

Craigmill Statement of Significance August 2020

Heritage Place:	13 Raheen Drive Kew	PS ref no:	HO821
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What is significant?

The residence Craigmill, at 13 Raheen Drive, Kew, is significant to the City of Boroondara. Constructed in 1969, the house and landscape were designed for Harold Stewart by renowned architect Neil Clerehan.

How is it significant?

Craigmill is of local architectural, aesthetic and associational significance to the City of Boroondara.

Why is it significant?

Craigmill is a key example of late twentieth-century domestic architecture by one of the foremost architects of the time, Neil Clerehan. The suburban response to privacy and horizontal treatment of the residence have been well executed and are characteristic features of his designs. While Craigmill is not the most recognised of Clerehan's works, it is a notable example of his design methodology in transition, illustrating the evolution of the architect's development through the embrace of Regionalism and response to environmental conditions. The influence of the property in Clerehan's early work is seen through his employment of a large front setback, elongated forms

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that follow the site's topography, orientation to the north and a limited palette of natural materials (Criterion D)

The residence derives its aesthetic appeal from the raw expression of a refined and minimal material palette. Brick piers support the slender flat roof of the carport and dwelling, which sits recessed in the site allowing views across the roofline. Other features include the slender slot window openings in the brickwork, a slenderness translated into the proportions of the main entrance. The restraint showed by Clerehan in his design caters to a clear plan and functional spaces whilst taking advantage of the environmental conditions of the north-facing site. (Criterion E)

Craigmill is of significance for its association with the architect, Neil Clerehan, whose modernist designs in domestic architecture and public commentary for over three decades make him one of the most influential Melbourne architects of the post-war period. He has received a number of awards for his work and made significant contributions to the architectural profession in Victoria for a long period from the 1940s to the present day, through design (particularly the suburban house), publishing, writing and community work. In 2008, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Architecture from the University of Melbourne for significant contributions made to the community. Craigmill is significant in Clerehan's body of work as a notable example of how Clerehan was able to adapt his ideals to a new property and context in the municipality through the embrace of Regionalism. (Criterion H)

Primary source

City of Boroondara Municipal Wide Heritage Gap Study Volume 4. Kew, Revised Report, 11 June 2020.