



Australian  
Institute of  
Architects

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1 November 2023

Planning and Development  
Glenorchy City Council  
PO Box 103  
Glenorchy 7010

Tony McMullen  
General Manager  
Glenorchy City Council

By email to: [gccmail@gcc.tas.gov.au](mailto:gccmail@gcc.tas.gov.au)

**Re: Objection to a Planning Application: 7 Strathaven Drive, Rosetta**

Dear Glenorchy City Council,

The Tasmanian Chapter of the Institute of Architects (the Institute) would like to submit an objection to the proposed development of 7 Strathaven Drive, Rosetta.<sup>1</sup> The development application describes a “partial demolition, additions and alterations to dwelling” of this building.

The Institute would like to advocate for this building’s heritage significance and preservation. The house was designed by architect Edith Emery in c. 1960 and stands as an original example of her work at the time. Emery has been recently recognised for her architectural achievements: an emigree from Austria, Emery brought modernist design thinking to Australia through her practice and was Tasmania’s first registered female sole architectural practitioner. Recently, her efforts have been brought to light through the high-profile ABC TV series “Designing a Legacy”.<sup>2</sup> The episode unpacked the scope of her work across Tasmania and for many architects and design enthusiasts, this catalysed further appreciation of her oeuvre. The Australian Institute of Architects has previously acknowledged Emery’s significance, through the sought-after “Edith Emery Award for Residential Architecture – Houses (Alterations and Additions)”, presented to outstanding work in the annual Tasmanian Architectural Awards program.<sup>3</sup>

At a cultural moment where many modernist buildings are being recognised for their historical and heritage value<sup>4</sup>, now more than ever, efforts need to be taken to recognise key works of significance and identify issues that impact on their preservation and memory. 7 Strathaven Drive has been acknowledged by the Institute for its cultural and historical significance: as an original

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gcc.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/7-Strathaven-Drive-Rosetta.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-04/edith-emery-architect-doctor-prisoner-legacy/102361834> ;  
<https://docomomoaustralia.com.au/tasmanian-emigre-architect-edith-emery-on-designing-a-legacy/>

<sup>3</sup> See p. 42: [https://www.architecture.com.au/wp-content/uploads/NAA\\_Jury\\_Handbook.pdf](https://www.architecture.com.au/wp-content/uploads/NAA_Jury_Handbook.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> For example, the 1978 project Fort Nelson by Esmond Dorney has been recently recognised by Docomomo International for its modernist heritage value: <https://architectureau.com/articles/hobarts-dorney-house-earns-global-recognition/>

and unique work by an influential architect, and a work that is representative of a broader era of mid-century modernist architecture in Tasmania.

Looking closely at the development application plans of 7 Strathaven Drive, the proposed changes are extensive. The demolition removes the majority of the existing external walls and significantly alters internal spaces such as the entry foyer, fireplace, kitchen and bathroom. It does not appear that the original fabric of the building is acknowledged, and the changes will have a deleterious effect on the inherent character of the house. As such, the Institute strongly urges the reconsideration of the extent of the proposed works.

When convenient, we would be very happy to discuss these issues in further depth with the Glenorchy City Council.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Nichols". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

**Jennifer Nichols**

Executive Director, Tasmanian Chapter  
Australian Institute of Architects

The Australian Institute of Architects (Institute) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia. It is an independent, national member organisation with over 13,000 members across Australia and overseas. The Institute exists to advance the interests of members, their professional standards and contemporary practice, and expand and advocate the value of architects and architecture to the sustainable growth of our communities, economy and culture. The Institute actively works to maintain and improve the quality of our built environment by promoting better, responsible and environmental design. To learn more about the Institute, log on to [www.architecture.com.au](http://www.architecture.com.au).