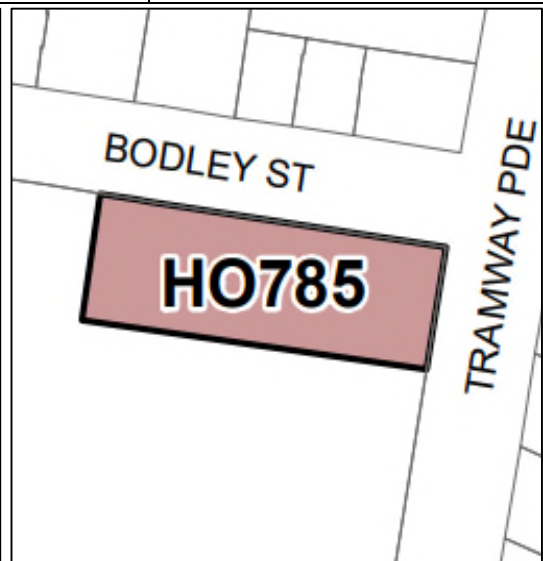


Statement of Significance: Olive Phillips Free Kindergarten and Beaumaris Maternal and Child Health Centre - 28 & 28A Bodley Street, Beaumaris, November 2020

Heritage place:	<i>Olive Phillips Free Kindergarten and Beaumaris Maternal and Child Health Centre</i> 28 and 28A Bodley Street, Beaumaris	PS ref no: HO785
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What is Significant?

The Olive Phillips Free Kindergarten and Beaumaris Maternal and Child Health Centre, at 26-28 Bodley Street, Beaumaris, built in 1975 to the design of local Beaumaris architect David Godsell is significant.

Significant elements include:

- The two pyramid-roofed pavilions and connecting central flat-roofed breezeway;
- Original exterior materials and components including Corduroy and plain concrete block work; doors, windows and decorative spandrel panels, deep timber fascias, unpainted timber-lined eaves and open raftered eaves over north facing windows;
- Its topographic relationships to the landscaped terraces to the north of the kindergarten playroom and the 'upstairs' playground;
- Internal elements, including the pyramidal roofed spaces of the kindergarten playroom and maternal and child health centre waiting area; the timber trusses; exposed concrete block; timber lining boards below the height of the pyramidal ceiling and surviving cork lining, and original linoleum to the kindergarten floor.

The internal spatial volumes of each pavilion and the integrated setting of the building within the topography of its immediate setting forms part of the building's significance. Non-original materials that replicate the original or early design intent, including the corrugated steel roof cladding and the presence (but not current design) of skylights to the pyramidal roofs are of contributory significance.

The front fence is not significant.

How is it significant?

The Olive Phillips Free Kindergarten and Beaumaris Maternal and Child Health Centre, at 26-28 Bodley Street, Beaumaris, is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Bayside. It has rarity value as the only intact non-residential building by David Godsell within the municipality.

Why is it significant?

The Olive Phillips Free Kindergarten and Beaumaris Maternal and Child Centre (formerly Beaumaris Infant Welfare Centre) is of historical significance for its demonstration of the evolution of infant welfare and pre-school education in the suburbs of Bayside in the mid-twentieth century. The David Godsell designed kindergarten and infant welfare centre followed the earlier kindergarten and infant welfare building constructed on the site to the design of Seabrook, Fildes & Hunt c.1951 in its integration of infant welfare and early childhood education functions into a single building. Godsell's design reflects developments in the design of kindergartens that occurred from the late 1960s. These developments were informed by evolving ideas in early childhood development. The creation of an internalised and protected playroom set deep within a landscaped environment reflects the shift towards an increasingly child-centred focus. (Criterion A)

The Olive Phillips Free Kindergarten and Beaumaris Maternal and Child Centre is a rare example of a non-residential building designed by architect David Godsell. A leading exponent of this type of architecture in Melbourne, Godsell was well-known for his houses design in the late twentieth century organic style but designed few non-residential buildings. The Olive Phillips Free Kindergarten and Beaumaris Maternal and Child Health Centre is the only realised non-residential building designed by the architect in the City of Bayside. (Criterion B)

The building is of aesthetic significance for its distinctive form, planning and use of materials. The unusual formal and planning arrangement expresses the separate but related function of kindergarten and infant welfare centre through two pyramid-roofed pavilions linked by a shared breezeway entrance area. The deep horizontal band of the fascia further unites the two pavilions, and the L-shaped bank of service areas protect the internal spaces. The kindergarten's integration within the landscape setting, which responds to the topography and provides a sense of enclosure and seclusion from the street is a significant aspect of the design. The use of contrasting material finishes and detailing—the corduroy and plain concrete block, deep eaves and prominent open-raftered eaves, rough-saw timber eave lining and finely detailed fenestration—represents a mature and restrained distillation of Godsell's interest in organic architectural principles. Together, the sophisticated form-making, siting, planning and manipulation of materials sets this building apart from other more conventional kindergartens built within the municipality in the post-war period. (Criterion E)

The Olive Phillips Free Kindergarten and Beaumaris Maternal and Child Centre is significant for its strong and ongoing associations with the Beaumaris community and provision of kindergarten programs and maternal and child healthcare services for over 40 years. The site as a whole has served the local community since the early 1950s, when the first Olive Phillips Free Kindergarten was erected on the site. In the

current building's design, the close spatial arrangement of the kindergarten programs and maternal and child healthcare services reflects their social alignment and a growing social planning appreciation of the functional concerns of families with young children living in the suburbs of Bayside in the mid-1970s. (Criterion G)

Primary source

Mid-Century Modern Heritage Study – Council-owned places 2020