

# David Foulkes Taylor Showroom

Address 33 Broadway Nedlands WA 6009

Practice Julius Elischer

Designed 1964 Completed 1965

History & Description

Constructed for furniture designer David Foulkes Taylor, the former retail showroom is a striking white masonry box with deeply recessed windows arranged in an abstract geometric manner. Foulkes Taylor's showroom concept was lauded as unique in Australia at the time of his death in 1966. Born in Perth in 1929, Foulkes Taylor became an influential and inspirational member of the local arts community. Having studied and travelled overseas he returned to Perth in the late 1950s and opened his own business, creating a commercial and social environment encouraging of local artists and craftsmen. Émigré Hungarian architect Julius Elischer was commissioned to create a showroom in which Foulkes Taylor could display both his own works and imported European pieces. The initial polychromatic painting of the deep reveals which punctuated the principal elevations in a geometric arrangement was superficially expressive of the work of the architect, Le Corbusier at his cathedral at Ronchamp and apartment block in Marseilles. The building was acquired by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in late 2005, and adapted to provide accommodation for the Institute's WA Chapter and for the Architects Board of Western Australia.



Broadway elevation from north-east (John Taylor, 2005)

Statement of Significance

*David Foulkes Taylor Showroom (fmr)*, a double height, painted brick and steel building in the Late-Twentieth Brutalist and Perth Regional styles, has cultural heritage significance as: the place is an aesthetically distinctive building with a striking white cubic form punctuated with deeply recessed windows arranged in an abstract geometric manner. The design excellence of the building was recognised soon after completion and continues to be appreciated; the place is highly valued by the artistic and design communities of Western Australia. Initiated by David Foulkes Taylor to promote European and local artworks and furniture, this function was continued after Foulkes Taylor's death by retailer Jim Brant, and contributed to the development of a local design identity and sense of place; the place is a fine example of the Late Twentieth-Century period and work of Julius Elischer who is recognised as one of Western Australia's more influential architects of the 1960s and 1970s. The place incorporates characteristics of both the Brutalist and Perth Regional styles where the bold primary form and expressive window arrangement have been treated with a conscious regard for the local climate and environment.

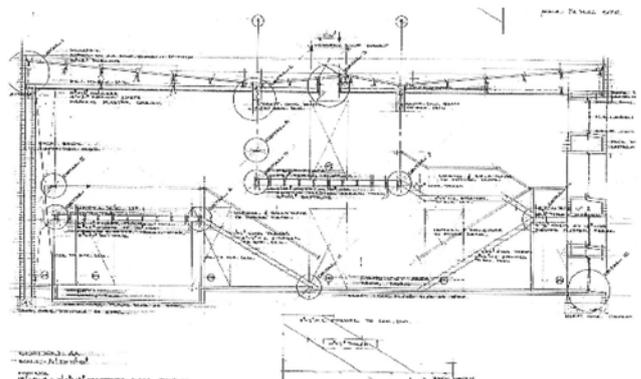
Criteria Applicable N1, N2, N3, N5



Interior view of north facing windows (John Taylor, 2009)



Showroom views c.1965 (*The Foulkes Taylor Years*: exhibition 1982)



North-south cross section (Julius Elischer Architect, 1964)