
Ostend Flats



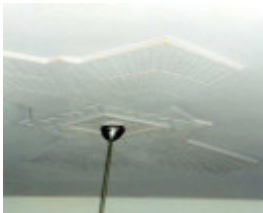
B7146 Ostend Flats



B7146 Ostend Flats Entrance



B7146 Ostend Flats Fireplace



B7146 Ostend Flats Ceiling
Detail

Location

29 Seacombe Grove,, BRIGHTON VIC 3186 - Property No B7146

Municipality

BAYSIDE CITY

Level of significance

State

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 17, 2008

The Bayside complex known as Ostend flats, designed by prominent Melbourne architect I.G. Anderson and constructed in 1934/35 is of significant architectural, historical and social importance at the State level. It is one of

the earliest and most striking examples of the Moderne style applied to flats in Victoria.

The buildings are of exceptional architectural importance within both Melbourne and the State of Victoria. They represent a unique link with the culture of Victoria in the 1930s and demonstrate an integration of bayside, coastal living within the city environment. They are the only remaining domestic flats complex on Port Phillip Bay which include integral boat sheds and beach changing facilities within their complex. The curvilinear, sculptural form of the main building surmounted by the striking "waterfall" tower plays an important role in defining the bayside landscape. That the flats were recognised as of particular merit in their period is evident from the contemporary report in *The Age*, 31 July, 1934 (see Appendix 1). This article also makes particular reference to the quality of the boat and dressing sheds, 'unlike' others on the bay, built into the slope of the land and giving direct access to the sea from under a resident's promenade.

The buildings are an excellent example of the work of the architect, I.G. Anderson, representing a transitional phase in his architectural style from the Spanish Mission and Art Deco styles previously adopted, to a commitment to a more modern, functional and sculptural form. This is more in tune with the International style of the architects of the modern movement in Europe. The reference in *The Age* to developments in Europe notably at seaside resorts such as Ostend is therefore significant.

In an historical, social and cultural context the buildings are very important, encapsulating the lifestyle aspirations of the 1930s. The obsession with sunlight, fresh air and healthy outdoor activities combined with an easily maintained, functional living environment is reflected in the design of Ostend. *The Age* reports enthusiastically on the many amenities and services and the close proximity to what was, at that time, an excellent and unspoilt beach/bayside environment in an area with provision for both good private and public transport to the city centre.

Classified: 12/11/2001

Hermes Number 64584

Property Number

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.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>