

**Boomerang**  
Address 42 Billyard Avenue, Elizabeth Bay, NSW, 2011  
Practice Neville Hampson  
Designed 1926 Completed 1928

History &  
Description

Boomerang is an exotic residence designed by Neville Hampson for Frank Albert, a wealthy sheet music publisher and harmonica manufacturer, exemplifying the Hollywood derived taste for the Spanish mission style in a pastiche of palms, splashing fountains and 'Spanish' architectural details. Perforated screens, rough stucco, colonnades, grilles, loggias and barley twist columns are all combined to provide one of the most successful examples of this style. The house has 25 main rooms, 6 bathrooms, 4 kitchens and covers a total of 100 square metres. Two internal staircases access the upper floor, a major and a minor one. The major one is made of marble and bronze. Roof tiles are Wunderlich multi-coloured glazed terracotta Cordoba tiles. The property has much external and internal detail work in wrought iron - window grilles, door screens, light fittings. The house has decorative panel work on walls, floors and ceilings in coloured glazed ceramic tiles, timber, plaster and terrazzo. External walls have iron grilles in 'portholes' of different shapes and wooden and iron grille gates. The grounds originally included a garage/butler's quarters converted into a garage and guests' quarters in the 1990s. In 2005 Boomerang was sold to the Fox Family of Linfox who undertook an extensive refurbishment of the gardens. (NSW Heritage Branch online database #5045596)

Statement of  
Significance

Boomerang has historic, aesthetic and social significance as an exemplary example of large scale Spanish Mission/Hollywood Spanish mansion and garden in an urban setting, in relatively intact condition, demonstrating the lifestyle of a wealthy merchant of the 1920s, and the kind of social milieu possible and popular among that class at the time. It has technical and research significance as a rare example of domestic architecture of Neville Hampson in Sydney. (NSW Heritage Branch online database #5045596)

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



Front entrance (Photo: Harold Cazneaux from *The Australian Home Beautiful* (April 1930))



View from the water front (Photo: Harold Cazneaux from *The Australian Home Beautiful* (April 1930))



Arcaded loggia (Source: *Belle* (June-July 2008))