Overman Residence, Applecross

71a Matheson Road, Applecross, WA, 6153

Peter Overman

History & Description

Situated on a battle-axe sub-division within the rear garden of an existing house the Overman Residence was designed for the architect’s own family while living in the front house. The two-storey residence divides the ‘parent’s house’, main living areas and girl’s bedroom on the lower floor from the ‘boys’ house’ with two attic bedrooms and hobby centre on the upper floor, constructed entirely within the roof space.

The placement of the house was determined by the existing trees. Small openings in the street elevation contrast with large glass areas facing the rear western courtyard. Overman shaded the western glazing with extensive pergolas to facilitate easy indoor and outdoor living.

The house was the winner of the Architecture Design Award in 1978.

Overman was born in Holland and grew up in Indonesia. He established his own practice in Perth in 1967 and played a major role in addressing shortcomings in project housing when working at Corser Homes. He retained a special interest in housing and had a strong influence on residential architecture in WA through the latter decades of the twentieth century.

Statement of Significance

Overman Residence is significant as an excellent example of a house that demonstrates the rationalisation of living spaces and exemplifies the architect’s interest in planning relationships in respect of the physical and visual connections between the interior and exterior. The place has a special association with the architect being his own residence. Overman was a key practitioner in Western Australian domestic architecture.

Criteria Applicable

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.