
Lyndoch

Location

15 Levien Street,, ESSENDON VIC 3040 - Property No B7202

Municipality

MOONEE VALLEY CITY

Level of significance

Regional

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 4, 2004

What is significant? Lyndoch is a substantial double-storey residence with an incorporated garage. It occupies a prominent corner block at Lorraine Street in the exclusive Leslie Road area where most of Essendon's notable figures chose to make their homes, some now transformed into exclusive private schools.

Lyndoch was designed by R.K and M.H King and constructed in 1935. It is one of only a few thoroughly moderne residences in the region and is both an early and prominent (ie both highly visible and widely publicised) example of the style. It forms (with two other houses in other regions) a high point in the work of the architects.

How is it significant? The house is significant for aesthetic/architectural and historic reasons at a Regional level.

Why is it significant? Lyndoch is of regional significance as an Art Deco house in the moderne style, intact on the exterior and forming a centrepiece for an enclave of interwar homes built in the grounds of subdivided landboom houses from the nineteenth century.

The Essendon Conservation Study, (undated, p. 97), concluded that it was of generally original integrity and typical to, but prominent in the streetscape. It went on to conclude that it is of regional significance with the added historical importance of being the home of one of a later generation of merchandisers in the city.

Lyndoch brought the moderne style to this part of Melbourne and was featured in publications such as the Star and the Australian Home Beautiful, where the ship-like style of the architecture was much commented upon, and the restraint in the architects' interpretation of what modern architecture is supposed to be was noted with approval. In 1935 there were only a handful of moderne houses in Melbourne and both the public and the architectural profession were concerned that freakish modernism, especially that from Germany, should be avoided at all costs.

The features which make Lyndoch a significant example of the moderne style can be summarised as:

The absence of references to period styles

The use of smooth cement-rendered construction, structural mirror glass, corner windows and steel-framed windows

The use of horizontal accent lines and nautical motifs such as portholes and railings

The simulation of flat roofs

The asymmetrical composition comprising interlocking cubes and curves of 90 and 180 degrees

The incorporation of the motor car accommodation

The featuring of Art Deco motifs on lamps, house name, wrought iron, glass, fireplace panel, etc.

The design of the house has major aesthetic value.

Classified: 07/04/2003

Hermes Number 66143

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/>