
Townhouses



Review of B Graded Buildings
in Kew, Camberwell &
Hawthorn

Location

76 Molesworth Street KEW, Boroondara City

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO325

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

76 Molesworth Street, Kew is of municipal historical and architectural significance. A fine and externally intact example of late 1960s townhouses, it is an important design in the progression of cluster housing and townhouse projects by Graeme Gunn and others in the 1960s and 1970s, a period that saw a re-casting of suburban housing models.

76 Molesworth Street, Kew, is an accomplished and distinctive residential design in a broadly Brutalist manner, which is characterised by a boldness in materials and skilful modulation of light and shade. The project is a relatively early and successful example of the use of concrete-block and heavy unplanned timber, a combination that would characterise many architect-designed houses in Melbourne over the next decade.

It is one of two RIAA Bronze Medal winning designs by the well-known and highly successful Melbourne architect, Graeme Gunn and ranks with Gunn's best works. It one of only four residential projects in Boroondara to ever receive the Medal.¹¹

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - Review of B Graded Buildings in Kew, Camberwell and Hawthorn, Lovell Chen Architects & Heritage Consultants, 2006; Boroondara - City of Kew Urban Conservation Study, Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, 1988;
Architect/Designer	Gunn, Graeme C.,
Hermes Number	14643
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The townhouses at 76 Molesworth Street, Kew, comprise six individual residences with loosely Brutalist overtones arranged around a central driveway on an undulating site. Each townhouse is over two levels and features asymmetrical massing of cuboid forms, belying a simple elongated rectangular floor plan, with an attached single-storey garage. Each roof comprises skillion and parapeted flat sections clad with ribbed galvanised steel roof decking. The elevations are of grey concrete block construction with an essentially 'facade-less' composition, with recessed and projecting bays providing opportunities for irregular fenestration. The exceptions are those elevations facing the Yarra River, where window walls and glazed sliding doors are employed to take in the views. Windows generally contain original timber-framed fixed and sliding sashes, the exception being a small number which have been replaced with more recent aluminium-framed sashes. The west elevation of each townhouse is screened by a cantilevered off-form concrete balcony; most of which retain original stained timber balustrades and some with non-original glazed or stainless steel balustrades.

Alterations appear to be limited to relatively superficial changes such as the replacement of some window frames and balustrades, installation of canvas awning blinds and the construction of additional perimeter fences of timber and mini-orb steel construction. It is possible that some of the garages have non-original doors. The later fences are an addition to the original concrete block fences within the complex.

The landscape appears to be contemporary with the date of construction and comprises native species of trees, shrubs and grasses to both public and private areas. The driveway retains its original bluestone paving.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

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