

Magney House

Address Bingie Road, Bingie Bingie via Moruya,
Moruya, NSW, 2537

Practice Glenn Murcutt

Designed 1982 Completed 1984

History & Description Magney House, now Bingie Farm, designed by Glenn Murcutt, was constructed on thirty-three hectares on the Pacific shores near the small town of Moruya. To the east lies the Bingie headland and to the north a beach and a lake surrounded by forest, a bare, virtually treeless, seaside setting. The owners, who for years had gone to camp there, wanted a lightweight shelter, closer to a tent than a country house, in direct communion with nature. They also wanted a practical, simple and open house that would reflect their informal holiday lifestyle, and an internal organisation that would link two independent areas: one for themselves and the other for children, family and friends. Murcutt designed a long pavilion facing the lake and sea, with its back to the distant hills. The living rooms are positioned on the north side and the facilities on the south, in two parallel bands either side of a longitudinal passage, which is open in the living spaces and acts as a corridor in the bedrooms. Murcutt retained the idea of a high facade to provide maximum views and to allow as much light as possible into the interior. Large sliding-glass doors permit access from every room. The north facade is fitted externally with large aluminium Venetian blinds, and the gable is partly glazed to frame the view of the headland. Unlike Murcutt's houses on the north coast, the Magney house sits on the site and incorporates thermal mass in its floor and internal walls. The curved metal roof forms are a salient feature and appear to hover over walls of glass. From afar the house looks like a silver line on the hill, the roof line like a frozen moment against the base's state rectangle. (NSW Heritage Branch online database #1550018)

Statement of Significance The Magney House is an excellent example of a contemporary coastal residence that reflects the analytical process of the South Coast site landscape undertaken by the architect. It has been featured in international publications and is recognized as a significant work by the internationally notable architect. The Magney House expresses Murcutt's interest in the need for harmony between man and nature, and the importance of designing for the climate within a carefully detailed, logical structural system.

Criteria Applicable

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

N2. Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

N3. Significant heritage value in establishing a high degree of creative achievement.

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



View from southeast (Photo: Anthony Browell from M Gusheh, T Heneghan, et al. *The Architecture of Glenn Murcutt*, 2008)



Northern face (Photo: Anthony Browell from M Gusheh, T Heneghan, et al. *The Architecture of Glenn Murcutt*, 2008)



Interior (Photo: Anthony Browell from M Gusheh, T Heneghan, et al. *The Architecture of Glenn Murcutt*, 2008)