

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R042

Name of Place: Wilson House

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: 38 Mirning Crescent ARANDA 2614

Block 9 Section 24 of Aranda

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	October 1986	Level of Significance:	Local
Citation Revision No:		Category:	Residential
Citation Revision Date:	June 1990	Style:	Sydney Regional

Date of Design:	1971-72	Designer:	Roger Pegrum, Roger & Anthony Pegrum Architects
Construction Period:	1972-73	Client/Owner/Lessee:	Trewin
Date of Additions:	1989?	Builder:	Hubert Roetzer

Statement of Significance

Designed by local Canberra Architect Roger Pegrum. The house is set in an attractive native landscape garden with original gum trees. The entry path winding through the garden to the walled courtyard provides a sense of discovery on reaching the entry gates. The house was an advanced design solution in Canberra at the time, has a Japanese character with the house looking onto the private courtyard and garden rather than addressing the street. This character is enhanced by the detailing of the building which is simple and elegant throughout, with the internal and external timber window frames originally painted black, framing the landscape beyond. The materials and finishes are neutral colours throughout and relate well to the native flora. The functional layout and siting of the split-level house are resolved well on the sloping site. The informal spacious character of the living spaces flow one from another, and out into the garden. The quality of the house and its siting make an outstanding contribution to its suburban environment. The house was awarded the CS Daley Medal in 1974. It is an example of the Sydney Regional Style of architecture.

Description

Wilson House is set in a native landscape garden, backing onto a bushland reserve. The house is split level, following the sloping site, the carports are on the lowest level. A path meanders through the informally planted garden arriving at the timber entry gates to the brick walled courtyard. The courtyard is partially brick paved and overlooked by the living area, family living area and main bedroom. The entry leads directly to the dining area and steps down to the living area, a large glass door allows direct access to the courtyard and the ceiling is raked giving the room great volume. A doorway in a deep reveal leads to the family living area with raked ceiling and clerestory lighting, opening directly from this area is the kitchen and steps to the laundry on the level below. The L-shaped corridor leads on from this area to the 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, and recently added spa room. The house plan is informal in character, although carefully contrived and all areas of the house have a pleasant outlook: The deep boarded timber fascias, timber windows and doors, and timber boarding below clerestory windows were all originally painted black. Door jambs, skirtings, hand and towel rails are all simply detailed in Victorian ash. The skillion and gable concrete tiled roof forms are massed together to indicate differing functions. The wide eave overhangs are angled on the underside to prevent direct sunlight during summer, and provide a pleasant scale to the building.

Condition and Integrity

The house is in very good condition, and was recently extended and refurbished in some areas. The owners are intending to repaint the timber externally to the original black.

Background/History

Analysis against the Criteria specified in Schedule 2 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991

(i) a place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure or representing a new achievement of its time

(ii) a place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group

(iii) a place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger or being lost, or is of exceptional interest

(iv) a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations

(v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type

(vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class

(vii) a place which has strong or special associations with person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history

(xi) a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site

References

Other Information Sources