

Glyn

Address 224 Kooyong Road, Toorak 3142

Practice Klingender & Alsop (Rodney Alsop)

Designed 1908

Completed 1909

History &
Description

Glyn was designed for the wealthy financier, pastoralist and politician Sir Edward Miller (1848-1932). The house was constructed in the Arts and Crafts idiom, with reinforced concrete walls, finished with a distinctive render with white quartz pebbles pushed into the surface, resting on a deep brick plinth. This render finish has subsequently been painted over. It was complemented by gables and steeply sloping roof slopes with all surfaces clad in terracotta shingles. The interior contains many distinctive features, particularly timber panelling, carved woodwork, stained glass and beaten metal ornamentation. The building was positioned at the top of a hill on a succession of terraces and towered above the extensive grounds as they sloped down to a gully on the south east side.

Glyn exhibits all the classic aspects of the Arts & Crafts movement emphasising picturesque massing, references to vernacular architecture and the exposure of building materials and textures. The original fireplaces, light fittings, switch plates and joinery were rare examples of English Arts and Crafts influence in Australia, although some of these features have since been lost. Each room has a different decorative treatment. An interesting Australian touch is the eucalypt decorative scheme in the main hall, stair hall, entrance hall and upstairs gallery.

Glyn is also important early example of reinforced concrete being used in residential construction.

Statement of
Significance

Glyn is architecturally significant as one of the finest residential examples of the Arts and Crafts movement and for its associations with one of the movement's best practitioners, Rodney Alsop (1881-1932).

Alsop was a founding member of the Arts and Crafts Society of Victoria and played a major role in the introduction of the style into Australia in the early 1900s.

As a committed Arts and Crafts practitioner, he designed all aspects of Glyn's decorate treatment, including built-in furniture, carved woodwork, stained glass, and beaten metal ornamentation. Alsop envisaged his houses as all-encompassing designs and works of art, and Glyn is a fine instance of this philosophy.

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.



Upper hall, courtesy of Peter Bennetts



Entrance hall, courtesy of Peter Bennetts



View north west corner 2010, photo by Peter Johnson



View of south west corner 2010, photo by Peter Johnson