

Uglow House Statement of Significance

Heritage Place: 79 Buena Vista Drive, Montmorency | **PS ref no:** HO219



What is Significant?

Uglow House at 79 Buena Vista Drive, Montmorency is significant. It was designed by Robin Boyd of Grounds, Romberg and Boyd and constructed during 1955-56 for the medical doctor Arthur G R Uglow and his wife, Enid.

The significant element is the original plan, which comprises the eastern two-thirds of the house, including its form, skillion roof clad in metal sheeting, timber framing including exposed beams, brickwork (side walls) and window walls to the long elevations. The garage is also significant, particularly its likely original door with timber boards above. Internally, the original timber linings and joinery/cabinetry to the living area are significant.

Non-significant elements include the likely mid-1980s additions at the northwest end, the ensuite addition to the east side, the 1989 carport, and the front fence.

How is it Significant?

Uglow House is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Banyule.

Why is it Significant?

Uglow House is of historical significance as being designed by Robin Boyd, one of postwar Australia's foremost architects and leading commentators on design/cultural matters, when he was a principal of Grounds, Romberg and Boyd. The clients, Arthur and Enid Uglow, had engaged Boyd before settling on the property in September 1955, indicating their keenness for the project. More broadly, the construction of *Uglow House* reflects the surge in growth that transformed the previously semi-rural locale of Montmorency from the early 1950s. Notable in this emergent suburban environment was the progressive design influence of the postwar modern movement, of which Boyd was a brilliant advocate. (Criterion A)

Uglow House is of aesthetic significance as a mostly intact and fine example of Robin Boyd's output during the mid-1950s. In its rectangular footprint, open plan, extensive use of the window wall, response to site conditions and solar orientation, the original design reflects the major tenets of postwar modernism, particularly the variant known as the International Style.

Uglow House also demonstrates Boyd's interest at the time in emphasising residential roofs; in this case, extending the skillion forth to both long elevations and 'hovering' it over the garage. In conjunction with the exposed timber framing (continuous across the building's width), such a composition facilitates a blurring of the exterior and interior. The internal timberwork, joinery and cabinetry, was integral to the overall design and some of these original elements remain in the kitchen and living area. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Banyule Heritage Study 2020 (RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants)