

Featherston House

Address 22 The Boulevard, Ivanhoe 3079

Practice Romberg & Boyd (Robin Boyd)

Designed 1967

Completed 1969

History & Description The Featherston House is located on a sloping site overlooking parkland in the middle suburbs of Melbourne. The house was designed as a residence for industrial designers Grant and Mary Featherston, and a flat originally intended for Mrs Featherston's parents.

The clients were artistic and co-operative. They allowed Boyd the freedom to design a quite radical scheme based on the theme of living in a garden. The main exposition of this idea is a large 7.5m high space at the centre of the house. Here the living, dining, study and master bedroom spaces are suspended on a series of four staggered, unwallled platforms that appear to float above a densely planted indoor garden. The ceiling over is translucent, allowing soft light to illuminate the space below at all times of the day. A wall of glass to the south gives additional light and also views to the treed parkland beyond. The kitchen, family and guest bedrooms are located in their own zone behind the eastern wall, with the flat above. Behind the western wall, other service areas are located.

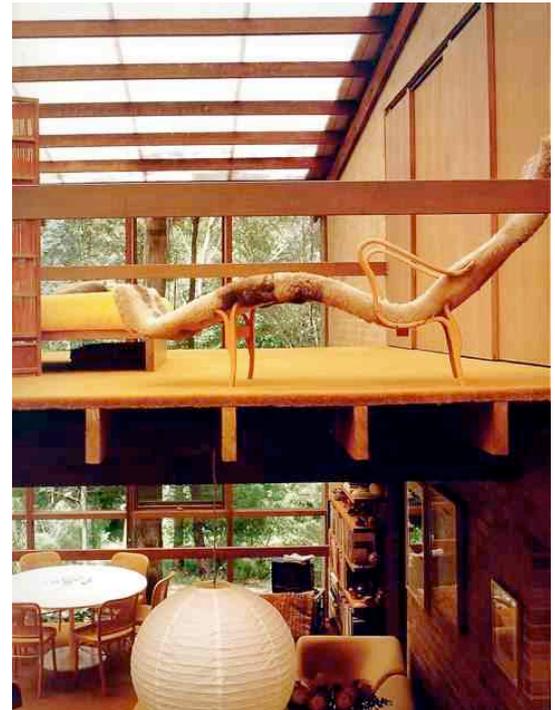
The house was extensively described and illustrated in Robyn Boyd's 1970 book *Living in Australia* and in other publications of the period.

Statement of Significance The Featherston House is significant as an outstanding example of the domestic designs of prominent architect and critic Robin Boyd, particularly of his later designs for larger houses.

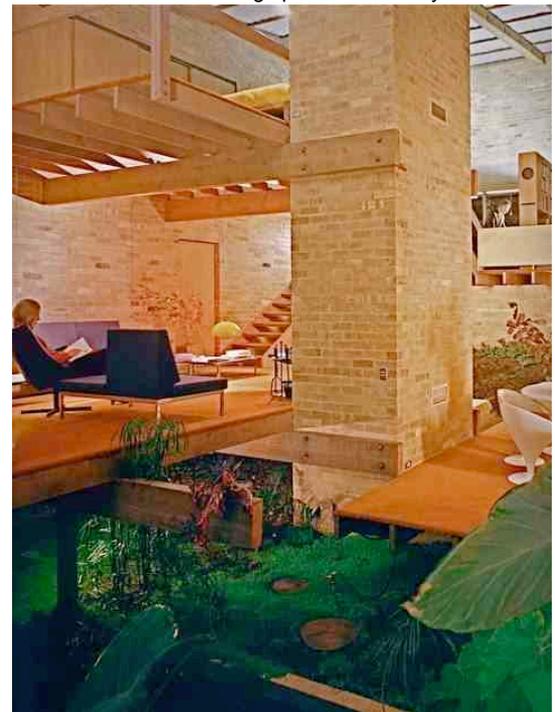
It is also significant as a material expression of Boyd's architectural ideas and writings, which were known internationally at the time.

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.



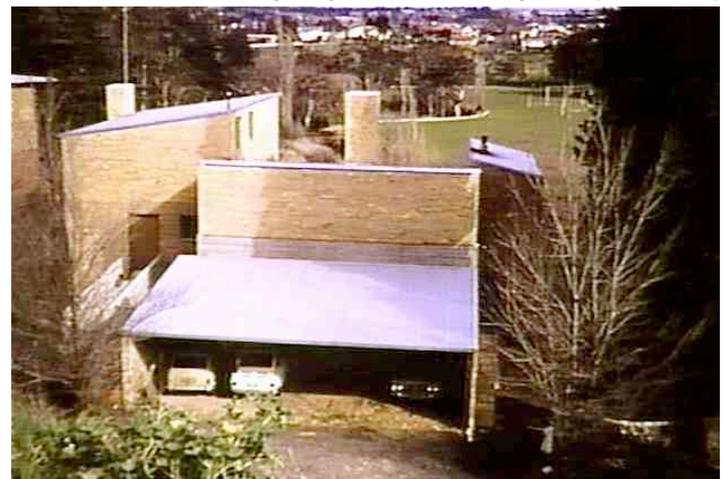
Park views from living spaces. Photo by Earl Carter



Floating living areas over indoor garden. [Mark Strizic]



View from park. Photo by Rory Hyde, Flickr.com



View from road c.1970 Photo by Peter Wille, SLV