Brackenridge House

26 Cunningham Street, Applecross WA 6153

Ian Brackenridge APTC (Arch), ARAIA, ARIBA

1958-1959 Completed 1959

History & Description

Ian Brackenridge (b.1935) studied architecture at the Perth Technical College and like many of his contemporaries travelled overseas to work in the UK, and travel through Europe, returning to Perth in 1958.

His own home completed soon after remains an unorthodox residence in a conventional suburban setting. Combining a modest floor area and little formal circulation space within planning based on a 7ft module, the split level plan with entry at the half landing permitted the elevated living space to take advantage of the river views. The balustrade of the full width upper level balcony re-interpreted and simplified the filigree veranda screens of Victorian and Federation housing while the stressed plywood barrel vault roof forms demonstrated the concern for structural and material innovation of the period.

In 1961 the house was awarded both the inaugural ‘West Australian Newspaper’s Home of the Year’ and the national ‘Architecture and Arts’ award.

Statement of Significance

House, 26 Cunningham Street is significant as a fine example of domestic architecture of the Post-War period combining modernist concerns for innovative and economical use of materials, planning and technology within a strong visual aesthetic. The house has special significance with its association with Ian Brackenridge, being designed by the architect as his own residence.

Criteria Applicable

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.

N6. Significant heritage value in demonstrating a high degree of technical achievement of a particular period.