

8 MONARO CRESCENT, RED HILL

Designed: by Robin Boyd, 1952-1953

Built: by Karl Schreiner, 1953-1954

Client: Professor and Mrs Frank Fenner



The Fenner House

The Fenner House is located at 8 Monaro Crescent, Red Hill within the Red Hill heritage precinct. It is one of Canberra's best examples of the post-war Melbourne regional style with its long unbroken roofline, widely projecting eaves and large areas of timber framed glazing. The house is listed on the ACT Chapter of the RAIAs Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture. Set well back diagonally on a large corner block that slopes several metres from rear to front, the house is a bi-nuclear design, consisting of two parallel, off-set wings facing north-north-east which represent two living zones: the bedrooms, bathrooms and study in the rear wing and the eating and entertainment areas in the front wing. The two wings are linked by an enclosed, glass walled gallery. The construction is double brick, with large areas of glazing in full height narrow timber frames. The brickwork is bagged and painted—grey on the north-south walls and white on the east-west walls, both original colours. The area underneath the glazing is painted in the original 'celadon' green colour. The roof is a long, unbroken, low pitch gable with internally raked ceilings.

Key points

- key Canberra post-war Melbourne regional house
- one of Boyd's first commissions where economy was not a chief concern
- original client, one of Australia's greatest living scientists
- listed on the RAIAs Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture
- inaugural winner in 1956 of the Meritorious Architecture Award of the Canberra Area Committee of the RAIAs
- sympathetically extended in 1982 by Canberra designer Bill Douglas
- garden designed by local landscape architect Professor Lindsay Pryor