Addison house no.1

Taringa Parade, Taringa, Brisbane

Rex Addison

Designed 1974; 1982
Completed 1975; 1983

The Addison house was the first project designed by Rex Addison following graduation from the University of Qld. It was his own home and its modest first stage was later extended in 1982-3.

While it drew on the Queensland timber tradition it was abstracted to use familiar elements in unorthodox ways which related to a wider variety of stylistic origins. Its site was a steeply sloping gully of suburban bushland and in its first stage consisted of a single space living area where only the bathroom was enclosed and with a sleeping loft above. A large deck opened off the main floor level on the north.

In its enlarged form, a lower floor studio was added and a pair of bedrooms and bathroom appended at the same lower level as a separate wing. From the street it took the form of a large gable accessed via a short bridge. In its later form a front verandah with batten screen was added to give it a less severe appearance.

This house marked a deliberate change away from the stark geometry of the Modern Movement to explore more traditional regional forms. It pioneered a movement inspired by the 19th century Queensland house geometry re-interpreted by other architects including O’Gorman & Andresen, Russell Hall and Donald Watson and one refined in Addison’s later work in Brisbane and Papua New Guinea.

N1 – Significant heritage value in demonstrating 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.