

Heritage research – non-listed item

Existing SHI/s: Not identified in original 1989 survey or later studies.

Address: 7 Curagul Road, North Turrumurra. “Hutter House,” designed by architect Harry Seidler for S Hutter.

Description: Lot 2, DP 835996.

Photographs: August 2020 real estate images: <https://www.realestate.com.au/property/7-curagul-rd-north-turrumurra-nsw-2074>















Dimensions are approximate. All information contained is gathered from sources we believe to be reliable. However we cannot guarantee its accuracy and interested persons should rely on their own enquiries.
www.victorphoto.com.au

7 CURAGUL ROAD, NORTH TURRAMURRA
APPROX. INTERNAL FLOOR AREA: 301 SQM



CENTURY 21.
Radar Properties

Images from Seidler's *Houses and Interiors Volume 1*: (copyrighted material) accessed at: https://books.google.com.au/books?id=jlGJmn4vkccC&pg=PA68&dq=hutter+house+turramurra&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=3#v=onepage&q=hutter%20house%20turramurra&f=false

Hutter House Turramurra, 1952

Built on a steeply sloping site, the plan of the house is dictated by the slope. Living and dining areas are grouped and joined by an internal ramp. The house is a single level, constructed by a central volume. Beyond the central ramp, the house is divided into two main wings and a central volume.

The view of the site is placed in the ground but the design of the house is to cover the slope, making it a single level. The exterior wall is made of stone, and the interior is made of wood.



1. Floor plate and section
2. View from the house
3. Section through the house
4. Section through the house

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- Kitchen
- Dining space (day/night)
- Living space (day/night)

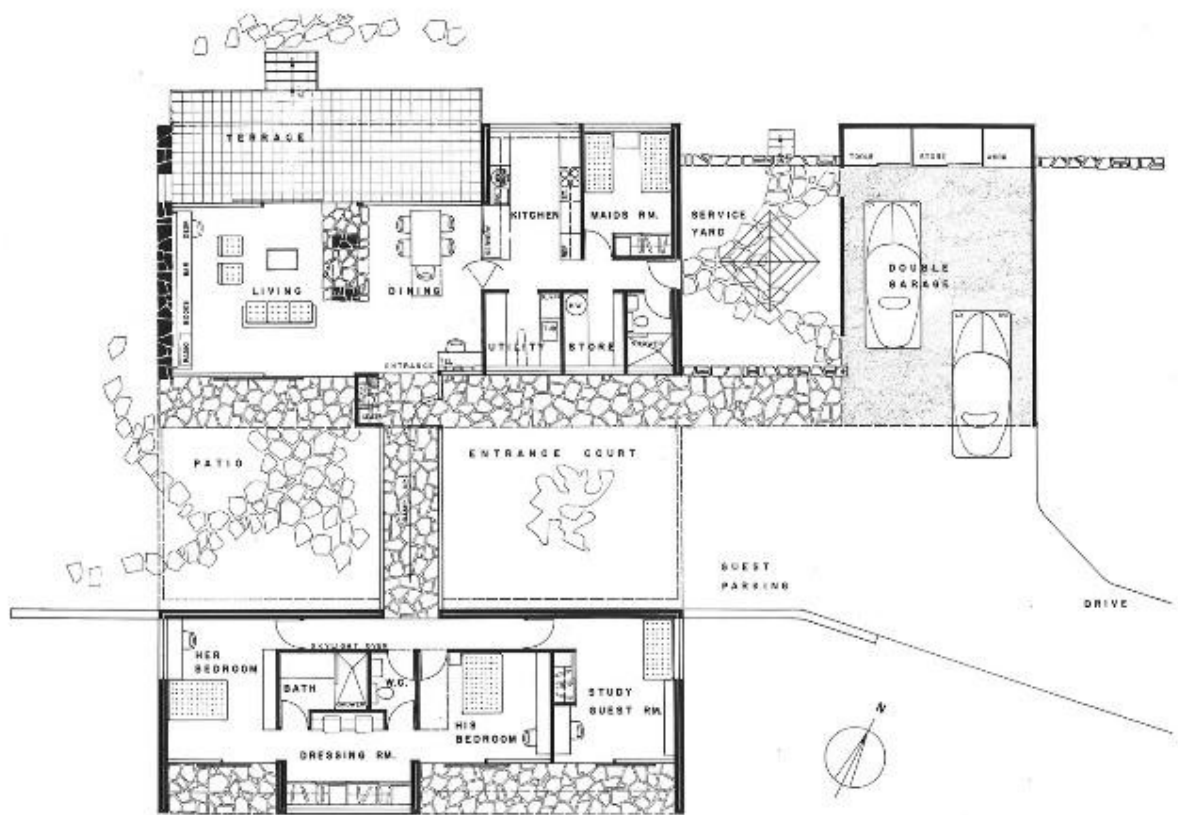


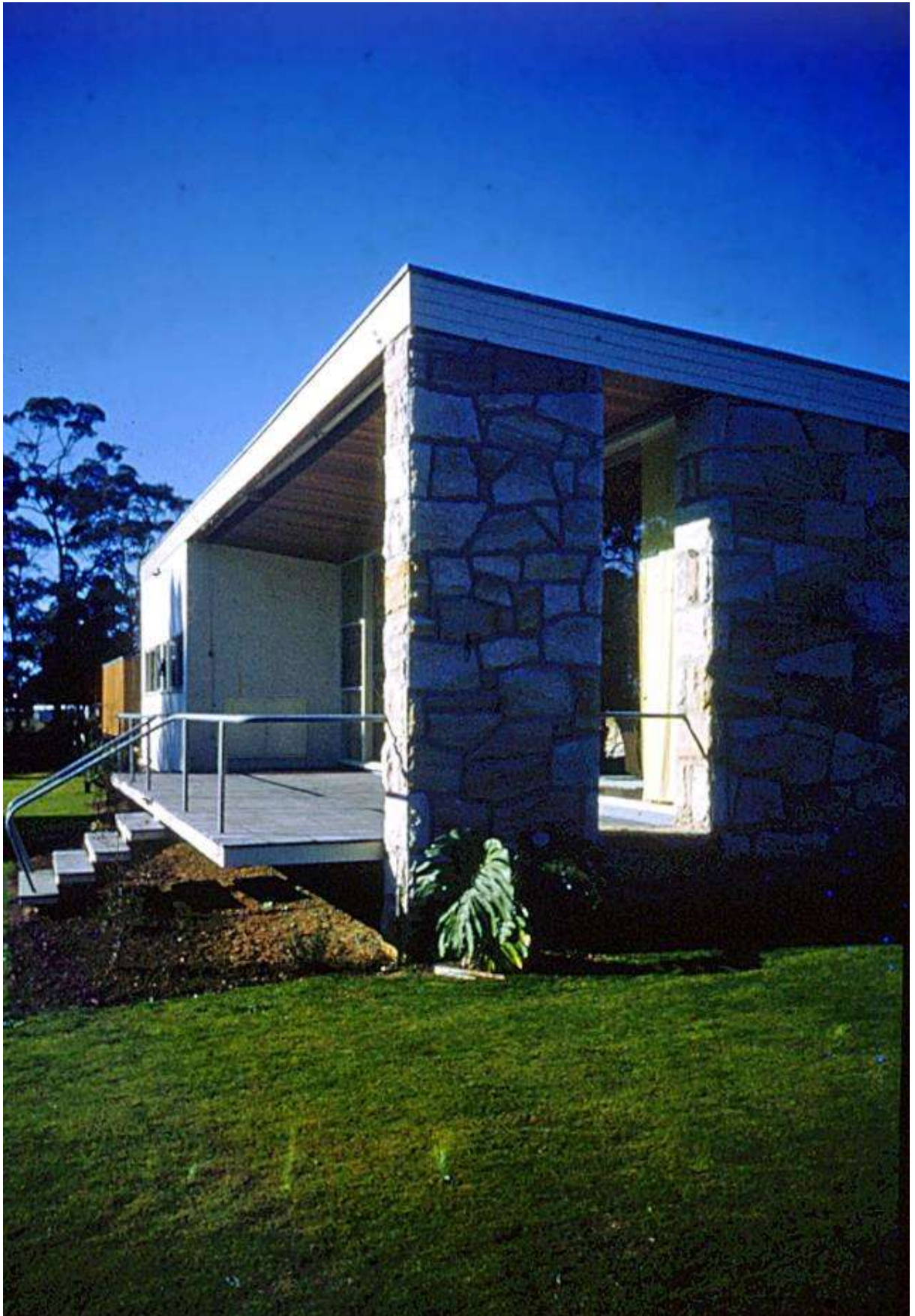
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Additional images from Harry Seidler and Associates website:
<http://seidler.net.au/index.php?id=134>







UNUSUAL DESIGN FOR A GENTLE SLOPE

Standing in three acres of gently sloping ground on the outskirts of Turrumurra, N.S.W., is a house designed by architect Harry Seidler for Mr. and Mrs. S. Hutter.

THE house is built on part of a former polo field, and its grounds now include a beautifully kept lawn, a garden in the making, and large trees.

Because the site does not command a panoramic view, the architect kept the house low and freely spreading, with its general outlines following the land contours.

The plan of the house, which is shown below, is composed of three parts: (1) The garage connected to, but separate from the house; (2) the living-rooms on the lower portion of the slope, with the

main glass doors opening on to a terrace; (3) the bedroom wing on the higher level, but connected to the living-rooms by an enclosed ramp.

The spaces between the living-room and bedroom wings are formed into open-air areas of various uses, including a screened yard for clothes-lines, an entrance court, and a garden patio.

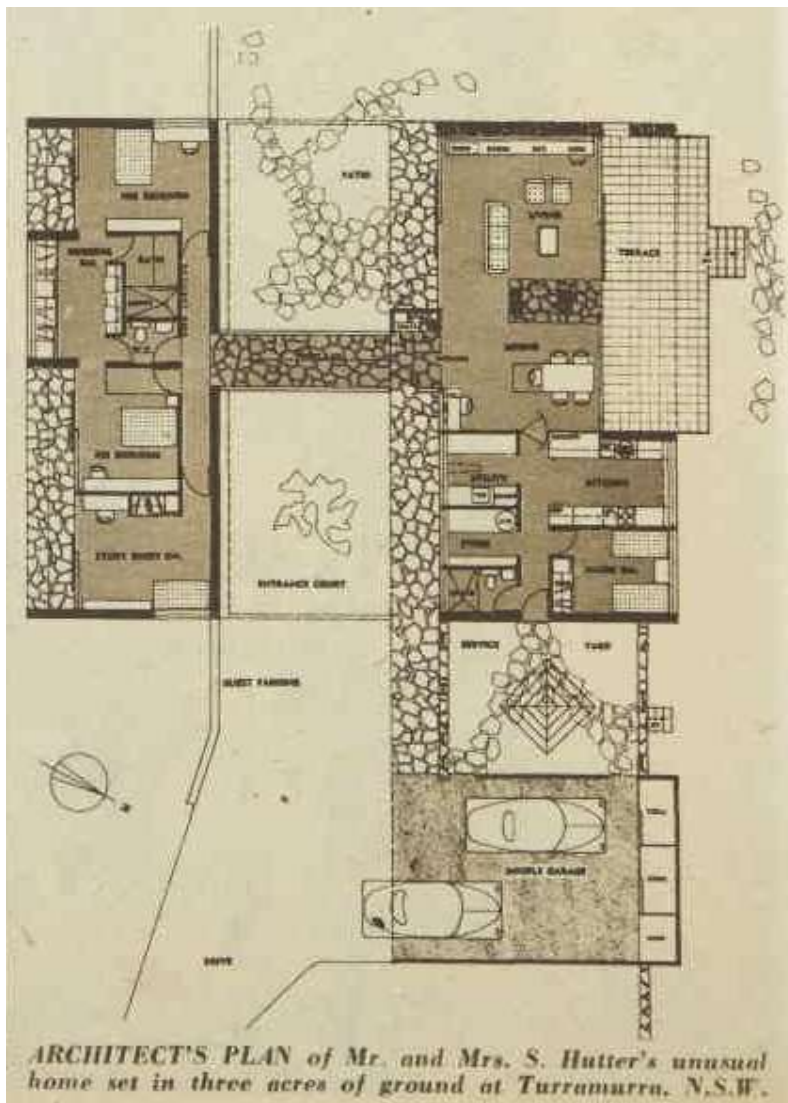
Further details of the house are given in the 156-page book "Houses, Interiors, and Projects," by Harry Seidler.

(Our copy by courtesy of Associated General Publications.)

MODERN HOMES



NIGHT VIEW of the living and dining rooms taken from the ramp leading to the bedroom wing. The entrance door can be seen in the cedar wall of the ramp. The suspended cabinet in the living-room is attached to the stone wall.





ABOVE: North-western view of Mr. and Mrs. Hutter's home at Tarengo, N.S.W., designed by architect Harry Seidler, showing the living wing and garage. The garage walls of cedar are 18 inches from ground level.



DRESSING-ROOM provides a connecting link between Mr. and Mrs. Hutter's bedrooms. Cabinets above the washbasin have sliding mirror doors. Opposite are spacious wardrobes with sliding doors painted in vivid colors. Doors at right lead to bath and shower rooms.



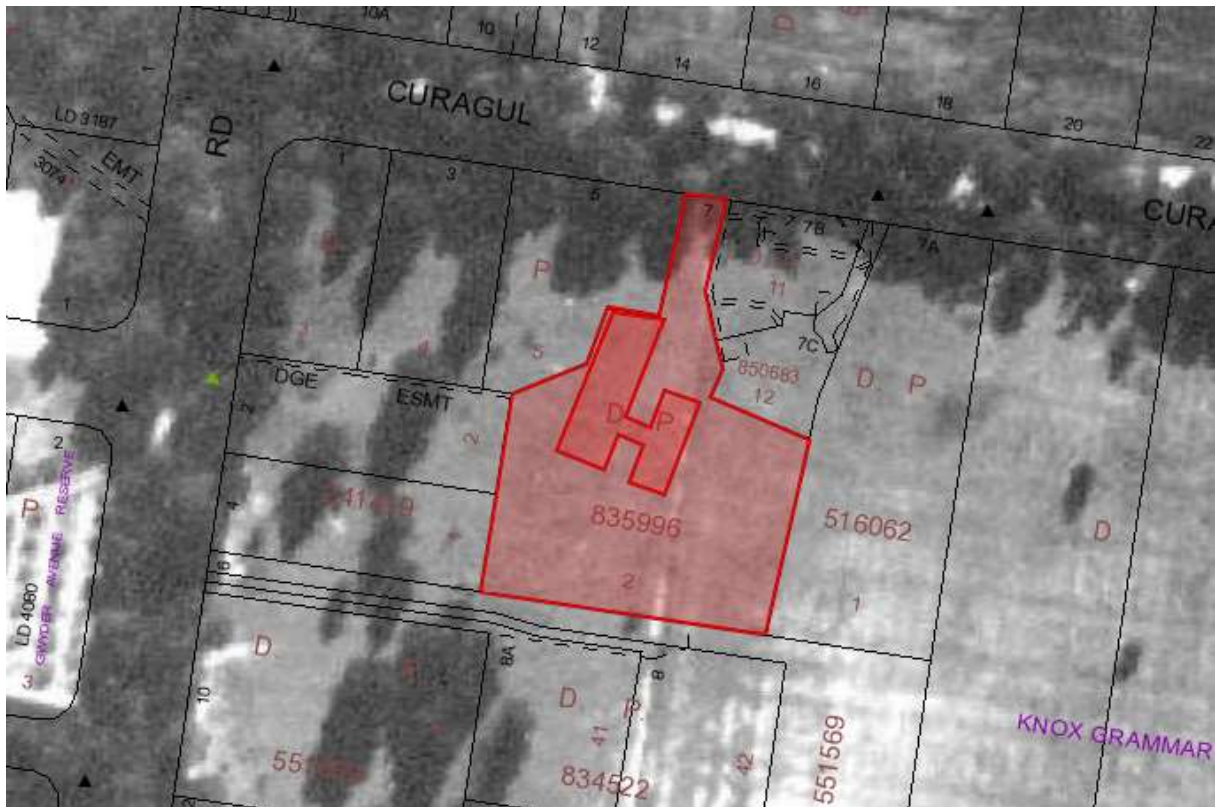
ABOVE: Living-room shown from the door of the glass-walled porch. The free-standing stone fireplace (section of which can be seen on the right) serves both living and dining rooms.

RIGHT: The well-equipped, labor-saving kitchen has a two-way access to dining-room. Directly opposite is a walk-in pantry. Pictures by staff photographer Robert Cleland.

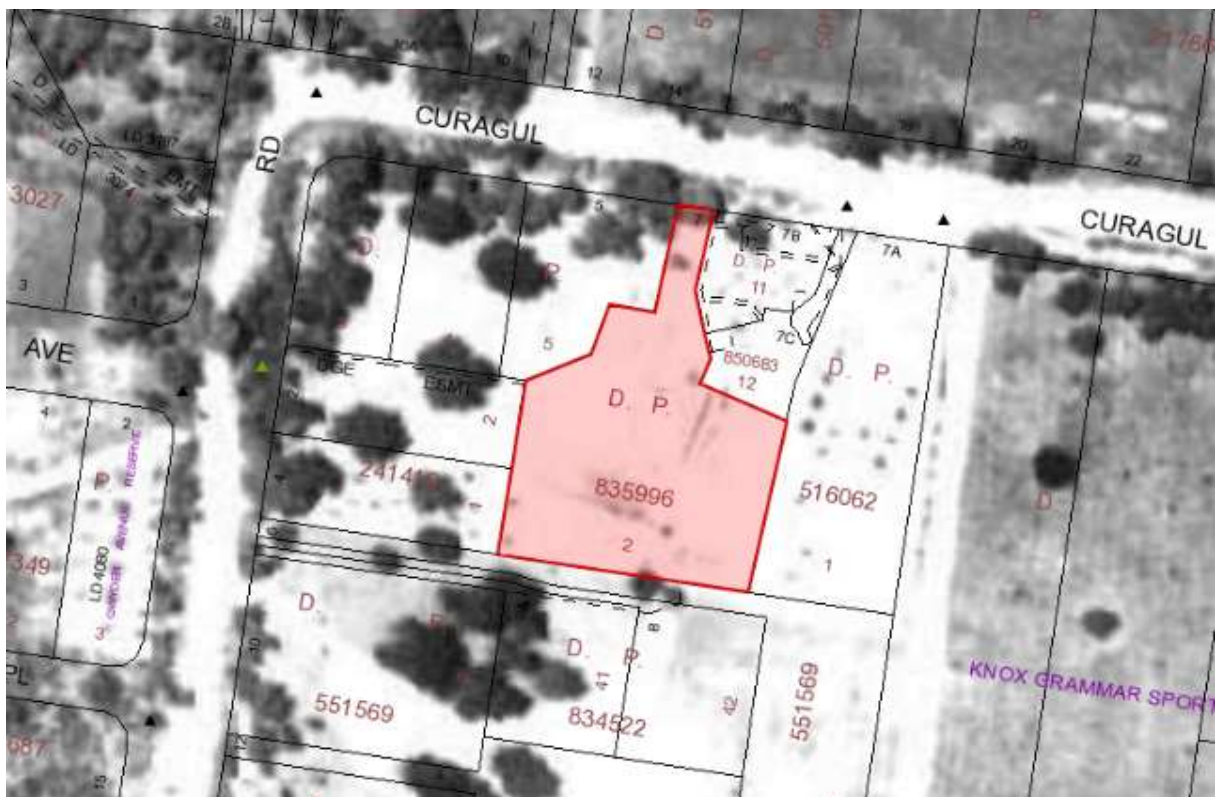
LEFT: This view from the northeast shows the continuity of roof slope over the bedroom wing, the connecting ramp, and garage. The living-room roof slopes in opposite direction.



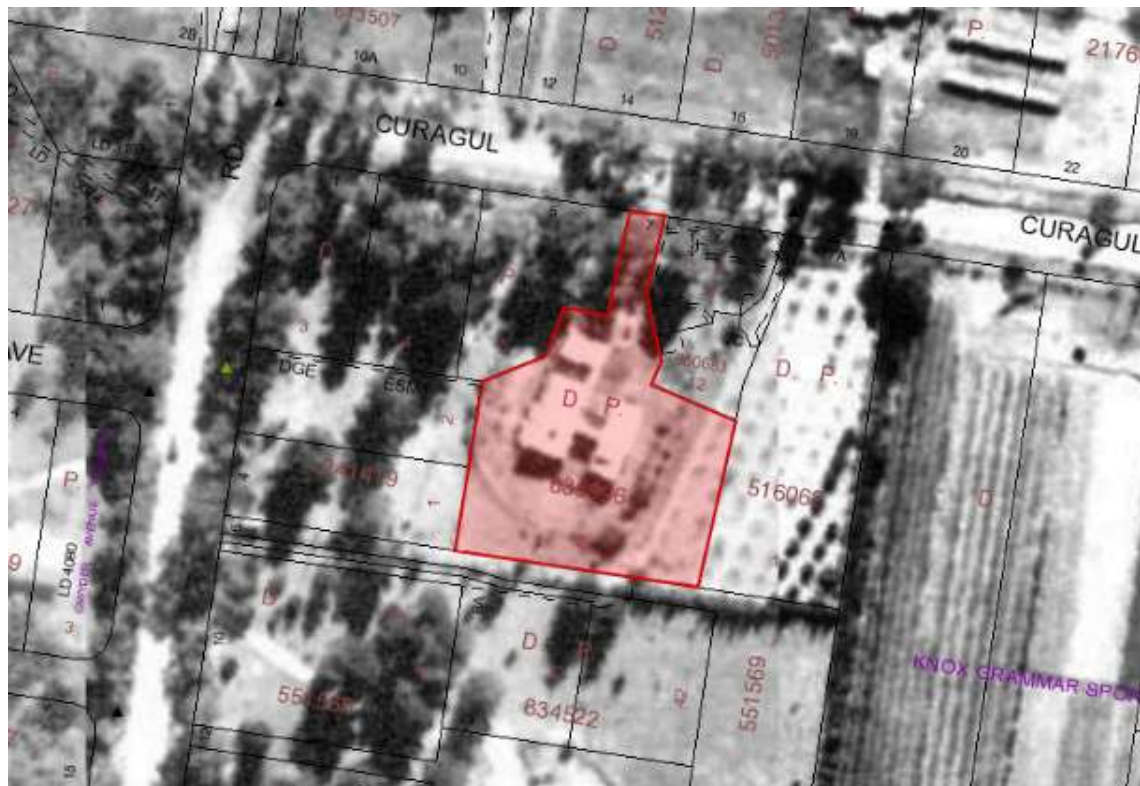
1951 aerial:



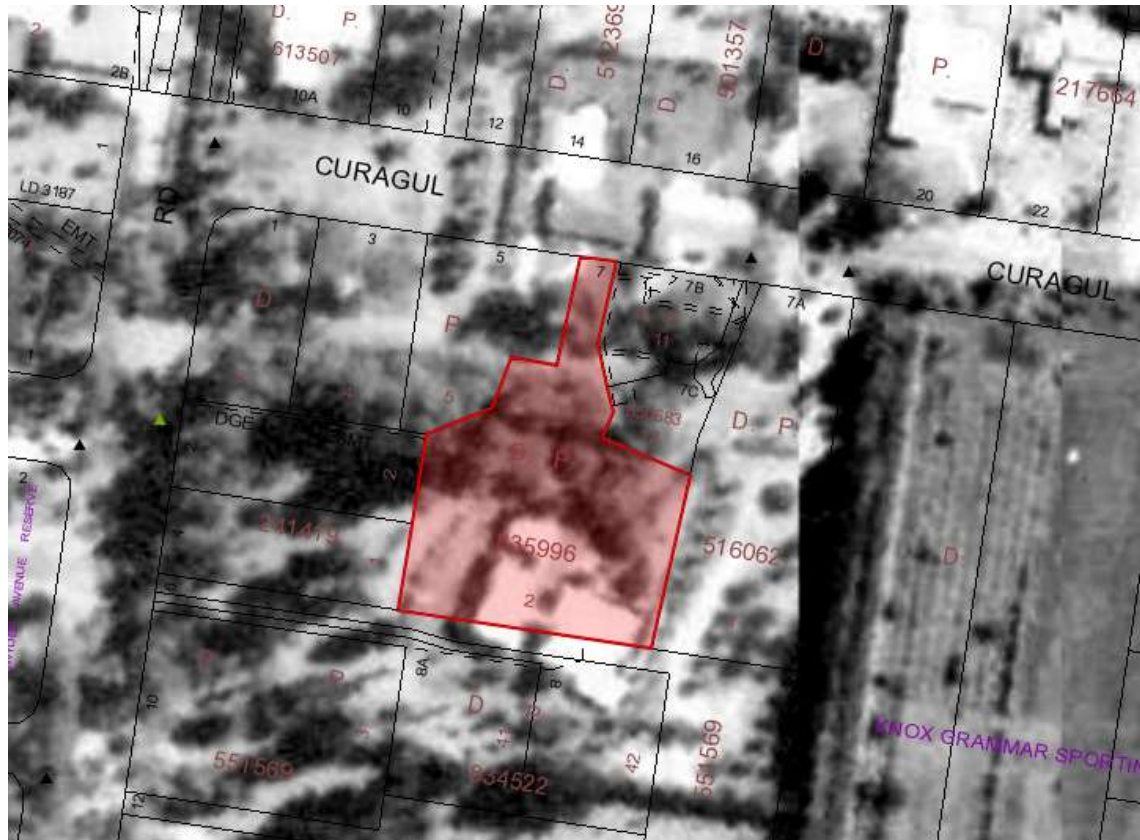
1956 aerial:



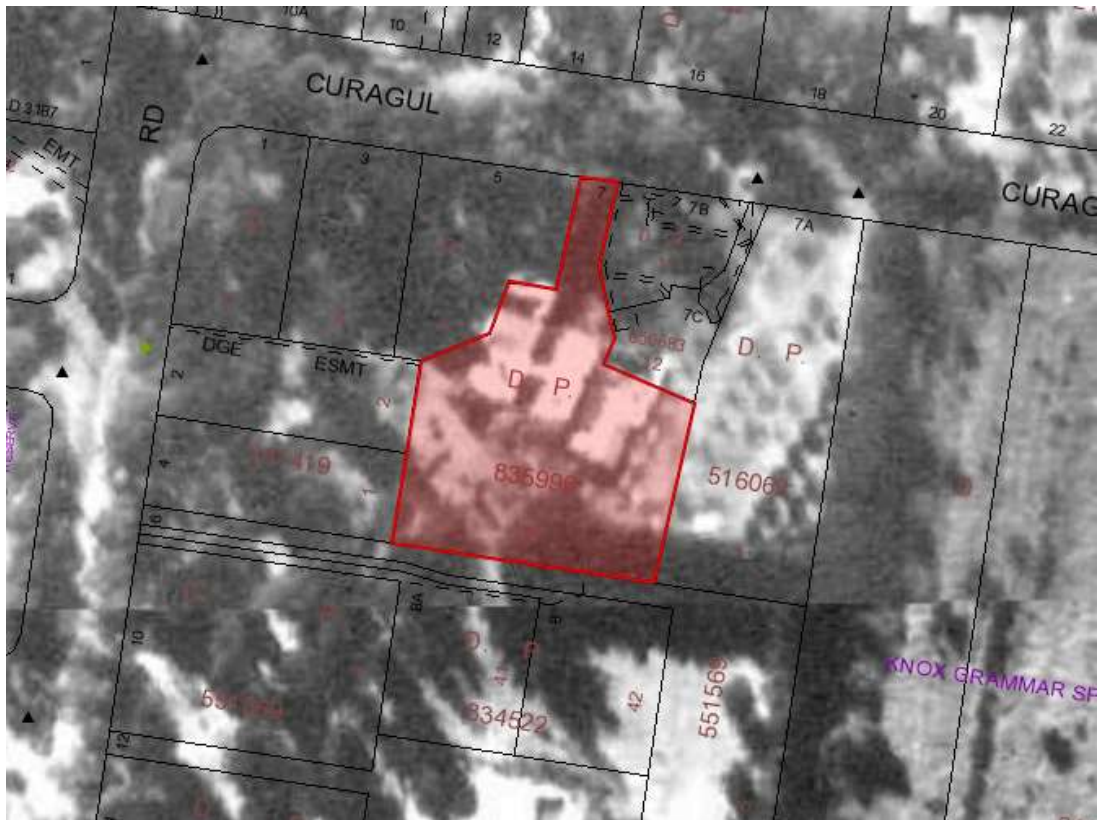
1961 aerial:



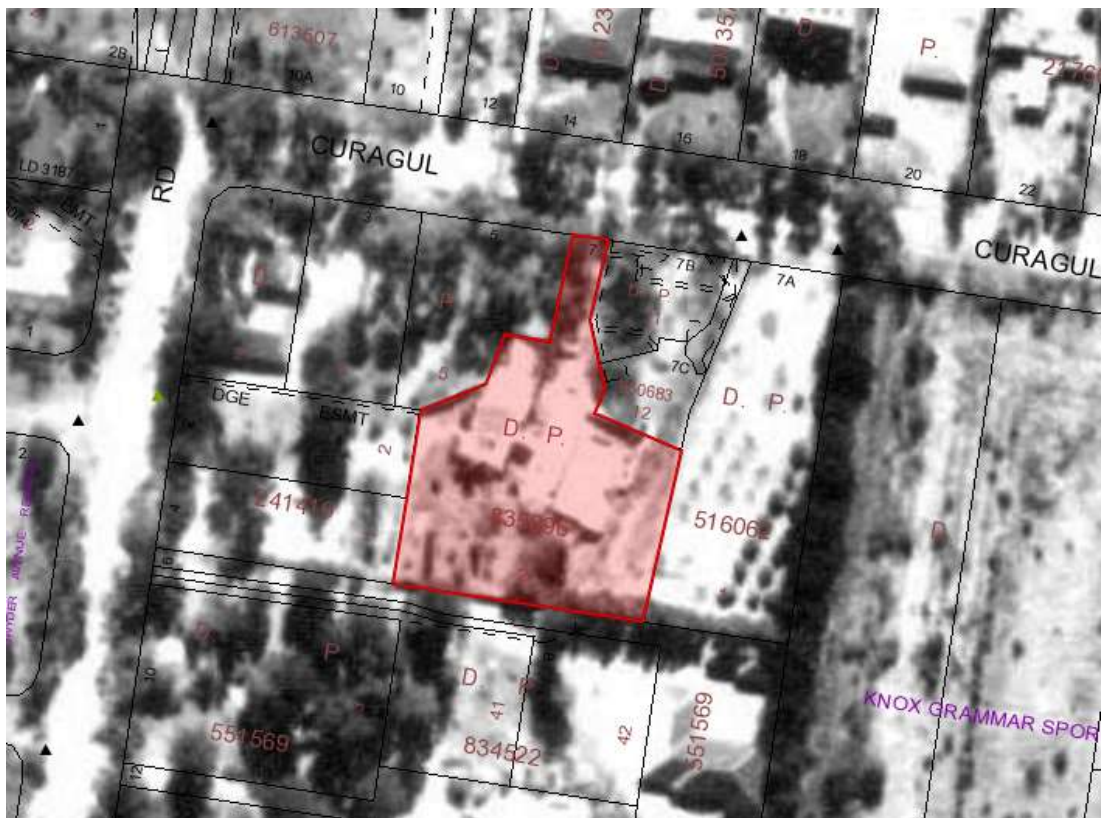
1968 aerial:



1970 aerial:



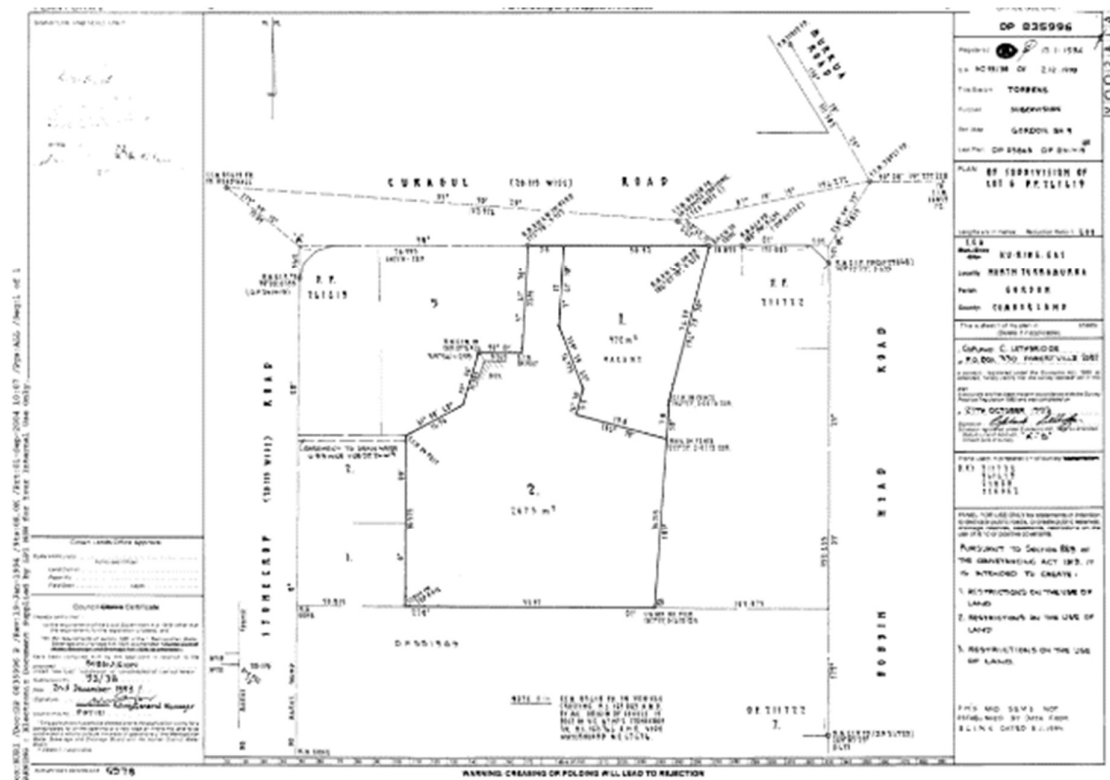
1972 aerial:



2020 aerial:



Subdivision plan – dated 1998:



[illegible]

Previous (original) DP dated 1951 (original curtilage circled):

- Changes to external treatment/cladding – Cedar removed, replaced with stone (originally only small aspect of external treatment)
- Subdivision has resulted in a crunched curtilage over 1970s, 1980s, most recent 1990s. Site still has relatively generous size.

History

Online research (information from the historian, architectural bios from The Encyclopaedia of Australian Architecture, AIA etc)

The subject site was originally part of portions 302 and 303 in the County of Cumberland, Parish of Gordon. These portions of land were part of a crown grant to George Bertrand Edwards of Strathfield, Jam Manufacturer in September 1895. The land was over 16 acres total in size.

In September 1911, the land passed via an application by transmission to Mary Ann Edwards of Turramurra, widow. In March 1913, she transferred the land to George Crichton Smith of Sydney, Solicitor, and Dorothea Blackwood, wife of Maurice Blackwood of Sydney, Commander in the Royal Navy as joint tenants.

No further transfers or adjustments to the land are recorded until May 1951, when the land passes via an application by transmission to the Permanent Trustee Company of New South Wales Limited and the said Dorothea Blackwood. A major subdivision of this land was recorded in June 1951 under DP23868, under which the subject site was created. It became lot 4, at a size of 2 acres, 2 roods and 12 ¼ perches. In February 1952, the interest of the Council of the Municipality of Ku-ring-gai was registered over part of the land as “additions to the existing roads.”

Lot 4, the subject site, was transferred to Steven Siegmund Hutter of Pymble Company Director and Margaret Hutter his wife in December 1952.

The dwelling at 7 Curagul Road, Turramurra, was designed by architect Harry Seidler and built in accordance with BA #960 lodged in late 1952 by Mr S Hutter for a brick dwelling.

The house was featured in an Australian Women's Weekly article in July 1955 titled “Unusual Design for a Gentle Slope” (see above). It gives interesting context to the former usage of the site, mentioning that the house was built on part of a former polo field. It mentions of the original site, that “Because the site does not command panoramic view, the architect kept the house low and freely spreading, with its general outline following the land contours.”

A biography of Seidler has been excerpted from the Australian Institute of Architects webpage (see below). Excerpted here is a portion on Seidler's projects, which suggests that the subject dwelling (bold) is of particular significance as a notable residential design:

Harry's first and best known house was one commissioned by his mother - the Rose Seidler House at Turramurra (1948) on Sydney's North Shore. The glass walled, elevated cubiform house was revolutionary, introducing the Bauhaus principles of Gropius and Breuer into Australia for the first time. He continued to use these principles in following years, designing many houses in either the box-like form of Le Corbusier or the 'H' plan of Marcel Breuer. From the 1960s, he was also known for his use of geometric curves, in both his residences and public and commercial buildings.

He is best known for houses in NSW such as the Hutter House in Turramurra (1952), the Meller House at Castlecrag (1950), the Muller House at Port Hacking (1963), the Gissing House in Wahroonga (1971-72) the Hamilton House in Vacluse (1989) and the Berman House at Joadja in the Southern Highlands (1996).

In addition, a mention in *Experiments in modern living : scientists' houses in Canberra, 1950 – 1970* by Milton Cameron suggests that Hutter House has significance for its inspiration to architects like Robin Boyd:

*Another binuclear plan was Seidler's Hutter House of 1952 in Turramurra, completed in the same year that Boyd designed the second version of the Fenner House. For Seidler, the binuclear plan had two advantages over a standard plan. First, it was a way of keeping children away from the 'more delicately furnished adult living quarters', and second, the disjunction of blocks permitted a more economical bedroom wing, as 'comparatively little time is spent there'. Given Boyd's interest in Seidler's houses, **the Hutter House would have undoubtedly been a significant influence**—an opinion that was shared by Conrad Hamann. (p50).*

The Hutters appear to have retained the site until at least 1965, when they excised a small 2 rood 1 ¼ perch block of land off the site on the eastern boundary.

In addition, BA #1863 for an addition was lodged in 1965 by Hutter. Application #1972 was lodged the same year by Hutter, for a pool.

Electoral rolls show the Hutters as living here until at least 1968; by 1972 they had moved to Wahroonga. No information on later owners is available.

The site was progressively subdivided from the 1970s to 1990s.

Architect – Harry Seidler AC OBE LFRAIA (from AIA website – link below):

Harry Seidler is arguably Australia's most internationally recognised iconic architect. For 57 years, he has been changing and influencing the shape of architecture in Australia. He is best known for buildings that have changed the skyline of Sydney's CBD and surrounds over the past 45 years. These include Australia Square, the tallest light weight concrete building in the world at the time it was built, the 43-storey Horizon Apartments, and one of the most maligned buildings in Australia - Blues Point Tower. He has lectured extensively at universities in Australia and overseas, and has received a plethora of honours, state, national and international architecture awards.

Background

Harry Seidler was born in Vienna on 25 June 1923, arriving in Australia in 1948 after studying in the United States. For more than five decades, he has been recognised as one of Australia's leading architects, and as a key proponent of the modernist movement.

He has designed an extensive range of award-winning and important residential and commercial buildings, introducing new ideas and construction techniques, and making a major contribution to the architecture of Sydney in particular.

Consequently, Harry was awarded Australia's top architectural prize, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) Gold Medal in 1976 and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Gold Medal in 1996.

His background and training are unlike that of other local Australian-educated architects. He studied at the Wasagymnasium in Vienna from 1933-38 and escaped to England six months after the Nazi annexation of Austria in 1938. He went to Cambridge Technical College in England but was interned on the Isle of Man in 1940 and later transported to an internment camp in Canada. Released in 1941, he studied architecture at the University of Manitoba in Canada, graduating in 1944 with a Bachelor of Architecture (1st class honours).

Harry then won a scholarship to the Harvard School of Design, studying there under two of the 20th century's most iconic modernist masters - Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus movement, and Marcel Breuer. He received his Master of Architecture from Harvard in 1946 before undertaking a design course at Black Mountain College in North Carolina with famous artist Joseph Albers.

During this period, Harry was also fortunate enough to work with more of the architectural professions biggest names. In 1945-46, Harry worked as an assistant to Alvar Aalto at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He followed this with a stint as chief assistant to Marcel Breuer from 1946-48 before travelling to South America to work with modernist master architect Oscar Niemeyer.

He decided to live and work in Sydney in 1948 after visiting his parents, who had re-located to the city. He formed his own private practice in 1949. Harry Seidler & Associates is today based at 2 Glen Street, Milsons Points - a building for which Harry received the RAIA Sulman Award for public or commercial architecture. Fellow tenants in the building include some of Australia's best known architects - Alex Popov, Tony Caro, Bob Nation and Mick Viney.

Practising Architect

Over the past 57 years, Harry has been responsible for some of the most important, innovative, commented upon, multiple award-winning, and controversial buildings in Australia.

1. Residential - houses:

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2. Residential - apartments

Through his apartment building projects, Harry also introduced new design and construction ideas to Sydney and Australia. His apartments were based on European and American apartment types and featured split access, interlocking units with a divided plan, double height living rooms and mezzanine floors.

Harry is best known for apartments including Ithaca Gardens Apartments in Elizabeth Bay (1960), the still controversial Blues Point Tower apartments in McMahons Point (1961), Arlington apartments at Edgecliff (1965-66), Horizon apartments in Darlinghurst (1999), and the Cove Apartments at the Rocks (2004).

2. Commercial/civic/public buildings

Harry's office building developments in Australia and overseas are of major significance. In Sydney, they were in many cases the first major buildings to contribute usable, public spaces back to the city, with the integrated development of office and retail space, parking and a public plaza.

One of the best known of these is Australia Square (1961) in Sydney's CBD. He is also well known for Lend Lease House in Sydney (1961), the MLC Centre in Sydney (1972), the Barton Offices in Canberra (1973), the Ringwood Cultural Centre at Ringwood in Victoria (1978), Grosvenor Place in Sydney (1982), Waverley Civic Centre at Waverley in Victoria (1982), Capita Centre in Sydney (1984), Shell Headquarters in Melbourne (1985), the QV1 Office Tower in Perth (1987), Riverside Centre in Brisbane (1987).

Honours

Harry Seidler's awards and honours are too numerous to list in full.

He is a Life Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) and has received more than 40 RAIA awards for his work over the years, including five RAIA Sir John Sulman Medals for his public and commercial buildings and four RAIA Wilkinson Awards for residential architecture.

In 1976, he was awarded Australia's highest architectural honour - the RAIA Gold Medal.

He received an Honorary Fellowship of both the American Institute of Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects, with the latter awarding him their highest honour, the

Royal Gold Medal, in 1996. He was elected Member of the Académie d'Architecture de France in 1982 and was awarded Austria's highest honour, The Cross of Honour for Arts & Sciences, 1st Class, in 1995, together with the Gold Medal of the City of Vienna in 1989.

He has received Honorary Doctorates from the University of Manitoba, Canada, the University of Technology in Sydney, the University of NSW, and the University of Sydney, as well as the Golden Decoration for Services to the Viennese State.

In 1972, he was awarded an Office of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) at a ceremony in Government House in Sydney. Fifteen years later, he was awarded Australia's highest honour, the Companion of the Order of Australia from the then Governor General Sir Ninian Stephens.

Award Winner

Harry has won more than 40 awards in Australia's premier architecture awards - the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) National Architecture Awards program for projects across Australia, as well as Vienna in Austria.

In 1987, he won the nation's top public architecture award for public or commercial buildings, the RAIA Sir Zelman Cowan Award, for the Riverside Centre in Brisbane.

Since 1951, he has won NSW's top architectural prize for commercial and public architecture, the RAIA Sir John Sulman Award, an unprecedented five times. He received the award for: Rose Seidler House in Turramurra, now known as Wahroonga (1951); Australia Square in Sydney's CBD (1967); Harry Seidler & Associates Offices in Milsons Point (1981); the MLC Centre in Sydney's CBD (1983); and, Grosvenor Place in Sydney's CBD (1991).

He has also won NSW's top architectural prize for residential buildings, the RAIA Wilkinson Award, four times for: Ski Lodge at Thredbo (1965); Muller House at Port Hacking (1966); Seidler House at Killara (1967); and, Horizon Apartments in Darlinghurst (1999).

Equally importantly, he has received multiple awards for major projects across Australia. These include:

Queensland: RAIA Robin Dods Triennial Medal also for the Riverside Centre in Brisbane.

Victoria: RAIA Architecture Medal for Ringwood Cultural Centre; and RAIA Commercial Architecture Award for Shell House in Melbourne.

Western Australia: RAIA Commercial Architecture Award for ARCA Showroom in Perth; and, RAIA Commercial Architecture Award for QV1 Office Tower in Perth.

Northern Territory: Architecture and Arts Award for Paspaley House in Darwin.

ACT: RAIA Award for Lakeview Town Houses at Yarralumla; RAIA ACT 25 Year Award for Edmund Barton Building.

Teacher/Mentor

For the past 30 years, Harry has shared his architectural knowledge through academic positions with a number of key universities in Australia, the United States, Switzerland and Canada.

He has taught as a visiting professor at Harvard University, the University of British Columbia, the University of Virginia, the University of NSW, the University of Sydney, Eidgenossische Technische Hochschule in Zurich, and the University of Technology in Sydney.

In 2000, he was appointed Adjunct Professor of Architecture at the University of Sydney.

Projects: Examples of Seidler Buildings of Australian Significance

1. Australia Square

Australia Square is one of the first modern international-styled office towers in Australia. It established new principles in design and construction through its distinctive circular form and the creation of a large public open space at ground level. At the time it was built, from 1961-1967, the tower was the world's tallest light weight concrete building.

The public space is established by a plaza that is set above street level and steps down throughout the site and defined on the east by a six-storey rectangular building acting as a foil to the circular tower. The public areas include cafés, fountains, artwork (Le Corbusier tapestries, Calder Sculpture) and as one of the earliest examples of the development of comfortable public open space on private land.

The structural system was developed with one of the world's leading engineers, Pier Luigi Nervi, and features technological advances of the time such as patterned ribbing and tapering exterior columns in quartz-faced pre-cast concrete as permanent formwork. The tapering columns add emphasis to the height of the tower, further emphasising its elegance. The circular form was structurally extremely efficient and the consistency of floor plan, the use of pre-cast façade and in situ core lead to floors being erected in five working days, which set new standards in office tower construction.

Australia Square Tower is an elegant building which has maintained its aesthetic appeal and is still regarded as a landmark building in Sydney and an icon of Australian architecture.

2. Rose Seidler House

Rose Seidler House (1948-1950) is one of the most uncompromising modernist houses in Australia. It incorporates the modernist features of open planning, minimal colour schemes, modern conveniences, appliances and labour saving devices that were so new to Australia at the time.

Its original furniture by Saarinen, Hardoy and Eames forms one of the most important post-war design collections in Australia.

It was awarded the RAIA Sulman Medal in 1952.

Sources:

Australian Institute of Architects – Biography: Harry Seidler AC OBE LFRAIA:
<http://dev.architecture.com.au/i-cms?page=6364>

Experiments in modern living : scientists' houses in Canberra, 1950 – 1970 by Milton Cameron. (ANU E-Press: 2012).

Certificate of title: 6633-15 to Steven Siegmund Hutter, 1953

BRIEF ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE NSW HERITAGE CRITERIA

Based on the information available, the Hutter House meets the threshold for at least the following:

Criterion (b): An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

The Hutter House has strong historical links to its designer, internationally recognised and influential Australian architect Harry Seidler. Seidler has been instrumental in the Modern architectural movement in Australia and has received countless accolades for his work. Seidler's buildings are widely recognised as iconic and controversial and the Hutter House is documented as an exemplar of the Post-War International style, a period that spanned between 1940 and 1960.

Criterion (c): An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

As an example of a Post-War International style dwelling, the Hutter House features some of the quintessential indicators of the style including extensive glazing, generous roof overhangs, a cantilevering floor plate, Corbusian-style windows and smooth wall surfaces. The dwelling also contains some of the key hallmarks of Harry Seidler such as undecorated materials including rubble stone as well as a considered and deliberate spatial configuration. Arranged in accordance with the sentiments 'form follows function' the building presents a very distinct bi-nuclear plan, which is still evident in the current layout.

Criterion (d): An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Recognised as being influential over subsequent building designs, Hutter House is likely to have a special association with and links to the architectural community of NSW.

Criterion (g): An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).

The Hutter House is widely recognised as an influential building presenting a bi-nuclear plan based on the notion of 'form follows function' and is documented as an exemplar Post-War International style building in Apperly, Irving and Reynolds' Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture.

Preliminary Statement of Significance

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Conclusion

Hutter House is considered to have high potential as a local heritage item for its architectural significance as an influential example of a bi-nuclear plan designed by internationally renowned Australian architect Harry Seidler. It is recommended that an Interim Heritage Order be placed on the property to protect it from demolition and to give Council time to undertake a full heritage assessment.

Recommendation

Council resolves to place an Interim Heritage Order under section 25 of the NSW Heritage Act 1977 on 7 Curagul Road, North Turramurra (Lot 2, DP 835996) to enable a full and proper evaluation of the heritage significance and prevent any harm in the interim.