

Green Mount Court Statement of Significance

Heritage Place: 110 Maltravers Road, Eaglemont | **PS ref no:** HO200



What is Significant?

Green Mount Court at 110 Maltravers Road, Eaglemont is significant. It was constructed between 1960 and 1961 to a design by the architectural partnership of husband-and-wife John and Helen Holgar.

The significant elements are its stepped and cuboid form, flat roof, boxed eaves, undercroft, *pilotis*, two 'atriums', internal gangways, buff/cream brick walls in stretcher bond with raked joints, 'cut out' balconies and their metal railings, remaining timber-framed casement windows, glazed spandrel panels, concrete breezeblocks to the front and rear screens, and red/white colour scheme.

Later additions are not significant.

How is it Significant?

Green Mount Court is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Banyule.

Why is it Significant?

Green Mount Court is of historical significance as an early example of the private work of the later noteworthy Polish émigré modernist architects John and Helen Holgar. They completed it before adopting the moniker, 'Holgar & Holgar', and relative to their later luxurious and elaborate residential work, *Green Mount Court* presents as more restrained. Yet viewed within its early 1960s context, *Green Mount Court* is distinguished from the mainstream of walk-up flats, many of which were constructed speculatively. The well-resolved nature of its design signal the growing sophistication and desirability of flat-living at the time and the Holgars' recognition of widespread interest in buildings that communicated a degree of glamour and visual novelty. It is one of only two places known to have been designed by the Holgars in the municipality. (Criterion A)

Green Mount Court is of aesthetic significance as a large-scale flat block expressive of the International Style. Its modular, cuboid and stepped form compose a striking built image, underset by a geometric rigour that imparts a horizontal emphasis

while breaking from the then entrenched box-like character of rationalist modernism. Further modulating the distinctive form is the deep *pilotis*-supported undercroft and 'cut out' balconies, each situated to the corners of the four quadrants that make up the two units. 'Featurist' concrete breezeblock screens at the ground level and a bright colour scheme (originally green, but changed at an early date to red), set against the light but robust brickwork, add a liveliness into *Green Mount Court*, indicative of the Holgars' design proclivities and popular tastes. The overall effect, uncommon at the scale of flats in Banyule, is that of embellished modernism. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Banyule Heritage Study 2020 (RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants)