

HOUSE

Place No. 360

ADDRESS 5 Buller Terrace
Lower Templestowe

Last Update 15/03/2005

DESCRIPTION The house at 5 Buller Terrace, Lower Templestowe is a single-storey brick pavilion built on an H-shaped plan with a steep pyramidal metal deck roof rising above a central living room. Either side of the central living area are narrow wings which segregate the kitchen/dining area to the front and the bedrooms to the rear. Along the front boundary of the property there is a narrow garden bed set in front of a high brick fence, projecting at left as a vehicular entrance beneath a flat canopy and at right as a pedestrian gate, forming a carefully articulated boundary. The boundary walls appear to extend along the side boundaries, enclosing the site. The driveway falls away steeply towards a garage which dates from the later additions to the house.

Condition Good **Integrity** Intact
Threats **Key elements** Building
Designer Guilford Bell

HISTORY The house at 5 Buller Terrace, Lower Templestowe was designed by important domestic architect Guilford Bell for Ron Moylan in 1973, with alterations in about 1984, under the supervision of Guilford Bell & Graham Fisher, Architects [1]. The garage was also designed by Bell and was added in 1973.

Guilford Bell (1912-92) received his architectural training at London University and this was followed by a position as an architect on archaeological expeditions in Syria and the Euphrates Valley. The Middle Eastern house, entered through a single opening in a protective wall (with an internal safe environment); strongly influenced his residential architecture. In addition his upbringing in the Australian countryside led to his appreciation and interpretation 'of the pure Georgian style'. His work saw little stylistic variation as a result of these strong influences. Bell's first major project was the Hayman Island Resort, while employed by Ansett Airlines. The success of this work launched his private practice in Melbourne in 1952. His residential work became noted for its elegance and style and the Fairfax pavilion was his most famous commission. His Felt and Textile Building was an important non-residential commission. (2)

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) considers that 'Guilford Bell holds a unique position in architectural history in Australia ... His distinctive oeuvre combines modernist minimalism with traditional symmetrical and axial arrangements, and middle-eastern inspired courtyard planning.' (3)

The pyramidal pavilion form of this house and the planning and site layout with the high front wall concealing the house with its temple-like roof compares with other houses designed by Bell in the same period such as the house at 3 Heymount Court Toorak and influenced subsequent Bell houses such as at Officer (1984). This is thought to be the only Bell house in Manningham.

SOURCES

- [1] City of Doncaster & Templestowe Building Permit No. 14905, 15 June 1972.
- [2] Graham Fisher, 'Obituary. Guilford Bell, O.B.E. 1912-1992', *Architect*, April 1992, p.18. 'Architecture of Guilford Bell 1952-1980', Proteus Publishing, South Melbourne 1982, p.65.
- [3] National Trust of Australia (Victoria), Citation for 3 Heymount Court, Toorak (File No. B7179)

Creation Date 1972 **Change Dates** c.1984

Associations

Local Themes

8.02 - Architects

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE What is Significant?
The house and garage, designed by Guilford Bell and constructed in 1972-73 (with later additions c.1984 by the same architect's firm), at 5 Buller Terrace, Lower Templestowe.

How is it Significant?

The house and garage at 5 Buller Terrace, Lower Templestowe are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Manningham City.

Why is it Significant?

The house and garage at 5 Buller Terrace, Lower Templestowe have historic significance as evidence of the range of architect-designed houses that were constructed in the study area during the post-war period that are representative of the lifestyle and aspirations of that period. It is also significant as a seminal design by the important domestic architect Guilford Bell, which is characteristic of his work and is thought to have influenced later designs by the same architect. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2 and H.1)

The house and garage at 5 Buller Terrace, Lower Templestowe have aesthetic and architectural significance as a fine and intact example of post-war contemporary domestic architecture, which is notable for its unique and integrated design. (RNE criterion E.1)

LEVEL Local/State significance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Manningham Planning Scheme	HO		Recommended
Victorian Heritage Register	H		Recommended

Extent The whole of the property as defined by the title boundaries.

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:	On VHR:	VHR Ref No:
Internal Alteration Controls:	Prohibited Uses:	
Tree Controls:	Aboriginal Heritage Place:	
Outbuildings or Fences:	Incorporated Plan:	Incorporated Plan Details
Description:		

Conservation Management

It is recommended that Manningham City Council nominate this place for inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register.

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation objectives, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition of significant or contributory buildings unless the demolition is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:
 - The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
 - The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
 - It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
 - It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and/or layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or interpreting the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

Extra Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY Context Pty Ltd, (2005), *Manningham Heritage Study Review*, Manningham City Council, Doncaster