

Dalton House

Address 305 Fig Tree Pocket Road, Fig Tree Pocket

Practice John Dalton & Associates

Designed 1959 Completed 1960

History & Description

The Dalton House was designed by John Dalton (1927-2007) for himself and his wife Sheila and was completed in 1960, shortly after the formation of John Dalton & Associates in 1959. The house demonstrates Dalton's firm belief in the principles of climate design as the basis of good architecture and his willingness to embrace new materials in efficient and rational design. Whilst the plan form and use of roof lantern are similar to that of the Speare House (Dalton & Heathwood, 1958; Peter Heathwood architect), its expression marks a shift away from houses designed whilst in partnership with Peter Heathwood.

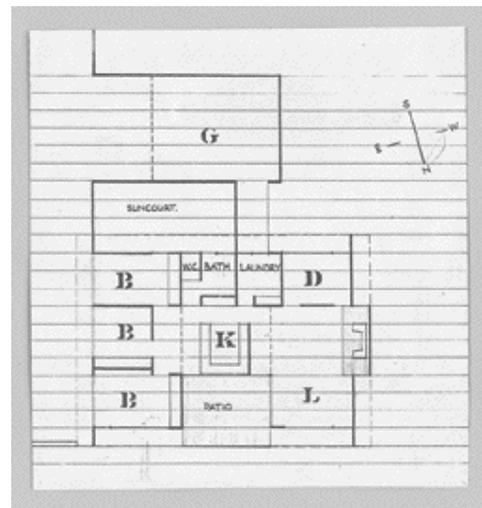
The house is oriented north-east. Concern for cross ventilation is evident in the use of a central roof lantern, floor vents and a continuous aluminium grille at eaves. The use of an aluminium frame and flat aluminium deck roof delivers the horizontal lines of the modern pavilion, whilst enabling wide roof overhangs. The house is elevated 150 mm above its formed platform, providing sub-floor ventilation whilst maintaining the connection of interior spaces to the ground.

The house also coincides with Dalton's engagement in wider debate on the role of architect as artist. An interest in the play of sunlight and shadow on form, which was explored through art as well as architecture, together with a concern for climatic design accompanied the development of Dalton's work from the flat roof and horizontal lines of the Dalton House to the use of skillion roofs, painted brick walls and dark stained timbers, evident in later work such as the Graham House (1966).

The Dalton House was included in 'The ten best houses for 1959-60' by *The Australian Journal of Architecture and Arts*.



Images: *Australian Journal of Architecture and Arts*, 1960



Statement of Significance

The Dalton House is an early and influential example of Queensland modern architecture demonstrating principles of design for climate. It reveals Dalton's interest in the relationship between plan and roof articulation for the purposes of achieving cross ventilation and his willingness to experiment with new materials and techniques.

John Dalton contributed prolifically to architectural journals, and through his writing and his architecture helped shape a distinctive Queensland modern architecture.

Criteria Applicable

N1 – Significant heritage value in demonstrating 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 or works of an architect of significant importance in our history.

