'Skye' (former), 'Argyle' Statement of Significance

Place: 97 Argyle Road, Kew



What is significant?

'Skye' (now 'Argyle') at 97 Argyle Road, Kew, is significant. The single-storey house was built in 1929 on a large block of land overlooking the former Outer Circle Line reserve. The house retains its original substantial block as well as a gently curved entrance drive off Argyle Road.

The post-1987 two-storey garage extension at the north-west corner of the site, boundary fences, tennis court, swimming pool and cabana are not significant.

How is it significant?

The former 'Skye' is of local architectural and aesthetic significance to the City of Boroondara.

Why is it significant?

The former 'Skye' is significant for demonstrating the principal characteristics of interwar Arts and Crafts domestic design, including a design in-the-round that can be appreciated from multiple viewpoints, a dominant roof form, the use of a variety of "honest" materials to provide visual interest, and a free use of medieval inspiration. (Criterion D)

The former 'Skye' is of aesthetic significance for its highly accomplished and idiosyncratic design and detailing. This includes its L-shaped form, with the front entrance tucked in the internal corner and facing away from the street to views to the north-east, the high hipped

roof with overlapping bellcast eaves, the finely wrought parapeted bay windows with chequerboard patterning, created by slim bricks and roughcast render, and the matching gabled parapet to the front entrance above a round-arched opening. This inventive and finely crafted detailing is unique in Boroondara. (Criterion E)

Primary source

'Skye' (former), 'Argyle' (97 Argyle Road, Kew) Heritage Citation, August 2020