

McDonald-Smith House (former) Statement of Significance August 2020

Heritage Place: 3 Perry Court Kew

PS ref no: HO819



What is significant?

The former McDonald-Smith Residence at 3 Perry Court, Kew, designed by renowned architect, Kevin Borland, and constructed in 1969 is significant.

How is it significant?

The former McDonald-Smith residence is of local architectural, aesthetic and associational significance to the City of Boroondara.

Why is it significant?

The former McDonald-Smith residence is a good and intact example of late twentieth century domestic architecture, by one of the state's foremost architects of the time, Kevin Borland. The response to the suburban setting sits as an isolated example completed by Borland. (Criterion D)

The residence derives its aesthetic appeal from the Functionalist expression of the building, seen in the projecting and cantilevering stair hall and family room, and compiled with Brutalist effect. Inside the dwelling, significant timber features are utilised to define space and passage. Of the original interior cabinetry and joinery throughout the house, areas specifically in the double height stair-hall, separating the dining and living rooms and in the main bedroom, are of note. (Criterion E)

The former McDonald-Smith House is of associative significance for its connection with architect Kevin Borland whose innovative designs in both domestic and public architecture make him notable amongst the Melbourne architects of the second half of the twentieth century. He was a member of the design team for the Olympic Swimming Pool (1952, H1977) and, with Daryl Jackson, designed the Harold Holt Swim Centre (1968, H0069). Along with Borland's buildings at Preshil School (1962–72, H0072), his residential work includes the experimental Rice House (1953-4, H0123). (Criterion H)

Primary source

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