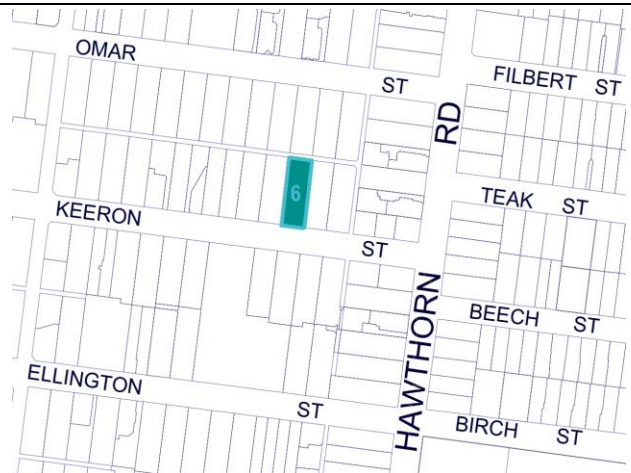


IDENTIFIER	HOUSE	Citation No	PW15
Other name/s		Melway ref	68 A5
Address	6 Keeron Street CAULFIELD SOUTH	Date/s	1971
Designer/s	Andrew Reed & Associates Chris Dance (landscape)	Builder/s	Austranental Building Co P/L (Henry van Reesema)



Photograph by Built Heritage Pty Ltd, June 2019



Location map and extent of HO

Heritage Group	Residential building (private)	Condition	Excellent
Heritage Category	House	Intactness	Excellent

Thematic context	6.7 Making homes for Victorians
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Recommendation	Include on heritage overlay schedule as an individual heritage place		
Controls	<input type="checkbox"/> External Paint	<input type="checkbox"/> Interior Alteration	<input type="checkbox"/> Trees

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The house at 6 Keeron Street, Caulfield South, is a double-storey brick dwelling on an elongated stepped plan, with an asymmetrical skillion roofline and stark façade incorporating projecting half-round stairwell, tall chimney, strip windows and double garage with matching garden walls and a bluestone driveway. The house was erected in 1971 for an estate agent and his wife, and was designed by architects Andrew Reed & Associates.

The significant fabric is identified as the exterior of the entire house and garage, and the matching recycled brick garden walls and bluestone driveway.

How is it significant?

The house satisfies the following criteria for inclusion on the heritage overlay schedule to the City of Glen Eira planning scheme:

- Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

Why is it significant?

The house is aesthetically significant as a distinctive example of residential architecture of the 1970s. A textbook example of the highly individualistic style adopted by architect Andrew Reed, the house deftly combines the bold sculptural expression of the Brutalist idiom (with its jagged roofline, half-round stairwell and slit windows) with an organic approach more commonly associated with the work of Alistair Knox (expressed here through a palette of earthy materials including second-hand bricks, stained timber and bluestone paving). Still occupied by the original owners at the time of writing, the house remains in a remarkably intact state. (*Criterion E*)

History

Note: Identifying details of property owners and their families have been deleted as per Council direction

The house at 6 Keeron Street, Caulfield South, was erected in 1971 to a design by Andrew Reed & Associates. According to electoral rolls, the original owner was employed as a real estate agent by the early 1960s, and was then residing in St Kilda East. Married by 1967, he and his wife initially resided in half of a pre-war maisonette pair in Brighton East. In May 1969, the couple acquired the present site on Keeron Street, Caulfield South, on which they intended to build a new house for themselves. To design it, they turned to architect Andrew Reed.

Born in England, Andrew Gerald Francis Reed (1943-1999) migrated to Australia with his parents at the age of ten. While studying architecture at the University of Melbourne from 1961-66, he secured a few architectural commissions, and won first prize in a house design contest. Starting private practice after graduation, Reed snared a range of commissions over the next few years that included a Brutalist-style motel, an office building, a townhouse development and a restaurant fitout in Sydney. A keen skier, he designed several buildings at the burgeoning Falls Creek resort, including a block of flats that was published internationally and won a citation at the 1975 RAI A Awards. In the 1970s, he became well-known for houses that combined irregular plans, forms and rooflines with rough materials such as clinker brick, raw timber and bluestone. In the 1980s, Reed re-configured his practice, promoting long-time staff member Tony Mussen to partnership and bringing in a third partner, Tony Styant-Browne (also a former employee, who had recently returned to Australia after more than decade in the USA). The new firm, styled as Reed Mussen Styant-Browne, became well known for larger-scale commercial work, winning an RAI A award in 1987 for a major city office building. The partnership ceased in 1990, due to the Recession.

Reed's working drawings for the house in Keeron Street, dated April 1971, bear a set of initials that identify the delineator as staff member Tony Styant-Browne, who was employed in Reed's office in 1971-72 and returned much later to become a full partner. The drawings depict a house on an elongated and stepped rectilinear plan, carefully zoned with living and sleeping areas at each end, and several integrated courtyards. The street frontage was dominated by a top-lit double garage, a prominent chimney and a projecting rounded stairwell bay that provided access to a partial second storey, where a mezzanine study overlooked the main living room.

Aside from Andrew Reed, still a relative newcomer to practice, the Keeron Street project had input from others who had only recently started out and would go on to become well-known in their fields. The consultant structural engineers were Beauchamp & Huggard, a new partnership between David Beauchamp and Trevor Huggard, who would later collaborate with such leading architects as Kevin Borland, Peter Crone, John Kenny and Daryl Jackson. Meanwhile, the garden layout represented an early project for landscape architect Chris Dance, a nephew of the well-known pre-war gardener designer Hilda Dance. He similarly worked alongside a number of leading architects of the 1970s before joining Tract Consultants, the landscaping/planning firm founded by David Yencken in 1973 as an off-shoot of his highly successful Merchant Builders. Both David Beauchamp and Chris Dance would become regular collaborators with Andrew Reed, spanning multiple projects over the course of many years.

While construction of the house was credited to the Austramental Building Company Pty Ltd (a Cheltenham-based firm founded in 1955 by project housing pioneer A G Croft), the current owners have identified the builder as one Henry van Reesema. In early 1974, the finished house was belatedly profiled in architect John Barker's weekly housing column in the *Age* newspaper. He expressed admiration for the way in which Reed's design responded to its narrow suburban site through its integration of courtyards and glazed gallery. He praised the open planning, noting that "a simple, progression of living, dining and family spaces lead to the kitchen... these interpenetrating spaces require no doors, yet the kitchen remains hidden from the more formal areas, providing an ideal format for entertaining". Barker also drew attention to the effective use of angled skylights, to increase natural lighting, and interior colour scheme "based on a red orange theme to bring out the colours in the bricks and matching quarry handmade tiles".

At the time of writing, the property remained owned and occupied by the same family.

Description

The house at 6 Keeron Street, Caulfield South, is a partially two-storey house in an idiosyncratic post-WW2 modernist style. Built of variegated recycled bricks (sourced from demolished cottages in Carlton), it has a mostly flat steel tray-deck roof that incorporates some steep skillion elements. Laid out on an elongated and stepped rectilinear plan, the house presents as asymmetrical frontage to the street, dominated by a projecting and half-round stairwell bay that forms a stark tower-like element, with a narrow vertical strip window. To the east (right) side of the stairwell, the house has a steeply raked roofline with a tall plain chimney and another vertical strip window. To the left (west) side, the partial second storey has narrow skillion-roofed bay with vertical timber boarding and a rectangular window. The adjacent double carport had a wide Panelift door, a projecting wing wall and a flat roof with stained timber fascia and a square clerestory skylight (there at two identical skylights, not visible from the street, towards the rear of the house). There are matching recycled brick walls along the front property line and to either side of the driveway, which is paved with salvaged bluestone pitchers, which extend to form a pathway to the front door, which contains a red glass slit window.

Comparisons

With relatively little research undertaken into Andrew Reed's architectural career, few specific examples of his work have been identified. To date, his only other project recorded in what is now the City of Glen Eira was a townhouse development on Dandenong Road, Caulfield, which was fleetingly mentioned in a list of Reed's recent projects in a 1968 magazine article. With no street number cited, the building has not been conclusively located; it may well have been a scheme that was proposed but never built. Casting the net wider, the Keeron Street house can be compared to other examples of Reed's work outside the municipality. With its bold sculptural form, jagged roofline and distinctive use of rough materials such as recycled brick, raw timber and bluestone, the house in Keeron Street has much in common with others still standing in Mount Eliza (1969), South Yarra (1970) and Black Rock (1972), as well as a now-demolished one in Malvern (1975). Of these, the examples at South Yarra and Black Rock would represent the most pertinent comparators to the house in Caulfield South, not merely for their similar dates and comparable inner-suburban contexts, but also for their compact double-storey form and use of matching garden walls and bluestone driveways.

While Andrew Reed's work is characterised by a highly individualistic style, this particular house can be compared to other architect-designed 1970s houses in the City of Glen Eira that have some elements in common. The stepped rectilinear plan, incorporating galleries and courtyards, was a popular theme in residential architecture of the 1970s. These are typified in the Caulfield area by a house at 13 Pearson Grove Caulfield North (Geoffrey Woodfall, c1970) and two others at 27 Northcote Avenue (Alan Synman, 1970) and 415 Glen Eira Road (Harry Ernest, 1971) that were

designed by the architects as their own homes. None of these, however, demonstrates a bold sculptural form to compare with the house in Keeron Street. The Pearson Grove house was conceived in Woodfall's characteristic Wrightian mode, while the other two other are more conventionally Late Modern, with flat roofs and stark block-like expression.

With its face brickwork, jagged roofline, limited windows and projecting tower-like rounded stairwell, the Keeron Street house has more in common with the speculative house at 30 Griffith Street, Caulfield South (Leon Fink, 1977-78). Reed's distinctive use of second-hand brick, stained timber and bluestone, however, is far removed from the slicker finishes of Fink's much later building. In this regard, the Keeron Street house has more in common with the earthy 1970s dwellings of Alistair Knox, pioneer of the Eltham mud-brick aesthetic. To date, only one example of Knox's work has been identified in the City of Glen Eira: a house at 10 Glencoe Street, Caulfield (1972-73). While this small single-storey house is typically Knox with its broad skillion roof, face brickwork, wide fascias and vertical timber cladding, it is a much more polished example than usual (no doubt, consequent to its atypical inner-suburban context).

References

Certificate of Title, Volume 8370, Folio 805, created 16 August 1962.

Andrew Reed & Associates, "New house at 6 Keeron Street, Caulfield", working drawings, dated 30 April 1971. City of Caulfield Building Permit No 40,704.

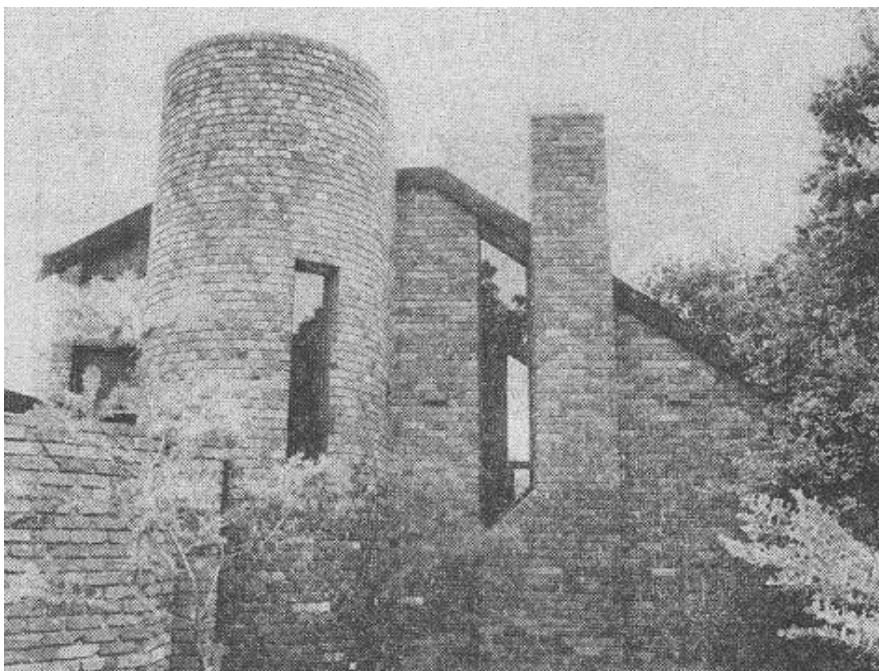
John Barker, "Courtyard overcomes narrow site problem", *Age*, 25 February 1974, p 15.

Built Heritage Pty Ltd, "Andrew Reed (1943-1999)", *Dictionary of Unsung Architects*, <<www.builtheritage.com.au/dua_reed2.html>>

Tony Styant-Browne, interviewed by Simon Reeves, 28 January 2020.

Identified by

Built Heritage Pty Ltd



Contemporary view of the house in Keeron Street
Source: *Age*, 25 February 1974