

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R045

Name of Place: Kanangra Court

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: Ainslie Avenue REID 2612

Block 1 Section 11 of Reid

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	1984	Level of Significance:	Local
Citation Revision No:	1	Category:	Residential
Citation Revision Date:	August 1990	Style:	International

Date of Design:	1962	Designer:	Collard, Clarke & Jackson
Construction Period:	1964-65	Client/Owner/Lessee:	
Date of Additions:		Builder:	ACT Builders P/L

Statement of Significance

The bachelor flats were designed by well-known Sydney architects Collard, Clarke & Jackson. The innovative design solution and siting provides blocks of flats staggered on the site and in levels following the slope. This gives the buildings a domestic scale, provides privacy and less repetition and monotony in the facades and building forms. The simple detailing of the buildings contributes to breaking the facades into smaller elements, and adds to the modern character of the buildings. The quality of the buildings, their detailing and siting allows them to contribute significantly to their environment in a sympathetic manner, as a pleasing medium density residential development. The site of the buildings is locally of social and historic importance, adjacent to the site of the original Ainslie Post Office.

Description

A group of 118 bachelor flats and one double unit for caretaker located on a suburban block, and bounded on all sides by four streets. There are seven blocks of flats of three storeys sited to retain privacy and domestic scale, with the carports and drying yards on the Allambee Street boundary on the site. Each block is set in a landscaped area and separated from its neighbours by open courts connected by concrete paths. To ensure privacy, the flats are approached from staggered split-level stair landings with no more than two flats opening from one landing. Designed as bed-sitting rooms, with small kitchenette facilities, a bathroom separated by a walk-in cupboard from the living area, and a small walk out balcony. There are drying rooms beneath the flats, and common laundry facilities are located in the two main blocks. The buildings are constructed off-white painted bagged load bearing brick walls externally and rendered internally, and reinforced concrete floor slabs. The stepped gable roofs are timber framed with grey cement tiles. The blocks are linked by staircases screened by pierced face brickwork. The casement windows and french doors opening onto small wrought-iron balconies are framed simply in timber. The face brick window sills contrast with the bagged walls. The carports and screened drying areas are constructed in face brickwork. A bronze plaque is attached to the rear of the carport along Allambee Street to commemorate the site of the original Ainslie Post Office.

Condition and Integrity

Good, with some general maintenance required.

Background/History

Analysis against the Criteria specified in Schedule 2 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991

(i) a place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure or representing a new achievement of its time

Designed by significant architects Collard, Clarke and Jackson of Sydney.

(ii) a place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group

The innovative design solution staggers the blocks of flats following the slope of the site, and breaking the facades into smaller elements reducing the monotony of facades and giving the buildings a domestic scale.

(iii) a place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger or being lost, or is of exceptional interest

(iv) a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations

(v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type

(vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class

The buildings solve their functional and siting problems in a significant manner - staggering, common areas in the centre site.

(vii) a place which has strong or special associations with person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history

The simple detail of the buildings adds to their quality, giving them an ageless appearance, their staggered arrangements in plan and levels and siting contribute to their environment.

(xi) a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site

The site of the buildings is historically important, adjacent to the site of the original Ainslie Post Office, the NCDC struck a commemorative bronze plaque which has been attached to the rear of the carports along Allambee Street.

References

Other Information Sources