

Professor Philip Goad

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Chair of Architecture and Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor*



6 June 2021

Planning Panels Victoria
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
1 Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Panel Members,

**Re: Panel Hearing 15-16 June 2021
Planning Scheme Amendment C341boro
12-14 Tannock Street, North Balwyn**

This evidence has been prepared at the invitation of Tony Isaacson, Chair of the Robin Boyd Foundation.

I write with respect to the property at 12-14 Tannock Street, North Balwyn in the City of Boroondara, and recommend the following on the basis of my national standing as an architectural historian, with expertise in twentieth century Australian architecture and the life and work of architect Robin Boyd (1919-1971) (see short cv appended):

- I support Amendment C341boro of the Boroondara Planning Scheme, which will place a Heritage Overlay over the above-named property on a permanent basis;
- I support the reasons and argument for significance laid out in Council papers and in the research and citation prepared by Council's heritage consultant, Simon Reeves of Built Heritage Pty Ltd;
- I support the contention that 12-14 Tannock Street, North Balwyn is, at the very least, of local significance, and arguably of state significance, and therefore is worthy of a heritage planning overlay;

The property at 12-14 Tannock Street is, in my opinion, significant for the following reasons:

The former Wood House at 12-14 Tannock Street in North Balywn was built in 1949 and designed by nationally-significant architect and critic Robin Boyd (1919-1971). The house is in good condition and is in an eminently liveable state.

12-14 Tannock Street exemplifies the social and physical history of post-war North Balwyn and Balwyn in the City of Boroondara not just as two of Melbourne's favoured areas of

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suburban expansion, but also as a place where young families commissioned progressive young architects and architectural firms to design progressive modern houses.

Boyd designed the house in 1948 for local chemist Don Wood and his family and also, a few years later, his pharmacy (1953) at the end of the street in Doncaster Road. The Wood House was, in many respects, typical of Boyd's advocacy at the time of sensible modern design in his regular weekly articles in *The Age* newspaper as Director of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Small Homes Service, a position he'd held since 1947 before entering into partnership with Roy Grounds and Frederick Romberg in 1953.

Boyd's design had the split-level skillion-roofed house laid laterally across the double block with plenty of glass, oriented to give good sunlight to every room, and timber-battened sunshades (which still exist and are intrinsic to Boyd's design), and the house's special feature was a large fixed pane 'picture' window to the living room. The Woods loved the house and they liked their architect. They commissioned Boyd to undertake successive additions in 1959 and 1971. These were sympathetically made and, remarkably, over the years, despite very minor changes, the house is substantially intact and this contributes to its significance.

The Wood House is thus a rare and important example of Boyd's approach to residential design immediately after commencing sole practice in 1946 and before his career-changing trip to Europe in 1951 after which more daring structural and material experiments began to be included in his residential designs.

The Wood House and also the smaller Dunstan House in Yandilla Road, Balwyn (1948-9), are thus, for similar reasons, important examples of Boyd's early career, i.e. from 1946 until 1951-2, when he was committed to shifting everyday suburban tastes towards a moderate embrace of modernist architecture.

I recommend planning protection for 12-14 Tannock Street, North Balwyn. While there are six houses designed by Boyd in Balwyn and North Balwyn within the City of Boroondara (a noteworthy phenomenon in its own right), not all of them are worthy of protection. Some have been altered and changed beyond recognition. The Tannock Street house (and Yandilla Road house) is without question, an early and substantially intact Boyd house, and it is correctly identified as such by Simon Reeves of Built Heritage Pty Ltd in his 'Balwyn and Balwyn North Heritage Study' of 2015 that was commissioned by the City of Boroondara.

I recommend that 12-14 Tannock Street, North Balwyn be listed as being at the very least, of high local significance. Further examination of Boyd's houses designed between 1946 and 1951 across Victoria would determine the possibility of the property being considered at state level. This assessment of local significance confirms the Council recommendation for a Heritage Overlay to the property.

Finally, I believe that, given the house's high external integrity and occupation for more than fifty years as a family home, a Heritage Overlay will not preclude the property's contemporary liveability nor preclude sympathetic internal alterations as required.

I declare that my interest as a Board Member of the Robin Boyd Foundation has not affected the substance of these recommendations, which are made on the basis of research expertise and judgement of the said property, based on site visits (internal and external), publications contemporary to the house's construction, existing Boyd scholarship, council documents and recent heritage consultant reports.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Goad', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Philip Goad

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Professor Philip James Goad, B.Arch(Hons.), Ph.D., LFRAIA, FAHA, CICA

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Co-Director, ACAHUCH (Australian Centre for Architectural History, Urban and Cultural Heritage), University of Melbourne

Recent Career Highlights

- 2019-2020 Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser Chair of Australian Studies, Harvard University
- 2016 Patrick Geddes Visiting Fellow, Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, University of Edinburgh
- 2016 Visiting Professor, Bengal Institute of Design, Dhaka
- 2014 Co-curator, 'Augmented Australia', Australian Pavilion, Venice International Architecture Biennale (2014)
- 2007-12 Founding Director, Melbourne School of Design (MSD), University of Melbourne

Membership of Professional Organizations and Discipline Associations

Registered Architect (academic)

President, RAI Victoria Chapter (2006-8) and Member, RAI National Council (2006-9)

Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (FRAIA, appointed 2007)

Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects (LFRAIA, appointed 2014)

Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities (FAHA, elected 2008)

Board Member, Robin Boyd Foundation

Life Member, Society of Architectural Historians, Australia & New Zealand (appointed 2017)

Member, Society of Architectural Historians (USA)

Member, DOCOMOMO International

Member, International Committee of Architectural Critics (CICA) (2005-)

Heritage Experience

Heritage consultant, additions to former Shell House, Spring St, Melbourne (2020)

Board Member, Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority, State Govt of Tasmania (2008-11)

Heritage consultant (with Bryce Raworth), Hamer Hall, Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne (2009-11)

Heritage consultant, former Sir Ian Macfarlane house, Vaucluse (2009-10)

Member, Heritage Council, Heritage Victoria, State Government of Victoria (2003-8)

Expert consultant, UNESCO World Heritage Listing, Sydney Opera House, Sydney (2005)

Expert consultant (for RAI National), Heritage Report, Cameron Offices, Belconnen (2005)

Heritage consultant (with Allom Lovell & Assoc.), BHP House, 140 William St, Melbourne (1997)

Heritage Consultant (with Allom Lovell & Assoc.), Sidney Myer Music Bowl, Melbourne (1996)

Heritage Consultant (with Allom Lovell Marquis-Kyle), Gold Coast Urban Heritage & Character Study (1996)

Heritage Consultant (with Allom Lovell & Assoc.), Victorian Arts Centre (State Theatre & Concert Hall) (1995)

Heritage Consultant (with Allom Lovell & Assoc.), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (1994)

Recent Books (2006-2019)

GOAD, P.J., STEPHEN, A., McNAMARA, A., EDQUIST, H. & WUNSCH, I. – *Bauhaus Diaspora and Beyond: Transforming Education through Art, Design and Architecture*, Miegunyah Press and Power Publishing, Carlton, Vic.: 279pp (2019).

LEWIS, H. & GOAD, P.J. – *Australia Modern: architecture, design and landscape architecture 1925-1975*, Thames & Hudson, Sydney: 335pp (2019).

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- WILLIS, J., GOAD, P.J. & LOGAN, C. – *Architecture and the Modern Hospital: Nosokomeion to Hygeia*, Routledge, Abingdon, Oxon.: 244pp (2019).
- LONDON, G., GOAD, P.J. & HAMANN, C. – *An Unfinished Experiment in Living: Australian Houses 1950-65*, University of Western Australia Press, Perth: 460pp (2017).
- FELIX_GILES_ANDERSON+GOAD – *Augmented Australia: regenerating lost architecture*, The Australian Institute of Architects, Barton, ACT: 136pp (2014) (catalogue, Australian Pavilion, Venice Biennale)
- GOAD, P.J. & WILLIS, J.L. (eds) – *The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne: 796pp. (2012).
- STEPHEN, A., GOAD, P.J., & McNAMARA, A. (eds) – *Modern Times: The Untold Story of Modernism in Australia*, Miegunyah Press and Powerhouse Publishing, Carlton, Vic.: 253pp (2008).
- STEPHEN, A., McNAMARA, A., & GOAD, P.J. (eds) – *Modernism and Australia: art, design and architecture, 1917-1967*, Melbourne University Publishing, Carlton, Vic: 1039pp (2006).