

## FORREST TOWNHOUSES

Address 3 Tasmania Circuit, FORREST, ACT

Practice Roy Grounds of Grounds Romberg and Boyd

Designed 1959 Completed 1960

### History & Description

A group of five townhouses, a small attached single storey bed-sitter and a separate courtyard house linked by carports and a covered walkway to the bed-sitter at the east of the site.. The townhouses' two storeyed height living space is cleverly screened by sliding doors from the dining, kitchen and entry area. Above, a gallery area with built in desk, overlooks the living area. Behind are two bedrooms, dressing room and bathroom. The courtyard house has a large open north facing living area and two bedrooms. The houses have all been carefully detailed with limed ash panelling and joinery throughout. Constructed of load bearing concrete block, concrete slabs, straw ceiling panels, and steel and timber framed low-pitched metal deck roof. External timber joinery is painted white. The courtyard walls to Dominion Circuit were a departure from the Garden City concept of planning for Canberra and did not comply with National Capital Development commission (NCDC) guidelines and were demolished and then later rebuilt. Grounds owned one of the flats and lived there when working in Canberra. His office was also located in the complex.

### Statement of Significance

A group of elegant, bold and simply detailed townhouses which are architecturally significant, contrasting with strong rectangular forms to the surrounding residential architecture. The innovative design solution with almost monumental scale two storey height living spaces in the townhouses have large walls of glass onto the north facing courtyards and exhibit a restrained use of natural materials. The buildings are one of a few in Canberra designed and developed by Sir Roy Grounds , one of Australia's notable architects and an example of the Melbourne Regional style of 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 and works of an architect of significant importance in our history.

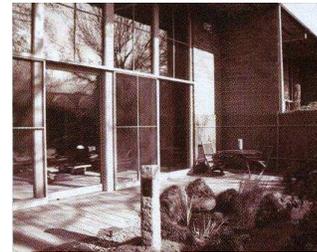


Photo: Unknown



Photo: Jon Burchill; Courtyard House



Photo: Jon Burchill



Photo: Graeme Trickett



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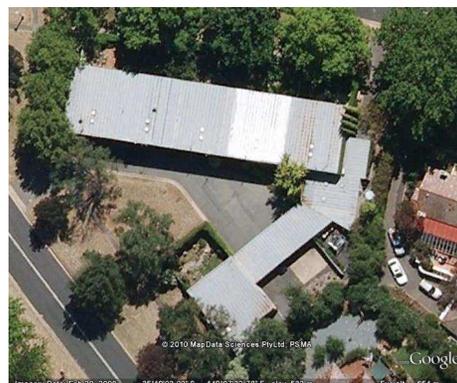


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