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# TRAWALLA COURT



Illustration 1 24 Lascelles Avenue, 1931  
Source: Arthur's Collection

24 Lascelles Ave TOORAK



Illustration 2 Facade detail, 24 Lascelles Avenue, 1931  
Source: Arthur's Collection

Facade detail, 24 Lascelles  
Ave TOORAK

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## Location

24 LASCELLES AVENUE, TOORAK, STONNINGTON CITY

## Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO321

## Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Trawalla Court, the flats at 24 Lascelles Avenue, Toorak, are of regional architectural significance as a fine example of interwar flat design, especially within the context of the City of Stonnington, and in particular for their striking and substantially intact Art Deco exterior decoration.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Stonnington - Conservation Review City of Prahran, Context P/L, 1993;
Construction dates	1931,
Architect/Designer	Levy, Lewis, Sutherland, Gordon J.,
Other Names	Flats,
Hermes Number	31385
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

24 Lascelles Avenue, also known as *Trawalla Court*, is an elegant three storey block of flats located at the corner of Lascelles and Trawalla Avenues. It occupies a steeply graded site in an exclusive, residential section of Toorak.

*Trawalla Court* is a freestanding building allowing access from both streets to car parking at the rear. The Trawalla Avenue frontage is largely obscured by a formal arrangement of coniferous trees which tower above the building. As a consequence, the unobstructed Lascelles Avenue elevation presents as the principle facade.

The building is founded on a face brick base used to level the sloping site and to provide an elevated aspect to the Lascelles Avenue facade. Entry is by way of broad brick stairs distinguished by decorative urns atop the piers leading to a formal entry. The building facade assumes a symmetrical, five-part arrangement. The entry and stairwell form the centrepiece of the group with slightly smaller wings at each side, and two still smaller, outer bays, all of which combine to produce a cascading arrangement of building masses. Detailing to windows is simple, but noteworthy for the subtle but complementary differences between the various bays of the building. Some windows are expressed as simple openings while others take the form of arches or balconies with black steel balustrades.

The patterns of fenestration are overlaid with an unobtrusive decorative scheme realised in render. The central bays feature a wave motif at the parapet level while the outer bays carry a zig-zag design to the parapets which is repeated above some of the second floor windows. The name of the building, *Trawalla Court* is cast into the render above the entry. The facades of the building demonstrate a high level of resolution, achieving a balance between the freedom and ornament of earlier flat design and the austerity and precise repetition of the modern developments of the late 1930s.

A small outbuilding at the rear of the block appears to date from the original development. It features the same rendered finish and echoes the wave motif of the principle building. It appears to have been reroofed and has suffered from the addition of a roller door and new fenestration. The main building of *Trawalla Court* remains in excellent condition and a high state of external integrity.

## Local Historical Themes

### 8.6.2 Developing apartment living 8.6.3 Architect-designed apartments

*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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