

Swinger Hill

Address Barnet Close & Rowe Place, PHILLIP, ACT

Practice Ian McKay & Partners

Designed 1970 Completed 1972

History & Description

Ian McKay designed the attached (terrace) housing precinct of 'Swinger Hill' for the National Capital Development Commission, to give an appropriate but compact village-like appearance on the north slope of the hill incorporating meandering lanes, garden walls, and interlocking pitch tiled roofs. The materials chosen were common bricks, roof tiles, timber cladding and timber window frames unified the scheme, all set in a native landscape setting.

Stage 1, Barnett Close and Rowe Place, was built to McKay's design. Individually the houses are functionally planned with a good indoor and outdoor relationship to their private courtyards. The following stages were built as private developments.

Statement of Significance

Swinger Hill is one of the first of its type in Australia, a modern medium density housing schemes with architectural, historical and social importance. The design provides various housing types in an integrated native landscape, good circulation and community facilities on a hillside site. The innovative site plan of the first stage included a village of thirty-nine houses set in a well scaled streetscape and native landscape. The design was awarded the C S Daley Medal in 1977, for residential architecture.

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.

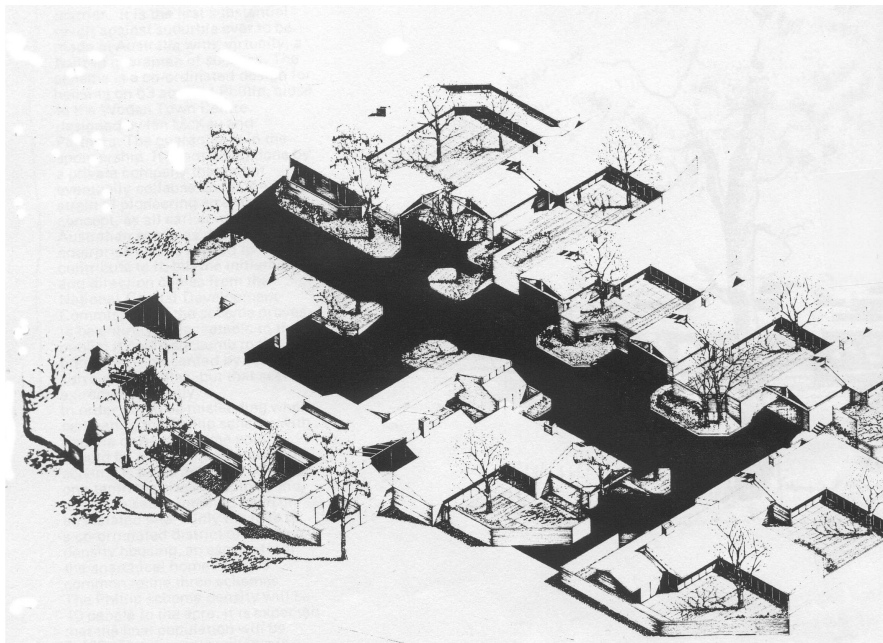
N5. Having a special association with the life and works of an architect of significant importance in our history.



Photo: Eric Martin



Photo: www.canberrahouse.com



Swinger Hill – Google Earth