

# Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

**RSTCA No:** R093

**Name of Place:** House at 73 National Circuit Deakin

**Other/Former Names:**

**Address/Location:** House at 73 National Circuit DEAKIN 2600

Block 15 Section 2 of South Canberra

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Listing Status:	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	Level of Significance:	
Citation Revision No:	Category:	Residential
Citation Revision Date:	Style:	Post-War
Melbourne Regional Style		

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Date of Design:	1958	Designer:	EJ Scollay
Construction Period:	1959	Client/Owner/Lessee:	
Date of Additions:		Builder:	

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## Statement of Significance

The residence at 73 National Circuit Deakin is an example of significant architecture. The house was built in the latter part of the Post-War Period (1940-1960) and is a good example of the Post-War Melbourne Regional Style. The design incorporates features which are peculiar to the style including low-pitch gable roof, widely projecting eaves, long unbroken roof line, narrow edge to roof and glass wall with regularly spaced timber mullions.

The house is one of at least six good examples of this style in Canberra

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## Description

The house was designed by E J Scollay for Mr and Mrs P Bailey in 1958 and construction was completed in 1959<sup>1</sup>. The building is an example of the Post-War Melbourne Regional Style (1940-1960) with its low pitched gable roof, widely projecting eaves, long unbroken roof line, narrow edge of roof and glass walls with regular spaced timber mullions<sup>2</sup>.

It was an 'L' shaped split-level house. Scollay's original design placed the living areas along the south wing and the bedrooms down three steps along the east wing. With the addition of the new main bedroom to the west the plan is now a 'C' form.

The entry is to the west, facing the street, and is delineated by a spacious porch and four circular steel posts set closely together, echoing the spacing of the dining room glazing mullions in the same facade. The living room west wall is angled towards the entry, with a prominent chimney as a familiar welcoming form. The entry door is solid, set between two glazed panels and opens into an entry lobby. To the left is a visitor's toilet/ensuite and to the right the living room.

The living room was relatively small, however the extension has provided a larger split-level room, reusing the full height glazing, opening out into the rear north facing garden. The angled west wall directs the view out into the north facing garden, however this original design feature has been partially negated by the extension on the west side. In the centre of the west wall is a fire place designed by the architect which allows outside air to be piped across the fire and into the room through side vents. The ceiling is canite sheeting.

The dining room can be separated from the living room by a concertina timber door. It contrasts with the living room as its full height glazing is to the south overlooking the front garden and the

ceiling is timber lined. A small study was located at the end of the dining room with a concertina door to separate it; however this has now been removed to provide a larger dining room.

The kitchen overlooks the rear garden and has an eating area to the south east. The kitchen has been renovated. Access to the lower bedroom level is through this area.

The first space entered at this level was originally a combined playroom/bedroom and study for three children with built-in wardrobes and desks. The room was about 35m<sup>2</sup>. This early post war design feature allowed maximum use of limited space for the children's area<sup>3</sup>. Each 'bedroom' recess had its own window to the east while the playroom had full width glazing and glass doors that opened out into the rear north garden. The room has now been altered by the addition of the glass house and enclosure of the northern third to form another bedroom.

The northern end of this wing contains two bedrooms and a bathroom, shower and WC. The main bedroom has north and east facing glazing.

Generally the ceilings follow the roof slope.

The house is set centrally on the block. It is constructed of cavity brickwork, timber framed floors with concrete slab floors to bathrooms, timber roof framing and galvanised built-up steel roofing.

The major architectural elements that are peculiar to the Post-War Melbourne Regional Style (1940-1960) and that are displayed by this building relate to the external forms<sup>4</sup>. They are:

- low pitch gable roofs,
- widely projecting eaves, 525mm eaves at gable ends,
- long, unbroken roof line,
- narrow edge to roof,
- glass wall with regularly spaced timber mullions.

Other architectural elements of this style displayed by the building that relate to the external forms are:

- steel roofing,
- exposed rafters,
- brick chimney expressed as a single block,
- unpainted vertical boarding (this has been painted).

The major architectural elements listed above place this building in the Post-War Melbourne Regional Style (1940-1960).

There are architectural elements that are important to the building's integrity which are not necessarily common features of the Post-War Melbourne Regional Style: internally the open planning with the interiors spreading out into the landscape, the children's play/bedroom, the fire place, the detail and type of finishes, externally, the punctuation of the east brick wall by simple windows reflecting the internal planning, the entry as a whole including the steel posts which echo the window mullions and the expressive angled brick wall and chimney.

The building was extended in 1967 to add a bedroom to the west, convert the entry WC into an ensuite with visitor access and extend the living room to the north. A carport was added to the garage in 1970. In 1986 a small aluminium framed glass house was added to the north of the playroom and the playroom glazing changed to aluminium sliding windows. A fire damaged the bedroom wing which was repaired to match the original, however the playroom was reduced in size to provide a separate bedroom<sup>5</sup>.

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## Condition and Integrity

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## Background/History

The design of the residence in the Post-War Melbourne Regional Style (1940-1960) represented a uniquely Australian off-shoot of the international style that responded to climate and informal lifestyle<sup>6</sup>. Buildings designed in this style are predominantly found in Melbourne, however there are good examples in Canberra built during the 1950s which have had varying degrees of alterations to them including the three houses in Vasey Crescent Campbell 1961, by Grounds and Boyd, 'Fenner House' 8 Monaro Crescent Red Hill 1953 and Manning Clarke's House 11 Tasmania Circle Forrest 1953, both by Boyd<sup>7</sup>.

The only owner, the Baileys, moved to Canberra from Melbourne and engaged Scollay as their architect to help select an appropriate site that would provide a north aspect for the living areas. They believe the design of the house was a combination of their experiences of Melbourne architecture and Scollay's good design sense<sup>8</sup>.

John Scollay was a prominent local architect who later formed the partnership of Scollay Bischoff and Pegrum.

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## 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*

The house exhibits many of the particular architectural elements of the Post-War Melbourne Regional Style including low pitched gable roof, widely projecting eaves, long unbroken roof line, narrow edge to roof and glass wall with regularly spaced timber mullions.

The rational and economic open planning, detail and use of natural materials, brick chimney expressed as a single block and the fire place are design features that are of additional interest.

The house is comparable with other Post-War Melbourne Regional Style houses in Canberra such as the three houses in Vasey Crescent Campbell 1961, by Grounds and Boyd, 'Fenner House' 8 Monaro Crescent Red Hill 1953 and Manning Clarke's House 11 Tasmania Circle Forrest 1953, both by Boyd.

The residence is well detailed and well built and is valued by the RAIAs as a good example of this style of architecture.

*(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

1. Department of the Environment, Land and Planning (DELP). Building File for Block 15 Section 2 Deakin.
  2. Richard Apperly Robert Irving Peter Reynolds. Identifying Australian Architecture Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present. Angus and Robertson 1989.
  3. Lesley Jackson. Contemporary: Architecture and interiors of the 1950s. Phaidon Press Ltd. 1994.
  4. Richard Apperly Robert Irving Peter Reynolds opcit.
  5. DELP opcit.
  6. Richard Apperly Robert Irving Peter Reynolds opcit.
  7. J R Conner. A Guide to Canberra Buildings. Angus and Robertson 1970.
  8. Conversation with Mr and Mrs Bailey original and present owners of the house.
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## Other Information Sources