

Ancher House III

Address 15 Bogota Avenue, Neutral Bay, NSW, 2089

Practice Sydney Ancher

Designed 1956 Completed 1957

History & Description

This, the third house Sydney Ancher designed for himself and his family in 1956, is a three bedroom open planned single storeyed building with a south western facing verandah. It continued the long white coloured house form of his previous work, which explored opportunities of continuity between the interior and exterior. Ancher utilised a former grass tennis court in this subdivided site as a terrace to align the house against. Low flat ivory coloured caneite ceilings, edged with battens in a Japanese effect, are made visually continuous with the flat ceilings of the verandah. An open plan is explored to great effect with alcoves being subdivided by curtain screens with added privacy to close off the kitchen and bathrooms through the use of four doors.

Various lighting effects are explored in the house: from deep shade along the verandah, to a skylight which allows translucent light through rice paper lined ceiling panels between timber posted entry baldacchino, through to the use of clear, tinted or opaque window glazing set within slim timber window frames.

A 12-foot module is used to determine the structural frame of this building. A simple pallet of materials is used consisting of precast concrete plinths that support precast concrete and timber columns, timber floor framing and roof framing. The building features some masonry walls of white painted bagged brick infill panels set between slim concrete columns.

This dwelling has all those elements which we now associate with the seminal residential work of Sydney Ancher, however this was the last house Ancher designed for himself in what we now associate with the International Style. The building is generally intact with some alterations and additions undertaken in the 1990's.

Statement of Significance

Through Max Dupain's evocative black and white images, taken at the same time the building was completed in 1957, this building herald a change in the direction of residential design in Sydney at the time. With a Miesian appreciation of expressed structural frame and continuous architectural space that connects with its exterior setting, the design of this seminal house combines lightweight constructional framing and detailing, that in some instances was overlaid with an appreciation of the orient.

In the design of this house Ancher captured the spirit of the time by fusing international modern architectural thinking with a fresh response to its regional setting, climatic conditions and an emerging modern Australian culture.

Criteria Applicable

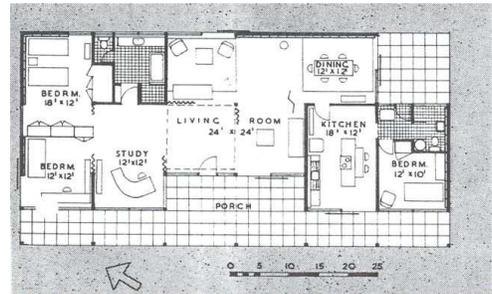
- N1.** Significant heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design
- N2.** Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics
- N5.** Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history



Night view of the exterior (Photo: Max Dupain)



Living room (Photo: Max Dupain)



Plan (Source: *Architecture in Australia* (October-December 1958))