

## Hirsch House and Office (former), 118 Glen Iris Road, Glen Iris Statement of Significance, January 2020

<b>Heritage Place:</b>	<i>Hirsch House and Office (former)</i> 118 Glen Iris Road, Glen Iris	<b>PS ref no:</b>	HO897
------------------------	--	-------------------	-------



### **What is significant?**

The former Hirsch House and Office at 118 Glen Iris Road, Glen Iris is significant to the City of Boroondara. The residence was designed by émigré architect Grigore Hirsch as his own house and architectural studio in 1954-55 and was occupied by the Hirsch family until the 1980s. The house at 116 Glen Iris Road is not significant.

### **How is it significant?**

The former Hirsch House and Office is of historical, architectural, aesthetic and associative significance to the City of Boroondara.

### **Why is it significant?**

The former Hirsch House and Office is of historical importance as an example of a well-regarded mid-century architect building his own home in Glen Iris. Completed in 1954-55, it is a relatively early example of the willingness of architects to embrace the challenges posed by sloping sites and awkward lot shapes. The house also illustrates the European émigré influence on the City of Boroondara. (Criterion A)

The residence is an intact example of a post-war Émigré architect's house and office and illustrates European Modernism as it was translated into a Melbourne context. The building and its response to the landscape and climate demonstrates the contemporary approach to local conditions favouring good orientation and functionalist planning. (Criterion D)

The double-storey dwelling of the 1950s illustrates the Post-War Melbourne Regional style, demonstrating key characteristics of the style in the simplicity of the forms, low-pitch butterfly roof, textured clinker brick cladding and large areas of glass to the north. The bold forms are further expressed through the delineation of materials across the upper (clinker brick) and lower (concrete tile) levels and exposed steel structure. The entrance is one of few embellished areas, with mosaic tiles leading to the main door and visible through the modular glazing adjacent is a suspended timber staircase. Other elements of note include the stained-glass panels and the slender columns to the undercroft. More broadly, the use of steel frame construction throughout, further allows the illusion of the upper level to dominate the architectural composition. (Criterion E)

The House and Office is significant for its association with the life and works of well-regarded émigré architect, Grigore Hirsch and his architectural practice CONARG (Contemporary Architecture Group). As a house designed for himself, it can be considered a true expression of architectural pursuits and places of the practice at the forefront of Melbourne's regional brand of modernism. Local examples of their work include St Anthony's Shrine in Hawthorn (1961) and 47 Mountain View Road, Balwyn (1966). (Criterion H)

### **Primary source**

---

*City of Boroondara Municipal-Wide Heritage Gap Study Volume 7: Glen Iris (Context Pty Ltd, January 2020)*

This document is an incorporated document in the Boroondara Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*