

Walkley Residence

Address 26 Palmer Place, North Adelaide, SA

Practice Robin Boyd, of Grounds, Romburg & Boyd

Designed 1956 Completed 1956

History & Description

The residence was designed for Adelaide Architect and educator Gavin Walkley, who was an active part of the SA Architect Board, Institute of Architects and Head of the Laybourne Smith School of Architecture at the SA School of Mines, later the SA Institute of Technology (SAIT), from 1951 until 1976.

The residence would have attracted substantial comment after construction, as the surrounding context was, and still is, one of mid 19th Century residences of stone construction. It is significant that the residence is itself was entered on the South Australian State Heritage Register in for its architectural qualities in the 1990s.

Born in Melbourne in 1919 into a family of well-known artists, Boyd became renowned as an architect of the 'new breed' of the 1950s who aspired to develop a functional style suited to the Australian climate and lifestyle. He wrote several widely acclaimed books including 'Australia's Home' (1952) & 'The Australian Ugliness' (1960).



Exterior, *Architecture in Australia*, April 1973

Statement of Significance

Built in 1956, this house is a significant 'International Style' example of Melbourne Architect and critic Robin Boyd's architecture of the period in Adelaide.

Accommodation is contained within a rational box, seemingly floating over glazed living areas underneath and articulated through the expression of its structural grid. Living areas on the ground floor are enclosed by plate glass, blurring the boundaries between inside and out. The residence is significant for its promotion of a new way of living in post-war Australia, as espoused by Boyd in numerous publications, including 'Australia's Home' (1952) and 'The Australian Ugliness' (1960).



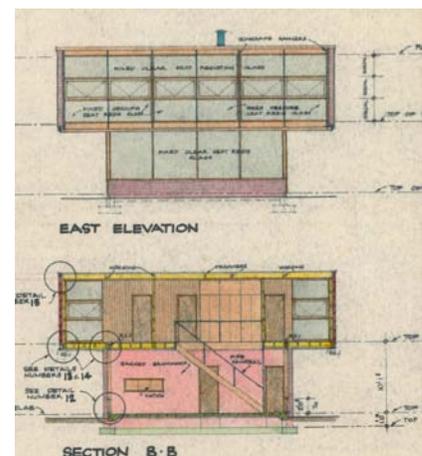
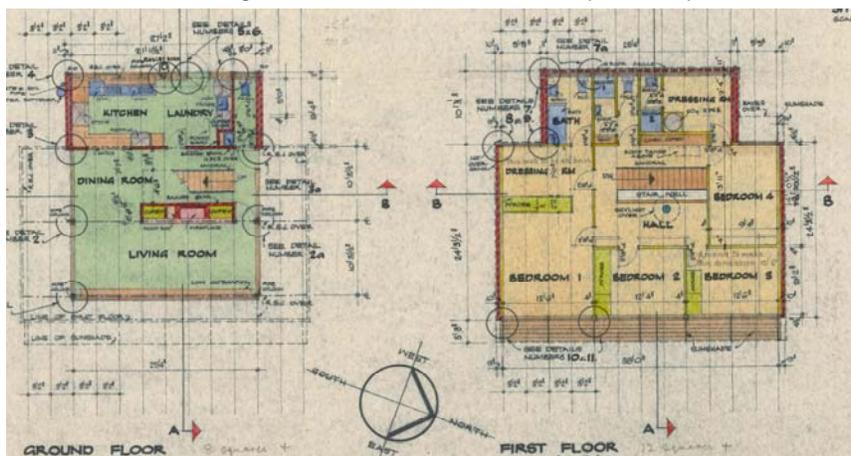
Living Area, *Architecture in Australia*, April 1973

Criteria Applicable

N1 Significant heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design

N5 Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of outstanding importance in our history

N6 Significant heritage value in demonstrating a high degree of technical achievement of a particular period.



Original Plan & elevations courtesy UniSA Architecture Museum