



Sandy Verschoor
Chairperson
SA Heritage Council
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18 April 2023

Dear Ms Verschoor,

I write to you on behalf of the Australian Institute of Architects, which represents over 900 members in the South Australian architectural profession.

We are aware that you will soon be considering the confirmation of two places provisionally listed on the SA Heritage Register on 8 December 2022, **Dr Kent's Paddock Housing Complex** and **Everard Court (flats)**.

We strongly support the confirmation of these places in the Heritage Register. Both have been included on the [Institute's list of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture](#) for many years.

Dr Kent's Paddock Housing Complex received an RAI (SA Chapter) Commendation and Civic Trust Award in 1982, and an RAI (SA Chapter) Twenty-five Year Award in 2007. The development is an exemplar of the medium-density social housing delivered by the SA Housing Trust (SAHT) during the 1970s.

In our view, the development is significant for the following reasons.

- It is an exemplar of the high quality and humanist social housing delivered by the SAHT with the support of the State government of the time. As such, it demonstrates the social awareness of the State government during this period and its willingness to take direct responsibility for the delivery of programs to address inequity.
- It is an excellent example of social housing, incorporating a range of housing options clustered around a generous shared green space. It is a notable demonstration of the aspirations of the SAHT at the time to improve the quality of social housing.
- It demonstrates excellent design at a micro and macro scale. The individual dwelling units are efficiently and effectively planned to provide a high level of liveability to occupants. Collectively the units are clustered to form a medium-density village, with excellent consideration of privacy, controlled solar access, amenity and shared social space. It also demonstrates how appropriate selection and well-considered detailing can allow cost-effective materials to be used to achieve high-quality and robust buildings that are of enduring value to the occupants and the wider community.
- It was designed by highly respected architect Newell Platten and is a notable example of his work during his tenure with the SAHT and his career-long endeavour to maximise human comfort through the well-considered design of buildings.



While we recognise that the place has been provisionally listed only on the basis of criterion (a) following on from the above, we posit that Dr Kent's Paddock and Open Space has merit based on the State Heritage listing criteria:

- a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history; or
- b) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance; or
- e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics
- g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.

Everard Court (flats) remains an outstanding demonstration of the interwar art deco style in South Australia. It is a significant development for the following reasons:

- It is an exemplar of the purpose-built flats which became popular in the interwar period as an alternative to the conventional detached housing preferred by the middle class, representing some of the first urban in-fill to occur in the state.
- It features many of the key elements of the art deco style, including simple geometric shapes, rounded corners (including lettering designed to fit the architecture) and corner windows, plain surfaces and face brick, balconies, terracotta-tiled roofs.
- Both purpose-built flats and art deco buildings are few in number in South Australia. Therefore the fact that Everard Court remains a high-quality example in both of these 'endangered' categories points to its significance.

We hope to see Everard Court (flats) confirmed on the register on the basis of the State Heritage listing criteria:

- a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history; or
- b) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance; or
- e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.

Regards,

Chris Morley
SA Chapter President
Australian Institute of Architects

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