

McIntyre House

Address 2 Hodgson Street, Kew 3101

Practice Peter & Dione McIntyre

Designed 1955

Completed 1955

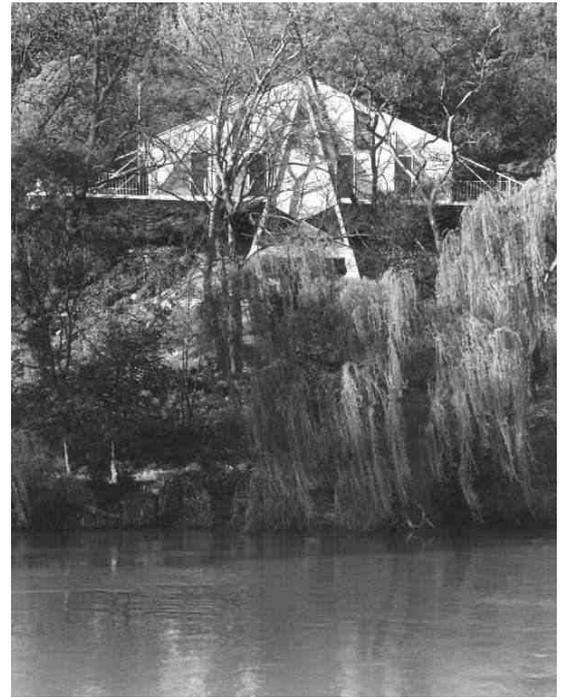
History & Description Designed by architect owner Peter McIntyre, the two level house is suspended above a 4.3m square concrete base situated at the flood level mark, and sits between two triangular steel frames which cantilever 4.2m to either side of a central steel tower. These steel A-frames were originally exposed internally and externally with triangular infills of compressed strawboard panels painted tomato red and cadmium yellow. The house is entered from below through a front door that slides upwards into the ceiling. A central spiral staircase ascends to each of the hovering platforms of space which have open decks at either end high above in the trees. Though additions were made to the house in 1958 when the balconies were enclosed and in the late 1960s when an annexe was built beneath the east wing and the Mondrian inspired coloured panels covered over, the McIntyre House remains remarkably intact, with no loss to its structural integrity nor lessening of its suggestion as a daring recipe for post-war living in the 1950s. The extensive picturesque site on which the house was built and the various studio and outbuildings located on the estate complement the unique formal qualities of the design.

The McIntyre House is a period exemplar of the radical stylistic and structural experiments that were taking place in Australian architecture in the post-war years, and is indicative of the optimism and excitement felt by architects when released from the austerity of World War 2 and the immediate post-war years of material and financial shortages.

Statement of Significance The McIntyre House is significant as an example of structurally inspired modernism in the 1950's. In particular the use of a cantilevered structure suspended from a steel A-frame was most unusual in domestic construction of the period.

It is one of the most significant domestic buildings designed by the noted architect Peter McIntyre.

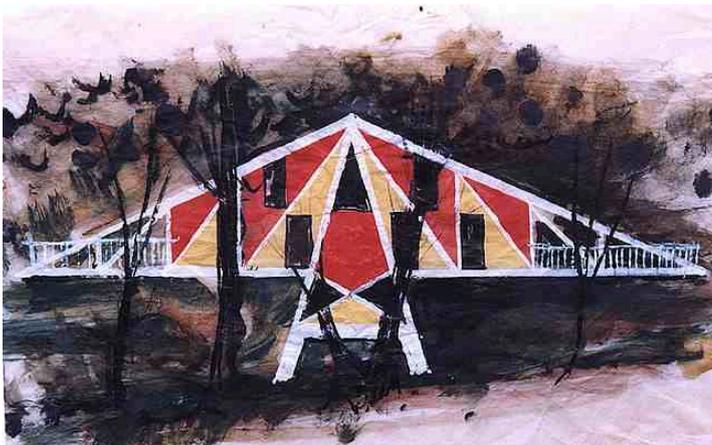
Criteria Applicable N1 - Significant Heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design.
N3 - Significant heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement
N5 – Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history.



River view. Photo by Wolfgang Siewers, SLV



Views of the mezzanine level. Photos by Peter Wille, SLV



Drawing by Dione McIntyre, 1953, McIntyre Collection