brutalist-style department store Norco House, in George Street, Aberdeen (1966-70; unlisted). The McCance Building and Livingstone Tower development has notable parallels with the practice's largest work, Piccadilly Plaza in Manchester (1959-65; unlisted), another megastructure with a similar composition of massing, mixed uses (including car parking) and artistic collaboration with William Mitchell.

William Mitchell (1925-2020) was a prominent English sculptor known for the abstract sculptural style of his large concrete murals of the 1960s and 1970s. The two murals in the McCance Building are his only known work to survive in Scotland. They are of a high design and material quality and compare well with other works of a similar type and date in Scotland such as the Western Avenue underpass mural in Glenrothes by David Harding (listed at Category C: LB51793) and the mural by Charles Anderson in the University of Strathclyde architecture building (listed at Category B: LB51962). Some 17 of Mitchell's works are listed by Historic England ranging from underpass murals at Hockley and Stevenage to the doors and bell tower of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.

The original character of the overall modern design of the McCance/Livingstone complex remains largely intact, especially in its external form and massing. The



plaza between the two buildings has been lost with the insertion of the Collins Building (1973; proposed for exclusion from the listing) but this does not detract from the overall design interest.

3.1.2 Setting

The buildings are located in a prominent site on George Street, beside the university's original Royal College Building. Occupying a full urban block, the massing and scale gives the group a monumental street presence, particularly when viewed from George Street. The height of the McCance Building is in keeping with others along George Street but the Livingstone Tower extends above, making it a landmark building. The stylistic differences in the form and treatment of the buildings adds to the variety of the multi-period streetscape whilst the overt horizontal massing of the podium unifies them as a coherent and complete block. The impact of its overall scale is lessened by the natural topography, which steeply slopes upwards to the north.

The immediate setting has been altered by the demolition of the former Royal Maternity Hospital and Nurse's Home to the north on Rottenrow, in 2001. Fragments of the hospital now remain and the area has been redeveloped as an urban park. This has opened the setting to the north, enhancing connections between the McCance/Livingstone group and other nearby campus buildings.

The wider urban setting has been extensively altered since the 1960s, chiefly by the development of the university, primarily to the north and west, as well as that of other Glasgow colleges nearby. The McCance/Livingstone group is of special interest as it represents an early part of the large-scale urban redevelopment programme, which saw the southern part of Townhead CDA transformed into a new educational zone, centred around the University of Strathclyde. The buildings are the physical representation of Glasgow's aspirational post-war regeneration plan, a vision that was realised in practice only through limited pockets of comprehensive commercial and residential redevelopment.

The insertion of the Collins Building has affected the relationship between the McCance Building and Livingstone Tower, which were originally separated by an open plaza. However, it remains largely hidden in key views from either direction on George Street.

3.2 Historic interest

Historic interest is in such things as a building's age, rarity, social historical interest and associations with people or events that have had a significant impact on Scotland's cultural heritage. Historic interest is assessed under three headings:

3.2.1 Age and rarity



The McCance Building and Livingstone Tower are notable as the earliest part of the expansion of the new university's faculty buildings, informed by its campus plan proposed by Sir Robert Matthew. Strathclyde was the largest of several educational institutions expanding their facilities in the east of Glasgow at the time and the buildings exemplify the comprehensive development of Scotland's universities, in line with wider expansion of the higher education sector in the UK, during 1950s-60s.

The site is a major example of a Modernist megastructure that survives relatively unaltered. Comparable examples of significant megastructures in Scotland include Motherwell Civic Centre (listed at Category B, ref: LB52545), Cumbernauld Town Centre, George Square in Edinburgh (listed at Category A, ref: LB50189 (and others)), the Aberdeen Multis (listed at category A, ref: LB52523 (and four others)) and Heron House, and the Anderston Centre, both in Glasgow. Individual urban buildings with raised pedestrian decks also exist at Appleton Tower and Prince's Street in Edinburgh and at Sauchiehall Street in Glasgow, which largely reflect unrealised urban planning schemes of the post-war period.

Several examples of large-scale multi-functional developments of the period have been demolished in recent years, including St Nicholas House in Aberdeen (2014), the St James Centre in Edinburgh (2017) and the Queen Mother Hospital in Glasgow (2024).

The McCance Building and Livingstone Tower megastructure is one of a small number of examples within an existing urban context that survives relatively unaltered and continues to demonstrate sophisticated mid-twentieth century urban planning and a high level of architectural quality.

3.2.2 Social historical interest

Social historical interest is the way a building contributes to our understanding of how people lived in the past, and how our social and economic history is shown in a building and/or in its setting.

The McCance/Livingstone group illustrates the highly ambitious ideals of post-war town planning, with the aim of modernising and improving living conditions within a very congested and degraded city centre. While the ambitions of the radical redevelopment espoused by Bruce in the now famous 'Bruce Report' was soon tempered, this site still directly relates to the way Glasgow was completely reimagined through its new road network, and has a strategic access to the new motorway linking to the city centre. It is perhaps the most emblematic city-centre expression of Glasgow's aspirational modern redevelopment, a vision that was realised in practice only through pockets of comprehensive commercial and residential redevelopment.

The post-war period in Britain placed much emphasis on the expansion of higher education, including the creation of new universities such as Stirling, and the reconstitution of existing institutions, like the University of Strathclyde. During this



time, newly emerging ideologies in architectural thought were given space for experimentation in buildings for further education, with campuses across the country being redeveloped, including ambitious building programmes underway at Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee. The Robbins Report (published in 1963) provided a further impetus for change, recommending substantial new building provision at existing university sites, often designed by nationally significant architects. The McCance/Livingstone group demonstrates this post-war ambition for higher educational buildings, as significant drivers in the modernisation of Scotland's cities and in providing some of the most innovative and up to date architecture of the period.

The construction of the McCance/Livingstone block as a single megastructure, reflects the Modernist planning ideal of creating self-contained developments with a mixture of functional components, typically commercial, institutional and municipal. This was reflected both in the multifunctional use of the site and in the collaboration between the university and the city corporation to bring about its construction. The site continues to exhibit this mixture of uses, combining academic buildings with the commercial car park and street-level retail units.

3.2.3 Association with people or events of national importance

There is no association with a person or event of national importance.

4. Summary of assessment

The McCance Building and Livingstone Tower meet the criteria of special architectural or historic interest for the following reasons:

- It is a major example of 1960s Brutalist architecture in Scotland. Its scale and bold massing demonstrate contemporary megastructural design ideals that unify distinct elements into a sophisticated, multi-level complex. It displays a high level of design ambition and material quality for its date and type.
- The original Brutalist design and megastructural concept remains largely intact, both in terms of the intended composition and in the treatment and finishes of the external elevations.
- As a large-scale building of significant presence within a dense urban setting, it makes a distinctive and prominent contribution to the surrounding townscape through its scale, composition and use of materials. It stands out for its unified architectural treatment of an entire city centre block.
- It is a major surviving example of a multi-functional, large-scale set-piece of high-quality 1960s architecture that was inserted into a historic urban setting, and which continues to illustrate much of its original form and character.



- It is directly representative of the expansion of university campuses and teaching provision that stemmed from the recommendations of the Robbin's Report (1963) and is notable as the first new development in the growth of the University of Strathclyde.
- It reflects Modernist ideals about multi-functional building development, civic-institutional collaboration and the modern redevelopment of central Glasgow. The main buildings remain central parts of the university campus, and the complex retains its mixture of academic and commercial use as it was originally designed.
- It contains the only known major work in Scotland by the prominent English sculptor William Mitchell.

In accordance with Section 1 (4A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 the following are excluded from the listing: Collins Building at 22 Richmond Street, interior of Livingstone Tower, single-storey brick entrance block to Livingstone Tower on Richmond Street and shop units (interiors and exteriors) at 80-130 (even numbers) George Street.

5. Category of listing

Once a building is found to be of special architectural or historic interest, it is then classified under one of three categories (A, B or C) according to its relative importance. While the listing itself has legal weight and gives statutory protection, the categories have no legal status and are advisory. They affect how a building is managed in the planning system.

Category definitions are found at Annex 2 of Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (2019) <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>.

5.1 Level of importance

The buildings' level of importance is category B.

Buildings listed at category B are defined as 'buildings of special architectural or historic interest which are major examples of a particular period, style or type.'

Taking into account the, the architectural and material quality, the later inclusion of the Collins building and the relative level of alteration to the interiors, category B is considered to be the most appropriate level of listing.

6. Legal exclusions



In accordance with Section 1 (4A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 the following are excluded from the listing: Collins Building at 22 Richmond Street, interior of Livingstone Tower, single-storey brick entrance block to Livingstone Tower on Richmond Street and shop units (interiors and exteriors) at 80-130 (even numbers) George Street.

The Collins Building was built in the space between the McCance Building and Livingstone Tower in 1973, as an extension to the library in the McCance Building. Although designed by the same architects, it does not display the same level of design or material quality. It is a standard example for its date and type, and is not considered to be of special architectural or historical interest.

The interior of the Livingstone Tower has been substantially altered and is not of special interest.

The single-storey entrance block on the north side of the Livingstone Tower to Richmond Street is a later addition that is of a similar date, style and materials to the Collins Building. It is not considered to add to the special architectural or historical interest of the Livingstone Tower.

The inclusion of spaces for retail units on George Street was part of the original design for the site, but the individual shops were installed after the construction of the other buildings. These have undergone a large amount of change, and the units are now fitted out as modern shops with no features that are contemporary with the main complex. The interiors and exteriors of the shops are not considered to be of special architectural or historical interest.

7. References

National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) ID 179695:
<https://www.trove.scot/place/179695> (accessed on 11/03/2026)

National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) ID 169003:
<https://www.trove.scot/place/169003> (accessed on 11/03/2026)

Maps

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Ordnance Survey National Grid Map (revised 1949-1975, published 1975), NS56NE-A. 1:10,000. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.



Archives

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The Scotsman (5 December 1964), Television (3): Strathclyde leads the way. p.5.

The Tatler (24 June 1964), Letter from Scotland: Conscientious Opener, p.717.

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9. Indicative Map

A map of the proposed listed building is attached separately.