

Northbourne Housing Precinct (Dickson & Lyneham Flats)

Address Northbourne Av, Dickson & Lyneham, ACT.

Practice Ancher Mortlock and Murray

Designed 1959 Completed 1962

History & Description

The Dickson and Lyneham Housing Precinct, designed by Sydney Ancher with Stuart Murray as the project architect, is comprised of; the Dickson Flats the Lyneham Flats (four storey bedsitter flats); the De Burgh pair houses (two storeys); the Owen flats (three storeys); the Kuruah Maisonettes (three storeys), and the Garden (courtyard) houses. It was planned for the NCDC as a 'gateway' entry to the city along both sides of Northbourne Avenue. The complex incorporating 'Radburn' planning principles and has a network of pedestrian paths that link the different components and give it an intimate scale. The extensive pergolas and timber screens have over time been removed.

The Flats were designed in the Post-War International Style, a style characterised by simple cubiform shapes, plain smooth wall surfaces, an abundance of glass, void of historical references. Their forms were generated by their functional elemental plans.

All five housing types were detailed and finished in the same materials, fine Tyrolean render, flat metal deck roofs and a system of aluminium windows in timber frames.



Northbourne Housing: Google Earth

Statement of Significance

The planning and design of the Dickson-Lyneham Flats Complex demonstrates a creative and innovative solution to the project brief. The design accomplished five residential types with each component being distinctive in plan, size and scale and in site relationships, yet all clearly belonging visually to the one ensemble of buildings. It is an outstanding example of architectural harmony and human scale. Architecturally, the Complex is an exemplar of the Post-War International style with elements of the Bauhaus style.

The Dickson-Lyneham Flats Complex is important for its association with the notable architect, Sydney Ancher who was a pioneer of modern domestic architecture in Australia. The Complex was his largest project in extent and cost.



Photo: Max Dupain

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.

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

N5. Having a special association with the life and works of an architect of significant importance in our history.



Photo: Max Dupain



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