

# Benjamin House

Address 10 Gawler Crescent, DEAKIN ACT

Practice Alex Jelinek; Furniture: Schulim Krimper and Alex Jelinek

Designed 1956 Completed 1957

### History & Description

The house is set centrally on the large block, which slopes from the rear down to the street. Construction is of concrete blockwork, reinforced concrete walls and suspended slabs, timber framed floors and steel and timber roof framing with a membrane roof. The blockwork was originally exposed internally and externally.

A faceted split level plan takes advantage of the sloping site. The house is designed around a radiating grid which determine the internal spaces: sixteen radiating segments set at 22.5 degrees are defined by the mahogany lined exposed roof beams, with three segments deleted to form the north west courtyard off the living area.

At the centre is a 1.4m diameter pool which is surrounded by full height curved glass supported by (but set in from) four circular steel posts which support the steel ring beam that accommodates the radiating structural roof frame. The roof slopes to this central structure where the pool acts as the roof's storm water outlet.

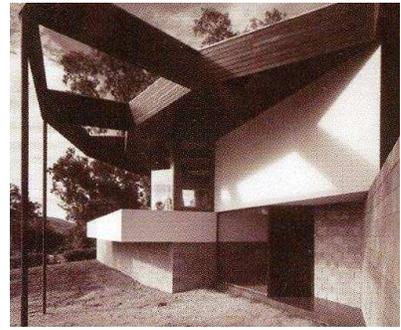


Photo: Wolfgang Sievers



Photo: [www.canberrahouse.com](http://www.canberrahouse.com)

### Statement of Significance

The residence at 10 Gawler Crescent Deakin, is a highly individual example of significant architecture. The residence is an excellent example of the Post-War International style with structural frame expressed and large sheets of glass. Other architectural elements of the style displayed include overhang for shade, plain smooth wall surfaces, cantilever, contrasting non-rectangular shape (the rectangular form of the balcony) and contrasting texture (block work, render, glass and timber). The residence also displays elements of the Post-War Melbourne Regional style (1940-1960), including widely projecting eaves, long unbroken roofline and horizontal boarding, which add to the architectural significance of the place.

The handcrafted furniture was designed in collaboration with the architect by the notable craftsman, Austrian born and trained Schulim Krimper (1893 – 1971).

### Criteria Applicable

N2. Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

N3. Significant heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement.



Photo: Wolfgang Sievers

