

## Wyldefel Gardens

Address 8A Wylde Street, Potts Point, NSW, 2011

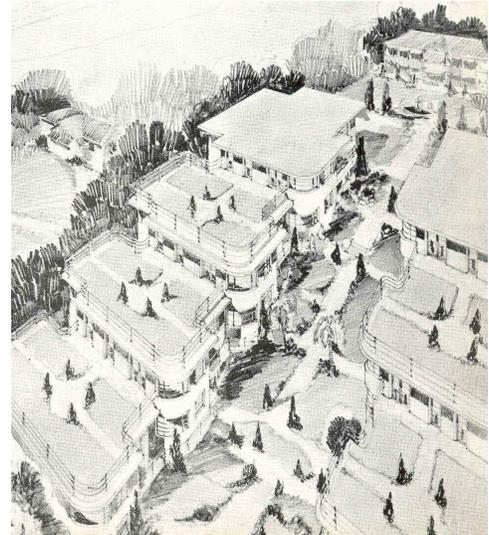
Practice W A Crowley with John R Brogan

Designed 1934 Completed 1936

History & Description In 1936 the Wyldefel Gardens apartments were built down the sides of land at Potts Point with garden between, so as not to spoil the view from Wyldefel house itself. The units were built to an innovative design by the then prominent art collector, W A Crowle, and his architect, John Brogan. They were described at the time of completion in 1936 as arguably the most modern and striking example of residential architecture in Australia (Jahn, 1997). The residential complex now is concealed from the street. It comprises two stepped blocks of units which define a V shaped central garden which is formally planted. The former tennis courts, swimming pools and boatshed have been removed as part of the Garden Island land reclamation. The entrance to the site (85 feet wide) contains a carpark on the site of the former Wyldefel residence. The 22 identical apartments step down the site, each with a terrace over the apartment below. Three smaller flats occur at the ground level. The building is of Continental Moderne style, noted for its flat roof, expansive glazing, curved bent glass windows, glass blocks and white rendered walls. Graham Jahn (1997) states that it "was as much an experiment in living as it was a town planning or architectural project." (NSW Heritage Branch online database # 2423971) Jahn, G. *Sydney Architecture*. Watermark Press, 1997.

Statement of Significance Wyldefel Gardens is an important but uncharacteristic work of John Brogan, and an example of Modern continental apartment planning. W A Crowle, noted Sydney connoisseur and collector, lived in two houses also located on the site which have since been removed. Wyldefel Gardens is significant as an important example of Modern continental aesthetics and apartment planning which had a dominant influence on members of Sydney's intellectual milieu. It is an important example of a client driven application of aesthetics drawing from European examples in Germany and Italy in combination with more traditional influences from Canada. It is important for its ability to reveal Council's acceptance of Modernist ideals which preceded the 1940's. It demonstrates an early use of bent glass and wafer thin copper roof overlay. Wyldefel Gardens is also significant as a remnant of waterfront sites that determined the prestige residential status of the Potts Point peninsula in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. (NSW Heritage Branch online database # 2423971)

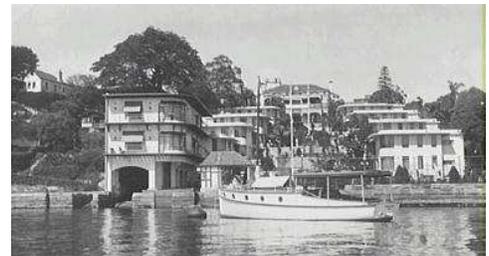
Criteria Applicable **N1.** Significant heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design  
**N2.** Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics  
**N5.** Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history



Drawing (Source: *Decoration and Glass* (July 1936))



Stepped units, c.1940 (Source: City of Sydney Archives Collection, SRC14232)



View from Sydney Harbour (Source: City of Sydney Archives Collection, SRC14241)



White rendered walls, roof garden and bent glass windows (Photo: Gartner Rose P/L)