

Maytone Avenue Houses

Address Nos 2, 3, 4 and 6 Maytone Avenue, Killara,
NSW, 2071

Practice Sydney Ancher

Designed 1945 Completed 1951

History &
Description

Sydney Ancher was amongst the first to introduce the International Style to Australian domestic building, reshaping its forms to the needs of the Australian climate and way of life. As this group of houses demonstrates so ably, the basic Miesian cube is extended with covered or screened outdoor areas, emulating the Australian verandah.

Situated on a well wooded site, no. 3 was planned by Ancher for himself and the house incorporates many of the ideas he had formulated over some years of practice. The easy open plan, the kitchen of good size and outlook are important points in modern house planning. The use of a completely glazed wall on the eastern side was logical for the climate. The walls are a pinkish off-white and the woodwork is white. The colour scheme is completed by the grey purple of the slates. The pitched roof was the result of Council restrictions and lends a familiar suburban identity to the simple geometry of the façade. The Council also required more brickwork than was originally intended. (NSW Heritage Branch online database #1880504-1880507 from National Trust listing proposal)

No. 4 is memorable as the house 'displays the blend which Ancher reached of the International Style's defiance of nature – white and boxy – with affection for the site and deference to some chosen elements in it. The angled placing of the house, and the careful scribing of brickwork over the rounded outcropping rock, emphasise the appealing form of that rock.' (Saunders, D and Burke, C. *Ancher, Mortlock & Woolley: Sydney Architects 1946-1976*, 1976)

Statement of
Significance

This enclave of modern case study houses is significant as a demonstration of how modern International Style architecture in Australia was adapted and designed using the capacities of local post-war construction. Even though compromised, no. 4 was recognised as an excellent piece of architecture by the NSW architectural profession, receiving the Sulman Award for 1945. Its significance is partially derived from its place in the flat roof controversy of the post-war period.

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
- N4.** Having significant monumental and symbolic heritage value to the development of architecture and the history of architecture
- 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



No. 2 Maytone Avenue (Photo: Max Dupain)



No. 3 Maytone Avenue (Photo: Max Dupain)



No. 4 Maytone Avenue (Photo: Max Dupain)