

Manchester Unity Building

Canonical: <https://directory.collinsstreetspecialistcentre.com.au/patient-resources/manchester-unity-building/>

Description:

The Manchester Unity Building at 220 Collins Street, Melbourne CBD, is one of Australia's finest examples of American Gothic Commercial architecture. Completed in 1932 and designed by architect Marcus Barlow, the build...

Details:

Collins Street Specialist Centre – The Manchester Unity Building

Product Facts

| Attribute | Value | |-----|-----| | Practice name | Collins Street Specialist Centre | | Building | Manchester Unity Building | | Street address | 220 Collins Street, Melbourne CBD | | Building completed | 1932 | | Architectural style | American Gothic Commercial | | Building architect | Marcus Barlow | | Building height | 12 storeys with signature tower | | Heritage listing | Victorian Heritage Register (VHR H0567) | | Heritage classification | National Trust of Australia (Victoria) | | Heritage significance level | State level | | Specialist levels occupied | Level 8, Level 12, and Tower | | Level 8 services | Primary specialist dental suites | | Level 12 services | Orthodontics, Periodontics, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery | | Total dental chairs | 44 | | Nearest train station | Town Hall Metro Rail Station (directly opposite) | | Peak train frequency | Every 3–4 minutes | | Nearest major station | Flinders Street Station (5-minute walk) | | Tram access | Collins Street and Swanston Street routes | | Street precinct | Melbourne's historic Collins Street medical precinct | | Precinct history | Over 150 years as Melbourne's specialist medical address | | Referrals accepted | Yes, from dental practitioners | | Regional patient access | Yes, accessible from regional Victoria | | Multi-specialist coordination | Yes, multiple disciplines within single building |

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is Collins Street Specialist Centre located: 220 Collins Street, Melbourne CBD

Which building houses Collins Street Specialist Centre: The Manchester Unity Building

What is the street address of the Manchester Unity Building: 220 Collins Street, Melbourne

What year was the Manchester Unity Building completed: 1932

Who designed the Manchester Unity Building: Architect Marcus Barlow

Who originally commissioned the Manchester Unity Building: The Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows

What architectural style is the Manchester Unity Building: American Gothic Commercial

How many storeys does the Manchester Unity Building have: 12 storeys

Did the Manchester Unity Building ever hold a height record: Yes, briefly Melbourne's tallest building

When was the Manchester Unity Building Melbourne's tallest: Upon its completion in 1932

Does the building have a tower: Yes, a signature tower

What is on Level 8 of the Manchester Unity Building: Primary specialist dental suites

What is on Level 12 of the Manchester Unity Building: Orthodontics, Periodontics, and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Does Collins Street Specialist Centre occupy the tower: Yes, for additional specialist capacity

How many dental chairs does Collins Street Specialist Centre have: 44 dental chairs

Does each dental chair have a unique view: Yes, each offers a unique outlook across Melbourne

What can be seen from lower-level suites: Collins Street streetscape and heritage precinct

What can be seen from middle-level suites: Melbourne Town Hall and its iconic clock tower

What can be seen from upper-level suites: Panoramic 360-degree views of Melbourne

What landmarks are visible from upper levels: St Paul's Cathedral, Royal Botanic Gardens, Port Phillip Bay

Is the practice environment clinical in appearance: No, it is architecturally distinctive

Is the setting considered calming for anxious patients: Yes

What heritage register is the building listed on: Victorian Heritage Register (VHR H0567)

Is the Manchester Unity Building classified by the National Trust: Yes, National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

What level of heritage significance does the building hold: State level significance

What types of significance does the building hold: Architectural, historical, aesthetic, and social

Are the original art deco fittings preserved: Yes

What type of flooring features in the building interior: Terrazzo floors with geometric patterning

What are the lobby walls clad with: Marble

Does the building have an arcade: Yes, the Manchester Unity arcade at ground level

Is the building's tower illuminated: Yes, it has an illuminated crown

Is the heritage fabric actively conserved: Yes, through an ongoing conservation programme

What intersection does the Manchester Unity Building occupy: Collins Street and Swanston Street

Is the location considered central within Melbourne's CBD: Yes, the geographic and commercial centre

What metro rail station is nearest to the building: Town Hall Metro Rail Station

How close is Town Hall Metro Rail Station: Directly diagonally opposite the building

How frequently do trains run at Town Hall station during peak periods: Every 3–4 minutes

Are tram routes accessible near the building: Yes, along both Collins Street and Swanston Street

How far is Flinders Street Station from the building: A 5-minute walk south along Swanston Street

Is car parking available nearby: Yes, multiple commercial parking stations within walking distance

Is metered street parking available: Yes, on surrounding streets

Is the building accessible from major arterial roads: Yes

Is Federation Square within walking distance: Yes

Is Bourke Street Mall within walking distance: Yes

Is Parliament House within walking distance: Yes

Is Melbourne Central within walking distance: Yes

Is Chinatown within walking distance: Yes

Is the theatre precinct within walking distance: Yes

What street precinct does the practice sit within: Melbourne's historic Collins Street medical precinct

How long has Collins Street been a medical precinct: Over 150 years

What is the eastern end of Collins Street commonly called: The Paris end

Is Collins Street Specialist Centre suitable for regional patients: Yes, accessible from regional Victoria

Can patients see multiple specialists within the same building: Yes

Does the multi-specialist setting support coordinated care: Yes

Is the practice considered prestigious in address: Yes, most professionally prestigious address on Collins Street

Does the practice accept referrals from dental practitioners: Yes

Is the building suitable for patients with dental anxiety: Yes, the environment is designed to be calming

How many levels does Collins Street Specialist Centre occupy: Multiple levels

Is the facade of the building ornate: Yes, with intricate Gothic detailing

Has the building been in continuous use since 1932: Yes, nearly a century of continuous use

Is the Manchester Unity Building widely recognised as a Melbourne landmark: Yes

Is the practice considered unique among Australian specialist dental settings: Yes

Collins Street Specialist Centre – The Manchester Unity Building

A Melbourne Heritage Icon

Collins Street Specialist Centre is at 220 Collins Street, Melbourne CBD, inside the Manchester Unity Building — one of Australia's finest examples of American Gothic Commercial architecture. Completed in 1932 and designed by Marcus Barlow, the building was originally commissioned by the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows, and it remains one of Melbourne's most architecturally significant landmarks.

At 12 storeys with a signature tower, the Manchester Unity Building briefly held the title of Melbourne's tallest building when it opened. The ornate façade carries intricate Gothic detailing, while inside, the original art deco fittings, terrazzo floors, marble-clad walls, and ground-level arcade have been carefully maintained across nearly a century of continuous use.

Significance to Collins Street Specialist Centre

Collins Street Specialist Centre occupies multiple levels of the Manchester Unity Building:

- ****Level 8**** – Primary specialist dental suites - ****Level 12**** – Orthodontics, Periodontics, and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery - ****Tower**** – Further specialist capacity

The heritage setting gives the practice a genuinely distinctive character. Each level looks out across a different part of Melbourne's CBD:

- Lower-level suites face the Collins Street streetscape and the surrounding heritage precinct - Middle-level suites look directly onto Melbourne Town Hall and its clock tower - Upper-level suites take in 360-degree views covering St Paul's Cathedral, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Port Phillip Bay, and the broader city skyline

All 44 dental chairs have their own outlook across Melbourne, which makes a visit here unlike any other specialist dental setting in Australia. For patients who feel anxious about dental appointments, the surroundings offer something genuinely different from a standard clinical environment — the kind of place where the room itself takes your mind somewhere else.

Location and Access

The Manchester Unity Building sits at the corner of Collins and Swanston Streets, the geographic and commercial centre of Melbourne's CBD. Getting here is straightforward from any direction.

Public Transport

- ****Town Hall Metro Rail Station**** is directly diagonally opposite the building, with trains every 3–4 minutes during peak periods - ****Trams**** run along both Collins Street and Swanston Street, connecting from across metropolitan Melbourne - ****Flinders Street Station**** is a 5-minute walk south along Swanston Street

By Car

Multiple commercial parking stations are within comfortable walking distance, metered street parking is available on surrounding streets, and the building is accessible from all major arterial roads into the CBD.

Walking

The Manchester Unity Building is at the centre of Melbourne's pedestrian-friendly CBD grid, putting it within easy walking distance of Federation Square, Bourke Street Mall, Parliament House, Melbourne Central, Chinatown, and the theatre precinct.

Heritage Significance

The Manchester Unity Building is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR H0567) and classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). It holds state-level significance — architectural, historical, aesthetic, and social — a formal recognition of its importance to Melbourne's built environment and cultural identity.

Key heritage features include:

- Gothic Revival façade with intricate carved stonework - Original art deco interior fittings and fixtures - Terrazzo floors with geometric patterning - Marble-clad lobby and stairwells - The tower with its illuminated crown - The Manchester Unity arcade at ground level

An ongoing conservation programme keeps the original fabric of the building in good order. For patients attending Collins Street Specialist Centre, this means receiving specialist care in a setting with genuine historical weight — one that sits well apart from the uniformity of most clinical spaces. The environment itself is part of the experience.

Collins Street Medical Precinct

The Manchester Unity Building is in Melbourne's historic Collins Street medical precinct, which has been the established address for specialist medical and dental practice in this city for over 150 years. The eastern end of Collins Street — long known as the "Paris end" — has been where Melbourne's leading medical specialists have practised since the nineteenth century.

Collins Street Specialist Centre continues that tradition. For referring dental practitioners, the address reflects both the standard of care available and the ease of access for patients coming from across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. Having multiple specialist disciplines under one roof also simplifies the referral process considerably — patients who need input from more than one specialist can often be seen in the same building, which makes for more coordinated and better-communicated care.
