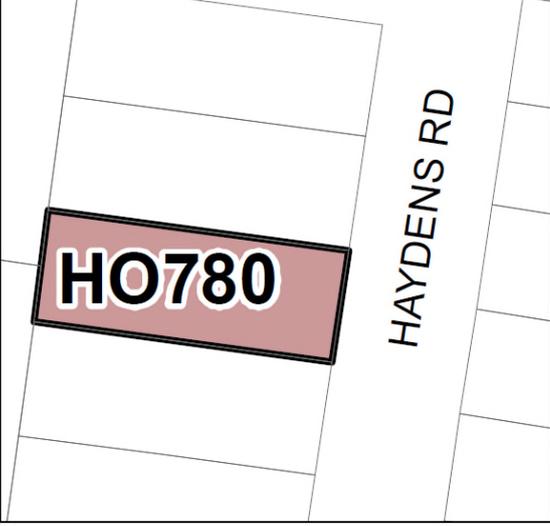


Statement of Significance: Grutzner House - 55 Haydens Road, Beaumaris, November 2020

Heritage place: <i>Grutzner House</i> 55 Haydens Road, Beaumaris	PS ref no: HO780
	

What is Significant?

Grutzner House at 55 Haydens Road, Beaumaris, constructed in 1958 to a design by architects Mockridge, Stahle and Mitchell and extended by John Baird in 1968 is significant.

The significant fabric includes its:

- Original built form, roof form and fenestrations including both the original 1958 house and the 1968 John Baird extension;
- Vertical timber cladding;
- Original timber framed glazing;
- Exposed post and beam structural system and rafters;
- Copper chimney flue;
- Original and early landscape elements which include a series of retaining walls and steps using a combination of bluestone, Castlemaine stone, sandstone and granite;
- Brick paved terraces (which extend into the dining room);
- Remnant trees and vegetation from the original bush block.

How is it significant?

Grutzner House at 55 Haydens Road, Beaumaris is of local historic, architectural (representative) and aesthetic significance to the City of Bayside.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the Grutzner House is significant as one of the earliest houses built in Haydens Road, Beaumaris, for its ability to demonstrate the particular development phase of Beaumaris in the 1950s and 1960s. As an architect-designed house in a 'middle-ring' municipality, it demonstrates the post-war demand for housing supply in metropolitan Melbourne and better house designs that suit local setting. Beaumaris,

along with other rapid-established suburbs, attracted architects and other creative professions, who often designed houses for newly arrived locals. (Criterion A)

The Grutzner House is a largely intact, highly representative example of a modernist house with very few changes visible to the original or early elements. The Grutzner House reflects the profound influence of the International style, which in the 1950s became actively tested by Melbourne architects in attempts to achieve a regional adaptation of the international idiom. Its key design elements representative of the style include a seamless integration of inside to out through the extensive window wall system and the layout of the house; an almost abstract box-like form with a single skillion roof; exposed structural elements; use of contrasting materials and texture; design of the house in response to the sloping site; and retention of indigenous vegetation on the site. (Criterion D)

Aesthetically, the Grutzner House is a fine example of the work of prominent architectural practice Mockridge, Stahle and Mitchell. It is carefully sited on the highest point of the site and uses stone retaining walls to successfully mould the landscape to maximise functionality and bayside views with a sophistication rarely seen in suburban Melbourne. With its bold skillion roofline, broad eaves with exposed rafters and full-height window walls opening onto elevated terraces, the house is a confident distillation of the progressive ideals of modernist residential architecture of the time. The house is one of a number of projects that helped cement the firm's reputation as one of Australia's leading exponents in modernist residential architecture in the 1950s. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Mid-Century Modern Heritage Study – Residential places 2020