

## 'C' house

Address Coorparoo, Brisbane, Q

Practice Donovan Hill

Designed 1991 Completed 1998

### History & Description

Founded on one of Brisbane's steep suburban hillsides, the 'C' House is regarded as one of the finest contemporary houses in Australia. With the support of a dedicated client, it was designed and constructed over 8 years and demonstrates a level of craftsmanship rarely afforded in Australian domestic dwellings. The house is built of fine grade concrete overlaid with detailed timberwork and is distributed over a series of overlapping 'sub-sites' connected by numerous and memorable stairs. Rooms are of various dimensions and volumes, but the heart of the house is a vast outdoor room - roofed at high level, but not enclosed. Described as monumental and geological, at the same time the 'C' house anticipates the inevitable tempering of those qualities by the subtropical climate and the resultant rampant growth of green.

Donovan Hill is a young Brisbane architectural firm, who have quickly built an international reputation. Their practice spans from the domestic to large-scale civic projects. The 'C' house, their first work, is regarded by the partnership as their most complete to date.

### Statement of Significance

The scale and level of detail / craft apparent set this house apart from other suburban development on a domestic theme. The embracing of the whole site with its various indoor - outdoor experiences embodied in its conception make it a 'one-off' project of considerable merit.

### Criteria Applicable

N2 – Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

N3 – Significant heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement.

N5 – Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history.



Images: (above) Donovan Hill; site plan from *Placemakers. Contemporary Qld Architects*, 2008; photo (below) Anthony Borwell.

