

Evatt House (Rickard House I)

Address 51 Finlay Road, Warrawee, NSW, 2074

Practice Bruce Rickard

Designed 1959 Completed 1960

History & Description The Evatt House (also known as Rickard House I) is sited to maintain adjacent trees and views of the surrounding bushland. The house is constructed of stone, timber, concrete and glass and planned around a central living room. Wide eave overhangs and surrounding trees provide shade in summer. The house displays Rickard's unique skill in designing a procession of liveable spaces. The living, dining and kitchen areas are one space, visually divided and modulated by timber and stone partition walls which also define cabinets and the fireplace, with each space borrowing from the other. The changes in ceiling levels and the clerestory and roof lights add to the progression of spatial experience.

This house is the first of several houses designed by Rickard for himself. In 1966 the second owner, Clive Evatt, engaged Rickard to design substantial alterations and additions. The house played a significant part in launching the architectural career of Bruce Rickard. It was included in an exhibition of 'Modern Sydney Domestic Architecture' held in Melbourne's Museum of Modern Art; and in 1961 in an exhibition (with other Rickard designed houses) at Farmer's Blaxland Gallery in Sydney.

Statement of Significance The Evatt House is a seminal work in the 'organic' stream of modern architecture in Australia. Such architecture has at its core an aesthetic, political and social response to the indigenous natural landscape that is now an integral part of contemporary Australia's sense of national identity. It is the first house designed by Bruce Rickard for his own family in Sydney. Rickard is considered to be one of a handful of architects in the 1960s who responded to both modernism and to the Australian landscape. The house has influenced subsequent generations of architects and architectural patrons in NSW who look to the Australian landscape as an inspiration for architecture, particularly domestic 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 or works of an architect of significant importance in our history
- N6.** Significant heritage value in demonstrating a high degree of technical achievement of a particular period



Living area (Source: Max Dupain c.1960)



Bedroom (Photo: Max Dupain c.1960)



External view (Photo: Max Dupain c.1960)



External view (Photo: Max Dupain c.1960)